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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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29 DECEMBER 2024

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PEOPLE!
PLACES!**

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The Barometer

Huggable handbags, pubs with spas and mushroom crisps? These are the trends we're predicting for the year ahead. Crystal balls at the ready...

Words **Victoria Brzezinski, Katrina Burroughs, Hattie Collins, Hannah Connolly, Rebecca Cope, Karen Dacre, Priya Elan, Phoebe McDowell, Juliana Piskorz and Kate Spicer**



Space up your life!

Get out your deely boppers because next year space is the place. First up is the new film from Bong "Parasite" Joon-ho — *Mickey 17*, an intergalactic caper in which Robert Pattinson signs up to a futuristic experiment, with Naomi Ackie and Steven Yeun co-starring; expect plenty of deadpan comedy. Meanwhile, *Atmosphere* is the much anticipated next novel from Taylor Jenkins Reid, out in June. With the same interpersonal drama Jenkins Reid gave to *Daisy Jones & the Six*, the Eighties-set book follows the astrophysics professor Joan Goodwin on her first journey into space. A sequel to *Black Mirror*'s *Star Trek*-parody episode, *USS Callister*, is also planned for Netflix (the show's creator, Charlie Brooker, has not confirmed who's returning), and heading into creepier territory is *Alien: Earth* — set two years before the first *Alien* film, it's an eight-part prequel (on Disney+) from Noah Hawley, the man behind the *Fargo* TV series. And you can dress the part too: the recent catwalks have been full of futuristic looks, from Bottega Veneta's silver dresses to Dries Van Noten's oversized shiny suits. We're over the moon. **PE**

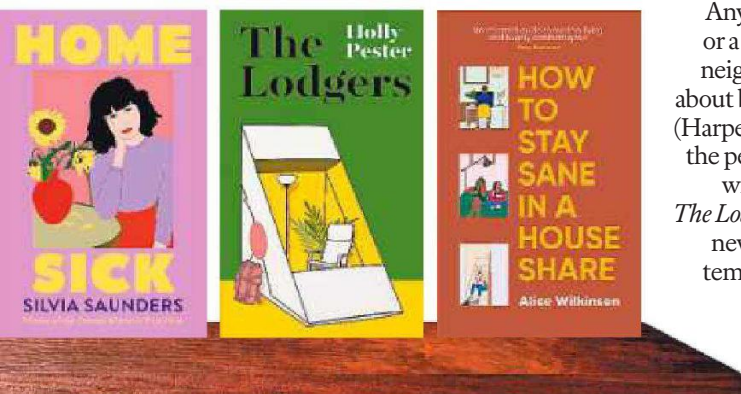
STYLE

ON THE COVER VALENTINA CASTRO AND MINJI LEE **PHOTOGRAPH** JOHNNY DUFORT **STYLING** VICTORIA SEKRER. TOP AND LEATHER TROUSERS, LOUIS VUITTON. MULTIGRAM SUNGLASSES, MULTICORE COUSSIN PM BAG, SUPERFLAT BAG CHAIN, BLACK GAM MULES, BLACK POCETTE BAG AND WHITE GAM MULES, LOUIS VUITTON X MURAKAMI

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Delve into house-share horror

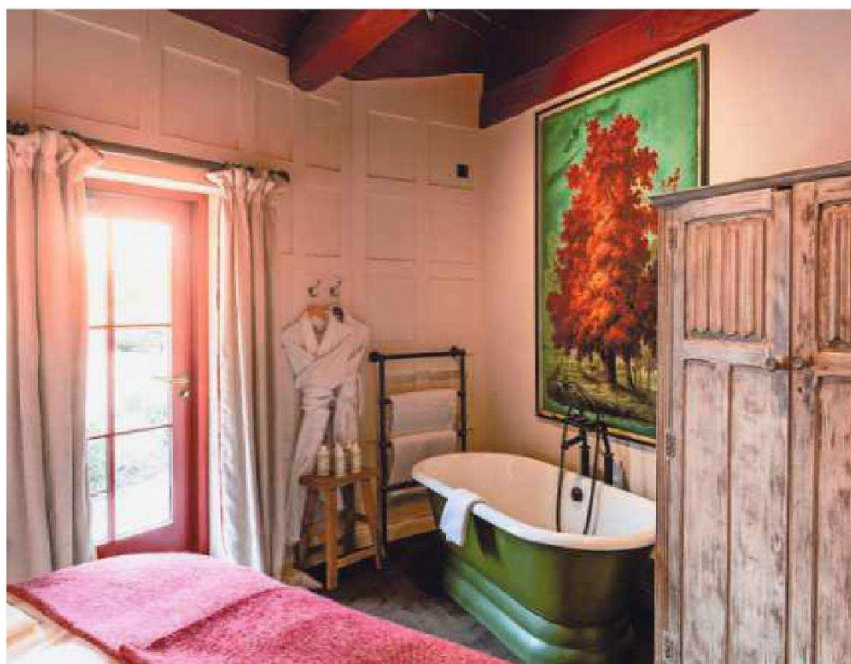
Any renter will tell you that there are few things in life worse than a bad housemate or a dodgy flat — and in 2025, it seems, the world of fiction agrees. Yes, from hellish neighbours to precarious leases, house-share horror lit will have you thinking twice about buddies up on SpareRoom. First up is Silvia Saunders's debut novel, *Homesick* (HarperCollins £8.99, January 30), which focuses on Mara, who is on a mission to find the perfect flat before break-ups of the romantic and platonic kind, plus an obsession with her new neighbours, intrude. The poet turned novelist Holly Pester's debut, *The Lodgers* (Granta £14.99, February 1), homes in on the horrors surrounding sublets, new housemates and the dread of landlord visits. It's a blistering tale that takes the temperature of Gen Rent's housing fears through its central character, Moffa. If it's practical advice you're seeking, non-fiction has you covered: Alice Wilkinson's *How to Stay Sane in a House Share* (DK Red £14.99, March 6) brings together expert advice as well as personal experience on how to navigate the world of shared living. In literature, at least, home is where the nightmare is. *HC*



Fancy a 'pub and scrub'?

Cosy country realness meets spoiling treatments? Check.

For 2025 the bragworthy bucolic getaway of choice combines two of our favourite things: pubs and spas. Take the Bath Arms at Longleat, Wiltshire, an 18th-century inn with 16 rooms, a compact restaurant in Farrow & Ball hues and now a wooden treatment cabin in the garden (*above*) dispensing a menu of Bramley Skin facials and massages — perfect for indulging post ruddy-cheeked ramble. Then there's the Double Red Duke, in Bampton (*right*). A former Cotswolds coaching inn, it has 19 rooms decked out with Fermoie fabrics, and the shepherd's hut cabin is a must for solo treatments using 100 Acres products. At the Taybank — a stylish pub and restaurant in Dunkeld, Perthshire, with Scandi-chic rooms — anyone who hit the beer a wee bit too hard can sort their hangover courtesy of the riverside sauna and cold-water plunge tank. Finally for full spa spec book in at the Village Pub (*above right*), the new pub with rooms near Cirencester from the Pig group — over the road at its sister hotel there are five treatment rooms, a steam room, sauna and hydrotherapy pool. *Aaaand breathe. VB*



Alamy, Jake Eastham, Getty Images, Daisy Wingate-Saul



Say hello to the Greige Goth Girl

The “clean girl” beauty trend was fine — hilariously unattainable, but *fine*. It was, however, bound to be replaced by something darker, more real and raw. Enter the Greige Goth Girls, trickling in to your Instagram feed as we speak. The trend has roots in the buccal-fat-removal (google it), eyebrow-bleaching beauty movement, but above ground it’s just a little, well, undone. The palette is based on black, obviously — the spring/summer catwalks of Area and Marni, to name but two, were awash with aggressively ringed eyes. No pastels here, people, although there is some radiance and polish in skin so flawless it appears filtered — Laura Mercier Translucent Loose Setting Powder (£22) is your friend. Lips are smushed with a browny beige, a “greige” colour that may remind you of concealer lips. For a more grown-up and glam take try Gucci Rouge à Lèvres Mat in Suzanne Sunset (£37). *PMD*



Rise of the wood nerds!

Going potty for ceramics? So last year — 2025 looks set to celebrate the unique knots and beauty of wood. For inspiration, look to the douglas fir kitchen of Emily Adams Bode Aujla (the founder of Bode); the interior designer Athena Calderone’s oak-panelled Tribeca home; and the lavish use of zebrano veneer by FKA Twigs’s interior designer Hollie Bowden. In southeast London the woodworker Sophie Sellu (*left*) of Grain & Knot favours the distinctive grain of storm-felled spalted timber (discoloured by fungi that has colonised the wood) for her elegant hand-hewn pieces, including spoons and vases, while the self-confessed wood nerd Jan Hendzel is all about provenance. His latest four-piece furniture collection, Drumlin (*bottom left*), is made from characterful British ash, raising awareness of the decline of the species due to ash dieback. Hendzel embraces “workable defects” to allow the “colourful variety of the timber to truly sing”. Interiors insiders such as Studio Ashby and Waldo Works also love the family-run East Yorkshire furniture-maker Galvin Brothers, which specialises in pieces created from knotty or ebonised oak and walnut (*far left*). The only rule with wood, then? The gnarlier the better. *VB*

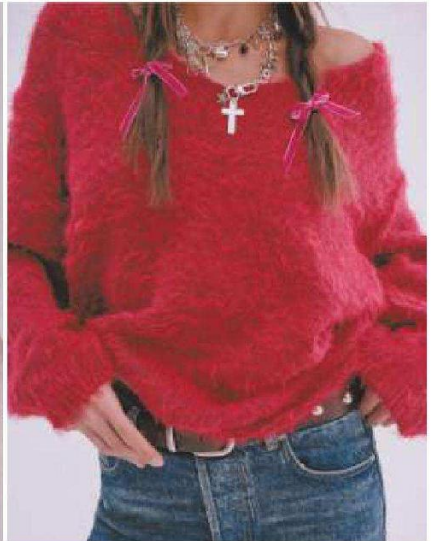


Phones are off the menu

Bid adieu to the iPhone: restaurants are going decidedly lo-fi. Harking back to the heady days before documenting every mouthful became A Thing, diners at the French House in Soho must now adhere to a “no music, no machines, no television and no mobile phones” rule. Meanwhile in Farringdon, the St John restaurant has a “no phones allowed” sign hanging proudly on the wall, encouraging device disconnection at mealtimes. A no-phone-photography policy applies at the nearby bar/sushi joint Space Talk and in the Spy Bar at the OWO Raffles London (tucked down a corridor behind an unmarked door, in a space once used by MI5 and MI6). Finally, arrivals at the Italo-American restaurant Louis in Manchester will have stickers placed over their phone cameras — as indeed they will at the London nightclubs Fabric and Fold. Airplane mode? More like restaurant mode. *VB*



FREE PEOPLE





The year of Hodakova, fashion's hottest label

Words **Karen Dacre**

Upcycling has been a buzzword in fashion for a while now, but this year it has the seal of high fashion approval thanks to the label of the moment, Hodakova. The brand is the brainchild of the Swedish designer Ellen Hodakova Larsson who, having caught the eye of fashion royalty Phoebe Philo and Marc Jacobs, was awarded the LVMH prize for young fashion designers this year, and it's poised to become the hottest thing since sliced sourdough. It helps that some of the world's chicest women are lining up to wear it: see Saoirse Ronan, who redefined Balmoral style when she wore a Hodakova gown crafted from a repurposed Barbour jacket, and Cate Blanchett in a cocktail jacket trimmed with antique spoons. And the arrival of Hodakova in department stores — notably the achingly cool Dover Street Market — will also seal the deal of its success.

Larsson, who developed a talent for mending during a childhood spent on a farm, uses everything from deadstock and vintage clothing to antique watches to make her designs, the most recent of which were unveiled on the catwalk in Paris in September. The soon-to-launch spring/summer 2025 collection includes maxidresses crafted from second-hand oil paintings and preloved leather skirts reworked into minis. "My designs are a reflection of my upbringing, where nature and memory intertwine," Larsson has said. "Each piece carries the intimacy of familiar landscapes and the materials that once surrounded me."

If this all sounds a little too conceptual to incorporate into your new year wardrobe reboot, don't be put off. While Hodakova is progressive to say the least, fashion-forward women are lining up to wear the label's more classic pieces, including a Baguette-style woven handbag decorated with vintage buckles and an asymmetric poplin shirt.

