

HELLO! FASHION

JUNE/JULY

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MALDIVES



JEWELLERY
WORTH
£1,000

SUMMER OF
NOSTALGIA
THE INSPO
& THE ICONS

WHAT
MISCHA BARTON
DID NEXT





Love that.

A woman with short dark hair and sunglasses stands on a concrete ledge by the water. She is wearing a short-sleeved, button-down top and matching shorts with a complex, multi-colored geometric pattern. Her hands are on her hips. She is also wearing white, perforated flat shoes. The background is a calm body of blue water.

M&S

Printed top £26
Printed shorts £28

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thought, 'Please get away from me strange woman'. But I'm writing this letter to you listening to the theme song on repeat. It played on the dancefloor at my wedding. I rewatch the show every couple of years, and while my allegiances wander (I was firmly Team Ryan on first watch, before boomeranging to Seth and back), the show has undoubtedly left a dent in the fabric of my life. And Marissa was everything to me. Her clothes. Her hair. Her relationships. I was obsessed.

The OC took place during a wildly different cultural landscape, with an overly invasive press (to put it mildly) and a lack of concern for young stars such as Mischa. But she is officially back in the spotlight, having just wrapped a play – *Double Indemnity* – that toured the UK. On set, she was charming and beautiful and everything I hoped she would be. They do say, never meet your heroes. Well, I did, and she likes halloumi and Ryan Gosling.

Reminiscing over the early 00s put the whole *H! Fashion* team in a nostalgic mood, and we've dedicated the issue to the celebration of warm, fuzzy memories. Vampire Diaries' Ian Somerhalder shared his favourite haunts with us and our fashion features

WELCOME...

If you had told 16-year-old me, that in 21 years, I would be standing in a living room with Mischa Barton chit-chatting about caesar salads, not a chance would I have believed you. Quite frankly, it would have blown my tiny mind. But on a drizzly Sunday in High Wycombe the unbelievable happened. Not to be weird about it or anything, but *The OC* was my show. My escape from the doldrums of teenage life and a small-town environment I found suffocating at times. Even if I did have to switch the channel over when my mum walked in for fears she would find it too scandalous for my delicate sensibilities.

These are thoughts I tried to share with Mischa as I bundled her into a cab after the shoot wrapped. I attempted to tell her that meeting her and getting to do this shoot was such a career highlight for me. It came out as bumbled nonsense and she no doubt

'MARISSA WAS EVERYTHING TO ME. HER CLOTHES. HER HAIR. I WAS OBSESSED'

editor Tania did a deep dive on the lasting appeal of YouTube. We've also given you all the shopping inspo you need inspired by our favourite shows of the 2000s and 2010s (including *That's So Raven* and *Lizzie McGuire*).

And lastly, I'm gutted to tell you that our beloved style editor Orion has moved back to her native New Zealand, leaving a hole in all our hearts. Luckily, our deputy digital editor Lauren asked her to be bridesmaid at her 2027 nuptials, so she's still (and always will be) firmly part of the *H! Fashion* family.



Care x
EDITOR

MY PICKS THIS ISSUE...



Some would say florals for spring aren't groundbreaking. We disagree. Top, £36, Next



Because I start every single day with a cold, crisp Diet Coke (sorry, Mum). Charm, £295, Anya Hindmarch



I haven't stopped thinking about Givenchy's new Vouyou bucket bag. Bag, £1,523, Givenchy by Sarah Burton



CAST YOUR VOTE

With two collectable covers to choose from this issue, simply scan the QR code above to vote for your favourite!



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Distributed by Marketforce, 121-141 Westbourne Terrace, London W2 6JR.
Tel +44 (0)330 390 6555.

Printed in the UK by Walstead Roche. Repro by Rhapsody Ltd
HFM is a trademark of HOLA. SL. Deposito legal: M 16.334-1988

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HELLO! LTD Floor 4, 230 Blackfriars Road, London, SE1 8NW
Subscriptions 01858 438430

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PHOTO: PIXELES (TOP TO BOTTOM) CHUBBY DIAMOND BAND WITH CHAMPAGNE DIAMONDS, £2,925. PAVE STERLING SILVER RING WITH CHAMPAGNE DIAMONDS, £1,360. CHUBBY DIAMOND BAND WITH WHITE DIAMONDS, £2,925. (ALL BY PARIAH)

Lust-HAVE

LOSE YOUR HEART TO THIS MONTH'S MOST COVETED

By Pariah's desert diamond stacking rings glow in a palette of champagne and white diamonds. Their warm hues pair just as beautifully with relaxed denim as they do with sharp tailoring and feminine ruffles. Inlaid with natural diamonds and designed to be added piece by piece, they'll become a cherished set of heirlooms

Styling MOLLY SAUNDERS



WING STOP

Vegetarians, look away!
This T-shirt is perfect for
cheeky carnivores.
T-shirt, £95, Bella Freud



TALL ORDER

This whimsical London-based shoe brand was born from a
passion for vintage treasure hunting. Expect compliments
when you don a pair, especially when teamed with socks.
Heels, £360, Lili Curia



SMOOTH CURVES

This neat as a pin crop top is
called the Powerpuff, so we
immediately added to cart.
Top, £503, Temily



TICKLED PINK

No one does statement jewellery
quite like Schiaparelli. We adore.
Necklace, POA, Schiaparelli

The
**WISH
LIST**

*Luxe, lavish, can't-live-without...
our pick of this season's most wanted*



CHECK MATE

Burberry + Hunza G = a truly
covetable swimwear collection.
Bikini, £325, Burberry x
Hunza G



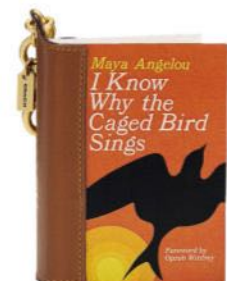
OVER THE MOON

Wear slung across your hips
in a pair of foolproof summer-
approved denim shorts.
Belt, £70, Marciano by Guess



GREEN WITH ENVY

Slip skirts have been in the limelight for far too long.
These lace-trimmed shorts are flirty yet practical and are
born to be worn with a grey T-shirt and bare legs.
Shorts, £85, Aligne



BOOK SMART

Not just a cute charm, but a mini
version of one of the greatest
novels of all time. Outstanding.
Charm, £95, Coach



SHORT & SWEET

The antithesis to hotpants, an airy pair of Bermudas can't be beaten for comfort.
Shorts, £219, Marc Cain



CANDY CRUSH

Those with a sweet tooth, rejoice! GHD's limited-edition Jelly collection takes its inspiration from saccharine sweetness, including peach, mint and coral shades.
Straighteners, £299, GHD



SMALL TALK

Underwear this pretty deserves to be seen, so we'll be slipping ours under a Canadian tuxedo.
Body, £52, Boux Avenue



SOFT GLOW

Just when we thought we didn't need another pair of sunglasses we caught a glimpse of this superbly sharp set – with sparkling silver frames.
Sunglasses, £140, Le Specs



GOLD STAR

Intentional creases are our favourite SS26 trend. Team with the matching trousers.
Top, £335, Noon by Noor



FULL BLOOM

Bloomers continue to steal our hearts well into SS26. Team with a lace bralet.
Trousers, £460, Ulla Johnson



CAN YOU DIG IT?

If we saw this jacket on our partner, we would be ripping it from their back to sport all summer long. Clock the giant pockets.
Jacket, £260, Barneys Originals

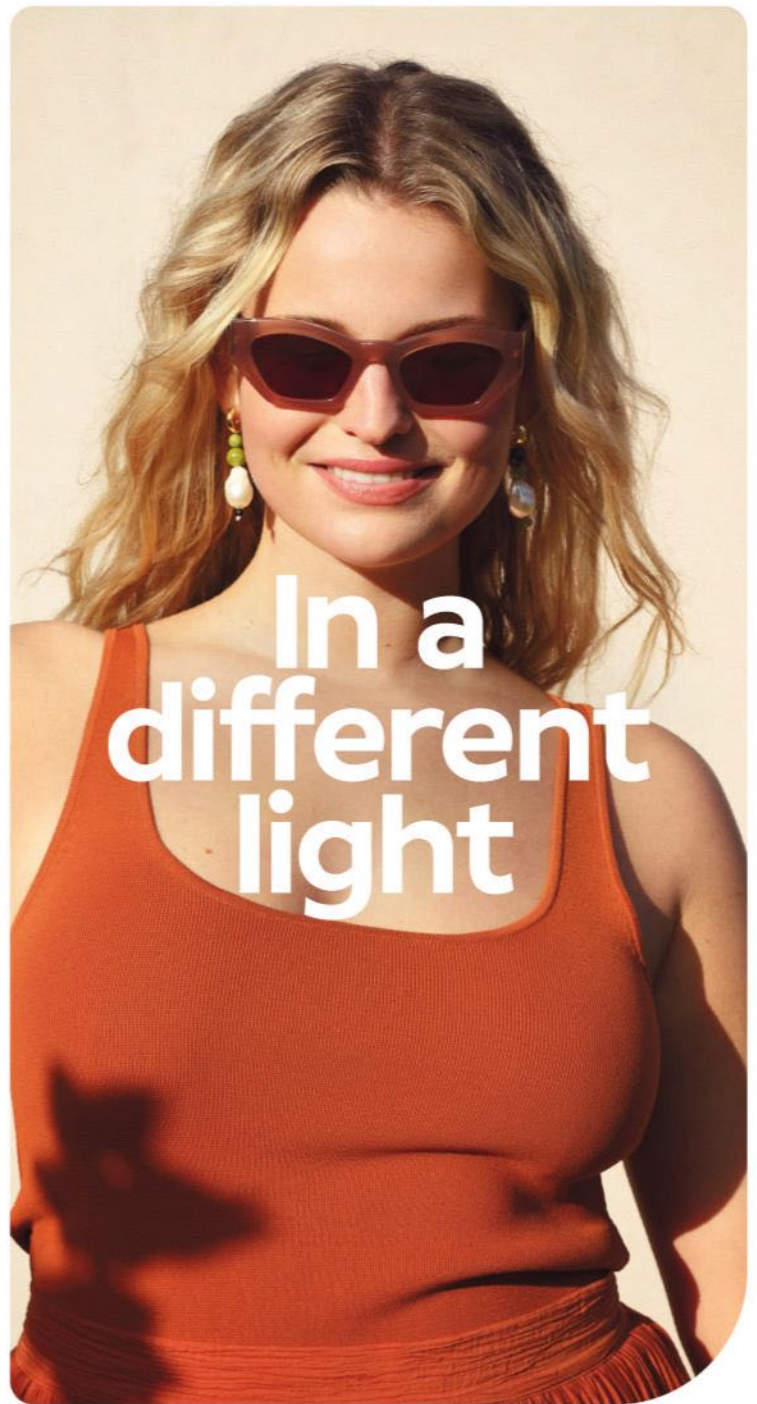


STITCH IN TIME

A holiday clutch big enough to sling in sun cream, a romance novel, a Fanta Lemon and a massive pair of sunnies? Consider us sold.
Bag, £1,185, Aquazzura



See
things



In a
different
light

2 for 1 designer from £100

Incl. sunglasses

With single-vision lenses to the same prescription

Book an eye test at [specsavers.co.uk](https://www.specsavers.co.uk)



Frames subject to availability. Cannot be used with other offers. Second pair must be from the same price range or below. Both pairs include standard 1.5 single-vision lenses (or 1.6 for £170 Rimless ranges) or 1.5 safety lenses for safety eyewear range. Both pairs must be purchased in one transaction. Varifocal/bifocal: same lenses in both pairs and pay for lenses in first pair only, except for SuperDigital, SuperDrive varifocals, and SuperReaders 1-2-3 occupational lenses, SuperBoost and SuperSingle-vision lenses, where you pay full lens price for the first pair and £40 for the second pair. 2for1 on safety eyewear is excluded for customers with a corporate eyecare voucher provided by their employer. Additional charge for extra lens options.

The AGENDA

ANNA OCTOBER

OUR DEFINITIVE ROUND-
UP OF THE SEASON'S
BIGGEST CATWALK
TRENDS



ISLAND IN THE SUN

Yes, the weather can be a little unpredictable but, as far as we're concerned, summer is en route and we will be stubbornly dressing accordingly. To help, we've rounded up the hottest holiday trends from the SS26 runways to delight and inspire, whether you're off to the Bahamas or Brighton. Just don't forget your SPF.

Compiled by CLARE PENNINGTON



EMANUEL UNGARO



CHRISTOPHER ESBER



CELINE



CAMPILLO



AKRIS



SHUTING QIU



Jacket, £515, Marella



Shirt, £89, Hobbs



Trousers, £295, Serena Bute



Blazer, £575, Joseph



Shirt, £70, Marks & Spencer



Waistcoat, £757, Noon by Noor

THE HARD WORKER SUMMER SUITING

For those of us who don't want to submit to a relaxed silhouette just because the sun is shining, labels such as Celine and Akris showed us how to make a power suit work even when the mercury is rising. Embrace softer palettes and lighter textures and perhaps do without a shirt altogether (although probably not for the office...)



MITSURU OKAZAKI

MISONIE

BORA AKSU

THE PRIME CATCH HELLO, SAILOR

Mermmaids might get a lot of fanfare, but we're far more interested in the two-legged folk on the boats who are leading the way sartorially speaking, and the runway is in full agreement. Frilled collars, naval hats and blue and white stripes were a rippling theme throughout the SS26 shows. Team with fisherman sandals (obviously) and oversized holey knits borrowed from your gradad.



THE CABIN CREW LARGE LUGGAGE

If, like us, you're a serial over-packer, treat yourself to a sleek new suitcase that'll glide through departures with an air of superiority. Our top packing tip – bring your own extension cord (not five plug converters that don't work).



£2,580, Louis Vuitton



£310, Antler



£360, Longchamp



£275, July



£155, Lulu Guinness

THE WRAP STAR THROW IN THE TOWEL

Forgot your luggage? Fear not! Make like Moschino and Balmain and wrap a sumptuously soft hotel towel around yourself, belt for security and hit the town with confidence.





THE NEW HUE
LAVENDER

Prince would have wholeheartedly approved of the swathes of luscious lilac that stomped down the runway. As spotted at Alexander McQueen, Brandon Maxwell and Stella McCartney. A Parma Violet palette never looked so good.



Dress, £190, Faithfull



Wedges, £149, Penelope Chilvers



Bikini, £62, Boux Avenue



Bag, £99, Dune



Clutch, £85, Phase Eight



BURBERRY

ARDAZAEI

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

LA KORADIOR

CHRISTOPHER ESBER

MOSCHINO

ANTONIO MARRAS

LAURA BIAGIOTTI

MURMUR

AGENDA



Dress, £1,300, David Koma



Bag, £4,400, Delvaux



Top, £520, Siedrés



Sandals, £120, Dr Martens



Bracelet, £98, Astley Clarke

THE CROWN JEWELS MATCHING SETS

Good news – jewellery lovers in summertime need not relinquish their diamonds until Christmas. The SS26 runways were awash with glittering sparkle in matching earring, necklace and headband moments (as spotted at Simone Rocha) that would be perfect party season fodder but are given a new lease of life in the warmer months. Dressing-up energy is welcomed along with vintage flourishes – think bows, floral detail and some seriously OTT shiny stones.



SIMONE ROCHA

SHUSHU/TONG

AGENDA



AKRIS

ZIMMERMANN

MOSCHINO

LINO VILLAVENTURA

ZIMMERMANN

AKRIS

LED



Bag, £249, Kurt Geiger



Dress, £320, Celia B



Top, £16, Tu



Dress, £29.99, New Look



Mules, £625, Malone Souliers

THE FRUIT SHOOT CAPRI SUN FUN

Sometimes there's nothing more comforting than a spot of predictability. Bright, zingy hues for summer? Consider us sold, but only if they look like they contain some serious E numbers.



Bag, £5,000, Chloé



Dress, £89, Nobody's Child



Earrings, £270, Julietta



Waistcoat, £165, Sézane



Ring, £65, Pandora

THE BEACH BABE SHELL YEAH

Is there anything better than sweeping the shores for pretty seashells on a summer holiday? Why, yes, wearing them all over your clothes – as spotted at Balmain and Simkhai.



THE BEAUTY BEAT BRIGHT BLUSH

Neutrals are out in favour of bold, bright blush worn across the cheek and applied with a fluffy brush. Teamed with juicy lips, as spotted at Di Petsa, where models' hair was also caked in sand for the ultimate caught-rolling-around-on-the-beach look.

Blush, £36, Jones Road



£44, Bluebella



£12, Matalan



£22, Boux Avenue



£168, Toteme



£108, Baobab



£65, Ysé



RALPH LAUREN

THE COOL COMBO

ITSY BITSY

Make the most of your 2026 swimwear purchases by slotting them beneath a blazer or tailored jacket and wear for after-work drinks. Your mum might not approve, but we give the pairing our full blessing.



THE GOAL
**SECURE
 THE RING**

If you've got even an inkling that your partner might be popping the question on your romantic trip – then why not dress the part? And if they don't, it'll give them a nice big hint. Embrace romantic ruffles, bows and a floral or 50. And while we don't approve of rummaging through their luggage for a giveaway little box – we do say pack your own heart-shaped jewels.



Heels, £1,125, Roger Vivier



Top, £46, Marks & Spencer



Ring, £1,400, Jian London



Bag, £270, Longchamp



Top, £119, House of CB



THE ACCESSORY HEAD SCARF

A chic and summery alternative to a hat, a headscarf can bring so much joy and colour to an outfit – whether in perky gingham (as spotted at Sandy Liang) or when teamed with a bikini – spied at Shuting Qiu. Embrace a matchy-matchy palette or a contrast colour.



THE DRESS CODE SIP HAPPENS

Is there anything more fear-inducing than an invitation with an indecipherable dress code? Smart casual? What does it mean! Creative black tie – don't even get us started. But cocktail is a language we speak and the SS26 runways were awash with flirty inspiration.



£750, Simkhai



£155, Sister Jane



£430, Alémais



£429, Aje



£175, Kitri



ETRO



Bag, £798, Cult Gaia



Ring, £18, Accessorize



Heels, £1,045, Christian Louboutin



Top, £28, Next



Earrings, £2,000, Schiaparelli

THE DESTINATION IBIZA BOUND

There are few locations on the planet that have such a cohesive aesthetic as the White Island. OTT doesn't exist where the Vengaboy are headed – think tinsel fringing, mega jewellery and neon flourishes. Etro leads the SS26 charge.



THE LOCKS FRESH CURLS

It's summer (almost), and therefore no one wants to be slogging in front of the mirror, straighteners in hand, arms cramping – trying to achieve a perfect do. Instead, we'll be embracing a fresh curly finish. For those lucky enough to have a natural wave, embrace an air-dry cream. For those of us who need to reach for the curling iron – there's no need for perfection here. A bit of frizz or an uneven curl only add to the relaxed I'm-on-holiday finish, as spotted at Moschino and Isabel Marant.



THE TEXTURE
**SAND
 STONE**

The beige brigade continue to show their commitment to a pale palette of neutrals for SS26, only for the season ahead the runway embraced textured pieces to add a three-dimensional feel to your clean girl-inspired hue. As spied at eternally cool labels Isabel Marant, Diotima and Tove.



Watch, from £4,260, Tudor



Skirt, £250, Paul Smith



Sandals, £1,075, Khaite



Dress, £200, Guess



Bag, £310, Manebi

NEXT





BALMAIN



GUSTAVO SILVESTRE



BURBERRY



GUSTAVO SILVESTRE



DIOTIMA

THE TECHNIQUE CROCHET AWAY

As the adage goes, let's crochet all day. The beachwear staple looks just as good strutting through the city, thanks to metallic touches (spotted at Gustavo Silvestre), practical stomping boots (seen at both Burberry and Isabel Marant) and crisp whites (spied at Diotima).



Top, £58, Oliver Bonas



Bag, £3,300, Fendi



Dress, £24, Primark



Bag, £1,275, Aquazzura



Top, £720, By Malene Birger



ZIMMERMANN



LACOSTE

THE SHADES CITRUS BURST

This season we're taking a stand against boring sunnies. Embrace a burst of vitamin C thanks to zingy orange specs, as spotted at both Zimmermann (with a 70s twist) and Lacoste (with seriously futuristic vibes). They'll go with more ensembles than you might think, trust us.

THE PAIRING
**LIME &
 LILAC**

Lilac hues are given a new season refresh thanks to their runway-approved marriage to citrus tones. As seen at Giambattista Valli (where the rich yellows bordered on mustard) and at Zimmermann, where lime hues leaked into chartreuse territory. The unexpected combo will instantly elevate any SS26 ensemble.



GIAMBATTISTA VALLI

ZIMMERMANN

BACH MAI



MAGDA BUTRYM

ETRO

DIOR

AGNÈS B

MAGDA BUTRYM

DIOR

DIOR

ETRO

THE TOP HAT
**PIRATES
 OF THE
 CARIBBEAN**

Hats are back and, boy, are they bigger than ever. Wear with confidence and romantic layers and pray there isn't a strong breeze. As spotted at Dior and Magda Butrym.



1

Lemon drop
Never too soon for a new bikini.
Bikini, £220,
Nounou



2

Simply red
Reinvigorate your neutrals by teaming with terracotta.
Top, £20, Skirt, £20,
both George



3

Stone cold classic
This bag would look great at the beach, so we must oblige.
Bag, £35,
Accessorize

High street TOP 10

Our pick of the most enticing high street buys – your purse will thank you!

