

THE KIT

SOUTH ASIAN EDITION

PASSION PROJECT

Actor Lisa Ray partnered with a Canadian fragrance company to bottle her favourite scent memory—the jasmine gajras that adorn all aspects of life in India

BY EDEN BOILEAU | PHOTOGRAPHY BY KAYLA ROCCA

When Lisa Ray met fragrance entrepreneur Barb Stegemann through a friend five years ago, Ray suggested jasmine as a possible new scent for Stegemann’s company, the 7 Virtues. Both women began searching for a jasmine supplier, to no avail, and the idea was back-burnered. But when a product-licensing agent suggested to Stegemann, coincidentally, a few years later, that she partner with Ray on a fragrance, the two women figured the universe clearly wanted them to collaborate. So together, with an essential-oil supplier that buys jasmine from growers in India for a fair price, they created the spicy, intensely floral Lisa Ray Jasmine of India.

Ray (who splits her time between India and Hong Kong these days) and Stegemann met up in Toronto recently, where we talked with them about social responsibility, subverting beauty ideals and why a whiff of jasmine can change your day.

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TREND REPORT

10 FALL UPDATES

We break down the essential looks of the season

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TRAVEL DIARY

ISLAND TIME

A larger-than-life Bahamas resort that offers stylish shaadis on the beach with all the right touches

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ACCESSORIES REBOOT

The ankle boot gets colourful

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SKINCARE

CLEAN SLATE

Your softest skin ever starts here

page 6





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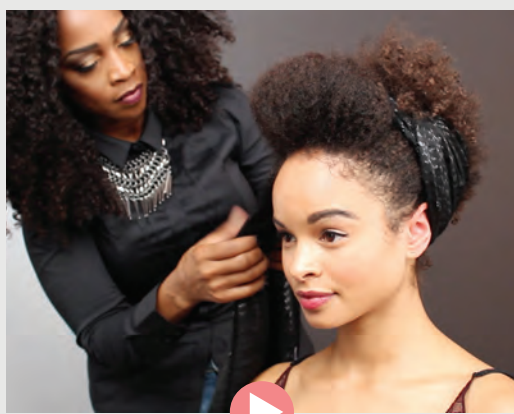
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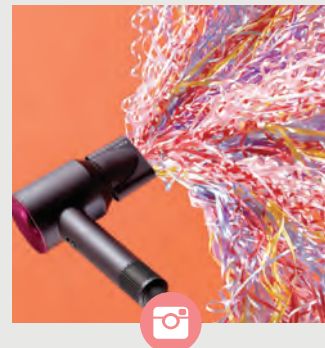
A constantly updated central hub that offers readers the latest beauty, fashion and celebrity news, plus up-to-the-minute shopping ideas.

Our mobile site gives you beauty and fashion inspo on the go.



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IN TORONTO

THE KIT COMPACT

Our pop-up mag is distributed free in Toronto the first week of every month. A little cheeky, a lot smart, *The Kit Compact* is plugged in to fashion, beauty and pop culture in the 6ix. Plus, sign up for our *6ix Index* newsletter for the scoop on cool openings, shopping deals and events.



PHOTOGRAPHY: PETER STIGTER. MAP BY LEEANDRA CIANCI

in your paper



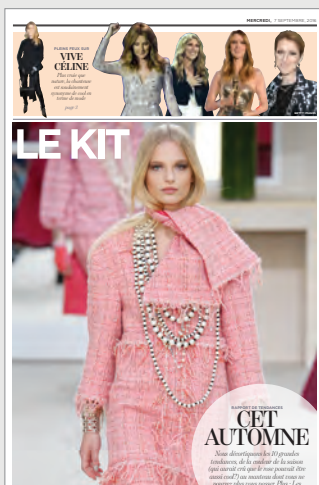
THE KIT

This weekly beauty and style must-read is in select copies of *The Toronto Star*, *The Vancouver Sun*, *Edmonton Journal*, *Calgary Herald*, *Ottawa Citizen* and *Montreal Gazette*.



THE KIT SOUTH ASIA

New this fall: *The Kit South Asian Edition*, a guide to beauty and fashion trends from a South Asian perspective. It's distributed in Toronto and Vancouver through *The Weekly Voice*.



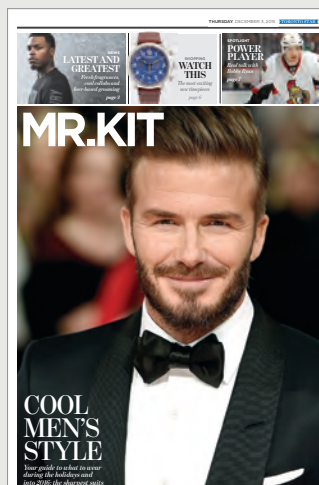
LE KIT

Le Kit (*The Kit's* French-language publication) appears monthly in Montreal in *Métro* newspapers. It offers a French-focused look at beauty and style tips and talking points.



THE KIT CHINESE

The Kit Chinese: the best of fashion and beauty, curated for a Chinese audience. Find it through home delivery, public-place copies and direct hand delivery in Toronto and Vancouver.