Clockwise from top left

The Hodakova spring/summer 2025 collection; the designer Ellen Hodakova Larsson; Cate Blanchett, Saoirse Ronan and Greta Lee wearing the label

GROWN ALCHEMIST

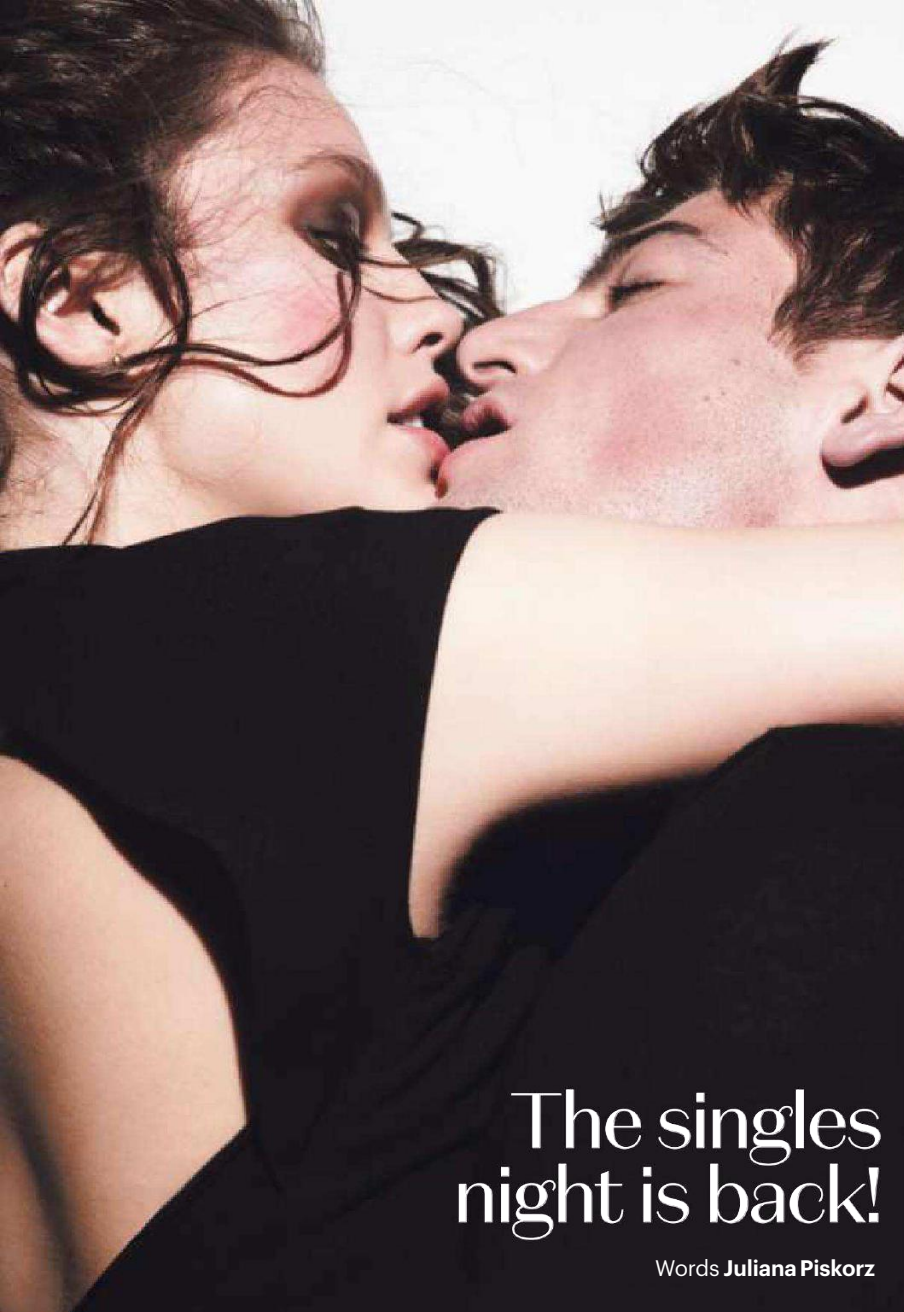
A close-up portrait of a woman with long, wavy blonde hair and light blue eyes. She is holding a small, dark glass bottle of Grown Alchemist product in her right hand, near her cheek. Her left hand is gently touching her face near her eye. The bottle has a black dropper cap and white text that reads 'GROWN ALCHEMIST' and 'SKIN RENEWAL SERUM'. The background is a plain, light grey.

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The singles night is back!

Words **Juliana Piskorz**

It's that time of year again when, if you're a singleton, your mother starts asking you with increasing urgency if you met "anyone nice" at the Christmas party. Faced with the prospect of a whole month of Hallmark movies and the very real possibility of causing a parental embolism, many of us feel we must make it our new year's resolution to redouble our efforts to find The One before that most dreaded of festivals: Valentine's Day.

According to the Office for National Statistics, 8.4 million people in the UK were living alone in 2023, with that number predicted to rise to 10.7 million (or one in seven) by 2039. But with dating-app fatigue rife, partnering up may feel like an insurmountable feat. Do not despair: a new generation of singles nights are cropping up all over town, promising to bring back in-person meet-cutes without even the slightest whiff of desperation.

One such event is Pears, conceived last Valentine's Day by five single friends bemoaning the state of the dating world. They realised they had the combined skills to change it and set up their first speed-dating event at the Mildmay Club in east London in May. The response was overwhelming, and in seven months Pears has amassed a cult following, with tickets for its events selling out in minutes. (Paul Mescal is rumoured to have attended one of its afterparties.)

Then there is the Soul Plates supper club in London, Tantra Speed Date in Manchester, Brighton and Bristol, the Our Rainbow Hearts queer mixer in Glasgow and singles pizza parties at Dinner for One Hundred in southeast London. These new singles nights aren't the town hall, cocktail-sausage affair of old; instead they're cool and, dare we say it, sexy. Why the shift? "Dating apps can be a lot of hard work with no guarantee of success," the dating coach Minnie Lane says. "Singles nights provide a way to put your time to good use while still upping your chances of meeting someone special." By prioritising the creation of non-creaky, inclusive and, most importantly, fun experiences, many of these events don't feel like "dating" at all. "We want to transform being single into the hottest ticket in London, flipping dating and singlehood into an exciting and desirable thing to do IRL," the Pears founders say. "In fact, we get messages from our coupled-up friends saying they wish they could come."

FUTURE LOVES: FOUR MORE DATING TRENDS INCOMING

Words **Roisin Kelly**

Mememance

A dozen red roses? A whirlwind weekend in Paris? No thank you! In 2025 romance is going back to basics and that involves, er, memes. As we increasingly live our lives online, grand gestures are a thing of the past, with the dating app Bumble finding that 86 per cent of singles agree that small stuff like sending memes is a sign of love and affection. Who said romance is dead?

Heartbreak, but make it live stream

We've had the DWM (date with me) trend — influencers giving their followers a post-date briefing — but now they're going one step further. Enter the live break-up (yes, really), as TikTokkers and Instagrammers begin posting the rejection texts they've sent and received, all in the name of keeping it real. Yikes.

The hard sell

There's no time to be demure or mysterious any more. As we become increasingly fatigued with dating apps, 2025 will be the year of the hard sell. That means ditching swiping and small talk in exchange for straight up telling people why you're great to date, or getting your friends to do it for you, with popular American dating initiatives like Pitch a Friend now making it to the UK. These events allow people to give a short slide-show presentation about the dateable qualities of their friend to an audience of singles. Choose wisely!

Return of the crush

Having a crush is no longer embarrassing. As a reaction to last year's "delulu" dating trend (being "delusionally" optimistic about a potential partner), 2025 is telling us to embrace all the cringe that comes with having a crush — every red-faced, giggly, won't-shut-up-about-them part of it. Whether it's someone you see on the bus every morning or the man behind the counter in Pret, the more ridiculous, the better.

Mondays are the new Saturdays

The big night out of choice for hospitality bods who work weekends? Mondays — and hot venues are taking note and flinging open their doors. Anna Tobias's pastel-hued Café Deco in Bloomsbury is now open for dinner on Mondays, as is Brunswick House in Vauxhall (*top*), which reports the new dinner services have been “buzzing, busy and booked”. Toklas (*far right*) on the Strand, Chickpea Group's boozers across the West Country, the much hyped Margo (*right*) in Glasgow, and the bijou restaurant at Boys Hall, Kent, are all at it too, while, from January, the sexy natural wine bar and restaurant Goodbye Horses, north London, will follow suit. As the chef Max Coen of the vibey Notting Hill neighbourhood bistro Dorian (open Monday nights) says: “The energy on a Monday is similar to a Saturday night, with a lot of fellow industry faces and locals letting loose and enjoying themselves.” Just get ready for that Tuesday morning hangover. *VB*



Make mine a mid-strength

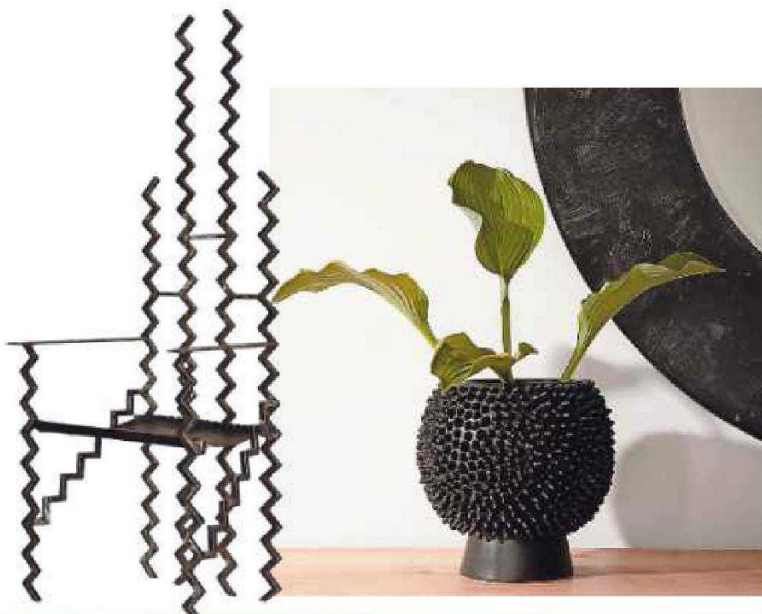
Get ready for drinking's middle way in 2025, as the mindful space evolves with a mid-strength alcohol sector that halves the ABV on your favourite shout. The trend gives a gentler alcohol kick, through half or quarter-strength drinks such as Session Spirit's London Dry (25 per cent, *below left*), Quarter Proof's 15 per cent spirit range, Asahi's Super “Dry” Dry Crystal lager (3.5 per cent, *below right*) and Sarah Jessica Parker's Sevenly range (7 per cent, *left*) for the Kiwi winemaker Invivo.

Indeed, mid-strength is becoming a global movement: in Australia they are called “lifestyle” wines, while in America they are referred to as “better for you” brands. In the UK we call them “session” drinks, which perhaps betrays our national predilection for being heavies on the bevvies (sorry).

The UK's mid moment comes in part due to new duty laws that land in February, when costs on non-draught products will rise with every 0.1 per cent increase in strength. Straight after that you can take part in the first Mid March, which joins Sober October and Dry January as a drinker's challenge.

At present many mid-strength options are, as one observer said, “bang ordinary”. As SJP observes: “It's been an interesting process creating wines that are lighter in alcohol and calories but still have rewarding flavour.” However, the premium mid-strength sector is growing, and is being taken seriously by some big players. Take Sainsbury's, which has 11 mid wines in its range, of which just under half are premium quality. Gabriella Lamb, whose 6Percent merlot/cabernet sauvignon has raised the bar on the quality of mid-strength red wines, says: “We aren't a fine wine, but we let people go, ‘Sure, let's have another one.’ It's the option that everyone has been looking for — solid, easy-drinking, decent.” Critics say it holds its own against stronger wines, and its appearance on serious restaurant lists is imminent. Meanwhile, Session Spirit's London Dry won an esteemed London Spirits Competition medal alongside full-strength gins. The company's co-founder Brad Crompton says: “In the future we will go to the bar and specify the drink first and the strength second.” Mid-strengths all round, then. *KS*





Swap scallops for spikes

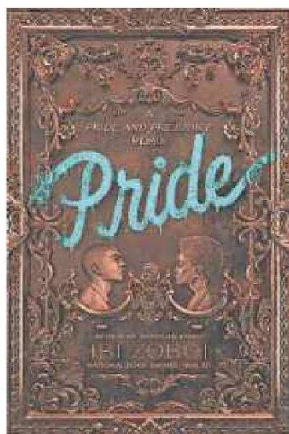
We are finally saying farewell to the all-encompassing scallop trend. Pillowcases, napkins, tablecloths and lampshades all acquired a twee decorative edge. No mirror was complete without a whimsical trim of repeat curves — even bookshelves weren't immune. So how refreshing to welcome home pointy forms. Top examples are by the sultan of spikes, Jermaine Gallacher, known for his statement Zig Zag design: candlesticks (£350), drinks tables (£550) and throne chair (£3,000, *far left*), all in black powder-coated steel. For artisanal spikes, Cox London's workshops create pointy metal design/art furniture such as the Spear table (made to order). Spikes represent a significant vibe shift from the scallop, so if you aren't positive about points, start with small accessories — try the pretty honey-coloured Otterley stoneware vase (£19.50, abigailahern.co.uk) or the Daria vase (£420, sweetpeaandwillow.com, *left*). Just don't run while holding them. *KB*

Hold tight! Why you need a therapy clutch

Forget XL mugs of tea, bounding labradors or a long-awaited hug from an old friend, your new emotional support crutch has landed and this time it's in handbag form. The "therapy clutch", as we're calling spring/summer 2025's distinctive breed of huggable handbags, is an oversized sack designed to be carried under the arm in the same way you might a reassuring soft toy (or cute puppy). The style was everywhere at the recent round of shows, with Stella McCartney giving us clutches in ruby red, while at Ferragamo (*left*) the supersized bag style was presented alongside outfits in the same shade. We also feel cheered by Rokh's marshmallow-inspired version. "Retail therapy" just got a whole new meaning. *KD*