4

Gather round
Sitting somewhere between coral and peach perfection.
Jacket, £115,
Ghospell



5

Catch of the day
No need to fish for compliments in this.
Top, £128,
Trousers, £40, Hat,
£68, all Free People



6

Enter the fray
Team with red socks and jeans.
Slides, £27.99,
Deichmann



7

Butter flutter
Eureka, we found it! The perfect skirt to go frolicking in this season.
Skirt, £105,
Peachy Den



8

String theory
Manifest a beach break with this tomato-hued two-piece.
Bikini, £220,
Soeur



9

Ta for the bra
This bralet has a matching shirt!
This is not a drill!
Bralet, £22,
Asos

10

Get zesty
H&M's latest Studio resort drop lands 21 May.
Dress, £119.99,
Heels, £139.99,
both H&M



THE OG

After her own story was hoisted out of her hands by the media, Mischa Barton is reclaiming the narrative – doing so while finding freedom in aging and generally being a bit of a badass

Words TANIA LESLAU *Photography* BARTEK SZMIGULSKI *Styling* SOPHIA KATYEA



Before this assignment landed on my desk, I'd never seen *The OC*. According to my colleagues and friends, I'd sorely missed out. The show prompts a visceral reaction in fans, most of whom crave nostalgia in an online era marred by depressing headlines and Trump's Twitter account.

Naturally, I binge-watched a few episodes in preparation for chatting with Mischa Barton, who played protagonist Marissa Cooper on the beloved HBO show. Idyllic SoCal coastal landscapes unfurled across my screen, dotted with asymmetrical Diane von Fürstenberg dresses, velour tracksuits, aqua blue eyeshadow, problematic parents, dodgy boyfriends and vintage Pucci. My sleep schedule was doomed from the get-go.

The show was an overnight success, and aged 17, the Anglo-American actress was catapulted into the public eye – alongside co-stars Adam Brody and Rachel Bilson. “I was really homesick for New York for a long time and in the beginning I would fly back every weekend,” the star tells me over Zoom from the set of her cover shoot, her Malibu blonde hair tonged into romantically dropped curls to frame her open face. “Any spare moments I had, I'd be back in Manhattan. You do eventually get sucked into it – I love California for some reasons, but I do find it to be an alien land.”

The show's upper-crust Newport Beach setting was a far cry from Mischa's East Coast upbringing. Born in London to Irish-English parents, a five-year-old Mischa and her family upped sticks and moved across the

pond to Manhattan, which she calls home. “[California] is about as far from London and New York as you can get. In some ways that's a good thing. I do miss the driving culture – being able to go for those long drives through the hills. I became very accustomed to it in my 20s. But it's a very foreign place. People are very different.”

Ah, the Hollywood effect. Los Angeles has long grappled with its inauthentic reputation (cue the symphony of Valley Girl drawls and teacup chihuahuas), but for the rising actress, it was a real culture shock. “I was lucky to finish school in New York. My sister had to finish high school in LA and that was a whole thing. I'm glad that I skipped that. Going in as an adult is one thing, but actually having to go to school there would have been...” she trails

off. “I don't think I would have liked it. I already struggled enough with blending into the LA scene as it was.”

This seems surprising, considering the actress had the aesthetic make-up of a Hollywood muse with the resume to match. She started out in the theatre as a child – her raw talent catching the eye of an agent who opened the door to the world of auditioning. Mischa landed on her feet with her first acting job in Tony Kushner's

1994 play *Slavs!*, written by the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright behind *Angels in America*.

She defines her early work as “quite serious, heavy theatre with heavyweight people”, listing off early roles in James Lapine's *Twelve Dreams* featuring Marisa Tomei and the Broadway debut of Naomi Wallace's *One Flea Spare* starring two-time Oscar winner Dianne Wiest.

Film soon came calling, and aged 12, Mischa ▶

**‘YOU GET
SUCKED INTO
IT – I LOVE
CALIFORNIA FOR
SOME REASONS,
BUT I DO FIND
IT TO BE AN
ALIEN LAND’**



Shirt, £797,
Trousers, £8,193, both
Christopher Esber
Shoes, £295, Dear Frances
Bangles (right hand), £965,
(left hand) £6,475, both Lylle
Earrings, £115, Laura Vann



Trench coat, POA,
Two-piece blouse,
£545, Trousers, £620,
Lingerie, POA, all
Sportmax
Ear cuffs, £1,555 each,
L'Atelier Nawbar



Wrap top, POA,
Alberta Ferretti
Tights, £20, Falke
Shoes, £495,
Hagelstam
Ring, £114, Misho

secured a leading role alongside Sam Rockwell in John Duigan's 1997 British comedy *Lawn Dogs*. The Kentucky-based picture follows the story of ten-year-old Devon and her friendship with 21-year-old local gardener Trent. It's an unnerving watch with dark undertones, but Mischa was shielded by the crew accordingly.

"Sam's the best – he couldn't be cooler," she says of the Oscar winner. "That was my first big movie role and I got so lucky with him. You asked if they put any protective measures in place and Sam was a huge part of it. Yes, they did, generally, but also he was so great to work with. He's so talented and so himself. He's down to play and just be zany, cool and normal."

As a die-hard fan of *Jojo Rabbit*, this was a relief to hear – given that the film industry is renowned for being mottled by slippery men. Adding to her roster of impressive childhood film roles, she went on to star opposite Bruce Willis and Toni Collette in *The Sixth Sense*, M Night Shyamalan's breakout supernatural thriller. The role marked a decisive turning point – both for her career and her life at school.

"The cat was out of the bag after that," she reflects. "There was no hiding my career at that point because before, I had managed to go to my public school in Manhattan, then leave to do films relatively under the radar."

"It was somewhere between the Calvin Klein campaign that hit all the billboards, bus stops and the popcorn bags at the theatres and *The Sixth Sense*... there was just no hiding it. It did change things drastically."

Regardless, she stayed in school – rejecting the option of home tuition. Spending so much time in

Los Angeles for auditions motivated her family to once again up and move to the Golden State, where Mischa jokes they welcomed the sun-soaked lifestyle after hopping from London to New York. She didn't want to leave the bustle of the Big Apple, describing herself as a loyal New Yorker, but *The OC* was the deciding factor.

While Mischa talks about her experience on the show fairly freely, I get the impression that she doesn't want to dwell on the past. Except for Marissa's wardrobe, which was bequeathed to her by top fashion houses wanting to be featured on the show after it took off: "Once I'd established that relationship with some of the fashion houses, like Karl [Lagerfeld] at Chanel, they were sending clothes. Most of the time, TV is not lucrative for brands, but Karl was such a huge supporter of mine. We got a lot of cool designer clothes, like Missoni dresses, but the costume department did a great job."

During the early seasons, the preppy Orange County dress codes felt foreign to the star, who now describes her personal style as "equestrian chic". The polo shirts and mini skirts were essential for

crafting the characters' trust fund baby personas, as was the beachy swimwear that embodied an attitude of California cool ("I thought, 'I'm wearing a bikini and these shorts – that's it?!'"). Safe to say, Mischa was relieved when the major maisons got involved, which helped to sell the luxury lifestyle of the American dream onscreen.

Considering the unrelenting attention she received from the paparazzi (many fans today lambast the noughties media for its hypersexualisation of the then-teenager), I'm not surprised that she doesn't fancy getting into the nitty-gritty subjects. Even in recent ▶

**'BEFORE, I HAD
MANAGED TO
GO TO SCHOOL,
THEN LEAVE
TO DO FILMS
RELATIVELY
UNDER THE
RADAR'**



Top, £865,
A.W.A.K.E. Mode
Jeans, £1,050,
Brunello Cucinelli



Sweater, POA, Skirt,
POA, both Missoni
Tights, £28, Falke
Shoes, £1,125, Manolo
Blahnik
Ring, £830, Ear cuffs
(top), £3,090, (middle)
£1,070, (bottom)
£1,540, all Luminous 27



Top, £2,455, Trousers,
£1,500, both Dior
Earrings, £725,
Christian Dior from
Susan Caplan



Trench coat,
Two-piece blouse,
Trousers, Lingerie,
all as before, all
Sportmax
Shoes, £495,
Hagelstam
Ear cuffs, as before,
Ring, £1,375, all
L'Atelier Nawbar

exposes, journalists haven't always been kind to her.

Regardless, she steams ahead and has slowly rebuilt her trust in the industry that commodified the young actress at her peak then left her to navigate the fallout. Does she mind when fans approach her to discuss the show? Not one bit. "What's fun right now is this whole new generation watching *The OC* and then coming out to the theatre to see the play I'm in because of it. I think that's quite sweet."

She continues: "There is a very cool fanbase over here in London that I'm very appreciative of. It's one of the reasons why I love to spend time here, not because people like me or know who I am, but because I love British cinema.

I really respect it. I love British actors and splitting my time between the US and UK."

Stunning, I thought, the perfect time to bring up two film experiences I've been dying to ask her about. "Outside the theatre yesterday, a dad came up to me and said his daughter was in *St Trinian's* with me," she laughs. Mischa played JJ French, former Posh Totty and head girl-turned PR guru. The nostalgia value of her CV is truly unmatched.

Yet, she found herself truly starstruck when acting alongside Hugh Grant in Richards Curtis' Brit classic *Notting Hill*. "I was sad that I didn't get to meet Julia Roberts when I was doing it, but Hugh is one of my favourite actors so I was very content doing what I was doing that day. I found out that we were both born in the same hospital in Hammersmith."

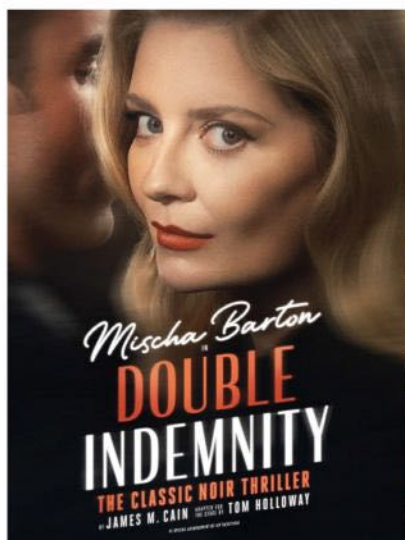
Speaking of birthdays, Mischa turned 40 early this year. While aging and Hollywood have historically meshed like water and oil (Meryl Streep famously ►

'WHAT'S FUN RIGHT NOW IS THIS WHOLE NEW GENERATION WATCHING THE OC'

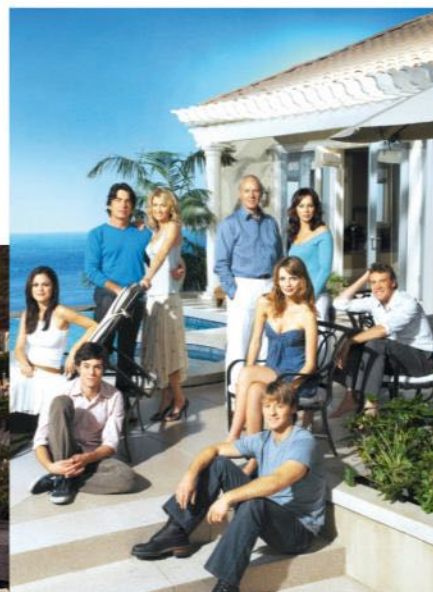


Dress, £1,995,
Zimmermann

IT'S A KILLER THRILLER



FROM LEFT Mischa made her UK stage debut in *Double Indemnity*, which toured earlier this year; the actress in the Caribbean; playing Marissa in *The OC*



recounted that many witch roles came her way when she hit the milestone), Mischa embraces a different approach. “I have no need to try to be younger – quite the opposite. I’m excited about getting older. I’ve talked everyone’s ear off about it,” she says candidly. “Anybody who really knows me knows that I’m happy to be me. I’m very comfortable with the growth and progression that I’ve had in life. There’s nothing about aging that scares me.”

Citing the illustrious careers of Nicole Kidman, Kate Winslet and her idol Cate Blanchett as proof, Mischa explains that film now not only offers better roles for actresses, but that there is a “voracious” appetite for them: “You don’t have to play the girlfriend anymore or ‘just’ a mum. Those days of vanilla typecasting are over. People don’t really stand for it anymore.”

Knowing her fanbase refuses to let her shed the shadow of Marissa, is she wary about being pigeonholed? “It was very hard in my 20s moving into my 30s to not get typecast as doing the same roles as *The OC*. The good thing about getting older is that this world opens up to you and you can make new decisions. I’ve turned down things that feel like they’re very on the nose. I really think it’s what you bring to characters, too, though, right? It really is what you bring to the role and who you are that bleeds into it as well.”

Looking back at over 30 years in the public eye, the acting veteran seems completely at ease in her own skin – grabbing this new chapter of life with both hands. It’s a welcome break from the social media onslaught of Ozempic-related content and celebrity diet culture.

Regardless, the industry remains pretty unrelenting

towards women of any age. Given how the media treated her, you’d think Mischa would tell aspiring actors to steer clear – but that’s not quite the case.

“Anything that looks like it happened overnight or was an accident is not true. It’s years of really hard work,” she coolly stresses. “Whenever people tell me they want to be an actor I say, ‘Okay, just get ready for a lot of rejection’. If you’re passionate then go for it – there is no point thinking ‘what if?’. Careers start at all ages, but it’s definitely not for the faint-hearted.”

Faint-hearted is the last adjective that comes to mind when speaking of the star. Of course, I’d read the articles and watched the clickbait WatchMojo

videos while deep diving into her past. They painted her out to be messy and chaotic, which couldn’t be further afield from the woman speaking from set today. “With some of the actors I’m working with now, it’s incredible to hear their stories of when they became famous and their experience of the industry’s ebbs and flows,” she says, a testament to the fact that sometimes we need to crack a little to crystallise.

In a time when nostalgia remains our strongest cultural currency, legacies like Mischa’s continue to

intrigue. I think I speak for all of us when I say that we are forever grateful for Marissa’s gripping plotlines and Y2K outfit inspiration, but that is only a small piece of the puzzle. For now, she’s returning to her roots onstage, while planning some belated birthday celebrations with friends back in New York after eight months away.

For all the noise that once surrounded her, Mischa Barton is now moving to the beat of her own drum – and what we are witnessing is her next act. ■

Go to hellofashion.com to watch our cover shoot video

‘THE GOOD THING ABOUT GETTING OLDER IS THAT THIS WORLD OPENS UP TO YOU AND YOU CAN MAKE NEW DECISIONS’

STYLISTS ASSISTANT: ELIA PRINZLIE PHOTOGRAPHERS ASSISTANT: ALEKSEI VASICHENKO MAKEUP: KELLY ORME USING HOURGLASS HAIR: DAVID WADLOW USING LIVING PROOF PHOTOS: SHUTTERSTOCK INSTAGRAM: @MISCHABARTON



LOUNGE

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RADAR

OUR ROUND-UP OF HOT TRENDS, BRILLIANT BUYS & NEED-TO-KNOW LAUNCHES...

APPLE OF MY EYE

Two icons of style have collided in the latest Dolce & Gabbana x Ray-Ban collaboration. Ray-Ban's classic Aviator silhouette gets a slick reworking by the luxury Italian fashion house

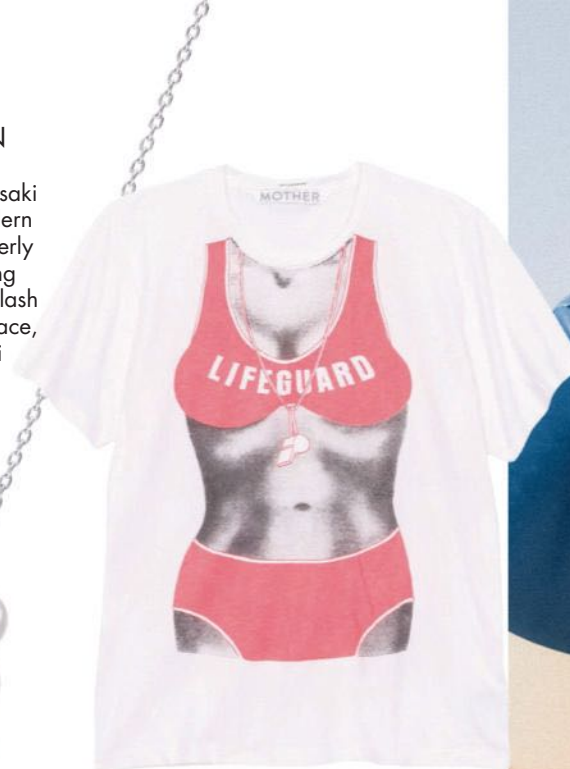


VITAMIN SEA

This Parisian swimwear brand's mantra is: beauty meets the sea. The pieces are smooth, elegant and endlessly coverable. Swimsuit, £177, Vanessa Sposi



SHINE ON
Luxe Japanese jewellery brand Tasaki specialises in modern pieces that feel utterly timeless, marrying elegance and a splash of audacity. Necklace, £5,070, Tasaki



ON DUTY
The American tourist-favoured funny T-shirt gets a high fashion upgrade for SS26. T-shirt, £116, Mother

Style NOTES

Our need-to-know round-up of luxe launches and must-have collabs...



BIG DRIP

The (hopeful) rise in temperature that comes this time of year is an opportunity to spruce up your jewellery box in celebration. From £29, Pandora



FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS

If we had our way, we'd be raiding the boats at the docks for naval-inspired accessories to top off all our SS26 ensembles. Hair slide, £480, Dior, Hat, £95, Marc Cain, Hair clip, £44, Susan Alexandra



BUM NOTE

Seafolly's latest collection is a riot of cool girl-approved pieces. From £40, Seafolly

WORDS: CLARE PENNINGTON



DARL KARL

Karl Lagerfeld's latest collection of Y2K-approved pieces oozes Paris Hilton (well, she is the face of its campaign, after all). Our pick is this slick east-to-west shoulder bag with tantalisingly smooth curves.

Bag, £329, Karl Lagerfeld



SOME LIKE IT HOT

1 June 2026 would have been Marilyn Monroe's 100th birthday, and to celebrate the icon, Guess has released a collection inspired by the ultimate movie star.

Top, £60, Trousers, £70, both Guess



JELLY BABIES

Brazilian footwear label Melissa has joined forces with Scholl for a collection of sweet sandals that declare loud and proud: the jelly shoe is officially back. The nostalgia-inducing pieces come in a range of colour pops and look incredible with socks, trust us.

Sandals, £116, Melissa x Scholl

In profile AMMA

She might be the little sister of one of the world's most notable names in music, but Amma is living proof that creating your own limelight takes talent, compassion and a heavy helping of hard work

In the three seconds it takes Amma to join the call, contain her giggles and figure out how to change her Google Meet background from a sunny beach landscape back to the interior of her south London flat, she instantly becomes someone I want to be friends with. Smiling ear to ear and sporting a perfect slicked-back bun, Amma radiates instant joy, which is ironic considering that's also the title of this year's song of the summer, in which she features alongside her sisters, Raye and Absolutely.

If you don't know Lauren Keen, who goes by the artist's name Amma, then in some ways, you're one of the lucky ones, because hearing her music for the first time is an utterly euphoric occurrence and one I wish I could experience for the first time just once more.

Describing her sound as "music to make you feel anything", Amma and her creativity are far from mainstream. Refusing to be pigeonholed into a specific genre, her style and sound are always evolving, often taking inspiration from current life experiences. "I have a thing called a 'boneyard', which is where I keep lyrics or ideas or things that I believe I could create something from and build a skeleton together to create a body of a song. So, yeah, I just grab it from everywhere around my friends' stories, my stories, my sisters' stories and things that I feel. Sometimes I'll maybe watch a movie, get a feeling from that and then I'll be like, hey, I can relate this to my life."

It was never up for debate that Amma was not going to be one of British music's shiniest stars, considering that her whole family lives and breathes the art form. "I've been surrounded by music my whole life. I grew up in church, my parents would be playing music, me and my sisters would just randomly start harmonising together. I grew up doing and knowing music."

You'd think that the buzz of



FROM ABOVE
Singer-songwriter
Amma;
performing with
her sisters at The
O2 arena;
on tour earlier
this year



touring the world with your sisters and performing to hundreds of thousands of people would wear thin after a while, but for Amma, it's her favourite place to be.

"When me, Rachel (Raye) and Abby (Absolutely) are on stage singing Joy, it's so surreal. I look out into the crowd and think, wait, what? We used to do this in our living room! If we look at each other for too long, we start laughing and then I'll completely forget all my words."

Sisterhood is arguably one of the main reasons Amma is who she is above all else, and it's most definitely not lost on the budding creative.

"Sisterhood for me is a foundation.

Whenever anything goes wrong, I know I can go back to that to be grounded, which is very special because not a lot of people get to do that in this industry or in any working environment." It might seem like a fun family holiday to those on the outside, but Amma makes a point that performing is still very much a full-time job for all three, which is why they pencil in ten minutes before every show for 'sister time' to catch up, vent and talk about things that they're going through

before heading out on stage.

It's set to be a big year for the singer, with her latest project released in April being the first of many exciting achievements lined up. If you're lucky enough to nab a ticket to any of her shows, you'll be in for a night like no other, as her approach to performing is a true testament to her personality.

"I feel so grateful to be able to do what I do, and when I'm on stage and looking out at everyone, I don't feel nervous at all. I'm like, you're me, and I'm you. I've stood where you've stood, and I see it as speaking to my friends, which may be a bad or a good thing; I might share too much on stage! Actually, I definitely do!"