Long live the Janeites

It is a truth universally acknowledged that we are a nation of Jane Austen lovers. Good news, then, that in 2025 the nation will be celebrating the beloved author's sestercentennial (there's your word of the day) — the 250th anniversary of her birth. Of course, no one's suggesting that you actually read the books; instead you can set up shop on the sofa with a host of Austen-adjacent adaptations coming to the small screen. First up is the BBC's ten-part series *The Other Bennet Sister*, an adaptation of Janice Hadlow's novel that imagines what life was like for the most unassuming of Elizabeth Bennet's four siblings, the bookish ugly duckling Mary. Unlike her sisters, she's awkward, preachy, anxious ... basically a lot more relatable than perfect Jane, sanctimonious Lizzy or unhinged Lydia. Meanwhile, Netflix has a *Pride and Prejudice* update on the horizon — an adaptation of Ibi Zoboi's YA novel *Pride* (*left*), a modern retelling of the story, which transplants the action from Hertfordshire to Bushwick, New York. Set to do what *West Side Story* did for *Romeo and Juliet*, this fresh, contemporary version of the tale follows an Afro-Latina teen, Zuri Benitez, who falls for Darius Darcy, who moves in next door. Away from the sofa, Chatsworth House is putting on a weekend in June to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the filming of the Keira Knightley (*far left*) and Matthew Macfadyen version at the estate (it stood in for Mr Darcy's residence, Pemberley). Finally, the improv show *Austenacious* and the award-winning comedy musical *Pride & Prejudice* (*sort of) are both touring from January. *RC*





Words
Hattie Collins

Is she a rapper? Is she a poet? John Glacier is the soundtrack to your year

John Glacier glides into the stuffy surroundings of a Soho hotel and immediately livens things up with her Stone Island joggers, Bally trainers, voluminous Moncler coat and maroon Gucci crossbody bag. Yet her confident, chic style betrays a more anxious and initially shy interior. “I’m a better writer than I am a talker,” she admits, taking a quick sip of gin and lemonade. “It’s funny that I love performing. It’s a bit contradictory to being a shy person!” Indeed, Glacier may be an introvert but she’s a voluble, thoughtful and charming one.

Glacier — who politely declines to reveal her age or real name, but will say that she’s “late twenties” and that John is a religious reference and Glacier refers to the majesty and mystery of our slowly decaying icebergs — will have to get used to attention. Describing herself as a “poetry-based rapper and rap-based poet”, she was initially a lo-fi SoundCloud gal before the arrival of her 2021 album *SHILOH: Lost for Words*. Produced by Vegyn, the London-based producer who has worked with Frank Ocean, the gorgeously glitchy record with its diaristic daydreams was enthusiastically received by London’s alt-rap scene.

Things have picked up pace recently. Having worked informally with the record label Young (the xx, FKA Twigs) for years, Glacier officially signed last summer and it will release her new album, *Like a Ribbon*, on Valentine’s Day. It features artwork (right) by the revered yet reclusive street artist Jim Joe and other incredibly cool guests such as the “warm and lovely” south London singer Sampha and the art-pop provocateur Eartheater, whom Glacier met on the streaming service SoundCloud in the 2010s.



The title refers to “the ripples of life and how they cascade”, and you can hear that intimately in the contemplative, often conversational and layered rhymes.

“I tend to write about multiple things at once,” she says. It’s a stunning record, informally divided into three movements through which Glacier traverses introversion — “a lack of certainty” — a quivering, sometimes fragile confidence and, finally, ease. “Sometimes it takes a while to realise who you are and what you’re capable of.”

Other accomplishments include more than a quarter of a million monthly streams on Spotify and, thanks to her innate sense of style, Glacier has also become a fixture on the front row. “I love fashion and I’m lucky that a lot of the people I work with seem to like my music. It’s insane to me that people at, like, Bottega play my music when they’re making things.” She has walked for Hood By Air and Marine Serre and been the face of Burberry, Alexander McQueen and Skepta’s label, Mains.

Hailing from Clapton in east London, Glacier, the second eldest of seven siblings, grew up immersed in the sounds of soca and grime — as well as Shania Twain and Britney Spears. She was born with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (EDS), a chronic condition that, among other things, causes very flexible joints and skin that can break easily, which she describes as a “burden” and “isolating” because of its unpredictability and the lack of research. “There’s no logic to it, really. It’s an umbrella condition, so you have a baseline condition that attaches itself to other random bullshit that you’re supposed to just take and deal with.”

EDS is partly why she turned to poetry as a kid, before teaching herself how to make beats a few years later. “I needed somewhere to express myself and I didn’t have that world around me. So I created it myself.” Glacier had no plans to be famous. “It was like putting a letter in a bottle, throwing it into the ocean and somehow that bottle has ended up on ... Mars.”

Having conquered such dizzy, interplanetary heights, where will she roam next? Her ambitions are typically unfettered;

award ceremonies and red carpets are the last thing on this musician’s mind. “I hope people who hear my music like it and it resonates with them. I hope it encourages people to be unafraid to express themselves. I know some of my lyrics might be a bit random,” she says with another shy grin, “but they do make sense.”

Glacier may be modest but her future promises to be anything but.

Like a Ribbon by John Glacier is released on February 14

Playrooms — for grown-ups

Therapy used to be apparent in conversations about boundaries and narcissism, but this year expect it to manifest in homes, where the design-conscious are embracing their inner child. From climbing walls and secret dens to games rooms, swings and slides, “People are becoming less uptight and are craving fun,” says the interior designer Oliver Lyttelton, whose recent projects have included a huge illuminated McDonald’s “M” (clearly a thing — the PR guru Mandi Lennard has a vintage piece in her home, *below left*) and a doughnut swing with pink chains and a green bouclé seat that resembles a patch of grass (*bottom*). The artist Joe Sweeney’s wonky foam and plaster columns (*below right*) — the designer Rachel Chudley has one in her bedroom — are a smart and knowing nod to the fledgling trend. Squint and they could be props from Disney’s *Hercules* movie, but they are actually sold at London’s hottest gallery, Cob, and it’s a price on application job, natch. *PMD*



Time to try a ‘conscious martini’

Blingy booze is out — make way for the conscious martini. As it was back in the day, you have to order it like 007, with a very British precision and confidence, as this cocktail demands a spirit brand founded on credible, sustainable and charitable principles. The art world’s conscious drinkers have started reaching for the Scottish vodka X Muse, co-created by one of the founders of the Jupiter Artland park in Edinburgh, which donates some of its profits to global art projects, while in London MarGin Gin funds and sponsors women in the arts.

Yet this isn’t just marketing-level culture-washing of the evils of alcohol; instead, these purpose-driven distilleries have impact and goals at the core of their business. For example, Sapling Spirits plants a tree for every bottle sold (you can trace where and what kind via a number on the bottle’s cork), and the brand One Gin donates at least 10 per cent of its profits to water projects.

And the best of the British conscious spirits ask for no compromise or hair shirts. Downton Distillery’s Great Bustard Gin funds the bird’s return to Salisbury Plain after 150 years; the brand has a 98 score from the Good Shopping Guide and won “best gin for a martini” at the 2024 Gin Guide Awards.

Hannah Sharman-Cox of the drinking bible the Pinnacle Guide rates Elephant Gin, which donates to conservation projects. “The old-school martini is mega right now. It’s a bit of a f***-you to health messaging, but brand advocacy has moved with the times,” she says. “We drink less and better — and that includes a brand’s ethics. People want to feel good even when they’re being bad.” *KS*

The original It bag is back

Whether you pine for that battered Mulberry Alexa that saw you through your twenties or get misty-eyed over the

Chloé Paddington that was once your heart's greatest desire, there's no disputing that handbag nostalgia is very real. Imagine, then, our delight to discover that one of

Louis Vuitton's most adored bag collections is making a long overdue comeback, making 2025 the year LV x Murakami got its groove back. The house has unveiled a

reissue of its collaboration with the Japanese artist Takashi Murakami, which debuted on the catwalk back in 2003, when Marc Jacobs ran things at LV, and would become a crucial part of the brand's history. The range will drop in three instalments — the first on Friday — and spans everything from shoes to luggage to the Side Trunk bag that has already been spotted on the arm of Vuitton favourite Zendaya. Consider this nostalgia in leather form. *From £185, louisvuitton.com. KD*



Cheers! The drinks to know in 2025

The wine: TURKISH

Given that Turkey is one of the spots along the Europe-Asia border where *Vitis vinifera* (that's the grape to the rest of us) is likely to have been first domesticated thousands of years back, it's right that the country's wine is finally having its moment. Catch its vinous wares on cool drinks lists now: Isa Bal, the Turkish-born sommelier and co-founder of Trivet, southeast London, has a rotation on his menu and praises the "amazing array of local varieties of grapes that offer new flavours and stories". He rates the wines by Yaban Kolektif, a collective dedicated to reviving Turkey's rarer grapes. At the nearby Persian restaurant Berenjak, you can sip an oak-aged blend of okuzgozu and bogazkere varieties with plummy, spiced notes made by the Kayra winery. The Istanbul-inspired restaurant Leydi in Farringdon has several bottles from the producer Chamlija on its list (*top middle*), while in Amsterdam the chef Selin Kiazim's new spot, Esra, has wines from Pasaeli (*top left*), a pioneering winemaker with exciting bottlings such as ruby-red pét nats.

The cocktail: WHISKY HIGHBALLS

Welcome to the whisky highball era! This long, smooth and refreshing concoction is tipped to be 2025's tippie of choice. It's a classic associated with Japan's izakaya bars, and cocktail maestros are embracing its original form (two to four parts soda to one part whisky, with an optional twist of lemon) or adding their own inventive twists. At the Manchester bar Stray (*top right*), the supremely popular plum highball is a combination of sansho-infused Akashi whisky, plum saké and coconut water, while in London all branches of the Taiwanese fave Bao offer the Bao-Hi (Nikka Days whisky, salted citrus cordial, bitters and soda). In Marylebone, AngloThai's riff uses elderflower and verjus, and at Below Stone Nest — a sultry bar by Jackson and Frank Boxer beneath a former chapel on the outskirts of Chinatown, London — the cocktail menu is exclusively highballs.

The unexpected return: ABSINTHE

Step back into the belle époque and beckon the green fairy: absinthe is having a renaissance. Spot the verdant, bitter spirit (a favourite of Oscar Wilde, Charles Baudelaire and Émile Zola) reappearing in drinking dens all over. In Soho, Quo Vadis has kitted out its members' bar with an absinthe fountain, inspired by Chez Janou in Paris (where drinkers can enjoy the drama of a burning sugar cube atop the glass of absinthe). It's also an increasingly frequent fixture on cocktail lists, including at Lyaness (*left*), on the South Bank, where the safety frappé (*middle*) is a heady combo of Hendrick's gin, shiso leaf-infused absinthe and peach wine, and at Sebb's in Glasgow, served in a cocktail with rum and elderflower. *Santé! VB*

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All hail the statement snack

Meals? *Please!* Next year is all about snacks.

Blame it on Ozempic or the aggressive gentrification of groceries, but the popularity of cacao morsels, shiitake mushroom crisps and activated cayenne almonds is about to hit fever pitch. Oh, and as far as flavour profiles go, look for anything swicy (sweet and spicy, do keep up). With a huge number of products lining the shelves of the kinds of supermarkets that are lifestyle brands themselves — Happier Grocery in New York and Supermarket of Dreams in Notting Hill are two — the choice will bamboozle us all, even those fluent in Goop. The majority boast wellness benefits, look like they've

been branded by a guy in a fisherman's beanie and are set to overtake the Rhode lip balm as the Instagram prop du jour. Legume Thin, anyone?