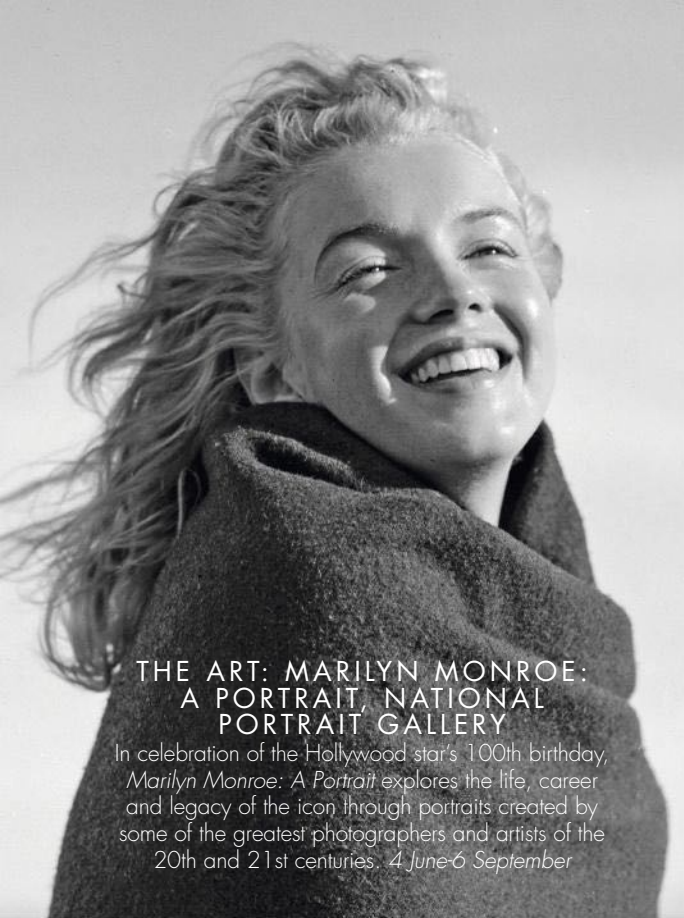


Hero BUY...

SOLE MATES

Fashion faux pas? Not anymore. Shop this season's funkiest sock-and-sandal combos. Playful, bold and built for all-day comfort

1. £490, Gucci 2. £8.50, Oliver Bonas 3. £45, Schuh 4. £18, Falke 5. £200, Bobbies 6. £12, Nudea 7. £14.99 (pack of 2), Katie Loxton 8. £860, Dior 9. £35, Soeur 10. £116, Scholl 11. £20 (pack of 2), Damson Madder 12. £345, Ancient Greek Sandals 13. £65, Charles & Keith 14. £23.10, Organic Basics 15. £190, Alohas 16. £23, Toast 17. £910, Miu Miu 18. £80, Comme Si



**THE ART: MARILYN MONROE:
A PORTRAIT, NATIONAL
PORTRAIT GALLERY**

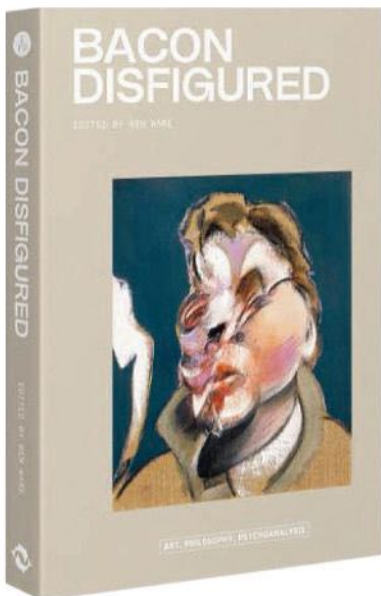
In celebration of the Hollywood star's 100th birthday, *Marilyn Monroe: A Portrait* explores the life, career and legacy of the icon through portraits created by some of the greatest photographers and artists of the 20th and 21st centuries. 4 June-6 September

**THE ALBUM:
FLORESCENCE,
MAISIE PETERS**
Maisie Peters' third studio album is dropping just in time for the sunshine months. The 15-track album is inspired by being a woman in her early 20s, making it the ultimate soundtrack for a summer spent lounging, laughing and dancing with friends.
On sale 15 May



CULTURE

SHOCK



**THE BOOK:
BACON
DISFIGURED**
Francis Bacon is arguably one of the most important and captivating artists of the 20th century, known for his bizarre and sometimes unsettling paintings, often radically distorting his human subjects. British philosopher and social theorist Ben Ware has accumulated a collection of essays analysing the famed artist, examining his techniques of manipulating the human form, creating a book for both artists and intellectuals alike.
On sale 25 June, Thames & Hudson



**THE SERIES:
SUGAR,
SEASON TWO**
Fans of Apple TV's hit sci-fi show *Sugar* are in for a treat this June as the small-screen blockbuster returns for a second season. The next chapter of the neo-noir drama, produced by Colin Farrell, sees John Sugar return for a new case, this time tracking the troubled older brother of an up-and-coming local boxer as his search for his beloved missing sister continues.
Premieres 19 June on Apple TV



**THE RETURN:
TOY STORY 5**

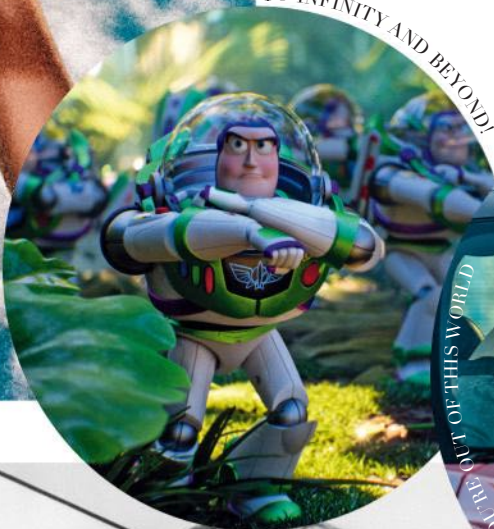
Everybody's favourite toybox friends are back for a fifth time, this time navigating a new world where children are glued to their screens. Buzz, Woody, Jessie and the whole gang join together to take down a tablet named Lily Pad, who captivates Bonnie's attention in every waking moment.
In cinemas from 19 June



THE EATERY: PADELLA SOHO

Celebrating ten years as one of London's most acclaimed pasta restaurants, Padella is set to serve up its hand-rolled pasta, including the now-legendary pici cacio e pepe, at 2 Kingly Street, its most central location yet.

TO INFINITY AND BEYOND!



**THE FILM:
DISCLOSURE
DAY**

The iconic Steven Spielberg has tapped a star-studded cast to star in his newest American science-fiction film, *Disclosure Day*, which hits screens this June. Emily Blunt, Josh O'Connor, Colin Firth, Eve Hewson and Colman Domingo are all involved in navigating a chaotic life that comes with living amongst extraterrestrial life.
From 12 June

WORDS: ORION SCOTT. PHOTOS: JULIE ANDREWS BY CECIL BEATON, 1959 © CECIL BEATON ARCHIVE, CONDE NAST; FRIDA KAHLO, SELF-PORTRAIT WITH LOOSE HAIR, 1946. PRIVATE COLLECTION, MARIYNI MONROE, 1946 BY ANDRÉ DE DIENES

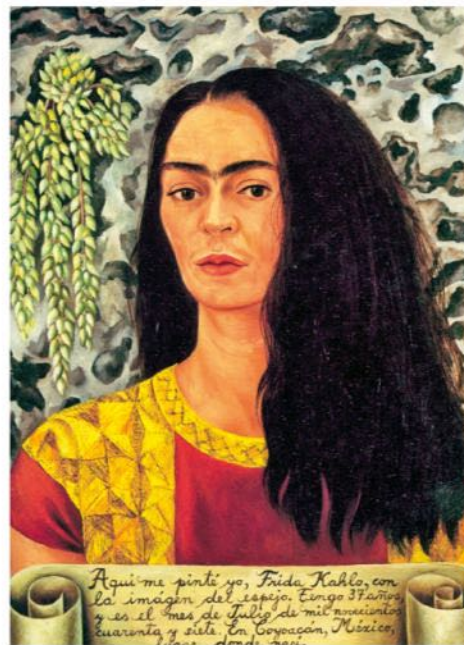


THE PHOTOGRAPHS: CECIL BEATON: STAGING ICONS

Harewood House in West Yorkshire is set to host an exhibition like no other, heroing the work of legendary photographer Cecil Beaton. From Hollywood heavyweights such as Audrey Hepburn to the British Royal Family, including Queen Elizabeth II, it will showcase more than 50 photos from the National Portrait Gallery's collection. *13 June-4 October*

**THE EXHIBITION:
FRIDA: THE MAKING OF AN ICON**

One of the world's most influential artists of all time is getting a six month-long exhibition at London's Tate Modern. The spectacle will showcase over 30 of Frida Kahlo's most iconic works and, alongside treasured garments, jewellery, photographs and memorabilia, there are over 200 works by her contemporaries and the artists she inspired.
25 June-3 January 2027



Amelia Windsor

BEHIND the SEAMS

London-based label Angie Power creates ethically-made bespoke clothes as forever pieces for her customers



ONE OF A KIND
Angèle and her team design and personalise dresses, jackets and bags, often using vintage or antique materials

'funky', which sort of works in getting my ideas across. It makes bespoke tailoring more accessible and friendly, while behind the scenes there's an obsessive attention to detail and perfectionism. I also love to gently encourage my clients to try on things they might not expect to like, bringing out their alter ego. We often get that reaction: "Ooh, I didn't think I would like it but I feel so beautiful in it!" It's about giving them the courage to wear shapes they might not be used to, to flatter their unique body shape, always making sure they still feel completely comfortable, of course.

DO YOU LOVE WORKING IN YOUR STUDIO?

The atelier is my happy place. Walking into the studio and hearing my team sing in unison, 'Good morning!' is the highlight of my day. The four of us have built an environment that naturally swings between serious and focused to playful and light. We hope this energy transcends during client fittings and the events or showrooms we organise.

WHAT DO YOU LISTEN TO WHILE YOU WORK?

We always have music on, which changes throughout the day, from classical radio to one of my carefully and questionably curated playlists: Flirty Polpetta, Elevator Vibz, Bullshot Groove. Music dictates my mood and the type of productivity I'm after. At the moment I'm loving Andrea Laszlo De Simone's new album *Una Lunghissima Ombra* for focusing, contrasted by something groovier like the Flavour Trip sets.

DO YOU HAVE EXCITING PLANS FOR THE BRAND THIS SUMMER?

We're working on some very special creations for our bespoke clients, months of development coming to fruition in spring and summer. I always make sure to keep dresses secret during their making so it's always amazing when a dress finally comes alive. Aside from that, we're working on a new project I'm particularly excited about, the Exquisite Collection, a selection of one of a kind pieces we have created and hand-sewn in the atelier from exceptional vintage and antique materials I sourced from collectors, dealers and markets over the years: rare laces, intricate beading, Chinese embroideries and extraordinary fabrics from Venice and beyond to give them a new life.

3 tips for TAKING BETTER CARE OF YOUR CLOTHES

1. Hand-wash clothes shortly after wearing them instead of overwashing in the machine. It extends their life dramatically and they'll dry in a heartbeat in the warm summer air.
2. Learn to mend! Ask your family, find a video online, or sign up for a 'stitch-and-bitch' evening with friends.
3. Bring an often-worn dress to a tailor or alteration place and transform it – we offer this service in our atelier. Add a cape, change the sleeves or shorten the hem.

Angèle Donà dalle Rose grew up in a fashion-literate household with parents who were painters and textile designers and owned a Venetian design laboratory, Donatus Venetian Fabrics. They produced superbly crafted interior fabrics and practised traditional dyeing techniques. Her creative childhood, spent between Paris and Venice, was channelled into a graphic design degree at Central Saint Martins, continuing her studies at the Royal College of Art, gaining a Master's in history of design and fashion. Her eponymous brand, Angie Power, was born in east London shortly after. Championing locally-sourced, deadstock materials, the brand creates bespoke garments for its customers – who select pieces from the website that will be tailored and personalised to their wishes. From custom wedding dresses to standout frocks, Angie Power does it all.

'BEHIND THE SCENES THERE'S AN OBSSIVE PERFECTIONISM'

WHAT IS MOST EXCITING ABOUT BESPOKE DESIGN?

What I love most is the creative relationship that develops with each client. The conversation often starts with us speaking different languages: they describe feelings, memories, gesturing dress shapes, while I'm thinking in pattern cuts and fabric weights. But through the exchange of references and discovering our shared tastes, you can ignite a spark, and suddenly everyone is eager to get started. Then it's my turn to translate and interpret this into a canvas toile of the dress, so you gradually see the dress come alive. It's about learning about their world and seeing how Angie Power can add sparkle to it. I've developed my own technical language along the way, words like 'fluffy', 'pouffy', 'flowy' or

HOTSHOTS

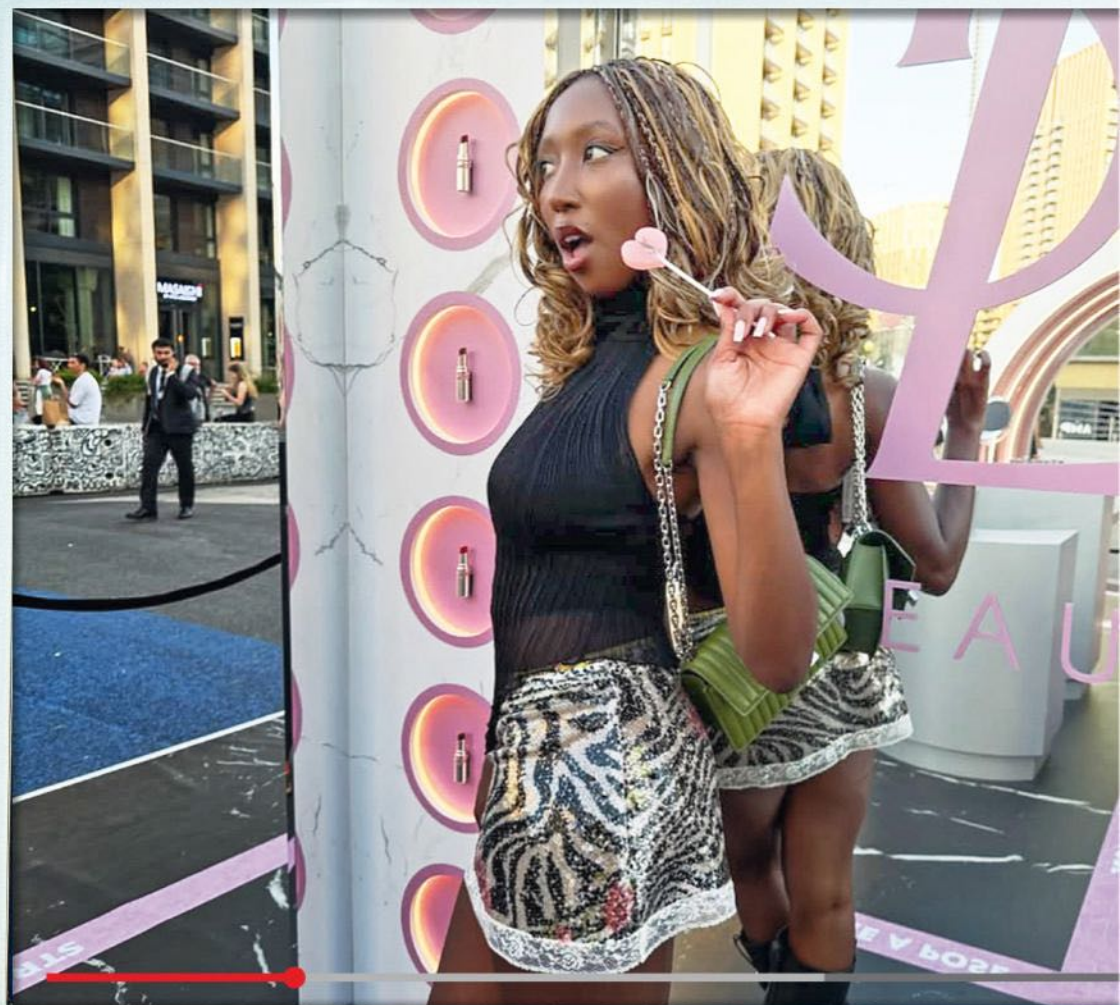
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iBook



Influencer Raymonda Jalloh, a recent convert to YouTube, describes the platform as having "more real estate" with greater longevity

SUBSCRIBING IS THRIVING

In an era of feed fatigue, social media creators are breaking up with clickbait virality in search of community and connection

Words TANIA LESLAU

At the risk of sacrificing whatever mystery remains, I'm going to be honest. I'm a fully-fledged YouTube addict – and have been since the age of about 14. Rather than grappling with simultaneous equations I've never once needed, I'd curl up with friends in the school library and binge watch Jacksgap videos – a rite of passage for British teens.

While my feed looks drastically different today (think old Vice reruns and literally any criminal cult documentary that crops up), my affinity for the platform has never wavered.

This sentiment isn't exactly exclusive. In a digital climate of clicky, short-form content that annihilates the attention span, content creators are increasingly shifting to YouTube in search of deeper connection.

The priority is no longer about looking picture-perfect, but authenticity – with audiences growing tired of unattainable ideals, internet noise and characterless 'quiet luxury'. "We are living in a monoculture of information!" my best friend recently lamented over dinner (she has a way with words, she went to Oxford). The creators themselves feel the same.

"We are moving towards a much more connection-based medium," says YouTuber Max Fosh. "During the 2010s and early 2020s, there was a real demand for content that way outstripped supply. Now, with AI and short-form content, the content way outstrips demand. We are constantly being bombarded.

"We ultimately use social media for community," he adds. "Lots of creators want to end up on YouTube because it's long-form and there is more connection with the creator. If I go on TikTok for an hour, I might have watched 60, 70, 80 videos but I can't remember ▶



more than three or four. Whereas on YouTube, you know exactly what you've watched. The connection with your audience is much deeper."

This has prompted many creators to embrace YouTube, including influencer Susie Lola who started out on the platform in 2009 then returned fully a decade later. "YouTube is more based on who you really are and what substance you bring to the table over more surface-level things such as how you look," the fashion-led creator notes. "There's more time to be yourself without fear of immediate judgement. You can really see this difference in the comments section on YouTube. People delve into points made within the video, whereas on short-form platforms it's more one-word comments like 'queen!'"

The move is a strategic play by creators who built their audiences on short-form platforms and have clocked the mass migration. "I was cutting out a lot of my personality," says influencer Raymonda Jalloh, who started using the medium a year ago after amassing a substantial Instagram following. "On YouTube, there's more real estate. There's more you can build – it feels more holistic. It's something I'm excited to look back on when I'm older."

Leading brands have woken up to YouTube's commercial potential, investing heavily in creator partnerships in exchange for strategic, high-impact promotion. According to one Launchmetrics report, luxury brands like Gucci experienced up to 200% growth in their media impact value 60 days post-runway show from longtail YouTube videos. These stats have been bolstered by celebrity collaborations, such

'PEOPLE ARE TIRED OF THE EXPLOSIVE SHORT-FORM TIKTOK CONTENT'

as Travis Scott livestreaming the Dior spring/summer 2022 menswear show and Louis Vuitton tapping Emma Chamberlain and, more recently, Madeline Argy as Gen Z muses.

While this signals a new chapter for digital marketing, with cult following taking centre stage, the YouTube allure has always lingered. Unlike Tumblr and Vine (RIP), the Google-owned platform never fully fell out of favour. It's been quietly rolling along since the so-called golden age of the mid 2010s, when our teenage selves actually thought we could pull one of the Magcon Boys.

It was also a period when the Brit Crew reigned supreme. Made up of friends Marcus Butler, Alfie Deyes, Louise Pentland, Tanya Burr, Caspar Lee, Louis Cole, Niomi Smart, siblings Zoe and Joe Sugg, twins Jack and Finn Harries and Jim Chapman, the group was the internet's most famous clique this side of the pond.

"I'm really fortunate that when I started I had a real connection with my audience, and as a result I'm still standing today," Jim tells me across Zoom. "People have reached out to say that the connection they had with the Brit Crew helped them feel less alone. That's a wonderful position to hold – and really hard to accomplish now in a short-form capacity, because people don't care about that connection, they care about the subject matter of the content."

In an online world dominated by conversations surrounding incel culture and the 'manosphere', Jim's content seemed to strike a chord: "YouTube also helped me feel a sense of belonging when nothing else

Some of today's YouTube stars (from left): Susie Lola, Max Fosh, (left to right) Kaden Sponhauer, Will Crumpacker, Charlie Cohn, Jackson Lebsack, Maks Moses and Forest Lawson, Kim-André Knutsen and Truls Torp, Raymonda Jalloh



was available. I was really lonely when I started out – but it totally changed my outlook on everything and I’m the better for it.”

As the platform has inevitably saturated since the 2010s, users are under pressure to become more creative. “You’ve got to put more effort in than you used to, when you could just put a camera up in your bedroom and talk to it,” Caspar says, imparting some words of advice to novices. “Don’t try and copy others who have a certain video style – it will be hard to compete when you don’t have a massive budget.”

Citing OpenAI’s recent acquisition of tech industry talk show TBPN (70k subscribers) for a rumoured \$100+ million, the investor, who has since stepped away from YouTube, adds: “Do it for the craft of it – you don’t necessarily have to have the biggest audience in the world to be financially viable.”

Several YouTuber crews, particularly in the action sports community, are going above and beyond for their fans – ditching the doomscroll and leaning into physical meet-ups, merchandise and exclusive behind-the-scenes content.

“People are tired of the overexaggerated, explosive short-form TikTok content and want to return to long-form where they feel actual connection to what they’re watching,” says Kim-André Knutsen (aka Minikim), co-founder of 00NATION. “We host premieres for every video, so viewers watch it together with us for the first time. There’s a live chat and fans become friends through it. We also get to meet our community when we travel – sometimes we host events, like parties and game nights, where fans are welcome to join.”

‘AT ITS CORE,
THE COMMUNITY
YOU BUILD ON
YOUTUBE IS A
POSITIVE SPACE’

American YouTuber crew Sickos adopt a similar modus operandi. A group of six childhood friends – Jackson Lebsack, Kaden Sponhauer, Charlie Cohn, Will Crumpacker, Maks Moses and Forest Lawson – the Oregon natives move beyond purely parasocial relationships with fans.

“We do meet-ups because we want to be with our fans,” Maks says. “Whatever city we’re in, we’ll actually hang out with them rather than them just seeing us through a screen.”

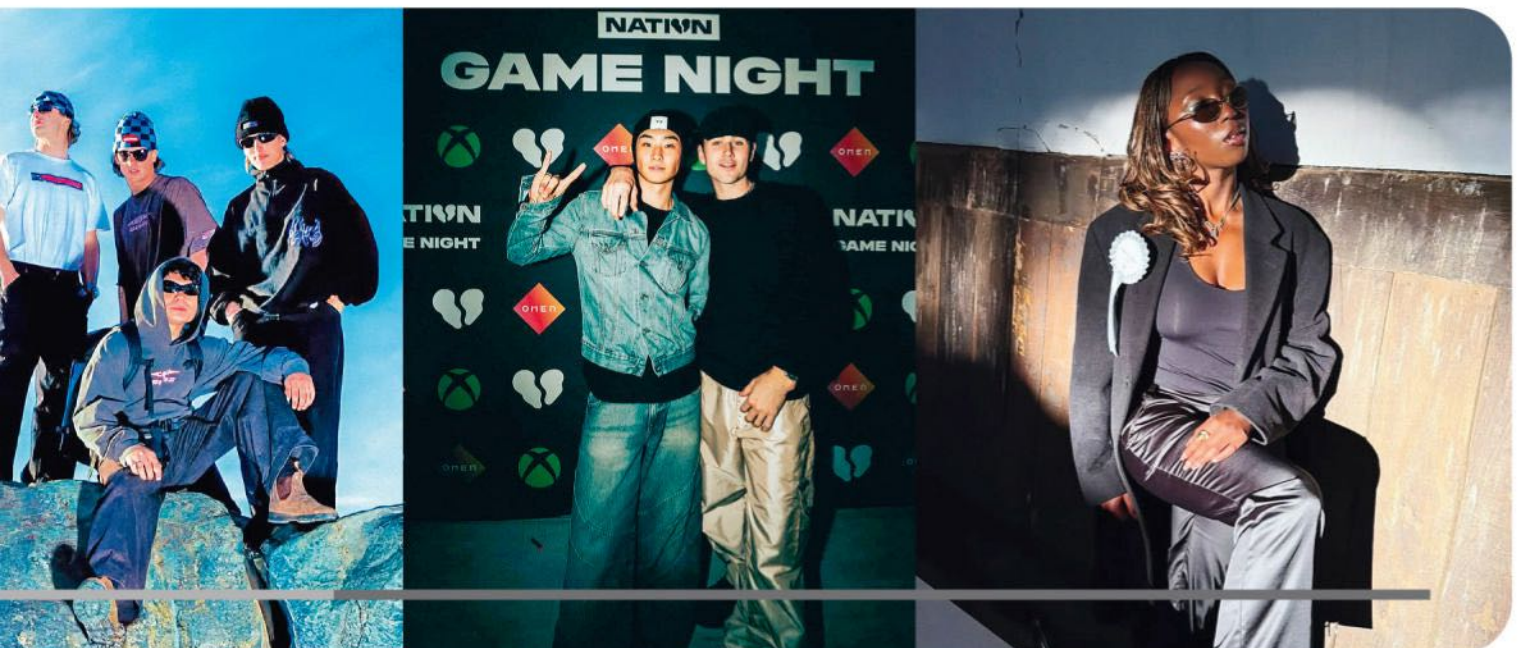
Personality is the backbone of Sickos’ content, with the channel’s coming-of-age charm rooted in the boys’ banter. “You get to know all of our personalities and the role of each person in the group – it’s authentic and genuinely how we are, which makes the content relatable,” Maks adds. “At its core, the community you build on YouTube is a positive space. It really feels like an environment made by nerds who are in love with a niche – other nerds find them and they build community through there.”

YouTube’s reign didn’t arrive overnight. While the platform exists as a fresh creator playground for those tired of transient content, others have been plugging away behind the scenes for years – and therein lies the story’s real redemption arc. Being a YouTuber was never *that* cool until recently. Now, the tables have turned and we’re the ones playing catch-up.

Today, YouTube dominates streaming, accounting for nearly 39% of all streaming content watched on television, surpassing Netflix and Amazon in both total viewing time and daily engagement.

We’re entering a new era of community-based social media – and for once, everyone has a seat at the table. ■

PHOTOS: SHUTTERSTOCK, KIERON WEBB, INSTAGRAM/@MAX.FOSH, SUBIEGARME, RAYMONDAJ, SICKOS



THE MERCH MACHINE

Once confined to souvenir stands, music merchandise has evolved from nostalgia-steeped relic to financial lifeline for artists

Words TANIA LESLAU

A classic tee imprinted with gigantic, bubblegum pink strawberries and proudly displaying the words Strawberry Fields Forever, in a bulbous 70s-style font, my first piece of merch was a childhood treasure. Scooped up by my parents in Las Vegas during a 2009 family road trip through California (note – there is not a huge amount for an 11-year-old to do in Sin City), the top remains safely stowed away in my mum’s loft. Not because I can still fit in it – you best believe I wore that thing to death as a kid – but because I simply can’t let it go.

That is the magic of merch. Unlike other items of clothing hanging in our wardrobes, merchandise is often tethered to a memory – a gig, a place and the people who were there. It’s a shortcut for finding your tribe, a visual proclamation of the music you worship and the artists who colonise your eardrums.

Band tees, of course, have long held cultural capital. Graphics tied to rock titans such as The Rolling Stones, AC/DC, Metallica, Kiss, Guns N’ Roses, The Who and Pink Floyd have long transcended fandom, cementing their place in the fashion canon.

“These aren’t just merchandise lines; they’re a bridge between legendary artists and the fans who’ve carried their music with them for decades as well as new audiences who are discovering these artists for the first time,” says Eric Martino, president of the Hard Rock Cafe and retail division.

“Music pulses through everything we do and our merchandise is simply another way fans get to carry that energy with them. If artists keep those principles at the centre, emotional resonance, authenticity and fan-first thinking, they’ll build merch that lasts far beyond a tour cycle.”

But today, nostalgia alone isn’t enough. In an increasingly digital industry where streaming platforms





Merch is increasingly blurring the boundaries between music, culture and fashion, often with an ironic edge (Top to bottom) Harry Styles, Olivia Dean, Role Model

like Spotify pay fractions of a penny per play (with revenue funnelled primarily to labels, publishers and distributors), merchandise has become a financial lifeline – particularly for emerging artists. Hence, cash-strapped musicians are getting creative.

Before embarking on their I Quit Tour, Haim teamed up with Christopher Kane’s brand More Joy to release a limited run of slogan tops, emblazoned with each band member’s name. Fans rushed to secure pieces representative of their favourite member. Role Model and Olivia Dean also tapped into Gen Z’s appetite for text-laden, irony-tinged pieces – the latter dropping a diamante-studded baby tee reading I Don’t Want A Boyfriend, in playful contrast to Mr Pillsbury’s I Love My Boyfriend alternative. Sentimentality may be the hook, but now artists are having to position themselves as brands – their sharebait merch a key moneymaker.

Nowadays, that shift scales far beyond tour memorabilia. “If you look at the landscape, you see someone like Harry Styles or Travis Scott, who are repeatedly setting up brands and ventures, whether they are the face of it or not,” says Theodore Ian Iagö, co-founder of creative agency Le Rêve, whose clients include Mick Jagger, Pharrell Williams, Tina Turner, Raf Simons, Gucci, Alexander McQueen and Dover Street Market. “They have and are continuing to develop these entities – leveraging the audience they created through their music. The music is the product, and they need the music to build the audience, but then essentially that becomes the by-product.”

Company co-founder Albert Hauva offers further insight: “For many artists, merchandise is their highest revenue stream. Artists’ merch is sold either within their D2C store – direct to consumer – or on tour at the shows. Some of the more niche artists with cult followings are selling huge numbers – bigger numbers than what we might perceive as a large artist, because their fandom is a community.” The expert duo add that it’s not uncommon for merch belonging to smaller artists to sell out within minutes. “The product is their music, then it’s about the world and narrative they build around it,” Theo explains.

This is a business model that owes much to figures like Virgil Abloh (another former client of Le Rêve’s), Demna and Nicolas Ghesquière, who catapulted merch into the mainstream by blurring the boundaries between fashion, culture and music. Chart-topping artists are following suit, side-stepping into roles as creative directors and brand architects in their own right.

The vast ecosystem of music merchandise is far more than a handful of trinkets – it’s sustaining a new generation of creatives. In a divided culture where nostalgia remains a powerful currency, merch offers both connection and community. But more than that, it allows the artists we love to keep making music. It’s just up to us to buy the T-shirt.

HEAT OF THE MOMENT

Summer fashion reaches saturation point with striking shades, pin-sharp tailoring and strong angles. It's set to be a scorcher...

Photography DAVID REISS *Styling* HARRIET NICOLSON

Dress, £620,
Solace London
Necklace, £831,
Rings (right hand),
£190, (left hand,
index finger) £190,
(middle finger)
£180, all MAM





Dress, £329.18,
Deme by Gabriella
Earrings, £129,
Bracelets, £159
each, Rings (right
hand, top), £79,
(bottom), £89, (left
hand) £99, all
Pandora



Blazer, £275,
Jacquemus at The Outnet
Jumper, £89, Hobbs
Shorts, £110, La Veste
Shoes, £199, Kurt
Geiger
Earrings, £225,
Completedworks



Top, £285,
Nadine Merabi
Necklace,
£29.99, Zara

Blazer, £579, Karl Lagerfeld
Tights, £27, Falke
Shoes, £46, Marks & Spencer
Earrings (worn as brooches), £125,
Necklace, £145,
both Joseph





Dress, £506.60,
Victoria Beckham at
The Outnet
Cuff, £32, Earrings,
£19, both Phase Eight



Dress, £95, Bracelets,
£350 each, Earrings,
£190, Necklace,
£255, Ring, POA,
all Guess



Blazer, £355,
Marc Cain

Jacket, £999,
Sandro
Swimsuit (sold with
detachable cover-
up), £750, Taller
Marmo
Jeans, £385,
A.W.A.K.E. Mode
Shoes, £325, Terry
de Havilland





Dress, £528, Shirt,
£262, both Lurline
Shoes, £159, Kurt
Geiger
Earrings, £230,
Swarovski

Dress, £355, PH5
Necklace, £195,
By Alona
Bangles (right hand),
£260, (left hand, top to
bottom) £365, £295,
£365, £395, all
Giovanni Raspini
Flip-flops, £7, Tu

Stylist's assistant
Carla Grottola
Photographer's assistant
Kate Rosewell
Makeup Laura Dexter
using Dior
Hair Danielle Van Cuyck
at S Management using
Arkive Headcare
Model Luanna Pinheiro
at Linden Staub





THE PINTEREST EFFECT

How the platform's data-driven trend forecasting is shaping what we'll be wearing next season

Words NATALIE SALMON

The Vamp Romantic aesthetic – all inky pearls, velvet chokers and emotionally-charged heart motifs – saw search interest surge by over 5,000% in a matter of weeks on Google, fuelled by Margot Robbie's turn as Cathy in *Wuthering Heights*.

But here's something you might not have realised: Pinterest had already called it. The platform flagged Vamp Romantic in its 2026 Pinterest Predicts report months earlier – forecasting the mood before Hollywood had even finished dressing it.

There was a time when fashion trends were born backstage at Paris Fashion Week, whispered between editors and sealed with a front-row nod of approval. Now? They're just as likely to begin with a search bar.

Welcome to the Pinterest Effect – where the future of fashion isn't dictated solely by designers, but by data. Specifically, the kind of data that tells us, in real time, what 600 million people are saving, searching and obsessing over. Because if fashion once relied on instinct, today it's increasingly powered by insight. And the insiders? They're watching.

Pinterest has long positioned itself as a visual discovery engine rather than a traditional social platform – but its real power lies in its predictive capability. “Six-hundred million people come to Pinterest each month to search and shop for the next big thing, which gives us unique insight into what's soon-to-be-trending,” notes the platform's 2026 trend report.

For decades, trend forecasting was equal parts art and anthropology. Editors travelled, observed, absorbed. They tracked subcultures, scanned runways and built moodboards that felt almost mystical in their ability to predict what would come next. Now, that process has a new collaborator: data.

Data analyst Molly Rooyakkers, founder of the

cult-favourite Instagram page @style.analytics, is among a new wave of researchers translating digital behaviour into fashion foresight.

“Using data to predict trends is certainly not replacing intuition or current methodologies,” she explains. “It's just one more point of evidence that editors or trend forecasters can use to support or reject hypotheses.”

In other words: the spreadsheet hasn't replaced the stylist – it's simply joined them. Molly describes her own process as a hybrid. “A lot of the predictions I make are a combination of using my own intuition to think of ideas... and then using data to answer those research questions.”

It's a dynamic that feels increasingly familiar across the industry. Editors are still relying on instinct, but they're also cross-referencing it with search spikes, save rates and consumer behaviour patterns. The result? A more evidence-backed version of fashion intuition.

But data, she cautions, has its limits. “Data is really great at showing what's already happening,” she notes. “A lot of people need to be searching for a trend or talking about it online before it's picked up.”

Translation: data can confirm a trend's momentum, but it rarely invents it. If Instagram is where trends are performed, Pinterest is where they are planned. And that distinction matters.

“Pinterest plays a uniquely early role in the fashion trend cycle because people come to the platform to plan what they want to wear, buy and try next,” explains Sydney Stanback, global head of trends and insights at Pinterest.

This is what makes Pinterest so valuable to editors and designers alike: it captures intention. Not just what people like, but what they want to become.

“As Pinterest is a visual platform, we are not just looking at keywords in isolation but see the broader ▶



style language people are drawn to,” Sydney adds. “From silhouettes and textures to colours and overall mood.”

In practice, this means Pinterest isn’t just tracking trends – it’s mapping aesthetics. And crucially, it’s doing so early. “As Pinterest is a planning platform, we are often able to see trends taking shape with a view to the year ahead, before they hit full mainstream adoption. The exact timing varies depending on the category, but we are usually spotting them at the stage when people are beginning to search, save and plan around an idea, not when it is already everywhere.”

That early visibility has turned Pinterest Predicts into something of an industry cheat sheet. Over the past six years, 88% of its forecasts have materialised – a statistic that hasn’t gone unnoticed by fashion’s gatekeepers.

“Brands use Pinterest Predicts to inform product launches, campaign strategy and merchandising decisions,” Sydney explains. “That same approach increasingly applies across the fashion ecosystem.”

“Take Emma Chamberlain, for example, whose brand Chamberlain Coffee released a limited-edition Sea Salt Toffee flavour inspired by the Pinterest Predicts 2025 Fisherman Aesthetic trend. It is a strong example of how brands can translate trend insight into something culturally relevant and commercially successful, with sales on Chamberlain Coffee’s website soaring by nearly 200% on the day of launch,” explains Sydney.

Editors, too, are paying attention – tracking the rise of a colour, a fabric or a silhouette and weaving those insights into editorial direction.

Of course, the relationship between data and fashion isn’t entirely straightforward. Because while platforms like Pinterest reflect what people want, they also have the power to shape it.

Constantine Christopher Coccolatos, co-founder of Parhela, describes it as a feedback loop. “When someone saves an image on Pinterest... they’re expressing something they already feel,” he says. “The platforms

don’t invent that. What they do very powerfully is organise those feelings and feed them back to us.”

The risk? That fashion becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. “The moment brands and platforms start optimising for those signals, they begin to narrow the field of what gets shown, what gets made and ultimately what people believe they want,” Constantine warns. “Desire starts to look less like discovery and more like confirmation.”

It’s a tension that sits at the heart of the Pinterest Effect. Data can illuminate taste – but it can also standardise it. And yet, there’s evidence that consumers are becoming more discerning, not less. “People are becoming much more selective,” Sydney notes. “Prioritising self-expression and personal meaning over copying whatever is most viral.”

On Pinterest, this manifests as what she calls a “curating, not copying mindset” – users drawing inspiration from trends, but filtering them through their own identity.

So what, exactly, is the data telling us right now? According to Pinterest Predicts 2026, fashion is moving away from minimalist uniformity and towards something more expressive. Think Glamoratti power dressing – oversized tailoring, sculpted shoulders and unapologetic glamour – alongside softer, more romantic aesthetics like Laced Up and Poetcore.

There’s also a growing appetite for ornamentation. Brooches, once relegated to heirloom jewellery boxes, are re-emerging as statement accessories across menswear and womenswear alike.



Pinterest Predicts 2026 pinpointed this year's trends before they happened, including brooches (on men), cabbages (the new kitchen champion), cool blue tones (from coats to cocktails), Afrohemian Decor (a fusion of African and bohemian styles) and Glamoratti (pictured overleaf) predicting that 'the decade of decadence is back in style'



But perhaps more interesting are the underlying shifts driving these trends. Molly points to two key forces: the cost-of-living crisis and what she describes as "fashion fatigue". "People are being a lot more careful with how they're spending their money," she explains. "And also not wanting to fall into an aesthetic that's going to date them." The result is a resurgence of what might be called 'safe' style: heritage brands, classic silhouettes and timeless materials.

Search data supports this. Molly notes a significant increase in consumers searching for specific fabric compositions – "instead of just looking for a white sweater, it was people looking for a white wool sweater, or instead of a white T-shirt, it was a white cotton T-shirt." It's a small shift, but a telling one.

"This is reflective of people wanting to make more grounded decisions," she says.

And the impact is tangible. Consider the resurgence of Y2K. Once dismissed as a fleeting nostalgia trip, the numbers tell a different story. According to 1stDibs' annual trend report, searches for early-2000s fashion – from Roberto Cavalli dresses to Dior-era references – have surged, signalling a sustained appetite for maximalist glamour.

"Twenty-five years into the new millennium, design lovers are showing nostalgia for creations dating back to the beginning of the 21st century," explains Anthony Barzilay Freund, 1stDibs editorial director.

FASHION ONCE RELIED ON INSTINCT, TODAY IT'S POWERED BY INSIGHT

What started as TikTok irony has become something more deliberate – a conscious return to a specific aesthetic moment. It's a reminder that trends don't just move forward. They loop, evolve and resurface – often guided by data that tracks our collective longing for the past.

For fashion editors, the rise of data-driven forecasting presents both an opportunity and a challenge. On one hand, platforms like Pinterest offer unprecedented insight into consumer behaviour – a snapshot of what people are thinking, planning and wanting to wear. On the other, there's a risk that too much reliance on data could flatten creativity. "When you can measure what's performing, the rational commercial response is to make more of it," Constantine notes. "And so you get convergence."

In other words: everyone ends up making the same thing. The most interesting brands, he argues, are those that resist this pull – using data as a tool, rather than a directive. It's a sentiment echoed by Molly, who sees data as a supplement, not a substitute. "This is just one more point of evidence," she reiterates.

And perhaps that's the key. Because while the Pinterest Effect is undeniably reshaping fashion, it hasn't replaced the human element. Designers still dream. Editors still curate. Consumers still interpret.

What's changed is the feedback loop – faster, more visible and more data-rich than ever before.

Fashion, it turns out, hasn't lost its magic. It's just gained a dashboard. ■



STAMPED WITH STYLE

Whether you'll be living the high life at a beachfront resort, or heading off hiking, deliver news of your fashion forays with a postcard back home

Words ORION SCOTT

Europe called, and it wants you to overpack your carry-on with summer-fuelled fashionable ensembles. Whether you're heading to a luxury villa for a week of R&R in the sunshine, escaping the city for a picturesque hike in the wilderness, blowing off some steam with your gal pals at a beach club or preparing yourself for a five-day festival – whatever your summer plans this year, it's essential that your packing list is equipped for all occasions.

A luxurious resort stay calls for one-piece swimwear that doubles as a bodysuit – an ultimate two-for-one packing hack that saves space and allows you to maximise tanning time. Simply roll off the lounge, add a selection of gold jewellery, a cover-up or skirt and head to your dinner reservation. An

iconic festival 'fit is never complete without a touch of ruffle and a pair of cowboy boots, just ask Kate Moss. For those in it for the long haul at Primavera (as you should be), statement sunglasses will mask any lack of sleep under-eye bags, while a floaty boho-chic dress and stack of Bakelite bangles will distract from your unwashed hair.

If strutting around the city streets of Copenhagen is on the cards, bold colours, poignant prints and luxe layering are the easiest way to be mistaken for a local – the most flattering compliment you will ever receive. For those seeking a frolic in the hills a la *The Sound of Music*, fear not, as style needn't be compromised for all-terrain suitability. A breezy mini dress and chunky trail trainers will not only help you climb altitudes, but you'll also look effortlessly cute while doing so.