1



3



2

THE THREE SNACKS TO SHOW OFF

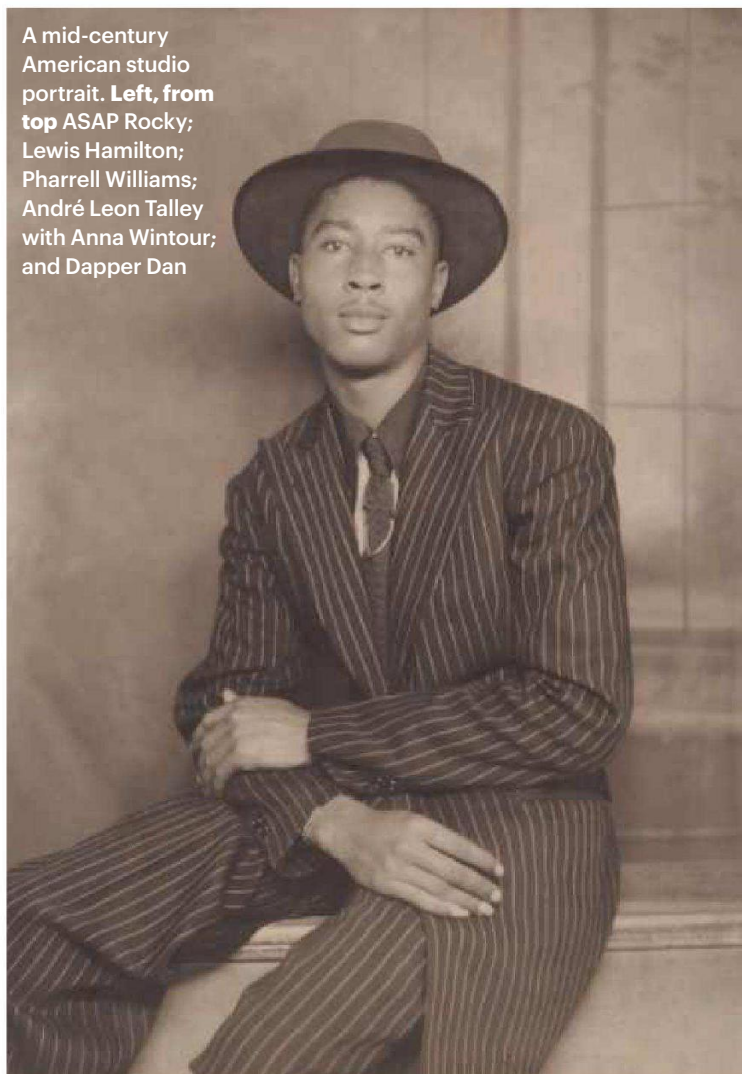
1 If Mystic Meg had been a sweet treat she'd have been Cosmic Dealer Pistachio & Lion's Mane, a pistachio butter and raw dark chocolate square laced with lion's mane, the fungus claimed to improve nerve function. £3.40, planetorganic.com

2 You know Ryvita Thins with seeds? Press Olive & Thyme Legume Thins are kinda like those, just made with chickpeas and actual peas. Quite healthy, very Overheard in Waitrose. £1.75, press-london.com

3 Who needs Monster Munch when Other Foods Crunchy Shiitake Mushroom chips exist? They're baked and crispy: that counts, right? £2.70, hollandandbarrett.com. PMD



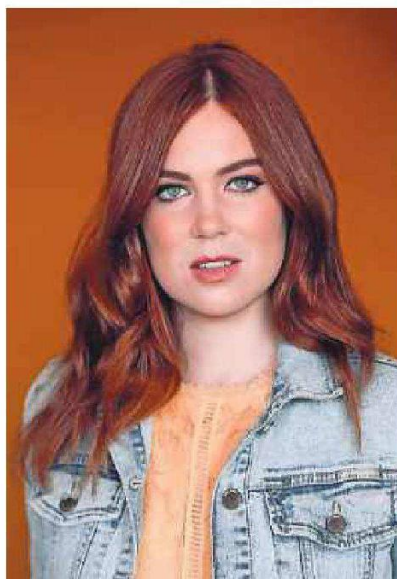
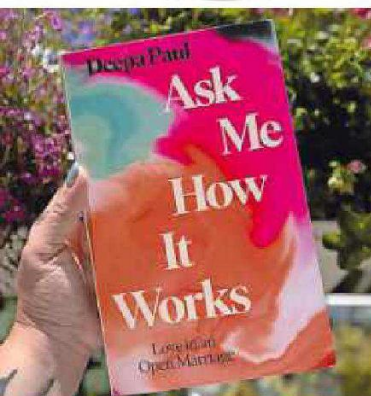
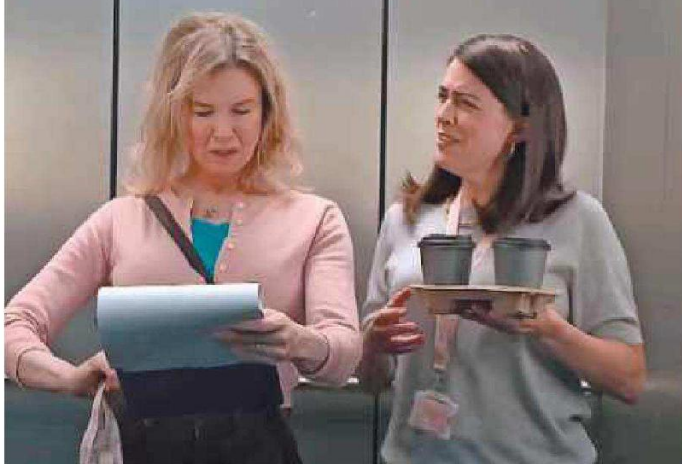
A mid-century American studio portrait. **Left, from top** ASAP Rocky; Lewis Hamilton; Pharrell Williams; André Leon Talley with Anna Wintour; and Dapper Dan



Suits you, sir!

When the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art announced that the theme for next year's Met Gala was its forthcoming show *Superfine: Tailoring Black Style* and the pivotal text was Monica L Miller's *Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity*, thoughts turned to the late fashion editor André Leon Talley and the Harlem designer Dapper Dan. Indeed, 2025 will be the year to shine the spotlight on a new generation with the exhibition, whose span stretches from 18th-century Europe to Pharrell Williams, leading us down a path to some of the best-dressed men in the world right now, including Colman Domingo, ASAP Rocky and Lewis Hamilton. Ahead of its run, the curator Andrew Bolton said: "What's interesting about black dandyism is it's not just an identity... but it's a concept as well. A lot of black designers today are exploring the different modalities the black dandy represents — things like freedom, dissonance and theatricality." *KD*





Pop culture goes messy midlife

Midlifers, prepare for some close-to-home laughs this year. First up, the comedy queens Anna Faris, Leslie Mann, Michelle Buteau and Isla Fisher are starring in the new film *Spa Weekend*, from the people behind *Bad Moms*, about a relaxing weekend that turns out to be exactly not that; expect it in cinemas later in the year. Meanwhile, *Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy* (top left) will be a must-see on its Valentine's Day release date, with our favourite messy heroine in a love triangle with Leo Woodall and Chiwetel Ejiofor. In the mood for even more messiness? Wait for autumn, when *Amandaland* (middle), the *Motherland* spin-off, hits the small screen, focusing on the show's worst (best?) character, Amanda (played by Lucy Punch), and her mother (Joanna Lumley). Plus, *The Real Housewives* franchise is coming to London (due in late 2025) — casting is under wraps but rumours suggest the famed 1990s socialite Fran Cutler might be one of the wives (does this mean Kate Moss will make a cameo?). And for a more literary take on midlife, Kate Muir's *How to Have a Magnificent Midlife Crisis* (Gallery UK £16.99, June 5), with expert advice and personal stories à gogo, is set to be a real “how to” guide to thriving during those middle years. Crisis, what crisis? *PE*

Plate up! Get ready for root-to-tip dining

Pumpkin guts, anyone? Get acquainted with root-to-tip eating, the veggie version of nose-to-tail: a whole-food philosophy embracing the creative use of offcuts destined for the bin. For dishes at his Notting Hill plant-focused restaurant, Holy Carrot (far left), the chef Daniel Watkins makes the most of every last scrap, turning celeriac trimmings into miso, carrot peels into “molasses” and pumpkin guts into vegan garum (a fermented seasoning). Bagging a reservation at Silo — the Hackney Wick restaurant that made zero-waste cooking chic — is a must, while the signature dish at Fallow, near Piccadilly Circus, transforms battered, bruised shiitake mushrooms into a velvety parfait topped with shaved oyster mushrooms (left) cultivated in-house on spent coffee grounds. Outside London, Millbrook Inn in Devon gives produce from its regenerative farm the root-to-tip treatment, as does Osip, the elegant little spot in a converted ironmongers in Bruton, Somerset, which operates a “closed loop” system, turning excess veg into pickles or stock, with any waste used for compost. For even more inspiration, the former Bubala chef Christina Soteriou will be bigging up the root-to-tip philosophy in her debut cookbook, *Big Veg Energy* (Ebury £26, January 9). Fin to gill, pip to peel... we're all in. *VB*

Go whammy for polyamory

One lump or two? Next year is going to be a big one for polyamory. *The Split*'s Nicola Walker and Stephen Mangan are reuniting for *Unicorn*, a play written by Mike Bartlett (*Dr Foster*), with Erin “Princess Anne” Doherty as the “other woman” who enters their lives. At the Garrick, London, from February 4, the production is shaping up to be one of theatre's hottest tickets. At cinemas we will be getting *Cottagecore*, from the Canadian film-maker Sonja O'Hara (left), which follows a gang of polyamorous friends whose weekend retreat gets derailed and becomes a battle for survival. And finally, in the world of literature, the memoir *Ask Me How It Works: Love in an Open Marriage* by Deepa Paul is out on May 1 (Viking £18.99), taking an honest look at how to navigate multiple partners and motherhood. Expect to have your preconceptions rattled. *PE*

Foreign exchange! Welcome to 2025's alt-holiday hotspots

Words **Victoria Brzezinski**

***The new Maldives:* ZANZIBAR**

The east African archipelago is beckoning high-end beach bums. A swift speedboat ride west of Stone Town (*left*, the historic centre of the main island) is the private paradise Bawe Island, a five-star offering from the Cocoon Collection (its other resorts are in the Maldives, obv's). Or, off the northeast coast of Zanzibar, the name to know for shoeless white-sand stomping is &Beyond Mnemba Island, visited by Naomi Campbell and Mick Jagger — a private, coral-fringed home to 12 freshly refurbished beach bandas. Out of budget? Try Zoi Boutique Hotel on the mainland for digi nomad-approved wi-fi speeds. Note: the time difference between Zanzibar and the UK is only three hours, making WFB (working from beach) a very real possibility.

***The new Tulum:* TRANCOSO**

So popular that it now has its own airport, Tulum, on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, is no longer the hippy enclave it once was. So swap that margarita for a caipirinha and make your way to Trancoso, a beachy bolt hole in Brazil's coastal state of Bahia. "It isn't easy to get to, but then again, usually it takes effort and patience to find paradise," notes Chris Lausch, co-founder of the holiday rental specialist Welcome Beyond. The A-listers are already in on it — namely Beyoncé and Leonardo DiCaprio — as is the CNN anchor Anderson Cooper, whose tropical Trancoso house featured in *Architectural Digest*. The fash-pack-approved place to stay is Uxua Casa Hotel & Spa (*bottom left*), owned by Diesel's former creative director Wilbert Das, with its 16 boho-chic "casas" scattered around the chilled-out town's Unesco-protected square.

***The new Cannes:* BEAULIEU-SUR-MER**

On the hunt for low-key Riviera luxe? Without the crowds of Cannes (an hour's drive away), bling-free Beaulieu-sur-Mer will be your bag. Queen Victoria, Liz Taylor and Rita Hayworth have strolled the citrus-tree-lined streets of this dinky seaside town and, now, Yakusha Studio is transforming a 1960s brutalist building into Nordelaia Beaulieu, the Côte d'Azur's hottest opening of summer 2025. If Nordelaia's first outpost, a five-star foodie paradise in Piedmont, northern Italy, is anything to go by, this is going to be really special. Nearby, the palm-fringed beach Petite Afrique was immortalised in the pages of F Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender Is the Night*, and for tip-top dining (bouillabaisse!) in belle-époque surroundings, stop by La Réserve (*below*) like Sinatra once did.



ZANZIBAR



TRANCOSO



PORTIMAO

***The new Barcelona:* PORTIMAO**

Those suffering from Barcelona overload should take note of Portimao, a vibey port city in the Algarve. Besides the golden sands of Praia da Rocha beach and the gorgeous architecture — think Yves Klein blue azulejo tiles and Moorish influences — there's pocket-friendly accommodation and loads to do, from surf schools to cultural happenings (such as Portimao Museum, housed in a former fish-canning factory) and a thriving food scene: you'll find the best sardines in the world here, while the renowned chef Joao Oliveira (who has recently popped up at Carousel and Behind restaurants in London) runs the kitchen at the Michelin-starred Vista, which overlooks the Atlantic coastline. For swoon-worthy interiors stay at Ampersand Residence (*above*), a carefully curated art-filled haven.

***The new Santorini:* SERIFOS**

Dodge the selfie-stick-wielding Instagrammers clogging up Santorini's blue-and-white streets in favour of Serifos for your fill of sapphire waters, sleepy Cycladic energy and 70-odd beaches. There are the prerequisite whitewashed houses tumbling down the cliffside but no glossy boutiques or rows of €50-an-hour sunbeds here. Less than three hours by ferry from Athens, this rugged isle with reddish soil has an otherworldly feel that's fast making it the go-to Greek destination for architects and fashion folk. Snap up contemporary ceramics from Kerameio and book in for wine tasting at the Chrysoloras Winery.

***The new Ibiza:* IBIZA!**

Yes, Ibiza is back. Soho Farmhouse Ibiza is set to open its doors on the White Isle in 2025 — but beyond a string of glitzy hotel openings from international brands (Mondrian, the Standard, Hyde), Europe's club capital is on the cusp of a renaissance thanks to an impassioned wave of creatives, makers and growers. Shout-out to the locavore-focused Ibizan restaurants Roca House (*right*), Juntos House, a regenerative farm-to-fork restaurant, and the beautifully restored Sa Capella (where Rosie Huntington-Whiteley has dined). Recent hotel glow-ups include Montesol Experimental in the old town, which is the island's oldest hotel, and Hotel Petunia on the southwest coast; plus, Destino is having a big overhaul for next season. Also? Hiking is the new way to get, er, high in Ibiza — sign up with Ibiza Hike Station, run by a former fashion-industry CEO, while the Standard Ibiza is partnering with the outdoor collective GorpGirls for breaks combining adventure and chill (until March 31). Balearic bliss!



SERIFOS



IBIZA



Yes, yes, *yes!* Rise of the sex spa

This coming year, check in for a getaway with a side of sensuality: there's a new kind of retreat and it's all about sex. At SHA Wellness Clinic in the Sierra Helada Natural Park, southern Spain — whose fans have included Kylie Minogue and Monica Bellucci — and its sister site in Mexico, the sexual wellbeing units can incorporate treatments delving into sexual function, self-esteem and desire into any of their health programmes (from £1,900 for a four-day Rebalance & Energise retreat, shawellness.com). Sexual wellness is also a key thread at Six Senses Ibiza's annual transformational wellness festival, Alma: its programme is stuffed with sex talks and workshops covering everything from co-devotion to tantra. Want more? Head to Clinique Nescens, above Lake Geneva in Switzerland, to book in with Sophie Menkes, a doctor offering exosome therapy for functional and aesthetic treatments promoting tissue regeneration and improved blood flow in the vagina. Hotting up! *VB*

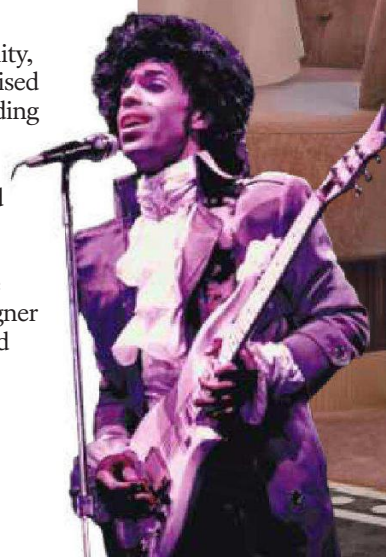
Clockwise from below

Nordic Knots' Ryya rug; Andu Masebo's mini Candleholder No 12; a bath painted in Graphenstone's Lavanda; a Nicola Harding interior; the Georgian at Harrods; and Prince



Purple reigns for interiors

From plum to grape and mauve, design insiders are in agreement that purple will reign (sorry, Prince) supreme in 2025. The shade is filtering into homes via fashion, as the interiors maven Kate Watson-Smyth notes: "It's an acknowledged truism that where the catwalk leads, the cushions will follow — and both lavender and lilac made strong showings on the runway in 2024's collections." Meanwhile, Natalie-Anne Hasseck of the fashion/interiors label Rise & Fall praises purple's versatility, "ranging from bold and gutsy to gentle and cool". See bruised mulberry used in interior-design schemes by Nicola Harding & Co; the rug firm Nordic Knots' new purple offerings, introduced due to demand; David Collins Studio's main colour choice for the Georgian restaurant at Harrods; and Rachel Chudley's pick of plum for the showroom of the textile-design studio Vanderhurd, calling it the shade of "Renaissance royalty and the suffragettes". And a mistake with the sprayers may have left the London product designer Andu Masebo's Candleholder No 12 lilac, but it transpired that has been by far the most popular colourway. *VB*



And finally... this year's trends to leave behind

Wave ta-ta to the things you'll be thrilled to see the back of



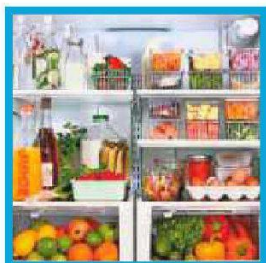
▼ **LEOPARD-PRINT TROUSERS**
The "mum on the school run" look hit its peak in 2024



▼ **XXXL SOFAS**
No one likes to feel like one of the Borrowers, do they?



▼ **YEAR-ROUND WREATHS**
Easter eggs pinned to the door? You must be yolking



▼ **FRIDGESCAPING**
Did anyone really artfully arrange the contents of their Hotpoint?

▼ **E-VOO**
The TikTokification of extra virgin olive oil this year was a cheffing crime



▼ **RENO HUNS**
"Slide 17" wasn't the level of knowledge we needed regarding the tiling in your new bathroom, tvn



▼ **THE AVEGRA FONT**
The year's most overused font. Come back, Comic Sans, everything is forgiven

Avegra

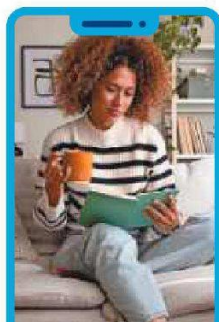
▼ **BEJEWELLED STETSONS**
2024 was the year the hen-do classic went mainstream



▼ **RUNNING CLUBS**
Smug much?



▼ **'SPEND A DAY WITH ME' REELS**
We would rather you kept what you did on a rainy Wednesday to yourself, babes



☐ Tea
☒ Coffee
☐ Hot Choc

▼ **WHATSAPP POLLS**
Dear group chat ... we wasted a lot of time this year having a poll about Every. Little. Thing

▼ **THE COFFEE AND A WALK**
Gen Z's new favourite first date (apparently). What happened to the pub?



▼ **JELLY SHOES**
Who fooled us into thinking these ever looked good?

▼ **BLUE STRIPY PJ BOTTOMS**
Squint and it was Andy Pandi



▼ **SUBSTACK PARALYSIS**
Yes, we signed up to loads. Did we read them though?



▼ **THE DOUBLE BIKINI**
Two bikinis — at the same time? A trend that meant double the tan lines



▼ **QUEUEING IN PUBS**
The year's worst new phenomenon? Yes, possibly



▼ **THE £5 BAG OF CRISPS**
Bring back Walkers

▼ **LONGEVITY**
The wellness buzzword of the year. Zzzz



▼ **'NO NOTES'**
We loved saying it. But ... we always had a couple

▼ **MESH BALLETT FLATS**
Terrible for any sort of weather that wasn't sunny. Which was most of the time



▼ **'SMASHED'**
An epidemic of smashed things (burgers, potatoes, cucumbers). Can't we just keep them whole?

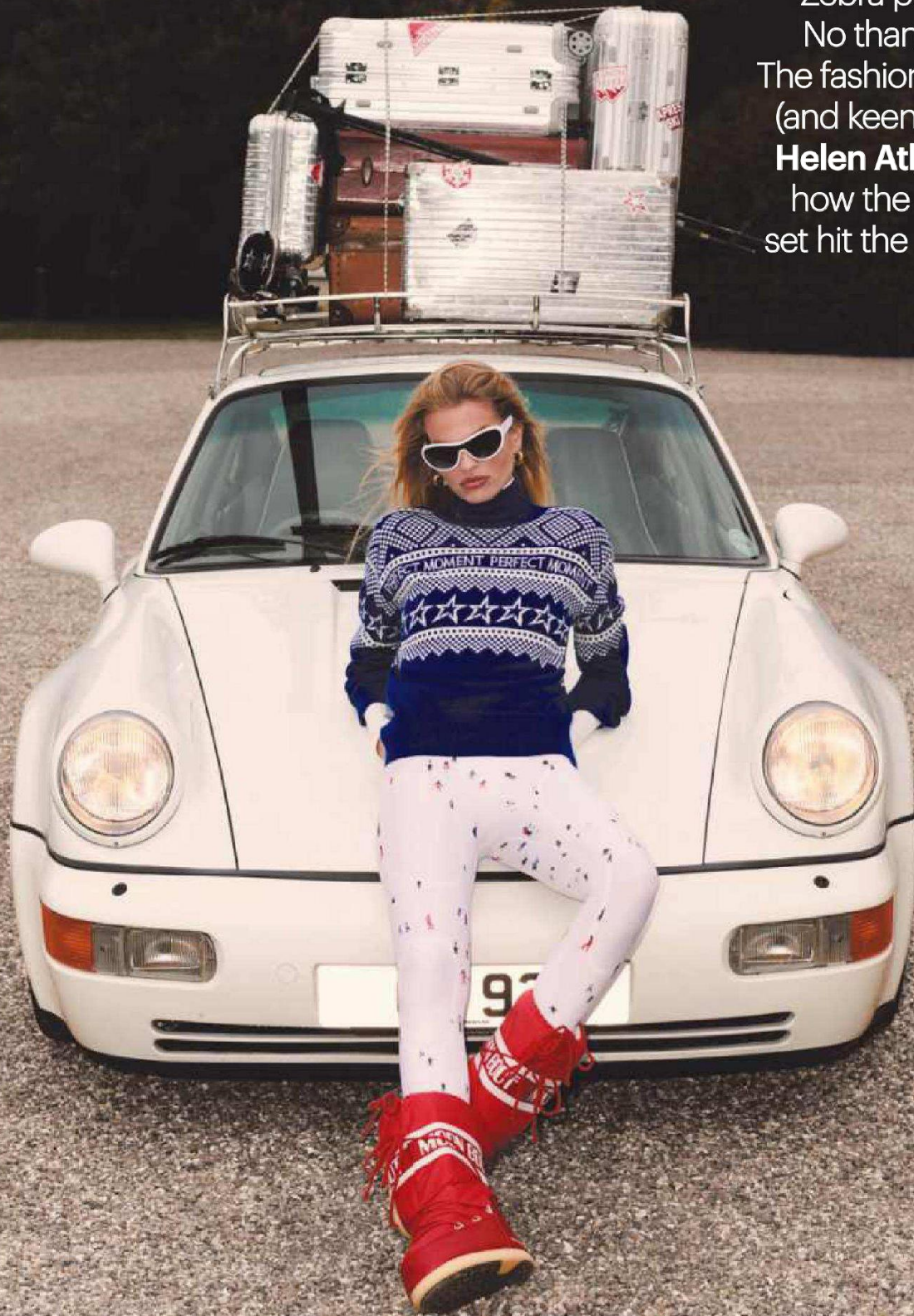


▼ **'LET'S GOOOO'**
We stayed

PEAK CHIC

PERFECT MOMENT

Zebra print?
No thanks...
The fashion editor
(and keen skier)
Helen Atkin on
how the style
set hit the slopes





There was a time when my slope style was anything but difficult to miss. A vision in Minion yellow, sporting a onesie not unlike the one Princess Diana made an alpine icon, I careered across the slopes with the same subtlety as Bridget Jones. It was the Nineties and so the finest ski-rental shops in Yorkshire were not quite the beacons of cold weather style that today's rental options are. My parents' desire to spot me freefalling headlong down the slopes was the key driver of my skiing look. Add to that the fact that I was seven and on the blue runs of Alpe d'Huez (crucially, not sipping champagne at Paradiso restaurant-club in St Moritz).

I've grown up now and while my love of Minion yellow has subsided, my interest in looking stylish on — and off — the slopes has grown at pace. As a fashion editor I make a living from obsessing over the perfect shade of grey to wear with denim, so of course it makes sense that when the opportunity to hit the slopes arises, I approach it with the same level of rigour. Or at least give a monkey's about the colour of my salopettes — and what shape of jacket to wear with them.

It helps that, as my interest in finding the right skiwear has grown, so too has the fashion world's. No longer the sole charge of outdoorsy brands, ski fashion, whether it's the really technical gear or clothes designed for lounging around Aspen, is now a serious business. From Miu Miu to Prada, Louis Vuitton to Gucci, most of the luxury houses now include a snow-appropriate capsule collection in their annual roster of releases. This hit its peak in February, when the Italian outerwear label Moncler launched its latest Grenoble collection at the top of a snow-covered mountain in St Moritz. Models stomped through a winter wonderland with snow spikes on furry boots, puffer capes and cable knits. I was sold.

This is ski style for the one per cent — certainly a £2,000 puffer gilet is out of

my price range — but it is also inspiration for my mood board. So in my new ski-style fantasy, I'm slaloming down a black run in Chamonix wearing a black belted one-piece and the perfect cashmere cable knit.

I'm not the only one. Where ten years ago you'd be hard-pressed to name a single brand that offered skiwear with a finger on the fashion pulse, now Net-a-Porter, Mytheresa and Farfetch offer "snow edits" on their sites, with brands including Perfect Moment, Cordova, Bogner and Fusalp among the most searched for. With decades of ski knowledge between them — dressing everyone from beginners to Olympic teams — labels offer a blend of technical know-how and style that is proving to be a potent combination. The high street is in on it too — Free People, Zara, H&M and Oysho all now offer skiwear, so the average snow bunny's pockets don't have to be Davos deep to be able to dress the part.

My forever ski-style inspiration is — as for a large proportion of skiers — Audrey Hepburn in *Charade* and, more recently, Lily Collins's homage to that moment of cinematic history in *Emily in Paris*. Think traditional Fair Isle knits, (faux) fur and a muted palette. As a general rule I prefer to stick to the colours and shapes I wear in my day-to-day. Not just because ski gear is an enormous investment, but because you need it to stand the test of time where trends are concerned. That zebra-print jacket might seem a good idea now, but will you really put it on in two years' time? I wear black, navy or cream most of the time and so I do the same when I'm skiing, preferring to experiment with textures rather than colours to give my look a twist. High shine, tweed effect or even a corduroy finish is enough to add interest



Helen Atkin, middle, on the slopes of Courmayeur in 2020

In my style fantasy, I'm slaloming in Chamonix wearing a black belted one-piece and the perfect cashmere cable knit

to an outfit without feeling like you're going too off-piste — Fusalp's high-necked Barsity jacket, for instance, is the stuff of dreams.