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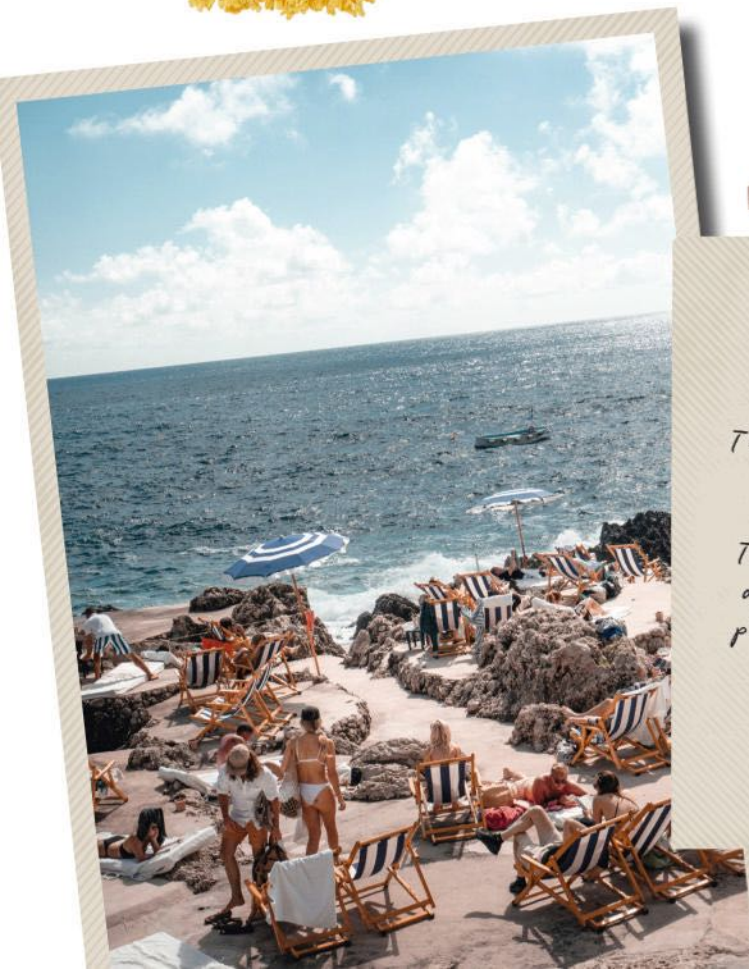
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13



12



Ciao from Capri

*The sun is shining and the
tan is tanning*

*Thinking of staying on for
another week so can you
please water the plants in
my bedroom*

xoxo



- 1. SWIMSUIT, £85, BLUEBELLA
- 2. SWIMSUIT, £260, VIX PAULA HERMANNY
- 3. HAT, £39.95, SEASALT CORNWALL
- 4. NECKLACE, £109, PANDORA
- 5. BAG, £125, GUESS
- 6. SKIRT, £343, ANDREEVA AT WOLF & BADGER
- 7. SKIRT, £229, MARC CAIN
- 8. TOP, £190, FAITHFULL
- 9. SUNGLASSES, £150, MAX MARA
- 10. EARRINGS, £34, PRYA
- 11. DRESS, £199, HOUSE OF CB
- 12. FLATS, £225, ANCIENT GREEK SANDALS
- 13. CAPE, £392, NOON BY NOOR



Having the best time but
missing you lots

Off to see Doja Cat and
Role Model perform

Can you please pick me up
a Lucozade and a pack of
paracetamol for when I get
back on Monday x



- 1. NECKLACE, £24, OLIVER BONAS
- 2. TOP, £65, MARKS & SPENCER
- 3. BODYSUIT, POA, SHUSHU/TONG
- 4. DRESS, £279, AJE
- 5. BOOTS, £185, VAGABOND
- 6. BOOTS, £359, PENELOPE CHILVERS
- 7. SHORTS, £199, MAJE
- 8. BAG, £134, POPPY LISSIMAN
- 9. SUNGLASSES, £135, JIMMY FAIRLY
- 10. TOP, £145, RIXO
- 11. BANGLES (SET OF THREE), £14.99, NEW LOOK





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14

Hey Dad


Visited the Ganni Postmodern outlet today and now have to add an extra bag to my flight home

Please can you Monzo me some cash and I will pay you back next month xxxx



- 1. TRENCH, £199.99, MANGO
- 2. EARRINGS, £189, MISSOMA
- 3. SKIRT, £110, PEACHY DEN
- 4. TOP, £95, KITRI
- 5. TOP, £125, GANT
- 6. RING, £120, THOMAS SABO
- 7. SHORTS, £55, NOBODY'S CHILD
- 8. SKIRT, £340, GANNI
- 9. TRAINERS, £169, KURT GEIGER
- 10. FLATS, £28, SCHUH
- 11. SHOES, £150, ALOHAS
- 12. TROUSERS, £395, SERENA BUTE
- 13. BAG, £145, BARNEYS ORIGINALS
- 14. SUNGLASSES, £380, PALOCERAS





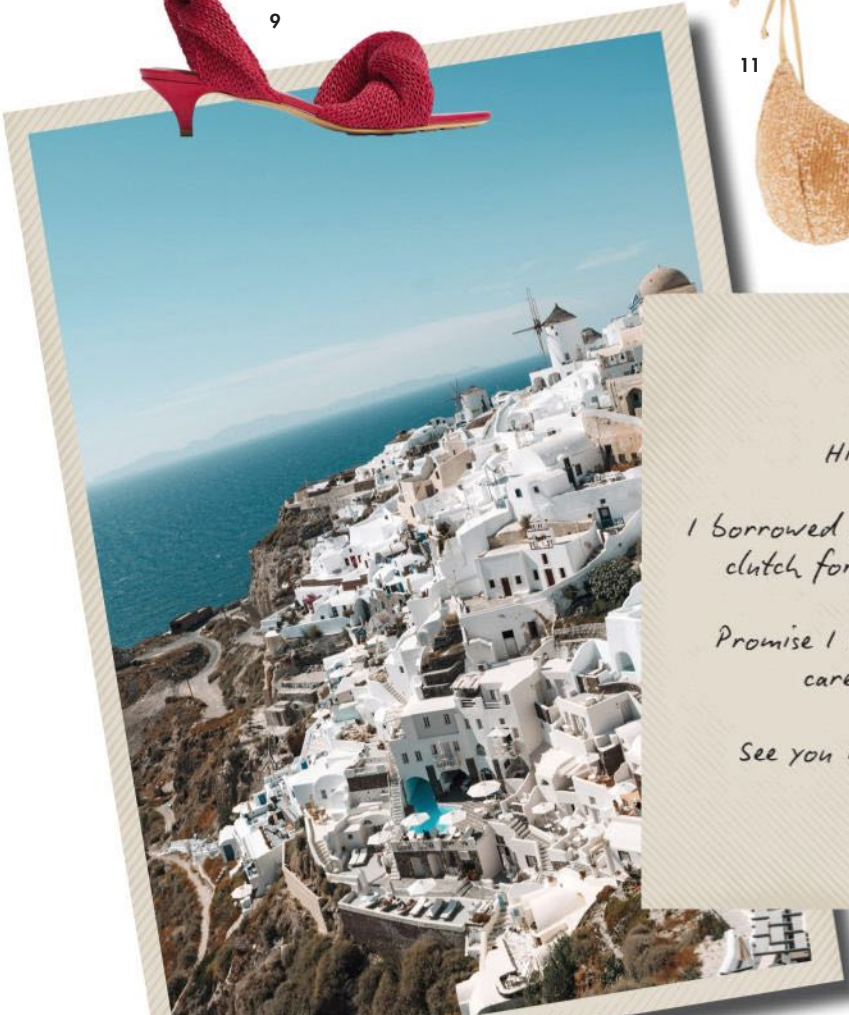
Hey Grandad


Putting your Xmas present to good use and loving the birdwatching I have seen a water pipit and crested tit

See you when I get back
XXXX

- 1. JACKET, £169, BARBOUR
- 2. SHORTS £345, MYBESTFRIENDS
- 3. DRINK BOTTLE, £32, CHILLY'S
- 4. SUNGLASSES, £231, OAKLEY
- 5. TOP, £35, CARHARTT 6. HAT, £90, SOEUR
- 7. EARRINGS, £140, DMY STUDIOS 8. DRESS, £95, RO&ZO
- 9. DRESS, £70, DAMSON MADDER
- 10. TRAINERS, £215, FLOWER MOUNTAIN 11. TRAINERS, £100, NIKE AT SCHUH 12. SHOES, £70, PUMA







 Hi Mum

 I borrowed your Schiaparelli

 clutch for the weekend

 Promise I will take good

 care of her

 See you next week xx

- 1. TOP, £130, MARELLA
- 2. TOP, £45, ASOS
- 3. NECKLACE, £3,250, HEAVENLY LONDON
- 4. TOP, £14.99, H&M
- 5. DRESS, £320, FARM RIO
- 6. BRACELET, POA, CHANEL
- 7. SANDALS, £69, CHARLES & KEITH
- 8. MULES, £525, FLORRIE LONDON
- 9. SANDALS, POA, BOTTEGA VENETA
- 10. CLUTCH, £9,100, SCHIAPARELLI
- 11. BIKINI TOP, £68, GUESS
- 12. WATCH, £1,270, VERSACE
- 13. DRESS, £128, LENY



Dress, £199

Bracelet, £29

Mules, £99

Bag, £110



CLARE PENNINGTON

EDITOR

I reach for easy-breezy pastels in summer the way moths dive headfirst into flames. This pale pink midi dress will look so good when I (finally) get a tan this year, and it is versatile enough to work super hard in your wardrobe for all manner of occasions. Fancy enough for a wedding guest dress or day at the races, while also being the perfect piece for a day at the park. Team with slip on mules (so you can skip the pedi) and jewellery that will encourage the sun to put in an appearance.



EDITORS' PICKS

Renowned for its tailoring and providing effortless elegance, these are the summer staples our editors are loving at Hobbs...



Earrings, £25

Dress, £149

Jacket, £159

Bag, £149



LAUREN RAMSAY

DEPUTY DIGITAL EDITOR

For summer, I adore versatile neutrals that can be worn various ways (anything to save on suitcase space, right?). This polka dot dress injects a touch of trend-led sophistication into a classic midi. Pair with brown sandals and chunky jewellery for a cool finish. A white jacket is a staple for the season too, and I love that Hobbs has added gorgeous gold buttons. The raffia bag and pearl earrings will pair perfectly with both pieces, and everything else in your SS26 wardrobe.



Earrings, £25

Dress, £249

Bag, £99

Heels, £139



TANIA LESLAU

FASHION FEATURES EDITOR

The wedding invitations have officially started flooding in, so I'm trying to assemble a clean, easy-wear roster of elegant looks to keep on rotation. Navy blue is a failsafe for British weddings, because it is elevated, classic and just the right amount of slinky. A touch of polka dot print is perfect for infusing any ensemble with some Gen Z flair, while chunky gold jewellery adds a youthful edge that's primed for summer soirées. Top it off with a timeless slingback which will be inevitably whipped off when the dance floor calls.



MOLLY SAUNDERS

CREATIVE LEAD

Think Scandi-inspired utility with a soft summer edge. I'm not ready to retire the jacket just yet so this light beige layer is the perfect go-to for unpredictable spring days. Swapping out boots for ballet flats instantly lightens the look, while subtle pastels add that fresh seasonal lift (groundbreaking, I know). Come summer, I'm leaning into the simple white dress to keep everything feeling sharp yet effortless. The result? A polished, versatile outfit that's ideal for a city break. Now, excuse me while I browse some flights.



Bag, £119

Dress, £189



Jacket, £199



Shoes, £89

All items available at selected Hobbs stores and at [hobbs.com](https://www.hobbs.com)



WIN! A LUXE STAY IN THE MALDIVES WORTH £5,000

Enter for the chance to win a premium all-inclusive five-night stay for two at Heritance Aarah resort

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juices and soft drinks. At the heart of the resort is IASO medi spa, a space dedicated to meaningful relaxation that blends centuries-old healing practices with a modern, science-led approach to wellbeing, offering treatments such as reiki, shirodhara and Tibetan Kunye. The resort's collection of villas offers privacy and comfort, complemented by a generous premium all-inclusive experience where a la carte dining, signature cocktails, curated excursions, non-motorised water sports and a fully stocked in-villa mini bar are seamlessly included.

Visit heritancehotels.com/aarah/

FROM TOP When you're not relaxing in the spa or having a gastronomic dining experience, sailing, diving and snorkelling in the surrounding turquoise waters await; all of the resort's rooms are elegantly designed and come with breathtaking views



TO ENTER, PLEASE VISIT HELLOFASHION.COM/WIN OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Entries close on 6 July 2026 at 11.59pm. The prize is for two people to share a Heritance Aarah Beach Villa for five nights on a premium all-inclusive basis and is valid from 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2027. The stay is subject to availability and includes blackout dates from 10 December 2026 to 30 March 2027. Prize does not include international airfares, seaplane transfers and green tax. Selected food items and drinks are not included. Entrants must be UK residents and over the age of 18 unless otherwise stated. Any other costs incurred in addition to those set out above and that are incidental to the fulfilment of the prize are the responsibility of the winner. The winner will be selected at random from all eligible entries and notified by email within 14 days of the closing date. If the winner does not respond within seven days, the promoter reserves the right to select an alternative winner. The prize is for the winner only and is not transferable. The validity period is non-extendable. No cash alternative will be offered. The promoter reserves the right to replace the prize with an alternative of equal or higher value, should circumstances beyond the promoter's control make it necessary. For standard terms and conditions, please visit hellomagazine.com/competition-terms-and-conditions/

LUXE *for* LESS

A CATWALK FEEL FOR A HIGH-STREET STEAL? YES, PLEASE...

NEW WAVE

Cou Cou's latest collection is an ode to the precious earth that we all call home. Shot in Okinawa, Japan, we're going back to nature to be inspired by its limitless beauty. Think supersoft fabrics and lace finishes (inspired by vintage petticoats). Now let's all go outside and touch some grass asap.



Bikini top, £72,
Skirt, £152, both
Cou Cou

SO 2000 AND LATE

Some say you've got to look backwards to move forwards – and we've done so with glee

COMPILED BY CLARE PENNINGTON & ORION SCOTT

Y2K style certainly never felt timeless the first time around. And yet, here we are again, celebrating the decade that made OTT look like a serious understatement. Like a bedazzled flip phone that refuses to die, the frosted lip gloss and the intoxicating chaos of early internet culture, the aesthetic's comeback has been persistent to say the least. On the SS26 runways, Blumarine showcased animal print in candy colours that J.Lo would have been all over back in the day and skirts got the low-rise

treatment, even at labels that usually veer towards refined elegance aka Tory Burch and Chanel. Here at *H! Fashion*, nostalgia was in the air as we revisited some of our favourite 00s and 2010s shows in search of a little sartorial inspiration to take us through the season ahead. Fans of the clean girl aesthetic and a neutral colour palette need look away hastily, as these were the decades that prioritised colour and glitter in utter abandon. And we can't wait to do it all over again. Seems like that iPod really was stuck on replay.



**LONDON TIPTON,
THE SUITE LIFE OF ZACK
& CODY**

If there was ever an example of someone who was a walking, talking Y2K icon, it had to be London Tipton (played gloriously by Brenda Song) in *The Suite Life of Zack & Cody*. The show delivered us some of our favourite child-turned-actor stars including Cole and Dylan Sprouse – with the latter marrying our favourite Victoria’s Secret Angel Barbara Palvin. London embodied a very specific cultural moment – the rise of the designer-clad socialite, clearly riffing on figures like Paris Hilton. Premiering in 2005, the logos were loud, the embellishments were shiny and all ensembles were a riot of colour. Maximalism and unapologetic glamour never looked so good.



£60, TK Maxx



£37.99, New Look



£18, Next



£75, Charles & Keith



£70, Juicy Couture



£38, Guess



£255, Ancient Greek Sandals

£68, Free People

**MARISSA COOPER,
THE OC**

Of course, we couldn't not mention our glorious cover star Mischa Barton, aka fan favourite Marissa Cooper in *The OC*. If boho Y2K style had a patron saint, it might just be the Orange County princess herself. Remember that Chanel dress she wore to prom? We were all obsessed. A vision of West Coast privilege wrapped up in silky camisoles and mini skirt combos. Costume designer for the first season, Alexandra Welker crafted Marissa's wardrobe to reflect Newport Beach's glossy affluence, marrying bohemian softness with high-end minimalism. Think slinky slip tops, low-rise jeans and lace dresses that somehow survived beach bonfires and emotional breakdowns alike. There was a fragility to her fashion, in contrast to bestie Summer (played by Rachel Bilson) who opted for bombastic colours and silhouettes. And we just can't speak about the incident in season three that forever changed the course of the show...

LIZZIE MCGUIRE, LIZZIE MCGUIRE

Titular character Lizzie (played by 00s icon Hilary Duff) from the 2001 series leaned toward the vibrant side of the Y2K aesthetic – embracing colour, metallics and, yes, butterfly hair clips. Costume designers Kimberly Adams and Pamela Withers leaned into the playful chaos of tween fashion, crafting a wardrobe for Lizzie that felt both wildly experimental and deeply relatable. Lizzie’s outfits were a kaleidoscope of texture and colours: flared trousers, layered T-shirts and accessories that bordered on excessive – in the best way, of course. Lizzie’s style wasn’t about perfection, but self-expression. And her animated alter ego only amplified this. And who could forget the lime and lavender matchy-matchy metallic ensembles from masterpiece *The Lizzie McGuire Movie* (2003)?



£20, George



£26, Urban Outfitters



£6, F&F



£65, Skechers



RAVEN BAXTER, THAT'S SO RAVEN

No one embraced Y2K maximalism quite like Raven Baxter. Played by Raven-Symoné, who is now a producer, director and podcast star, Raven’s wardrobe was unapologetically loud – much like the vibrant show itself. Costume designer Nancy Butts Martin helped shape a wardrobe for Raven that was rooted in theatrical flair. Raven’s outfits were often integral to the plot – whether she was disguising herself, predicting the future or simply creating one hell of an unforgettable entrance. Think oversize faux fur, vibrant prints and lots of sequins. Nancy customised almost every item Raven wore, meaning her outfits and personality were perfectly woven together throughout the four seasons of the hit show. Raven was all about standing out, not fitting in, and taught us all an important lesson that we take very seriously here at *H! Fashion* – subtlety is absolutely optional.



£65, Asos

£29.50, F&F

£130, Thomas Sabo

£219, Kurt Geiger

BLAIR WALDORF, GOSSIP GIRL

Technically post Y2K, but spiritually tethered to its DNA, Blair Waldorf (played by Leighton Meester – now married to The OC’s Adam Brody – our favourite fact ever), favoured polished opulence over all else. Costume designer Eric Daman famously described the show’s aesthetic as ‘aspirational reality’, and Blair was the crown jewel (just don’t tell Serena fans). She loved a headband, tailored coat and preppy silhouette, sure, but wasn’t afraid of a burst of colour when needed. Blair’s looks were meticulously styled – every bow and every pleat perfectly intentional – a counterpoint to the carefree chaos of early Y2K heroines. Whether it was her Elie Saab wedding dress or her red hot power suit for her first day at NYU (with shoulder pads aplenty), as Gossip Girl herself famously quipped, “You know you love me”. XOXO.



£145, Marc Cain



£155, Guess



£69, Pandora



£35, Next

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BEAUTY

CATWALK TRENDS, THE LATEST LAUNCHES, EXPERT ADVICE & CELEBRITY SECRETS



HIGH SHINE

Dior Addict Glass lipstick marries glossy shine with vibrant hues, plus a 90% oil formula that glides on with ease. Neither sticky nor smudge-inducing, lips are smoothed and plumped

THE HIGH STREET GLOW UP

Whether it's the ultimate speedy bronzer, lipliner that stays put all day, or makeup and skincare solutions that simply won't slip, be sure to add to cart HF's purse-friendly summer beauty BFFs



BRONZE, BABY

This summer, I'm intent on staying as bronzed as possible. I've been carefully nurturing a tan since a tropical winter escape – one that, to my horror, has begun to fade. Cue Trinny London's Miracle Halo Complexion Illuminator, which revives the skin with a high-summer glow. I mix a few drops into my moisturiser for a subtle, dewy shimmer, perfectly complemented by Charlotte Tilbury's peach-toned Unreal Blush Healthy Glow Stick. It melts seamlessly into the cheeks; I always add a touch across the bridge of my nose for a sunkissed finish – a trick I pinched from Emily Ratajkowski. As the weather warms, I tend to eschew my signature winged eyeliner in favour of a fuller, more natural brow, kept in place with Refy's Brow Sculpt. The bigger, the better – always.

Miracle Halo Complexion Illuminator, £32, Trinny London, Unreal Blush Healthy Glow Stick, £32, Charlotte Tilbury, Brow Sculpt, £20, Refy

Tania x



TRUSTED TRIO

Come the warmer months, rather than stock up on a multitude of new hot weather-friendly products, I turn to three failsafe friends who are always there for me with their summer-perfecting prowess. Nuxe Huile Prodigieuse Or is a shimmering dry oil that gives an iridescent glow, perfect for amping up your face, body and hair and nixing dullness in an instant. If your legs need a more intense sun-drenched shade, and you don't have time for an all-over self-tan, This Works' Perfect Legs Skin Miracle is a hydrating, tinted serum that gives a natural golden glow in seconds. And when it comes to hair, and the dreaded heat and humidity-induced frizz, I always keep a bottle of Amika's Hydro Rush Leave-In Conditioner handy for whenever it needs a moisture moment.