I also like the addition of a vibrant underlayer — Perfect Moment, Falke and Sweaty Betty have lots of options — which is a great way to add an accent of colour or print to a neutral look. A good mid-layer should always be within arm's reach too. A nice knit, which not only adds an extra layer of insulation but also works well for après, is just the thing. You can try more playful accessories too — Goldbergh's faux-fur mittens or a heated pair from Racer 1927 make a nice point of difference. When it comes to glasses or goggles I wear Salomon, a classic brand and still the best.

Of course not everyone wants to keep things traditional. A quick look at Instagram, where snaps of influencers dancing on tables at La Folie Douce while clad in bright onesies, metallic co-ords and a heavy dose of retro prints will provide plenty of inspiration. Another top tip is to look into skiwear rental, now offered by sites including Blanco and EcoSki, which stock the most-talked-about brands and pieces of the year. It's also worth checking out the big fashion rental sites By Rotation, Hurr, My Wardrobe HQ and Front Row. That way you can experiment with your style before jumping in with both skis — and your bank card.

Of course, while what to wear is up for debate, slope safety isn't, so I always make sure my kit is up to task. Your normal winter thermals and socks are not fit for purpose when it comes to skiing — seek out items with the sweat-wicking properties needed when switching from a downhill activity to inactivity on the lifts (or in mountaintop bars). A helmet, goggles and gloves are also essential.

As for the after-ski activities? Well, it's all about the après and I swap my helmet for a knitted hood, goggles for cat-eye sunglasses and high-tech gloves for snugly cashmere mittens whenever the opportunity arises. I'm also very partial to a Seventies mountain favourite, the Moon Boot. See you up there!

...and here's what to wear on (and off) piste

Edit Helen Atkin



Bright young things

Main picture Ski jacket, £679, helmet, £339, and goggles, £229, goldbergh.com. **1** Mittens, £250, mackage.co.uk. **2** Jacket, £1,380, and **3** trousers, £740, fusalp.com. **4** Socks, £39, colmar.com. **5** Base layer, £225, bogner.com. **6** Ski sleeve bag, £100, Dakine, snowandrock.com. **7** Goggles, £715, gucci.com. **8** Beanie, £34, freepeople.com. **9** Jacket, £1,500, Jet Set, flannels.com. **10** Trousers, £620, and **11** jacket, £1,100, cordova.co. **12** Hoodie, £630, aztechmountain.com. **13** Sunglasses, £430, celine.com





Keep it classic

Main picture Ski suit, £1,585, cordova.co. **1** Helmet, £630, Prada Linea Rossa, prada.com. **2** Jacket, £1,416, Moncler Grenoble, moncler.com. **3** Top, £110, mysundayski.co.uk. **4** Skis, £5,600, celine.com. **5** Ski suit, £259, oysho.com. **6** Jumpsuit, £2,630, louisvuitton.com. **7** Socks, £34, falke.com. **8** Gloves, £650, Giorgio Armani Neve, armani.com. **9** Neck warmer, £15, uniqlo.com. **10** Jumper, £550, Guest in Residence, net-a-porter.com. **11** Jacket, £71 for six days rental, Shoreditch Ski Club, blanqo.com. **12** Trousers, £295, sweatybetty.com. **13** Headband, £9, hm.com. **14** Goggles, £80, izipizi.com



Sweaty Betty's sculpting ski trousers are the perfect pairing for all manner — and shades — of ski jackets



PERFECT MOMENT



Chic and cosy all at the same time, M&S's borg mittens are just the thing for a mid-mountain gluhwein

Alpine après

Main picture Jumper, £80, leggings, £26, boots, £90, hat, £30, and gloves, £46, zara.com. **1** Head scarf, £98, Shrimps x Reformation, shrimps.com.

2 Jacket, £679, goldbergh.com. **3** Jumper, £2,650, Brunello Cucinelli, net-a-porter.com. **4** Mittens, £19.50, marksandspencer.com. **5** Ski pants, £455, Erin Snow, luisaviaroma.com. **6** Sunglasses, £199, Tom Ford, opticiansdirect.co.uk.

7 Knit joggers, £125, theupside.com. **8** Socks, £380, loropiana.com. **9** Top, from £33 for four days rental, Goldbergh, hurrcollective.com. **10** Boots, £225, moonboot.com. **11** Beige boots, £180, soirefootwear.co.uk. **12** Cape, £3,500, Moncler Grenoble, moncler.com. **13** Balaclava, £195, Arch4, net-a-porter.com. **14** Knit, £152, wenorwegians.com. **15** Sunglasses, £440, Dior, mytheresa.com





JANUARY/FEBRUARY

The new year in fashion

Preparing your spring wardrobe? Please. This year it's all about the alternative 'micro-seasons', says **Emily Cronin** (get ready for Princess Di weather)

Spring, summer, autumn, winter — how retro. And when you think about it, how useless. The concept of four distinct seasons dates to a time when a) weather followed more predictable patterns, and b) people heeded rules dictating everything from when to wear patent shoes (summer, if you can believe it) to which colours do and don't go together. Now it's often balmy in October than in May and we pair pink and red with abandon. Far better, then, to follow the rules of the TikTok generation, who deliver us a new "core" almost daily and break down the year into micro-seasons that make sense for the way we really live — offline as well as on.

Knitted hood season

January/February

Admit it: you already lost the Ganni beanie your sister gave you for Christmas (under a pub bench or on the Tube? Who cares — it's gone). Instead of buying another hat to lose, try a hood or a knitted bonnet. Styles from Chinti & Parker, Rise & Fall and Damson Madder offer all the warmth of a hat, but you don't have to find somewhere to stow it when you're ready to take it off — just push it back off your head. *Voilà*: instant snood.

The season of coat loathing

March

If I ever saw a woman look at her partner the way I look at my most-worn winter coat in mid-March, I'd know that the relationship's days were numbered. By March we've shrugged our coats on and off for something like five or six months — 47,000 years in fashion terms. There's a point when we all long to say: enough is enough. Unfortunately that point often arrives before it's safe to shove the big coat to the back of the cupboard. NB: coat-loathing season may seep into ...

Fake spring

April

Just when you thought it was safe to put the big coat away ... it snows. Also known as: gotcha weather (seems sunny, but then you step on a wobbly paving stone and shoot cold puddle water up your jeans leg); farewell tights time (are you sure?); and, more adventurously, *gluggavedur* — an Icelandic word that translates to "window weather", meaning it looks lovely outside when in fact it's freezing. Keep the coat. But soothe the soul by starting to plan a summer holiday.

Optimistic sandal-shopping season

May

Maybe you're going to the Caribbean in May. Or maybe the closest you'll get to presenting your passport is daydreaming of the type of warmth that comes from digging your toes into hot sand. The items you're adding to your shopping cart are likely selected with Future You in mind: smart sandals (to replace last summer's smart sandals, which are now merely ... sandals) and summer dresses that you can just about wear now, with the right jacket and/or cardigan. You could consider this micro-season proof of the enduring triumph of hope over reality. Or just give yourself a break and call it "forward planning".

Austen heroine season

June

This is the one where the weather is finally clement enough for us all to make like Bennet sisters and take the air. Think gauzy white dresses, straw hats and lots of park walks. Lasso a Mr Darcy to carry your cooler bag to the picnic, otherwise it will ruin the look.

Summer personality transplant season

July/August

"This macramé dress is so versatile, I'm sure I'll wear it in Zakynthos and back home in Glasgow," thought no one ever. Yet as soon as it's hot enough there we all go, buying raffia bags, sunglasses shaped like flowers or palm trees and linen shirts in "fun" prints.



MARCH



APRIL

Back to school

September

The season when you, a grown woman who hasn't been to school since long before Miu Miu rehabilitated the pleated uniform-style skirt, are struck with the inexplicable urge to acquire a kilt, black T-bar shoes, a neat cardigan and all-new stationery. Bouquet of freshly sharpened pencils at the ready.

Princess Diana weather

October

Some people feel there's never a wrong time to wear an oversized sweatshirt with bike shorts and sports socks. Others know to wait until it's sunny with a bite in the air to attempt Princess Di's favourite athleisure ensemble. Overlaps with bare legs/big knit weather, blazer and big scarf season, knee-high boots time and first day of tights.

Pumpkin spice season

Late October/November

As surely as parents steal their kids' Halloween sweets, late autumn means it's time to cosset ourselves in oranges, russets, ochres and browns — the fallen-leaf rainbow. This palette shares a certain warmth with the season's guilty-pleasure hot beverage (don't act like you haven't had one), hence the name.

Velvet bow season

December

What's good for wreaths is good for dresses — ditto shoes, hair, handbags, cardigans and going-out tops. It's like there's an unwritten rule that making any item festive is as simple as sticking a velvet bow on it. We say lean in. Or rather, tie one on, why don't you? (See also: sequin season, feather season, tartan season, mascara-stain season.) ■



MAY



JUNE



JULY/AUGUST



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



Shop with Style

What our fashion editor **Helen Atkin** loves this week



PENCIL IT IN

I'm a paper diary kind of girl. By the end of 2025 this Aspal one will be worn and torn after a year in my bag, but it will ensure I don't miss a birthday, meeting or dental appointment. £70, aspinaloflondon.com



2

STOMPING!

The New Year's Day walk is almost upon us, and Superga's rubber ankle boots are ready and waiting to see me through a yomp in the Great British countryside to ease my fuzzy brain. £80, superga.co.uk

WINTER WHITE

Wardrobe space is tight in my flat so a cosy coat that looks as good with jeans and a chunky rollneck as it does over a slinky dress for New Year's Eve is worth its weight in gold. This one from Almada is top of my winter wish list. I'll just have to avoid red wine to ensure its longevity. £560, almadalabel.com

3



RECENT HISTORY

Drawn from the Maison Francis Kurkdjian archives, Absolu Pour le Soir is a spicy, ambery scent designed to be worn after dark — and launched just in time for the final flourish of the party season. £230 for 70ml EDP, Maison Francis Kurkdjian, selfridges.com

4





5

PERFECT FIT

A most excellent side table is harder to source than you might think, but this one by Bias Editions might be it. Hand-turned from solid oak in the north of England, it's the perfect balance of sculptural and rustic. Line Dot side table, £420, biaseditions.com

IN SAFE HANDS

It's not often that I feel the need to put gloves on before I leave the house (that's what pockets are for, surely?), but White Stuff's cosy mittens are so snugly I want to wear them permanently. £45, whitestuff.com



7

LAYER UP

Slightly cropped, this hand-knitted tank top from O Pioneers works perfectly with a pair of high-waisted jeans. Wear with an oversized shirt until it's warm enough to go without. £220, opioneers.co.uk



8

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS

DaisyFace's brightening exfoliator combines daisy stem cells — yes, really — with a multitasking formulation to stimulate circulation, remove dead skin cells and improve skin texture. Talk about flower power. The Exfoliator, £38, daisyface.co

BOX FRESH

Nothing puts a spring in your step quite like a fresh pair of socks. As we head into the new year (I'm still working on my resolutions), putting your best foot forward, sartorially speaking, is the only way to go. Socks, £11, ecco.com



9



10

HANGING TOGETHER

By Pariah's Collector Chain is the definition of versatility. Swap charms, pendants and gem colours in and out for a piece that will work for every occasion. Collector Chain in yellow gold, £2,200, small Pebble yellow gold pendants with rutillated quartz, £495, and smoky quartz, £385, bypariah.com

LITTLE ITALY

From the paint colours to the plinths, the textile designer Susi Bellamy's London pied-à-terre is a tribute to her time living in Florence

Words **Busola Evans**
Photographs **Astrid Templier**



The living room walls, painted in Farrow & Ball's Green Blue, provide a warm backdrop for textile designs by Susi Bellamy's eponymous brand, seen on the sofa, chairs and rug

If a hallway gives a taster for the rest of the home, then the textile designer Susi Bellamy's is an exhilarating starter. Wrapped in a wallpaper of wavy mustard and lilac marbling with a chequerboard marble floor, the entrance offers a full-throttle immersion into Bellamy's world of vibrant hues and punchy pattern blended with her palpable enchantment with Italy. "I have always had an affinity with colour," she says. "I find it joyful and I wanted that reflected in my home."

To that end, Bellamy's two-bedroom apartment, within a stucco-fronted Regency building in Bayswater, west London, is something of a jewel box. With a pleasing palette of salmon pink, minty blues and soft greens, it is filled with considered pieces and unexpected touches. Before she launched her successful eponymous brand in 2017, Bellamy worked as a fashion editor, styling photoshoots with the likes of Kate Moss and working with renowned photographers such



In the main bedroom Bellamy's own-design lampshades top tortoiseshell bases from Track 21 Interiors

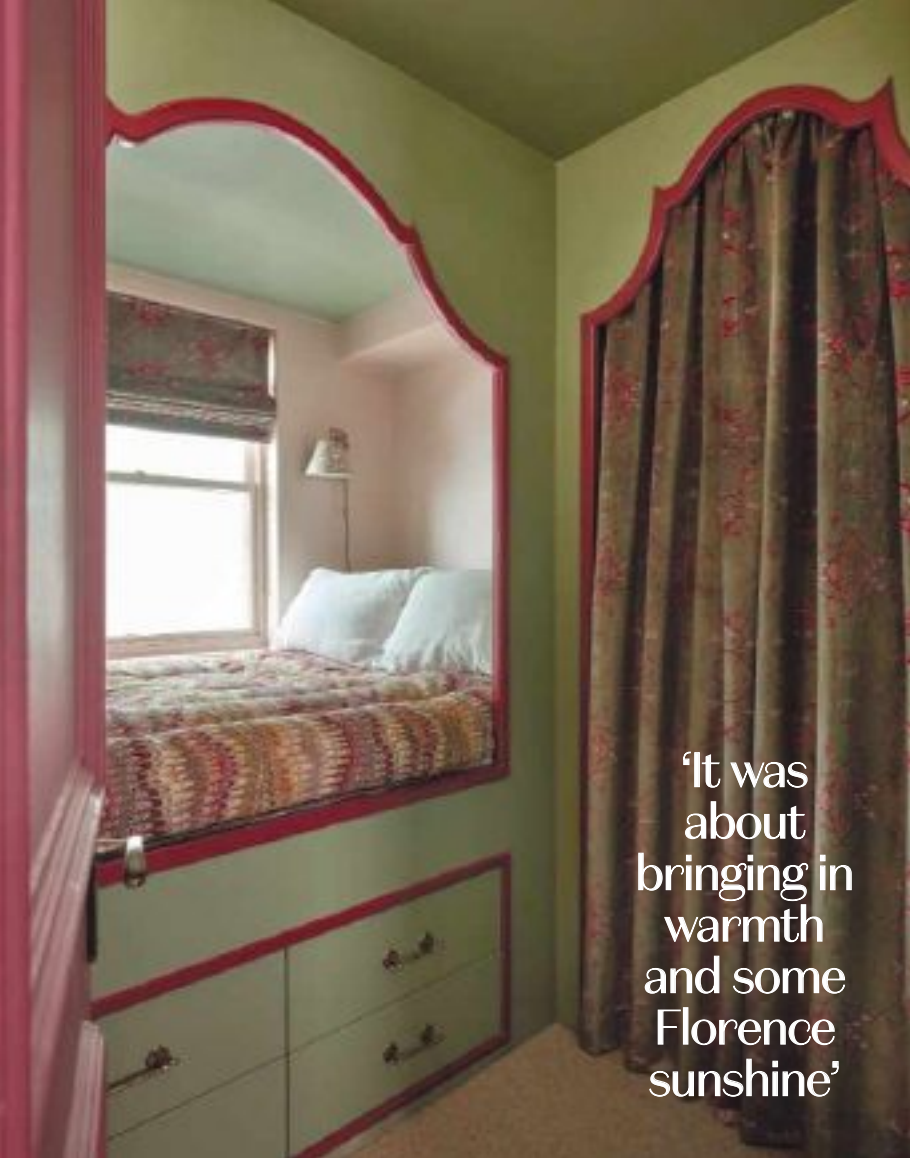
as David Bailey. This was followed by a seven-year spell in Florence with her husband, Michael, and their three children, during which she followed a career as an artist, inspired by Italian architecture and the Renaissance era.

It was during that period, in 2005, that she bought the apartment to keep a toehold in the London property market. "I fell in love with the living area because of its high ceilings and huge windows. We tidied up the flat and let it out," Bellamy says. When the family returned to the UK in 2010, they set up home in Northumberland and continued to rent out the flat until two years ago, when Bellamy, 60, felt it would be more useful as a pied-à-terre and a playground for her creations.

Although she had designed her previous homes herself, this time she was interested in collaborating with an interior designer. "I wanted to be taken out of my comfort zone. I can be maximalist and needed someone



In the hallway the wallpaper is Bellamy's Dahlia Plumes, while the marble tiles are from Starel Stones. The mushroom stool by Assieds-Toii is upholstered in Bellamy's Aqua Mini marbled velvet



'It was about bringing in warmth and some Florence sunshine'



Left The bed nook designed by Pandora Taylor. **Above** Bathroom fittings from Victorian Plumbing complement Bellamy's Yellow Stripy Rose wallpaper. **Below** The oak table is by Jonathan Adler and the dining chairs are from Forwood Design, painted in Farrow & Ball's Bamboozle

who could help curate the space." That person was Pandora Taylor, who founded her London-based studio in 2018 and quickly garnered a reputation for warm and sophisticated interiors.

"We worked as a team," Bellamy says. "We both brought things to the table that maybe alone we wouldn't have achieved." Taylor's starting point was Bellamy's collection of fabrics and wallpapers, which take many cues from her time in Florence. "From here we got tips on colour, energy and tone to get the sense of what Susi wanted," Taylor says.

The living and dining room was the key focus. Taylor was keen to emphasise its grandness and architectural detailing while ensuring it didn't feel stark, so she chose to warm up the walls and ceiling with Farrow & Ball's Green Blue. The centrepiece is a large sofa from the luxury furniture maker George Smith, which is upholstered in one of Bellamy's floral velvets, Blue Rose Marbled, and a bespoke pink rug based on one of her designs was created by Christopher Farr.

Meanwhile, in her bedroom, a fabric headboard is matched with the same pattern wallpaper in her en suite bathroom. "It's like an interior equivalent of a twinset," Taylor says, laughing. Other interesting details





Above In the main bathroom the narrow freestanding tub came from QS Supplies and the crackle-glazed wall tiles from Tiles Direct. **Right** The kitchen cabinets, painted in Little Greene's Light Peachblossom, are from Howdens, while the Belfast Sinks fluted butler sink sits amid a worktop and splashback in Botanic Green quartzite from Stonecraft. **Far right** The textile designer Susi Bellamy



include a playful scalloped border by Ottoline around the kitchen entrance.

Vintage furniture such as the striking Chinoiserie dresser in the living room add a sense of history and Florentine influences are evident throughout. A Renaissance-style head sits on a plinth in the living room, and the blue stone and white marble flooring in the hallway gives an Italian-palazzo feel. Classical paintings in ornate gold frames, collected over the years, pepper each room. Even Bellamy's bedroom has a distinctly Mediterranean air with its golden yellow walls. "It was about bringing in all that warmth and some Florence sunshine," she says.

The other rooms in the apartment lacked the grandeur of the living room, so Bellamy was keen to make up for that in visual impact. "We were also conscious that, as small spaces, they need to function well," she adds. The compact galley kitchen was given floor-to-ceiling storage while the worktop and splashback were made from striking green quartzite. The units are painted in Light Peachblossom by Little Greene ("I always wanted a pink kitchen").

The diminutive second bedroom, used by Bellamy's daughter Sophie, was potentially the biggest challenge but Taylor designed a bespoke bed "nook", a cosy sleeping space with built-in storage and wall area for a TV. This meant ample wardrobe space, hidden by a curtain made from one of Bellamy's fabrics.

The apartment may be a showcase of clever design but for Bellamy it is far more personal. "One of the main reasons for having this flat is to bring our family together often because we're a bit displaced. So I'm pleased that, with Pandora's help, I've been able to bring that vision to life. We've been a dream team." ■

susi-bellamy.com, pandorataylor.co.uk



THE FACE FIXERS

So your skincare routine slipped down the priority list as the month progressed. Understandable, but “alcohol is a diuretic, which leads to significant fluid and electrolyte loss”, says Dr Sophie Momen, consultant dermatologist at the Cadogan Clinic. “So water loss through the skin is accelerated, making it look dry, flaky and dull.” Not ideal. “Plus, alcohol causes the blood vessels to dilate, causing more redness and flushing in people with rosacea and sensitive skin.”

OK, but what to do?

MASK UP

Start with a face mask.

Omorovicza Soothing Salve (1 £80) is like a bandage for the skin, rich in ingredients that reduce redness and quell irritation including sea camomile extract and ceramides from olive oil. For fussy skin, apply it as an overnight treatment mask. For a quick pick-me-up, ten minutes is enough to take the edge off.

SUPERCHARGE YOUR SKINCARE

The new **Allies of Skin Multi Peptides & GF Advanced Lifting Serum** (2 £176) is formulated to lift, firm and strengthen skin thanks to a clever peptide complex and a high-powered antioxidant that helps bring back the bounce. For an under-eye aid, look to a cream that smooths the signs of overindulgence and lack of sleep. **The Inkey List Caffeine Eye Cream** (3 £10) takes puff reduction and fine-line blurring in its stride, helping to brightening any darkness too. Finally, add on a (conservative) helping of the calming **La Mer The New Rejuvenating Night Cream** (4 £190), which contains a retinol alternative that is gentle enough for sensitive skin.

THE GREAT BEAUTY RESET

From DIY depuffing to a salubrious soak, the days between Christmas and New Year are the perfect time for some proper self-care. Here's our guide to what to do

Words **Morgan Fargo**





Christine Lutz/Blaublut Edition

DIY DEPUFFING

Tools are a winner, says Flavia Morellato, the celebrity lymphatic-drainage specialist, but fingers can be just as good, if not better suited to massaging your face. “The natural warmth of your hands improves circulation, which helps drainage.” Just make sure you’re pushing the puff from the centre of the face out and up towards the edges.

COOL IT

“Ice constricts blood capillaries, which will minimise puff,” Morellato says. Keep two teaspoons in the freezer to use on your eyes, cheekbones and jawline. And for anyone whose skin is feeling particularly sensitive, although hot baths beckon at this time of year, it’s worth steering clear. “They’ll only further irritate your skin barrier,” the aesthetician Katharine Mackenzie Paterson says. If you really can’t resist, she recommends applying a cold flannel to your face.

PINCH YOURSELF

Festive faces can benefit from gentle pinching to “naturally increase collagen and elastin production and increase blood flow”, says the facial-massage expert Leila Haddioui. “Gently pinch the skin repeatedly using your index and middle fingers and thumb, moving upward from your chin to your ears and then around the cheeks until your face has a rosy, pink glow.”

AND REMEMBER...

Gua sha is not just for facial sculpting. According to Victoria Yau, the wellness brand Muihood’s in-house traditional Chinese medicine practitioner, it’s also great for releasing tension around the jaw (should someone have questioned your bread sauce process) and decongesting sinuses if a cold is brewing.



THE BEST BODY WORK

No matter what Pinterest says, flower petals won’t cure your burnout. Nor will they sort the parched, dull skin hidden beneath chunky knits. But a bodycare routine that blends smart ingredients and relaxing scents will work wonders for your skin and nervous system.

THE SOUL SOAK

Muihood, a British-Chinese brand rooted in Chinese medicine, works from a place of prevention first. Its **Mugwort Bath Soak** (£25 for eight pouches) is the type of thing you’ll use once and wonder how you ever soaked without a teabag in the tub. Each pouch contains a mix of mugwort and other herbs designed to be brewed in your bathwater and is said to help improve circulation, calmness and premenstrual symptoms.

LESSONS IN LYMPHATIC

Sure, your skin feels like heaven but how to deal with festive water retention? Look to the big six, Morellato says: the neck, collarbone, underarms, sternum, groin and backs of knees. “Use light, rhythmic motions over these points to activate the lymphatic system — the pathways in the body that carry excess water and puff away — massaging from each point towards your heart,” she says.

PUT THE KETTLE ON

Feeling bloated? Ditch your PG Tips and look for blends containing peppermint, spearmint and fennel instead, says Urvashi Agarwal, founder of the tea company JP’s Originals. “They’re all great for digestive issues,” she says. “A simple lemon, ginger and honey infusion can work wonders for dwindling immunity during the festive period. The lemon has vitamin C, the ginger has anti-inflammatory properties and the honey is antibacterial so it soothes the throat. If you want to up the ante on this, you can add half a teaspoon of good-quality organic turmeric and a crack of black pepper.” Or if you’re simply frazzled, pick up a jar of **JP’s Originals Soul Soother** (£44 for 24 bags), which includes water-soluble CBD, digestion-aiding spearmint and antioxidant-rich green tea.

STRETCH OUT, HEAT UP

Going to the gym during this period may be a stretch, but an actual stretch won’t go amiss. “Movement is essential for stimulating the lymphatic system, which helps the body detoxify,” says Dr Tamsin Lewis, the longevity expert at Solice Health. The Pilates guru Bryony Deery swears by deceptively simple stretching, no yoga mat needed.

Stretch one Lie on the floor, hug your knees to your chest and take them over to one side, twisting your body in the opposite direction. Hold for 30 seconds on each side.

Stretch two Sit in a cross-legged position, place your right hand on your left knee and twist for 30 seconds, and then repeat on the other side.

If you get the urge to properly sweat sans treadmill, head to the sauna, which “sweats out toxins and encourages blood flow and deep breathing”, Lewis says.



GOOD HAIR GUARANTEED

STIMULATE YOUR SCALP ...

Don't underestimate the power of a good brush. "It provides your scalp with a mechanical massage, boosting blood circulation. This improved circulation ensures vital nutrients are delivered directly to your hair follicles, promoting vibrant, healthy hair," says Flore des Robert, the co-founder of the chic French brush brand La Bonne Brosse, whose hairbrushes (*above*), come with a range of different bristles types. That said, for the purposes of stimulating the scalp, the action is more important than the tool. And ... relax.

... THEN STRIP IT CLEAN

Larry King Clean as a Whistle Deep Clean Scalp Scrub (7 £18) is the equivalent of switching your scalp off and back on again. It removes flakes and soothes scalps irritated by hats, tight hairstyles and a lack of moisture in the air. For a DIY job, Zoë Irwin, creative director at John Frieda whose clients include Sienna Miller and Cate Blanchett, concocts something from her cupboards.