Hydro Rush Leave-In Conditioner, £27, Amika, Huile Prodigieuse Or, £23, Nuxe, Perfect Legs Skin Miracle, £45, This Works



FLAWLESS FINISH

When it comes to summer makeup, my priority is ensuring I look glowy without my makeup sliding off my face in a puddle. Enter the super-slippery creamy formula of Kiko Milano's Love Fusion 24H Moisture Radiant Foundation. This next-gen skin tint takes its inspiration from the sweet spot between skincare and makeup and delivers hydration alongside a long-wear finish that refuses to budge. I top the luminous base with my favourite powder of all time (and trust me, I have tried them all), Kosas' Cloud Set Setting Powder. It's perhaps unusual to describe a powder as smooth, but trust me, it feels lighter than air. For lips, it's L'Oréal Paris Blurfiller Blurring Lip Liner to define and frame my lips while gliding on effortlessly. And best of all, the soft-focus finish helps blur the look of fine lines. Then top with lip balm.

Cloud Set Setting Powder, £28, Kosas, Love Fusion 24H Moisture Radiant Foundation, £21.99, Kiko Milano, Blurfiller Blurring Lip Liner, £10.99, L'Oréal Paris



THE BIG EASY

Simplicity in summer is key for me and my beauty routine, and these three products are my recipe for sunkissed success. Glossier's Cloud Paint is versatility in a tube. Smear it across your lips, eyelids, and cheeks and pat until perfect, the colours are beautifully buildable, giving you that effortless, natural flush that looks like you've just stepped out into golden hour. A peel-off lip liner, such as Revolution's Lip Shift Ink, is a one-and-done ticket to a defined cupid's bow all day long, making it a perfect partner in effortless chic throughout the summer, saving time while still delivering that polished, put-together look, while a pocket-sized clear SPF makes it easier than ever to top up on the go – I love Glow Recipe's Niacinamide Dew Balm Sunscreen Stick SPF30.

Lip Shift Ink Peel Off Lipliner Stain, £6.99, Revolution, Watermelon Glow Niacinamide Dew Balm Sunscreen Stick SPF30, £27, Glow Recipe, Cloud Paint, £24, Glossier

Fox

Carex

Orion x



FRESH FEEL

One word springs to mind when it comes to my summer beauty routine: fresh. I love no-makeup-makeup days during the season, and my complexion essential for this is the Kosas Revealer Concealer. It has a super-creamy formula that blends into a radiant finish and it melts seamlessly into my bare skin. The perfect complement to my pared-back beauty days is the NYX Micro Brow Pencil, which is so easy to use as it shapes and defines my brows with thin, hairlike strokes. For my hair, nothing comes close to Amika Perk Up Dry Shampoo, which I always stock up in a travel size so I can fortify my tresses from grease on the go. Unlike other dry shampoos, it leaves no white residue and the delicious scent of citrus and vanilla smells like a holiday in a bottle.

Revealer Concealer, £26, Kosas, Micro Brow Pencil, £10, NYX, Perk Up Dry Shampoo, £25, Amika

Annie x



COLOUR QUEEN

My summer beauty mantra is always 'bronzed and glowy'. Even when sun-soaked holidays feel far away, these products will keep you looking fresh-faced before, during and after your getaway. Drunk Elephant glow drops are a year-round staple for me. Simply mix into your moisturiser for effortless radiance, perfect alone or under makeup. I consider myself a bit of a self-tan connoisseur and I swear by an express formula that won't ruin your sheets. Bali Body's 1 Hour Express Tan is my go-to; leave it on for up to three hours depending on your desired depth, rinse off and voila. Finally, soft, smooth lips are essential in the sun and Jones Road Lip Recharge is a tinted treatment packed with antioxidants and peptides to give that lip gloss feeling, but full of hydrating goodness.

1 Hour Express Tan, £30.95, Bali Body, Bright Drops, £35, Drunk Elephant, Lip Recharge, £24, Jones Road

Lauren x



SPF SAVERS

It goes without saying that SPF is a summer essential, but this La Roche-Posay SPF50 Serum Sunscreen is my new ride-or-die. The formula is smooth and weightless, making it the perfect under-makeup skincare addition, as it melts seamlessly into my skin. Another summer must-have (and, in my very honest opinion, a total unsung hero) is the Color Wow Pop & Lock Serum. Nothing tames my frizz quite like this, just a few pumps bring my blow-dried hair back into smooth, defined curls in seconds. And with the added bonus of SPF protection for your hair, it really does it all. Finally, the Morphe Nano Eyebrow Pencil is simply the best. It stays on all day and is perfect for taking my brows from long summer days straight into warm summer nights.

UVAIR Serum Sunscreen SPF50, £26, La Roche-Posay, Pop & Lock High Gloss Finish, £23.50, Color Wow, Nano Eyebrow Pencil, £11, Morphe

Molly x



GOLDEN GIRL

These three products are my true summer heroes. Bondi Sands Liquid Gold is something I reach for whenever the sun is peeking through, giving a natural summer glow without the UV damage (I even take this with me on holiday to top up my tan). Philip Kingsley Elasticizer in Honey Nectar & Peach rescues my hair and extensions from salt water and sun, restoring shine and elasticity with its nourishing formula that smells as good as it sounds. Plus, where would we be without a little summer shimmer? Merit Great Skin Serum gives a gorgeous lightweight hydration and dewy finish that works perfectly in heat and humidity, whether worn alone or under makeup. This trio keeps skin glowing, hair healthy and beauty routines effortless all summer long.

Elasticizer in Honey Nectar & Peach, £43, Philip Kingsley, Liquid Gold Dry Oil, £6.69, Bondi Sands, Great Skin Serum, £16, Merit

Olivia x



SKIN SENSE

Summer is the time I defrost, both physically and mentally. For me, it's about clean, clear skin and maintaining a natural glow. I start with a clean-shaven look, the less stubble the better. Introducing the Traditional Chrome Safety Razor from Mühle. It's the classic that reigns supreme, and this shaver, clad in chrome, will give you the cleanest shave: interchangeable disposable razor blades ensure – with a bit of practice – a precision edge every time. With the resulting blank canvas I draw for the Refy Face Cleanse, one of many products stolen from my girlfriend, to ensure my face texture is smooth and rid of any impurities. Finally, to lock it all in I use CeraVe Moisturising Cream to ensure a soft, hydrated look with a natural glow.

Traditional Chrome Safety Razor, £36, Mühle, Face Cleanse, £24, Refy, Moisturising Cream, £13.10, CeraVe

Toby x



STRAND SOLUTION

In summer, there are two beauty rules I live by: glowy skin is non-negotiable, as are fluffy brows and lashes. That's why I always have a bottle of Kylie Cosmetics' Skin Tint Blurring Elixir foundation on rotation. It delivers a luminous complexion with its cushiony formula, producing an airbrushed, satin finish that looks like my skin, just better. Then, I use the One/Size On 'Til Dawn Setting Spray to lock my glow in place. This aerosol truly lives up to its name every summer by keeping my makeup in place all day (especially in the sun) without sacrificing dimension. And when it comes to fluffy brows and lashes, I have a confession: I use the E.l.f. Lash 'N Roll Mascara for both, as its flake-resistant technology and slim brush work perfectly on every strand.

Skin Tint Blurring Elixir, £27, Kylie Cosmetics, On 'Til Dawn Setting Spray, £32, One/Size, Lash 'N Roll Mascara, £7, E.l.f.

Josie x



WIN! A GLAM DINNY HALL COCKTAIL RING WORTH OVER £1,000

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DINNY HALL

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Trinny is available in four lust-worthy colours – from radiant pink to verdant green and the dreamiest deep-sea blues. Priced from £850-£1,100, depending on the gemstone, pink is a mix of smoky quartz and rhodolite. Or choose London blue and Swiss blue topaz with either gold or silver bands, the shades of the

stones varying slightly to match the warmth or coolness of the metal. And you'll be the envy of all around you if you opt for the green stones, featuring amethyst and oro verde.

Designed to capture the light with iconic settings and bold, scintillating gemstones, they make every outfit shine. A centrepiece for every jewellery box.

Dinny Hall is the creative force behind her eponymous line with 40 years' experience of jewellery design and making and has made pieces for A-listers all over the world including Naomi Campbell, Margot Robbie and Kate Moss. She has five stores in London as well as a concession in Liberty. Visit dinnyhall.com



TO ENTER, PLEASE VISIT HELLOFASHION.COM/GIVEAWAY OR SCAN THE QR CODE

Entries close on 6 July 2026 at 11:59pm (BST). The promoter of this competition is Dinny Hall. The competition is open to UK residents aged 18 or over, excluding employees of Dinny Hall, Hello! Ltd, their affiliates, agencies, or anyone professionally connected with this promotion. One winner will receive a Dinny Hall Trinny cocktail ring in one of four colours. The prize is non-transferable and no cash or credit alternative will be offered. Only one entry per person will be accepted. Entries must be submitted via the official competition entry form as specified by Hello!. The winner will be selected at random from all eligible entries and notified by email within 14 days of the closing date. If the winner does not respond within seven days, the promoter reserves the right to select an alternative winner. The prize will be delivered to a UK address provided by the winner. No responsibility can be accepted for prizes lost, delayed or damaged in transit. The promoter reserves the right to cancel, amend or suspend the competition where necessary due to circumstances beyond its control. The 20% online discount is applicable between 12 May and 6 July 2026. For standard competition terms and conditions, visit hellomagazine.com/competition-terms-and-conditions/



THE *Editor's* EDIT

This issue, editor Clare Pennington unveils the new must-have launches – from tropical scents to the return of winged liner



3



1. HEAD OVER HEELS

Kiko Milano's new Love Fusion 24H Moisture Radiant Foundation (£21.99) fuses skincare and makeup for a hydrating and luminous long-wear base dedicated to enhancing your natural radiance.

2. BRONZE MEDAL

A bronzer that works so hard that, quite frankly, it deserves a pension package. Dr Barbara Sturm's Everything Bronzing Drops (£125) blur imperfections, boost hydration, plus plump skin while delivering an instant golden glow.

4



3. LONG DRINK OF WATER

When the mercury starts rising, here at *HI Fashion*, we reach for Chanel's Les Beiges collection as readily as a parched wanderer lunges for the nearest oasis. The range of summer essentials should be slung in everyone's carry-on this season, with Water-Fresh Complexion Touch (£56) creating the perfect luscious base for experimenting with the eyes. We're welcoming the long-awaited return of winged eyeliner – given the runway stamp of approval thanks to appearances at Dolce & Gabbana and Fendi.



4. BANANA DRAMA

Le Monde Gourmand is known for scents that smell good enough to eat and its latest offering, Banane Délice (£28), is no exception. Zesty fruity notes are married with creamy gourmand softness. Delicious.

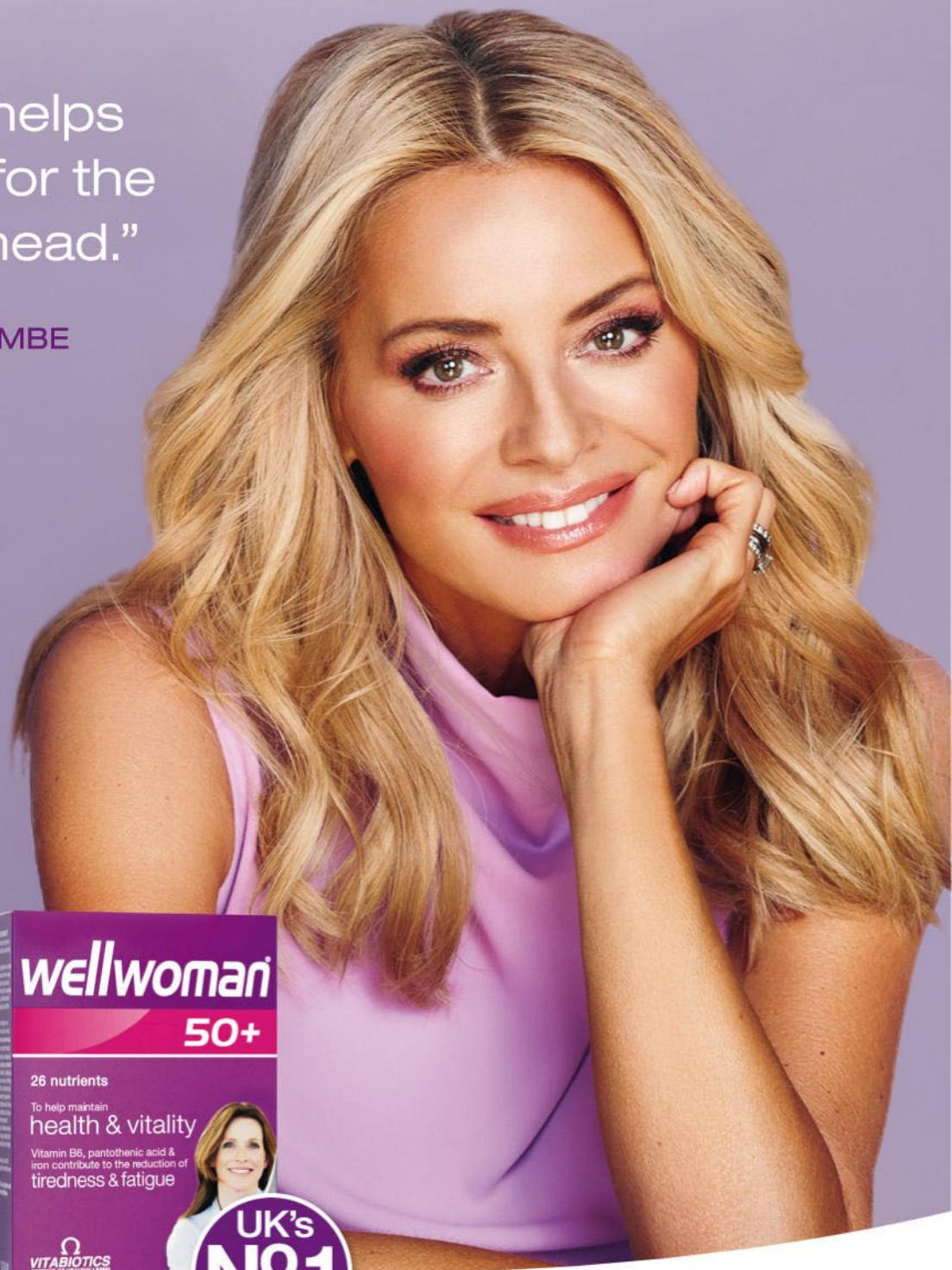
5. LIP SERVICE

Merit news never fails to cause a ripple throughout *HI Fashion* towers and its hydrating, buildable Signature Sheer Lip Liner (£34) has four brand spanning new shades. The smooth formula glides on with ease and won't budge.

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VITABIOTICS

WELLNESS
JOURNAL



For Ella Mills, founder of Deliciously Ella, the road to building her plant-based brand began by creating her own vegan recipes in her kitchen at the age of 21. Going on to create a blog to pass on her food know-how to others, she was harnessing nutrition to improve her physical health, after being diagnosed with a chronic illness called postural tachycardia syndrome.

It worked, with her followers reaching millions and resulting in Deliciously Ella being valued at around £60 million at its peak. Now a mum of two young children, she decided to reset her hectic lifestyle by selling her company, reconfiguring her role and making a life shift.

She says that a calm morning routine has become the key to setting the tone for the day ahead. “I try to take about 30 minutes before the kids wake up to start the day quietly – I’ll do ten minutes of breathwork, which has genuinely transformed my mental health, then a few minutes of skincare,” she tells us. “I try not to look at my phone first thing. I bought a Brick about six months ago, which locks me out of social media, and it’s been brilliant for that.”

Then it’s strength training and yoga, followed by a kefir, berry, coconut water, nut butter and hemp seed smoothie to boost her gut health: “It’s simple but it makes me feel good.”

To keep her skin looking radiant, she sees facialist Tarryn Warren every six weeks for microneedling, often choosing exosome-based treatments. “She does very shallow needling, so it doesn’t hurt and there’s no downtime,” she reveals. “Within a few days, you get such a good glow. I also love gua sha and my red light mask at home.”

Along with her FaceGym gua sha and CurrentBody Red Light Mask, her go-to for skin nourishment is May Lindstrom Body and Hair Oil, adding a few Caudalie Self-Tan Sun Drops for a luminous tint and, when she needs a deep cleanse, NIOD’s Flavanone Mud mask.

After suffering from burnout at points during her career, she realigned with help from a move out of London and a switch to working part-time: “Building something requires a lot of yes’s and constant problem solving and I ran at that pace for years. Recalibrating meant questioning whether that speed was sustainable and stepping back from being ‘on’ all of the time.

“I’m using this chapter to learn more, which I’m loving. I’m doing my breathwork teacher training, more yoga training and a meditation training,” she says. “I’ve always believed health is 360. It’s not just food, it’s how you live day to day.”

And this year, her overall goal is finding optimum balance. “It’s about building meaningful work without sacrificing family life or my own health. Feeling steady. Clear in my head, strong in my body, not constantly wired or chasing the next thing. Slowing life down feels like the biggest luxury.”

Self-care diary

INNER CALM

Nutrition was the start of Ella Mills’ health journey – now it’s alongside yoga, breathwork and meditation to help keep her balanced

Words JO BOUNDS



The Good Stuff Body and Hair Radiance Oil, £150, May Lindstrom, Self-Tan Sun Drops, £19, Caudalie, Red Light Face Mask, £399.99, CurrentBody



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LIFE & STYLE

STYLISH INTERIORS, MODERN CULTURE, INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS AND CHIC ESCAPES

SICILIAN SPIRIT

Founders of Soru jewellery Francesca Kelly and Marianna Doyle take us on a tour of their Warwickshire homes, actor Ian Somerhalder reveals his favourite haunts and we visit some hot hotels in Istanbul, Mallorca and Paris

STORIED SPACES

Sisters Francesca Kelly and Marianna Doyle tapped into their Sicilian heritage to create Soru jewellery; with both of their homes similarly interwoven with European vibes and artistic features

Words LAUREN RAMSAY Photography RACHAEL SMITH



Soru founders Francesca (right) and Marianna; a plate wall in Francesca's home is filled with Hermès porcelain, while the table centerpiece pays homage to famed Sicilian lemons

Both sisters embrace a mix of mediums and styles in their decor, from rustic Italian vibes to more vintage and playful pieces



From Gwyneth Paltrow-inspired plate walls lined with Hermès china, to artworks and antique finds gathered on sun-soaked European travels, the homes of Soru jewellery founders Francesca Kelly and Marianna Doyle feel as elegant and curated as the pieces they design – worn by everyone from cool girls to Rosie Huntington-Whiteley and Catherine, Princess of Wales.

The design duo live just minutes apart in neighbouring period properties in the leafy village of Tanworth-in-Arden in Warwickshire, both of which feel equal parts polished and personal. Purchased during lockdown and reimagined over time, each of their homes is layered with the coolest detailing – from bespoke shelving and vintage pottery to embroidery and walls adorned with tiles.

They never consciously aligned their interiors – but the overlap is undeniable. Proof, perhaps, of an unspoken sisterly instinct – which likely explains why their shared jewellery brand feels so naturally harmonious. “We didn’t ever discuss interiors really, we just naturally gravitate towards the same kind of things,” Marianna

explains. “Our interior styles are very similar. I have no qualms in copying her and vice versa, if I see something in her home that I absolutely must have!”

Francesca adds: “It’s a bit like how we design at work – we don’t discuss processes, we just do our own thing, then come together at the end and love the results. We both value good craftsmanship and quality materials. We are also both drawn to meaning and emotional connection in what we surround ourselves with.”

It’s this shared instinct, shaped by childhood summers in Sicily (Soru literally means ‘sisters’ in Sicilian dialect) and an appreciation for beautifully made objects, that defines both their interiors and their brand. The result? Homes that feel elevated, timeless and unique – and a jewellery label that continues to resonate far beyond their Warwickshire postcode.

From the interior design processes they turn to, to what it’s really like owning a

brand as sisters, the designers spill the tea with *H! Fashion*.

What was it that made you fall in love with your home?

Francesca: It’s a beautiful house from the outside, but what really made me fall in love with it was the light-filled rooms, as it’s south facing.

Marianna: We loved the space and light in the kitchen and the high ceilings. The village has such a lovely sense of community – we actually got married in the local church years ago. It’s a conservation area, so there is lots of greenery and beautiful walks for the dogs.

How would you summarise the style of your home?

Francesca: Sanctuary, light, intimate – it truly is my sanctuary. It’s so intimate, as pretty much everything in it means something special to me.

Marianna: Peaceful and calming – light and airy, with natural textures and lots of plants.

Do you think your interior style mirrors your personal style?

Francesca: I’d say it definitely does. I mix everything in my home because I love it and it calls to me – it’s the same with my style. Quite feminine, with lots of

texture and colour. European vibes.

Marianna: My interiors definitely mirror my personal style. I love a neutral palette in both my home and wardrobe, but with lots of texture, beautiful craftsmanship and luxe materials to keep it interesting. I’m drawn to pieces that are well-made and one of a kind – that goes for homeware to vintage jewellery.

Do you have a favourite room in your home?

Francesca: My main living room. There’s a little nook filled with books where the afternoon light hits beautifully – I’ve always dreamed of having a library and this is the next best thing.

Marianna: The study. It’s full of plants, warm tones and different textures. I love the mix of wall art – vintage embroidery and paintings I’ve collected from different places. The bookcase is filled with pieces that hold special memories for our family. In the study, I love the burl panelling in ▶

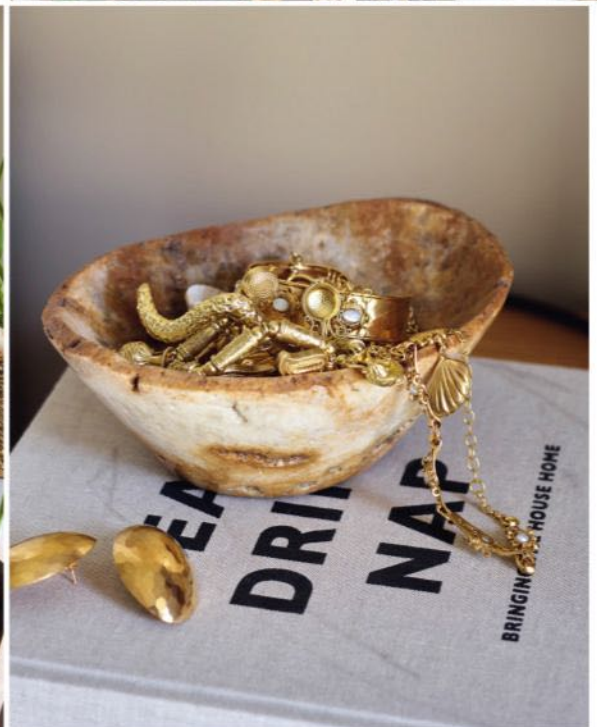
‘I LOVE A NEUTRAL PALETTE WITH TEXTURE AND LUXE MATERIALS TO KEEP IT INTERESTING’



Personal elements are interspersed throughout their homes with artworks picked up on their travels: "It's nice to have pieces that have memories attached," says Marianna



CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT Shelves are filled with fashion tomes, sculptural ceramics, favourite books and magazines and childhood photos; Soru was inspired by visits to see family in Sicily and being surrounded by strong women who were draped in elegant jewellery



the bookcase and the window seat. It's also Teddy's, my cavapoo's, favourite spot, so I often find him in there lounging on a chair.

Do you have any particularly sentimental decor pieces?

Francesca: So many! My husband gifted me a painting for my 40th birthday by Laura Gulshani of my daughter and me in Positano – it captured such a special moment in time. I loved it so much, I commissioned one for my sister by the same artist for her 40th. My dad also bought me a painting when we first moved in, which I adore. And I have a table in my living room that belonged to my mum from our childhood home – it's been passed down through generations. I could go on!

Marianna: I have a painting Francesca commissioned for my 40th birthday of a special childhood memory in Sicily, which is very dear to me. I also have an 18th-century Spanish pottery piece from a beautiful shop called Populart in Seville that I love.

Francesca, tell us about your incredible plate shelves...

Francesca: I was inspired by Gwyneth Paltrow's plate wall and I had a local carpenter make the shelving. Her plates are actually Hermès, and so are mine. My husband and I have very different tastes – I lean towards more rustic Italian vibes, while he prefers something more modern – so this felt like the perfect compromise. I've also mixed in a few vintage and more playful pieces, including my favourite This Kitchen is For Dancing one, and a plate I made at a pottery cafe with my daughter.

Marianna, your home features beautiful art. Tell us more...

Marianna: If I find something I love while travelling, I'll bring it home and have it framed. I think it's nice to have pieces that have memories attached. I love mixing different mediums – tiles, embroidery and Sailor's Valentines, which are antique artworks created with shells by sailors while out to sea to give to their sweethearts when they docked. My favourites are a recent impulse purchase at a charity auction of one of Harry Charles Tim's Longhead Series and a colourful oil

'IF I FIND A PIECE OF POTTERY OR ART THAT TALKS TO ME, I'LL IMAGINE HOW IT COULD FIT INTO MY HOME'

painting by Janet Lance Hughes.

How do you want people to feel when they walk through your door?

Francesca: At home, comfortable, inspired and happy. The space is very open with large ceilings, it's very welcoming.

Marianna: Calm, peaceful and close to nature. Having a cup of tea with a friend in our kitchen in the summer with the doors open and the birds tweeting is a lovely experience.

If walls could talk, which room would have the best stories?

Francesca: It has to be the kitchen. This is where all the talking goes on, from the kitchen discos and dancing, to my yoga lessons.

Marianna: The kitchen too, as that's where we spend most of our time entertaining, but also the living room – especially when

I'm watching reality TV with my 16-year-old daughter. I think it would make a good episode of Gogglebox.

Did you work with an interior designer?

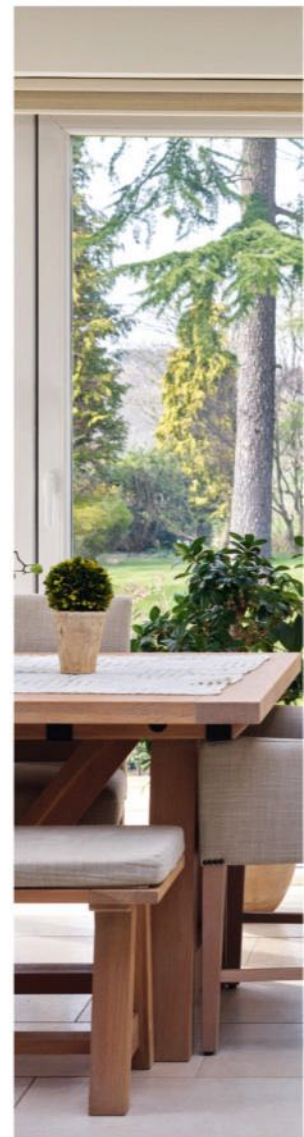
Francesca: No, I've just built it up over time. It's very much a labour of love – and still a work in progress.

Marianna: I had some help with the layout initially, but I chose all the furniture myself and decided to have some pieces made. Most of our furniture is from places like Neptune, Anthropologie and Loaf. Soho Home does the best rugs and lighting.

Where do you find inspiration for your interiors?

Francesca: Mostly through travel. If I find a piece of pottery or art that talks to me, I'll start imagining how it could fit into my home. I also use Pinterest if I'm looking for something specific. I have a few good interior books I love – Amber Lewis and Shea McGee are my faves.

Marianna: Books and magazines are always a big source of inspiration for me. I love *Cabana* magazine for its artisan feel and eclectic vibe, and *Architectural Digest* features the most beautiful homes, so I also love pulling inspiration from those. Also, when I first moved in, Shea McGee had just released Dream Home Makeover on Netflix, so I got a lot of inspiration from there. ▶





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT "Work and personal life naturally merge for us," say the duo; their homes are intended to feel light, intimate and close to nature; both kitchens are focal points and the rooms that have "the best stories"





The key to their interiors style is not based on trends, but emotional connections: "Trends aren't on my radar. You have to be surrounded by what you love," says Marianna

How do you feel about trends versus timeless pieces?

Francesca: I don't really pay attention to trends – either I feel an emotional connection to something, or I don't.

Marianna: Trends aren't on my radar either. You have to be surrounded by what you love, and for me, that's a complete mix of styles. I love seeing antiques with more contemporary pieces – it keeps things interesting.

How did your individual experiences lead you to create Soru together?

Francesca: We both grew up loving fashion and were heavily influenced by warm, crazy summers in Sicily. This had an effect on us and our love of intricate, well-made, quality design. Everything is maximalism out there – you're surrounded by art and stunning nature. There is no doubt this influenced to what we were drawn to in later life. We also had aunties who set up business and worked together, so we had that seed planted from a young age.

Marianna: I've always loved unique, beautifully made jewellery and we saw a gap in the market when we were both getting married – it was either very expensive or very cheap. I had a growing collection of vintage pieces and Francesca had a background in buying. After having children, we were both ready to create something on our own terms.

How do you balance working together with maintaining your relationship?

Francesca: It's all one big pot! That's a lifestyle business for you. We're sisters, friends and business partners, and we know each other well enough to know when to give space or when to talk things through. I always felt like we couldn't ever fall out before we had the business because we are sisters, there is no choice but to be sisters. It still feels that way now.

Marianna: Work and personal life naturally merge for us and it works. Family lunches often turn into work conversations, even Christmas days are captured by Cesca for socials and we discuss work at lunch with the family – it's all a big family affair.

From models to royalty, your jewellery has been worn by some high-profile names –

how does that make you feel?

Francesca: When Jessie J wore a pair of our earrings to perform I got SO excited, I couldn't believe someone famous was wearing Soru. It was kind of surreal, to be honest, it still is.

Marianna: I remember very early on when we saw Goldie Hawn wearing one of our rings, that was a great feeling as an 80s child, she was quite major. Obviously, Catherine, Princess of Wales, was the one we got most excited about, but honestly, I get most joy from seeing people in the wild wearing Soru.

What's been the most rewarding part of building the brand together?

Francesca: Building it with my sister by my side. Knowing that we share the highs and the lows of business together, that we can talk about them together with our family, as we are all involved, is very rewarding. It's not separate from our lives, it's part of it.

Are there particular career highlights you're especially proud of?

Francesca: Running our social media has been incredibly rewarding. I've connected directly with our customers daily for over a decade, and hearing their stories – how we play a part in their special days, such as weddings and birthdays – is priceless.

Marianna: Royalty wearing your jewellery is definitely a highlight, and so is being on the front cover of *Vogue*. Also, going to see our collections in stores like Harvey Nichols and Fenwick for the first time was really exciting.

Who have been the biggest inspirations in your career?

Francesca: My daughter. I want to lead by example and show her that following your heart is always worth it.

Marianna: I think taking in everything around you every day – absorbing it all from books you read, to the people you meet and the places you travel to. All of these little bits of inspiration come together and shape the kind of product you create and the brand that you build.

Anything coming up for 2026?

We're continuing to collaborate with influencers on designs, which is always something we love – we have a few exciting ones coming up soon. ■

'I'M DRAWN TO
PIECES THAT
ARE ONE OF
A KIND, FROM
HOMEWARE
TO VINTAGE
JEWELLERY'



Bedding set, from £140, Piglet in Bed



Plant pot, £14.99, Ivyline

THE NEW NAUTICS

Bring the right stripes into your home this season, whether in matching tones or mis-matched shades, for a high-end Hamptons feel

Words LAUREN RAMSAY



Parasol, £280, Graham & Green



Print, £6.95, Desenio



Parasol, £395, Staycation Vintage Parasols

Bean bag, £50, Icon Milano



King-size bed frame,
£999, Rug, from £22,
Table lamps, from £119,
all Furniture Village

Lamp, £69.99,
Pacific Lifestyle
by House of
Isabella

Napkins (set of 4), £14,
ProCook

Cushion, £125,
Colours of Arley

Stripes have always had a place in homeware's visual language, but they've sailed back into style with a fresh edge this summer, bringing a light, coastal energy into your home – even if you're miles from the beach. Though technically a pattern, they act almost like a neutral, pairing effortlessly with different colours and styles.

Whether you lean towards soft, muted tones or bolder, candy-coloured hues, stripes have a way of adding interest

to a space without feeling overdone.

For something whimsical yet classic, opt for rustic designs like a blue and white parasol from Graham & Green. For a pop of vibrancy, H&M has got a brilliant selection of affordable, vivid cushions this season, or try mixing and matching different shades on bedding.

For something more subtle, smaller accents like napkins, plant pots or playful wall art will add just the right amount of intricacy to kitchens and dining spaces.

Cushion,
£12.99, H&M

Chair,
£129.99,
Laura James

Sofa, £3,395, Arlo & Jacob

Spa special

ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY

*From opulence in Istanbul, to a sun-dappled former
Mallorcan manor, here's how to inject your summer escape
with the perfect dose of rest and relaxation*

The tranquil spa
with heated
saltwater pool
is the ultimate in
zen time



**GRAND HOTEL SON NET
MALLORCA**

The terracotta-toned estate sits glowing in the Spanish sunshine, nestled in the foothills of the UNESCO World Heritage Tramuntana mountains. Dating back to the 17th century, this former manor – now transformed into a luxury hotel – is the ultimate expression of refined indulgence.

Inside, the design language is unapologetically maximalist. Pillows are perfectly plumped, fabrics layered with intention and a rich tapestry of colour and texture unfolds from room to room. Curtains, cushions and wallpapers share matching motifs. Antique artworks line the walls, each piece a quiet reminder of the building’s past lives. There is a palpable sense of history – staying here feels less like a visit and more like stepping into a living piece of history.

It’s difficult to pinpoint a single piece de resistance, but the newly added spa is a strong contender. A day spent moving between the sauna and ice bath is an experience not to be missed, followed by a dip in the heated saltwater pool. Lit only by natural light filtering through small skylights, the space feels like a tranquil cocoon. Moroccan-style

red tiles and sweeping arches envelop you, enhancing the immersive atmosphere. It is, quite simply, one of the most relaxing spaces imaginable – and one that will linger in your mind long after you leave.

Treatments here are equally considered. A Balinese massage and bespoke facial, both using Seed to Skin products, deliver deeply nourishing, results-driven care. The emphasis is on restoration, leaving skin luminous and the body completely undone in the best possible way.

Culinarily, the hotel positions itself as a destination in its own right. At Mar & Duix, Mallorcan cuisine is given centre stage, elevated through a commitment to locality and seasonality. Much of the produce is sourced directly from the hotel’s own vegetable garden, with homemade elements woven throughout the menu to enhance depth and flavour. This ‘0 km’ philosophy extends even to breakfast, where pastries are baked fresh each morning – an offering that feels both indulgent and quietly exceptional.

Service remains impeccable, with attentive staff anticipating every need while preserving an atmosphere of privacy, discretion and effortless sophistication.

Rooms from £443, sonnet.es

Top tip

Gaze at the mountains from your sunbed and consider taking on a local hike or cycling trail. Robes and slippers are not permitted by the pool. It’s essential to bring a stylish, easy-to-wear cover-up and slip-on footwear so you can move effortlessly while still looking chic



Dress, £330, Alémais, Bikini top, £120, Bottoms, £120, both Faithfull, Perfume, £62, Maison Margiela, Mules, £60, Asos

PENNYHILL PARK

SURREY, UK

Just an hour outside of London, somewhere between 'I need a break' and 'I might never return' lies Pennyhill Park – a sprawling labyrinth of a spa that feels like a pat on the back for surviving city life. Tucked into a blissfully quiet pocket of the Surrey countryside, this 124-room hotel makes it alarmingly easy to forget all about deadlines and emails. One minute you're reclining in an outdoor jacuzzi listening to nature's playlist (birdsong) and the next you're navigating a maze of treatment rooms – from the ice-coated Igloo room (bracing, to say the least) to the Salt Room (good for the lungs).

For those who tend to like their relaxation with a side of innovation, the standout treatment is rooted in Contrast Therapy. The Hot and Cold Wellbeing experience is a 55-minute hot-and-cold ritual involving cooling cryospheres, gently prickly acupressure balls (more tickly than sharp) and warming massage techniques. The result? Boosted circulation, revived muscles and a face that looks like it's had a very good night's sleep (even if you didn't).

The food and drink doesn't disappoint either. The bar pours English sparkling by the glass, while restaurant Hillfield leans into hearty British comfort food with a refined twist (don't skip the Marmite crumpets). And then there's Latymer, the on-site Michelin-starred restaurant where the tasting menu and accompanying wine pairing turn dinner into a full-blown occasion.

Pennyhill Park is the kind of place you go to 'switch off' and accidentally end up recalibrating your entire mood. Close enough to London to be convenient, but far enough away to feel like a proper escape, and if you play your cards right, you'll leave feeling like a slightly more serene version of yourself.

Rooms from £324, exclusive.co.uk/pennyhill-park



From indoor and outdoor pools to hot tubs, saunas and steam rooms, there are myriad aqua options at Pennyhill Park.

Jacket, £36, Tu,
Trousers, £249,
Sleeper, Bag,
£230, Longchamp,
Perfume, £145,
Maison Francis
Kurdjian



Whether in the historic building or set amongst the lush gardens, rooms and suites at Lou Calen are imbued with personality

LOU CALEN

PROVENCE, FRANCE

If you're feeling as though your everyday life could do with a sprinkling of chic, book an escape at Lou Calen, a historic hotel in Cotignac, an idyllic Provençal village in the South of France set amongst vineyard and olive tree-filled hillsides.

It's a destination that combines an air of sophistication, pure rest and relaxation and beautiful surrounds. Days are made for wandering through the winding cobbled streets, flanked by green and blue shuttered buildings dating back hundreds of years, sipping lattes in the charming fountain-filled square and perusing the local market.

Then add a smattering of a Kate Moss vibe, as the hotel has an illustrious rock'n'roll past. Musicians such as David Bowie, glamourpuss Brigitte Bardot and famed French crooner Joe Dassin, have all passed through its doors, due to the iconic Miraval recording studios nearby.

Soak up the creative spirit of this eco-luxury resort with a stay in one of its 36 bedrooms, either in the historic hotel itself, which borders the main square of the village, or the 'mico hamlet', surrounded by olive and lavender-scented gardens. After an apertif at in-house pastis bar O'Fadoli, dine at Le Bistrot for delicious dry-aged pork and steak cured on-site, or indulge in the weekly lobster menu at the Michelin Green Starred restaurant Jardin Secret.

While Lou Calen doesn't have a traditional spa, wellness is at its heart, from sunrise yoga to al fresco massages and guided meditations in the garden.

Find your inner artist at a watercolour workshop or tap into your jet-setting side with a trip to St Tropez. A huge limestone cliff towers above the village, perfect for an afternoon hike, and don't leave without sampling local vin rose at Maison Mirabeau to further sink into quintessential French conviviality.

Rooms from £175, loucalen.com



Sunglasses, £120, Guess, Bag, £625, Stone & Mason, Shirt, £285, Rebecca Vallance, Foundation Stick, £36, Jones Road





The hotel was built with repurposed wood from the surrounding area and produce comes from its 20-acre gardens



Dress, £155, Sister Jane, Headscarf, £40, Faithfull, Ultimate Light Cream, £85, Votary, Sunscreen Stick SPF50+, £20.90, Rituals

MY ARBOR
THE DOLOMITES, ITALY

As much as the Dolomites are a must for skiing, they are also the perfect place to truly unwind and immerse yourself in nature, surrounded by some of the most breathtaking mountain scenery in Europe. No hotel captures the essence of a luxury alpine retreat quite like My Arbor.

Perched spectacularly among the treetops in South Tyrol, this upscale hideaway feels elevated, cosy and relaxing, with careful consideration given to every little detail.

The hotel's wellness offering is truly exceptional, with a comprehensive spa spanning dry and wet saunas, serene relaxation spaces, a fully-equipped gym with views of the mountains and both indoor and outdoor pools. The standout is the outdoor jacuzzi, where you can soak beneath open

skies while gazing across the dramatic mountain landscape. A treatment from the spa is a highlight, inspired by nature and designed to restore balance, inner calm and a connection to nature, while movement and mindfulness activities such as yoga, forest bathing and guided hikes are woven into the stay.

The bedrooms are equally restorative, each with sweeping alpine views, heated floors and a cosy window-side nook perfectly designed for slow mornings or post-ski unwinding.

For wining and dining, the hotel offers a five-star half-board concept with complete flexibility, offering beautifully crafted dishes with the option to order as many or as little as required.

A true slice of heaven in north-eastern Italy.
Rooms from £221 per person on a half-board basis, my-arbor.com

ALIÉE ISTANBUL TURKEY

Istanbul is by far one of the most captivating cities in the world. Rich in history, culture, cuisine and architecture, it's a destination that will overflow your cup and leave you wanting to experience more. While the hustle and bustle of the Grand Bazaar is something that has to be seen to be believed, following a day of visual overstimulation, ending the day at one of the city's most luxurious and artfully designed hotels is what can only be described as literal euphoria. Let's not forget to mention that a private boat service is on hand to transport you across the passage, the first of many added touches that will make you feel like royalty during your stay.

Located along the historic Golden Horn in the Beyoglu district, Aliée Istanbul feels like staying with a very wealthy, very well-dressed, kind and caring cool aunt, because what other hotel do you know of that has its own built-in florist to ensure fresh blooms all year round? Indulge your tastebuds and dine around indoor olive trees or out in the garden around the pool,

looking out to the old city before heading to the whimsically curated Pink Bar for a nightcap. Filled to the brim with eclectic furniture, cosy nooks perfect for reading, sipping wine, or both, Aliée Istanbul is a hug in a hotel.

Along with everything else on offer, it's Aliée's in-house hybrid wellness concept, Well+, that puts the destination on the retreat map. Ever wanted to maximise your time on earth and live longer? Well+ specialises in curated biohacking therapies, all designed to 'hack' your age, trigger natural defence mechanisms and prompt regeneration at the cellular level. IV treatments, cold thermogenesis, infrared rejuvenation and vibroacoustic and oxygen therapy are just a few of the trailblazing treatments on offer. Spanning across three levels, it's far from your regular spa experience, also offering an expansive indoor swimming pool, Turkish hammam, infrared, Finnish and Russian sauna rooms and state-of-the-art fitness facilities.