"Brown sugar, coconut oil and an essential oil such as peppermint is great — the sugar acts as a natural exfoliant, while coconut oil has a molecule small enough to enter the hair shaft so is great for hydration," she says. And you can tailor the ingredients to your needs. Irwin recommends lemon juice, for example, for reducing inflammation, and honey and avocado for nourishment. "The results are similar to some popular scrubs," she says.



DON'T BE TEMPTED TO...

Sleep in a conditioner or hair mask, says the celebrity stylist Tom Smith — simply because it won't make any difference. "Most masks and treatments peak in benefit at the 10 to 20-minute mark. After that, you're unlikely to notice any additional benefit," he says. Avoid going to bed with wet hair too. According to Andreas Wild, a hairstylist at Larry King, it's a one-way ticket to frizz, as "it opens the cuticle and allows moisture to escape".





FINISHING TOUCHES

GIVE YOUR MANI MORE MILEAGE

Gels on their last legs? “Go hard with a top coat — it will prolong your mani for at least a couple of days and bring back that salon-fresh shine,” says the A-list nail technician Julia Diogo. Try **OPI RapiDry Quick Drying Top Coat (8 £18)**, a glossy yet surprisingly tough barrier between your nails and your life. If you need to hide a chip in your gel caused by potato peeling or other prep, you can “make it less noticeable by buffing down the edges before colour matching”, she says. Otherwise get creative and conceal with glitter polish just in time for the new year.

GIVE YOURSELF A BROW FACIAL (YES, REALLY)

It might sound excessive, but the brow expert Hollie Parkes can't recommend one enough to clean, condition and nourish your eyebrows. The steps? First, exfoliate using your usual exfoliant (physical or chemical) to get rid of product build-up and dead skin. Then go in with a hair mask for glossy hydration — “This is a good tip for all year round,” Parkes says — before finishing with an oil or serum to lock in moisture and promote healthy growth. “Gently massage in the mask and oil using pressing, pinching and rolling motions,” she says, adding that avocado, castor and coconut oils work just as well as skincare formulas.

SLEEP SCHOOL

“Events like Christmas can stimulate your flight-or-fight response,” says Dr Elena Touroni, the psychologist and clinical director of the Chelsea Psychology Clinic. “This releases stress hormones like adrenaline and cortisol, which, when prolonged, can affect mood, concentration and energy, leaving you feeling physically and emotionally drained. Naturally, this can make it hard to wind down or stay asleep.” If you're in the tired-but-wired camp, setting up your environment for sleep success can help.

THE NO-NOISE EARPLUGS

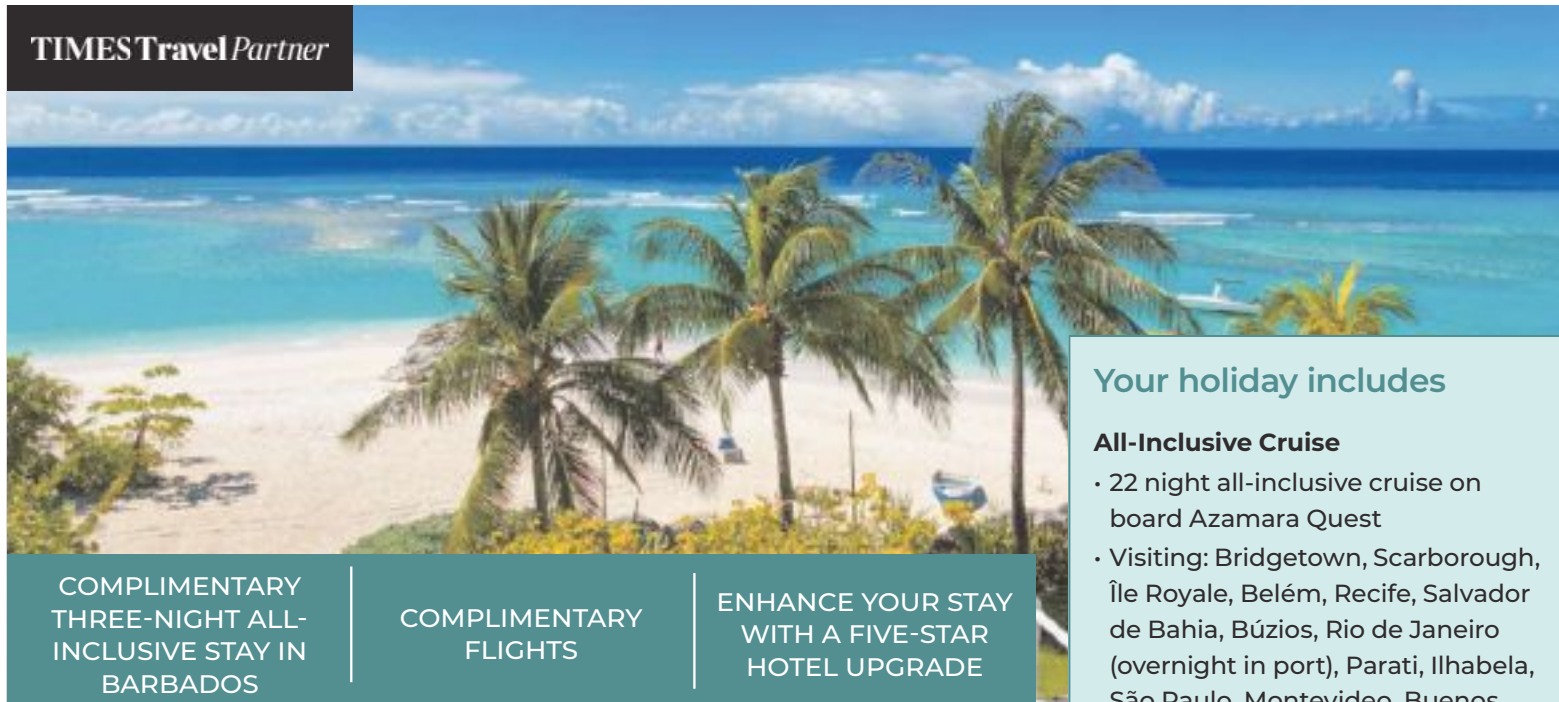
Little noises (or extra guests) keeping you awake past your bedtime? **Loop Dream Earplugs (9 £45)** are soundproof enough to silence even the noise of a snoring bedfellow. Made from comfy foam and silicone, they won't jostle with your pillow or stop you from sleeping on your side.

THE NATURAL ZZZZ

For the supplement faithful, the new **Diome Rested** formula (**10 £60** for 60 capsules) contains seven botanical extracts, four vitamins and three minerals to improve sleep (camomile, linden and zinc) and calm frazzled nervous systems (magnesium and B vitamins). ■

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Rio de Janeiro

Discover the stunning beauty of Rio de Janeiro, home to natural beauty, lively culture and rich history, during an overnight in port. Visit the iconic Christ the Redeemer statue atop Corcovado Mountain for breathtaking views. Relax on the famous Copacabana and Ipanema beaches or take a cable car to Sugarloaf Mountain for panoramic vistas. Explore the vibrant Lapa district, known for its nightlife, and visit the historic Santa Teresa neighbourhood.

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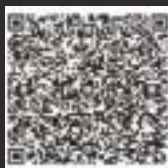
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India Knight

This pine-scented bath essence is a bargain — and will be relaxing me until spring



There are few things I like more in winter than a really piney, bracing, almost camphoric smell — the sort of thing that makes you (or rather me) think of log cabins, Heidi's chalet, pine forests, tartan blankets, check shirts, really good socks, very clear, clean air and, somehow, extreme comfort. I find few scents as immediately evocative as the smell of pine.

Unfortunately most piney smells, be they a scent or a candle, smell of Toilet Duck. And so I get my quasi-medicinal woody kicks from Olverum Bath Oil, which is so delicious that it makes me stay submerged, topping up with my toe on the tap, until the hot water runs out. It is complex, woody and herbal rather than straightforwardly piney, and it is also expensive (but so worth it, plus it makes me sleep really well).

I was telling someone about my love of piney scents and how I was sure there were loads in German chemists — no idea why I think this, but it seems probable — and they said: “Well, of course there's Wiberg's.” This rang no bell whatsoever, which made the person completely incredulous. She started describing it: bright green, with an old-fashioned label, been around since the dawn of time etc. And then, from the far recesses of what passes for my brain, a tiny bell did very faintly ring. I could picture it, without being able to remember where from.

So when I got home I ordered some **Wiberg's Pine Bath Essence** — it's about £24 for a litre bottle, which I call a bargain — and when it arrived the bell rang much louder. Still no idea where from, and I think maybe it was from a schoolfriend's family bathroom decades ago. Either that or a dim memory from DR Harris, chemist of dreams in St James's Street, which would also figure because the whole vibe is very much “gentlemen's” products from a bygone age — a badger-hair shaving brushes and shaving soap in wooden boxes, Extract of Limes Cologne sort of thing.

But in this case not bygone at all and easily available, including from Amazon. And if you like long, hot baths and those medicinal, piney smells and don't know about Wiberg's, you're going to be in heaven. I was, and am, and am proposing to be until about March. It is really bracing — it will slice through a foggy head in no time — but does that magical thing of being both bracing and intensely relaxing at the same time, like the best sort of massage. It feels intensely luxurious and somehow brisk and efficient. Like Olverum, it makes me sleep really well. And the smell! Piney nirvana.

It is literally made with pine needle oil, so it's hardly surprising. There's also capsicum extract in there, plus some other essential oils, plus glycolic acid (gently exfoliating) and oleic acid (moisturising, replenishing). It feels amazing on sore muscles, although I don't know whether I am inventing this because I associate the fragrance so much with general Alpine wellness — but I bet if you were knackered from skiing this would 100 per cent sort you out. It smells so, so delicious, I can't tell you. If you or anyone you love likes this sort of brisk, assertive, energising scent, do yourselves a favour and buy a bottle. It's the piney dream, both exhilarating and deeply soothing. ■

INDIA LOVES

READ The bit between Christmas and New Year is almost my favourite bit of the holidays. When you've binged all the telly and leftovers, there's nothing nicer than losing yourself in a fantastic book. I have three for you. Laurie Colwin's wonderful novels *Happy All the Time*, *Another Marvelous Thing* and *Family Happiness* have been reprinted (W&N £9.99 each). Funny, clever, moving — you could not do better. timesbookshop.co.uk



It does that magical thing of being both bracing and intensely relaxing at the same time

Unzipped!

Charlotte Tilbury



Who has the best style?

The one and only Kate Moss, my friend and beauty muse. We've created so many looks together, from her 34th birthday [where Tilbury painted a David Bowie-esque gold star across Kate's eye] to amazing red carpet looks. I've known her for 30 years.

How would you describe your style?

Eclectic. And a bit medieval. I love vintage, I love clothes that are quite bohemian, I love glamour and rock'n'roll.

Where do you shop for vintage?

Karen Vintage, Rellik and One of a Kind — all in London — are fantastic.

Your most-worn item?

My high heels, darling. When you wear heels you hold yourself differently; they improve your posture, you stick your bottom out and arch your back and feel empowered and confident.

I think heels give you a great sense of empowerment. And I've got high heels for every occasion. I've got some really old Prada and Marc Jacobs pairs. Gianvito Rossi are my current favourite because they're so comfortable. I can dance until 7am in Gianvito Rossi heels (below).



Heels for a country walk and eyeliner to bed: the beauty mogul spills her wardrobe secrets



What's the most expensive item in your wardrobe?

My Atelier Versace dress that I wore last year to the Met Gala, designed by my great friend Donatella. It really is a work of art, with hand-beaded goddesses all over it. Just incredible.

When was the last time you wore jeans?

I don't wear them very often and when I do everyone's like, "Huh?", because I'm always in a dress or skirt. My kids love me in jeans. I wore a pair by Frame last weekend, in fact, in Scotland — with Saint Laurent heeled boots, darling, to walk the marshes. Frame jeans give you a great bottom.

What are your top beauty tips?

It's so important to prep your skin before make-up, which is why I created the Magic Cream moisturiser and Magic Serum Crystal Elixir. Celebrities love it — George Clooney steals Magic Cream from Amal.



Complete this sentence: I'll never forget what I was wearing when...

We launched my brand at Selfridges in 2013. It's where my dream came true. My mother always said, "A little black dress will take you anywhere," and that has been in my head my whole life. So I wore a black Galaxy dress by Roland Mouret. It was a euphoric moment.

Is it true you wear your make-up to bed?

Just a bit of smudgy eyeliner. I love a sexy bedroom eye. But I take off everything else — you have to. I also wear my silk Carine Gilson nightgown.

What do you wear to put out the bins?

Galliano — it has to be fabulous. Bring some glamour to the bins!

What will you wear on New Year's Eve?

A fabulous make-up look is number one, a fabulous dress and fabulous vintage jewellery. I think I'll wear a vintage red Galliano dress. It's long and satin with a split.

What would you never be caught dead wearing?

While I do think there should be no rules in fashion and everyone should find their own style and enjoy it, I wouldn't wear a tent dress. They're ugly. Not flattering. Who wants to look like a duvet or a tent? I don't understand.

What one piece of fashion advice would you give?

It doesn't matter what's trending, celebrate your own body and style and wear whatever makes you feel great. Don't listen to anyone else. ■

The new Charlotte Tilbury global flagship store opens on January 9 in Covent Garden, London WC2



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