Rooms from £689 B&B,
alieeistanbul.com



Top tip
Head to the Little House bar and sip on drinks created by cocktail connoisseur David Rios



Cover-up, £830, Fendi, Silk square, £350, Dior, Top, £115, Maksu, Sunglasses, £79, Poppy Lissiman





Well+ spa and longevity clinic specialises in bespoke health programs designed to improve your life quality

Sea-view suites are just steps away from Sardinia's famed crystal-clear water and come with panoramic ocean views

7PINES RESORT

SARDINIA

Set along the crystalline coastline of Baja Sardinia, 7Pines Resort Sardinia is an ideal retreat for travellers in search of calm, considered luxury. Set on a 15-hectare private promontory, overlooking the La Maddalena archipelago, it feels worlds away from the high-energy pace of nearby Porto Cervo.

Days begin gently here. Think rejuvenating morning swims in one of the resort's sleek outdoor pools, or a quiet moment by the sea on the private beach, where turquoise waters meet soft granite shores. The atmosphere is relaxed yet polished, with every corner offering a picture-perfect backdrop.

For deeper relaxation, the Pure Seven Spa is a true highlight. A sanctuary of calm, where tailored treatments and holistic therapies are on hand to invite a full reset.

Dining plays a central role in the retreat experience. The Michelin-starred Capogiro restaurant, led by executive chef Pasquale D'Ambrosio, brings a refined, contemporary approach to Sardinian cuisine, with seasonal ingredients and artfully presented dishes that elevate each evening. At 7Pines Sardinia, retreat living is redefined – not through excess, but through simplicity, authenticity and a sense of complete escape.

Rooms from £347, 7pines-sardinia.com



Swimsuit, £162,
Jets, Pyjama set,
£55, Chelsea
Peers, Body
Glaze, £62,
Joonbyrd,
Sandals, £165,
Inuikii

Top tip

Book a Laguna room for access to its secluded adults-only pool surrounded by verdant gardens



The hotel's decor mixes contemporary furniture, modern art and beautiful antiques

THE GROVE

HERTFORDSHIRE, UK

Just a short drive from London yet worlds away from the city's pace, The Grove in Hertfordshire offers a restorative countryside escape that blends five-star luxury with relaxed, contemporary charm. Set within 300 acres of rolling parkland, once owned by the Earls of Clarendon, the estate feels like an indulgent breath of fresh air from the moment you arrive.

The true highlight of any stay is a visit to the award-winning Sequoia spa. The hotel's signature massage, a deeply relaxing full-body treatment designed to ease tension and restore balance, leaves muscles softened and the mind clear. Afterwards, you can continue the sense of calm in the spa's serene relaxation spaces or take a dip in the tranquil pool.

Come evening, dinner at The Glasshouse provides a culinary experience to match the surroundings. The hotel's elegant buffet-style restaurant showcases an impressive array of globally-inspired dishes prepared at live cooking stations, allowing guests to sample everything from vibrant Asian flavours to classic European favourites. The atmosphere is lively yet refined – ideal for a relaxed evening after a day spent unwinding at the spa.

With its sweeping grounds, exceptional wellness offering and effortless proximity to London, The Grove is the perfect destination for anyone craving a luxurious countryside reset.

Rooms from £485, thegrove.co.uk



Jacket, £35, George, Bag, £325, Stone & Mason, Skirt, £120, American Vintage, Watch, £315, Herbelin

BVLGARI HOTEL

PARIS

Amid one of the most luxurious streets in the heart of Paris, Avenue George V in Paris's Golden Triangle, lies Bvlgari's Paris hotel. Tranquil from the moment you set foot through the door, service is top tier from the first welcome and lasts throughout your stay where Italian glamour meets luxurious French hospitality at its best.

Amid the walls, how could you not expect ultra-chic decor from wall to ceiling within one of the world's most fashionable hotel chains? Bvlgari Paris takes it to another level with refined materials, impeccable craftsmanship and design that feels curated rather than ostentatious – although the intricate serpenti art and motifs throughout the decor and upholstery don't go amiss.

When searching for a luxurious spa trip, this wellness city-hidden sanctuary ticks every box (and probably adds a few more boxes onto the list, making any spa visit after this one impossible to live up to).

The intimate luxury of the property trickles down to the floors of the spa, which is infused with Italian elegance. Spanning across two levels, it's one of the largest and most thoughtfully designed city spas globally with a serene, restful

atmosphere that clearly took a leaf out of the traditional Roman bath design rather than a standard hotel spa.

Taking centre stage is the mesmerising mosaic-lined pool edged with soft lighting, where guests can sit back and relax poolside whilst indulging in a signature Bvlgari health juice and freshly-baked banana bread delivered to your lounge.

Beyond the pool, enjoy sauna, steam rooms and hammam as well as multiple private and relaxing treatment rooms where bespoke massage is top of the menu as well as all the signature treatments we know and love, which can be curated to meet your individual needs. (Top tip: opt for the Bellefontaine bespoke treatment for a full-body massage tailored in detail to your skin's needs, body concerns and mood.)

Once you've melted down into the spa luxuries you'll find it impossible to leave, providing the ultimate escape from the hustle and bustle of Paris. But the benefit is that guests can also order 'lounger service' from Bvlgari's renowned bar and restaurant only a few floors up, so really there's never a need to leave this oasis.

Rooms from £1,403 B&B, bulgarihotels.com



Pillowcase, £79, Drowsy, Sunglasses, £120, Guess, Mascara, £42, Chanel, Dress, £170, French Connection





Take in the views of the city's atmospheric boulevards from the rooftop of Bvlgari Hotel Paris

Experience
Caribbean bliss
at Wymara's
ocean pool
surrounded by
powder-soft sand



WORDS: TANIA LESIAU, LAUREN RAYNSAY, ORION SCOTT, CLARE PENNINGTON,
MOLLY SAUNDERS, JO BOUNDS, ELIZABETH AMINOFF, OLIVIA DOWER



**WYMARA RESORT & VILLAS
TURKS AND CAICOS**

Nestled alongside alabaster sand-swathed Grace Bay beach that flanks crystal-clear seas, Wymara Resort & Villas is a picture-perfect wellness mecca. The Turks & Caicos retreat is tropical bliss personified, boasting modern rooms and a serene spa that champions sustainable wellness. Indulge in a heavenly massage courtesy of the hotel's magic-handed masseuses and 111SSKIN, which has partnered with the hotel, or opt for the hotel's own on-island skincare brand The Wildflower Skincare Lab. Botanical ingredients sourced from local flora include soothing lavender and zesty citrus – organic, clean and cruelty-free, naturally.

Other treatments include facials, reiki, sound healing and thermotherapy, ensuring every guest departs steeped in tranquillity. For those wanting to re-energise as well as rest, the gym is fully at your disposal, in addition to various fitness classes which take place beside the beach. From kick-boxing to sound baths and aqua yoga, there are ample options to enjoy. Alternatively, pick up a free snorkel and plunge into the glassy-watered ocean – home to turtles, stingray, starfish, angelfish and fellow rainbow-

hued reef dwellers. Channelling your inner mermaid has never been easier.

Hotels are nothing without their staff and the Wymara platoon are effortlessly faultless. Efficient, friendly and always willing to share historical facts about the island and top-tier recommendations (paying a visit to the famed Fish Fry is a must), they truly make the trip.

Which leads onto another highlight – the food. Conjured up by the famous chef Andrew Mirosch, the Kiwi cook's repertoire is second-to-none. Enjoy a bountiful breakfast at Indigo, where fresh fruit, omelettes and the Caribbean's best banana bread are served. Book lunch at the breezy Blue Water Bistro while soaking up the panoramic vistas and head to the peaceful waterfront Land + Sea for date night. Afterwards, a Bambarra rum-infused Conch Cave Colada at the Pink Bar is a must. Island life with a luxury twist.

Considering the hotel is a four hour flight from New York, it makes for the ideal escape for East Coast city dwellers craving some R&R. On the other hand, Wymara promises uninterrupted solace for Europeans seeking a long-haul getaway – where tropical oceans beckon and coconut cocktails await.

Rooms from £580, wymara.com



Pendant, £310, YSSO, Top, £185, Maku, Bag, £550, Emporio Armani, Perfume, £135, Granado

HELLO FASHION



ARIES

March 21 – April 19
Your energy lights up even more with Jupiter in Leo, sparking creative moves and fun risks. Your confidence shows up naturally through real, heartfelt action instead of pushing hard. Your style gets playful and daring, with standout pieces that highlight your fire while welcoming others in.



TAURUS

April 20 – May 20
Things feel warmer and more open at home as Jupiter brings generous energy to your roots and personal space, making room for heartfelt nurturing and family growth. Your clothes ease into rich, dramatic textures that carry a regal vibe but still feel welcoming and inclusive.



GEMINI

May 21 – June 20
Your mind and words get a big boost from Jupiter, opening up more teaching and magnetic conversations. What you say holds more meaning now. Your wardrobe sharpens up with fun, eclectic combos that show off your innovative side and love for connecting with people.



CANCER

June 21 – July 22
You feel more secure as Jupiter expands your sense of value and resources, while the shift toward Aquarius helps you let go of craving personal pats on the back. Style becomes soft and glowing, with flowing pieces in warm golden tones that quietly share your inner strength.

‘As June moves into July, the stars encourage us to step into our own light while remembering we’re part of something bigger. Jupiter enters Leo around June 30, bringing a surge of creativity, warmth and confidence. This time shapes growth through courageous personal expression that’s balanced with shared purpose’

BY NOURA BOURNI



LEO

July 23 – August 22
Jupiter comes back to your sign, turning up your natural glow, vitality and joy in creating. At the same time, old habits of performing for attention are released, clearing room for leadership that comes straight from the heart. Fashion feels fully you, vibrant and dramatic, alive with colour and motion that expresses who you are.



VIRGO

August 23 – Sept 22
Your inner world gets a gentle expansion as Jupiter opens up healing and creativity in quieter, spiritual spaces. You release self-judgment, inviting you to serve bigger visions without draining yourself. Your clothes flow with soft layers that respect your sensitivity while keeping things simple and progressive.



LIBRA

Sept 23 – October 22
Friendships and future dreams light up with Jupiter pulling in inspiring people and group projects that feel alive. You move past people-pleasing toward real involvement in communities that match your truth. Your style turns into a quiet rebellion with elegant pieces that feel unconventional and spark real conversations.



SCORPIO

October 23 – Nov 21
Your ambitions get a passionate lift as Jupiter highlights career and public life, bringing chances to be seen through work. The axis encourages easing up on dramatic power moves, opening to shared leadership. Clothes gain structure with added warmth, strong shapes that carry depth and quiet confidence.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22 – December 21
Adventure and big-picture thinking expand naturally as Jupiter activates learning, travel and vision in a way that suits you perfectly. Inspiration comes easily and freely. Your wardrobe mirrors that free spirit, with bold patterns and flowing shapes that move with curiosity and a sense of togetherness.



CAPRICORN

December 22 – January 19
Deeper bonds and shared resources grow richer as Jupiter brings expansion to intimacy and transformation. The shift helps release any fear of being vulnerable or staying out of the light. Trust builds on its own. Style mixes strength with softness, structured items in deep, rich colours that feel powerful yet open and inviting.



AQUARIUS

January 20 – February 18
Relationships get a generous boost from Jupiter, drawing in partnerships and creative collaborations that feel wide open. You naturally lead through innovation with others. Fashion feels bold and forward, one of a kind mixes that show settled confidence and a touch of rebellion.



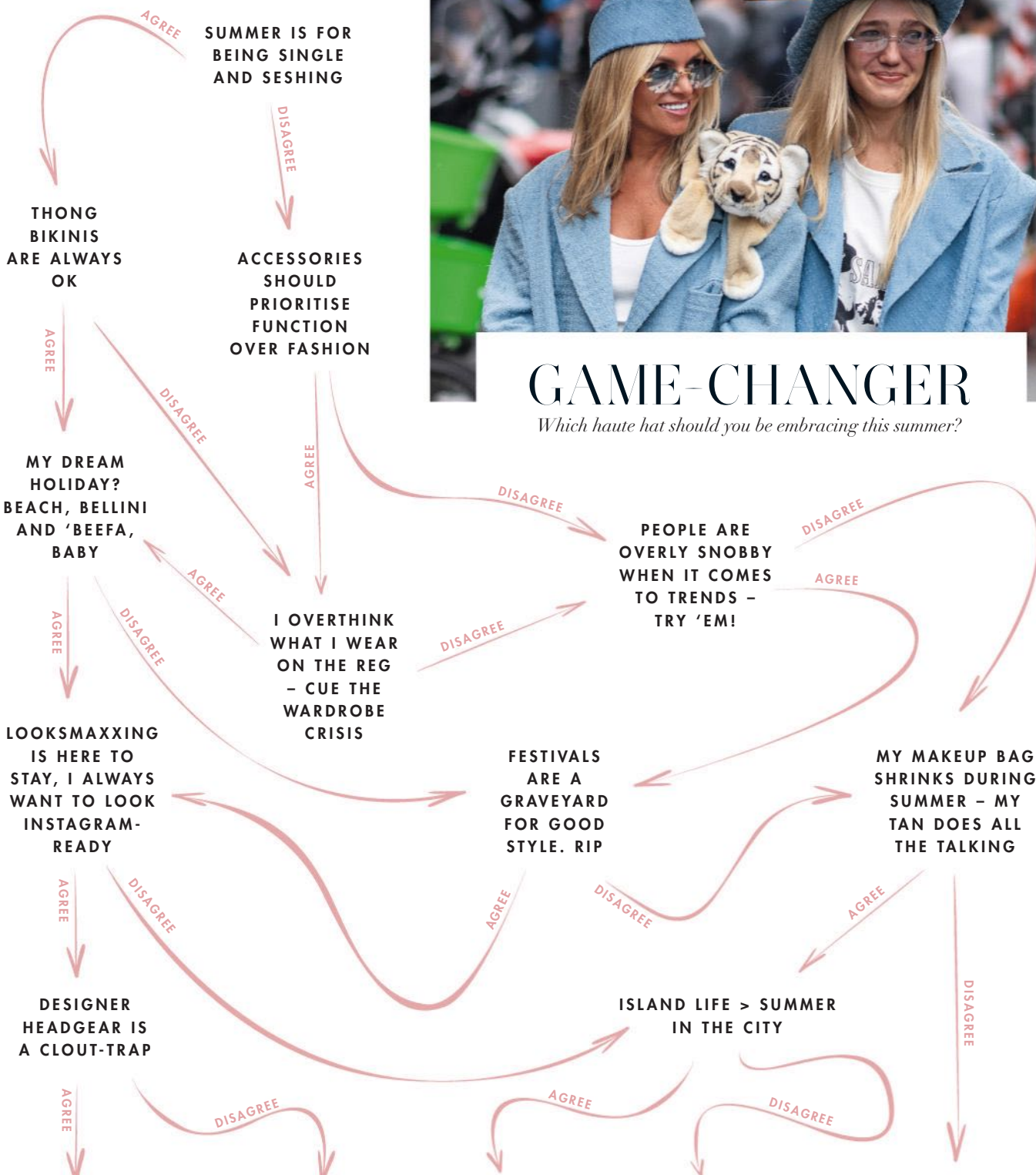
PISCES

February 19 – March 20
Everyday routines fill with more joy as Jupiter infuses work and wellness with creative meaning and you’re nudged toward contributions that respect everyone’s needs. Your clothes blend dreamy comfort with bolder touches, soft layers that reflect inner harmony and care for the world.



GAME-CHANGER

Which haute hat should you be embracing this summer?



CROCHET CAP
Well, hello Ms Life 'n' Soul of the Party. You're ready to live it up anywhere, from a luxe superyacht to your local pub. A modest budget never kills the vibe because, well, you are the vibe. Think crochet, sequins and girly embellishments that ooze summer flair.
£275, Alanui



BUCKET HAT
Oh honey, clout chases you. Summer is your time to shine, with designer pieces that scream party-girl fun. The season where your luxury hat collection is as extensive as your location-themed Instagram highlights.
£90, Michael Kors x Christina Zimpel



BANDANA
Life is just better on the beach. Less drama, more quiet. Recharging is top of your summer agenda, meaning the less you have to think about outfits, the better. **Keep you face in the sun with** a bandana, practical and elegant in equal measure.
£20, Faithfull



VISOR
The hustle and bustle of everyday life doesn't stop in the summer. You've got one foot on the pedal at all times, whether heading into the office to smash those targets or reigning supreme on the tennis court. The city is where it's at for the chicest of summers.
£49, Marc Cain



FLOPPY HAT
Old money aesthetics are your middle name. Or, they would be, if you weren't too busy summering in St Tropez. Being off the radar during the sunny season is true glamour, ideally clad in a Pucci kaftan with a crisp glass of rose in hand.
£26, Asos



My Hidden Gems...

IAN SOMERHALDER

From his native Louisiana to the rugged shores of Big Sur, the actor dishes out his favourite haunts worth sinking your teeth into

It's a rare brief that includes drinking whisky with Ian Somerhalder. But then again, that's showbiz, baby. The beloved actor, who secured global fame as Damon Salvatore in *The Vampire Diaries*, oozes raw magnetism and southern charm – earning a near-mythic place in fans' hearts. Today, he's channelling that all-American allure into his whisky venture, *Brother's Bond*, co-founded with longtime friend and co-star Paul Wesley. Together, the pair are bringing the velveteen fire of their four-grain bourbon to the masses, inviting their largely female following to take a sip – and show the men how it's done. From where to share a dram to west coast escapes, discover Ian's favourite spots below.

Luxury travel destination Amangiri hotel in Utah. The stillness, the light, the scale of the desert... it resets you.

Off the beaten track destination Big Sur, California. It's wild and grounding at the same time.

City break London. Its history, culture, incredible food and drink make it such a dynamic city.

Weekend break destination Nashville is easy to fly to, it's fun and there's always great music and great people. It's the kind of place where moments just happen. Or Vegas.

It's really an incredible place to have unforgettable meals and see live shows. You can always just dive into the spa after a late night out.

Place for clothes shopping I like places that feel curated, local boutiques in Nashville or spots like Abbot Kinney [Boulevard] in Venice/LA. I think it's about finding pieces with character.

Brands to wear John Varvatos, vintage Levi's, Lucchese, Filson, Patagonia, Faherty and RRL. I'm drawn to things that last.

Coffee spot Honestly, anywhere outdoors with a French press. Coffee tastes better when you're in nature, slowing down and being present.

Place to drink whisky Julie's in Holland Park, London. The team created a *Brother's Bond* cocktail called the Rhubarb No 6 – it's a special drink in a very special place.

Date night go-to Somewhere quiet and intentional. Candlelight, great food, no distractions. For me, it's less about the place and more about the connection.

Wellness destination or gym Aman spas. They understand the balance of mind, body and environment. You leave feeling genuinely restored.

Museum or gallery The Broad in Los Angeles. It's modern, accessible and makes you feel something.

Restaurant Julie's in Holland Park, the lobster souffle says it all.

Bar The Fat Badger in Notting Hill. Great energy, live music, you'll usually find me with an Old Fashioned in hand.

Louisiana hotspot New Orleans. The food, the music, the culture. It's home in every sense.

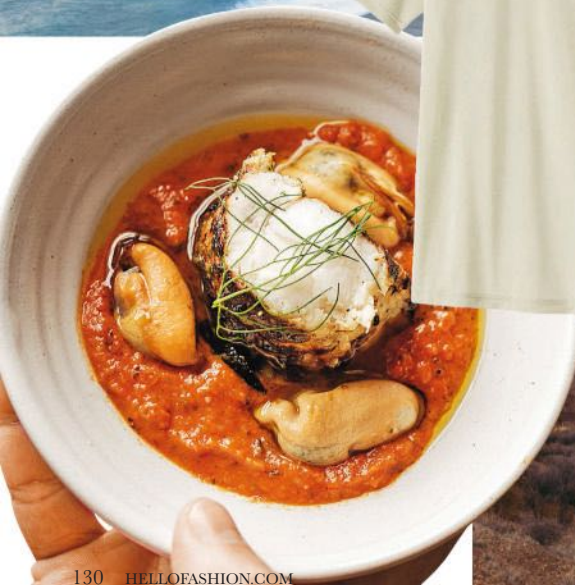
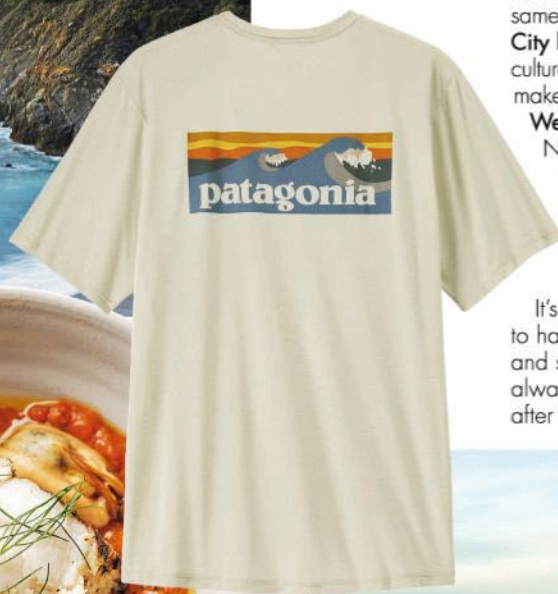
Bucket list destination Patagonia. It's raw, untouched and humbling, the kind of

place that shifts your perspective.

Place that feels most like home At home, on a farm, surrounded by animals, family and friends. That's where everything becomes simple again.

Piece of advice Stay curious. Find your purpose. Stay connected, to people, to the land, to what really matters.

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Ian's whisky brand, *Brother's Bond*; Patagonia is a favourite label; a vast landscape in Utah; he enjoys dining at *The Fat Badger* in London's Notting Hill; the dramatic Big Sur



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