MR. KIT

Mr. Kit, *The Kit* for Men, is dedicated to the guys in our lives and the women who love them. This section is distributed twice a year in the same regions as *The Kit* (English).

MOST WANTED

Juicy fruit

The freshest way to pep up your Monday: a mask that's like a multivitamin for your skin

Vitamins help recharge a work-weary body, and the same goes for tired, dull skin—at least that's the theory Lev Glazman, the co-founder of Fresh, is banking on. A big believer in vitamin injections to help combat fatigue, Glazman is also a long-time client of New-York-based celebrity nutritionist Oz Garcia. "Garcia creates concoctions based on my blood tests and what I was missing. I feel incredible!" enthuses Glazman. "I started to think, 'If I can take care of my insides this way, can I create a blend of supplements and nutrients that will be good for the skin?'"

Four years in the making, the brand's latest mask—a highly concentrated medley of crushed oranges, lemons and clementines—attempts to answer Glazman's question in the affirmative. The jammy, food-grade paste provides a double dose of gentle exfoliation: The fruits' natural alpha-hydroxy acids dissolve dead cells, while the ground rinds slough skin smooth. Plus, the fruit salad of minerals and vitamins C, E and B₅ tone, soften and brighten skin. Basically, it's the best thing to happen to mornings since orange juice.

—*Natasha Bruno. Photography by Paul Weeks*

FRESH VITAMIN NECTAR VIBRANCY-BOOSTING FACE MASK, \$72, SEPHORA.CA



INSTA INSPIRATIONS FASHION FEED

Our global style highlights



@ALIXEESHANTHEATERSTUDIO

Pakistan
Prints are all ablaze in Ali Xeeshan Theater Studio's latest seasonal collection.



@LOVISARONGS

Sri Lanka
Sarongs take a dramatic and romantic turn for Lovi, a Ceylon-based label.



@ASHISH_UK

U.K.
Queen Bey simply sparkled in this gold sequined trench coat designed by Ashish.



@FARAZMANAN

Pakistan
Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan met up with pal and Pakistani designer Faraz Manan in Mumbai.



@KOCABYRN

Sri Lanka
The design team behind Koca by RN upped their style quotient at the Trunk Sri Lanka show in Colombo.



@DEEPIKAPADUKONE

New York
Bollywood beauty Deepika Padukone graced the cover of *Paper* magazine continuing her multinational domination.

—*Hina P. Ansari*



DRIES VAN NOTEN

NINE WEST SHOES, \$220, NINEWEST.CA



RALPH LAUREN

NEWBARK SHOES, PRICE UPON REQUEST, NEWBARK.COM



3.1 PHILLIP LIM

CALL IT SPRING SHOES, \$70, CALLITSPRING.COM

THREE MAKES A TREND AMPED-UP ANKLE BOOTS

The look
This fall, leave behind the all-black bootie and embrace a bolder staple with a taller silhouette and tons of texture.

On the runway
Royal velvet and sculptural heels at Dries Van Noten; rich, chocolatey croc at Ralph Lauren; pointed toes in vibrant, autumnal tones at 3.1 Phillip Lim.

How to wear it
Let these loud boots speak for themselves by sticking to a palette of neutrals. Pair them with a shirt-dress or with cropped denim and a duster coat.

—*Emily Skublics*



Agate necklace
This statement-making necklace is made from volcanic rock and hand-crafted by artisans in Kashmir.

NECKLACE, \$325

Embroidered wool shawl
This cozy, floral shawl is created in Kashmir from hand-dyed Merino wool.

SHAWL, \$325

Jini hand-embroidered clutch
This colourful beaded clutch is handmade by a women's collective in the Punjab region, and draws inspiration from traditional Indian Anarkali dresses.

CLUTCH, \$130

GIFTS EASTERN PROMISES

The Aga Khan Museum in Toronto has unique Diwali gifts that inspire

This Diwali season, give the gift of timeless style, centuries of tradition and fine craftsmanship by picking up some of the unique pieces from the Aga Khan Museum collection. The Toronto-based museum is a window to exploring the rich artistic and cultural heritage of the East. Here are our fave stylish gifts for Diwali, handcrafted in South East Asia.

—*Olga Pavlova*

SPOTLIGHT SONAM KAPOOR IS SET TO TAKE OVER

First there was Priyanka. Then Deepika. Now it's Sonam's turn

BY HINA P. ANSARI

Sonam Kapoor's North American conquest kicked into high gear recently when she inked a deal with Hollywood entertainment powerhouse the United Talent Agency to represent her globally. This fresh deal makes business sense for Kapoor as she comes off her latest string of Bollywood box office hits, reigns over the social media space with more than 30 million followers, and is the first Bollywood star to launch an app. Oh, did we mention she's also creating her first fashion label with her sister, stylist Rhea Kapoor, while continuing to be the face for brands from L'Oréal Paris to Colgate and Snickers? Kapoor is ready for West. The question is: Is the West ready for her? We think so.



Clockwise from top: Sonam Kapoor on the runway at Pernia Qureshi in June; at the music launch of the upcoming Hindi film *Mirzya*; at the season two trailer launch of *Indian 24*.

TREND REPORT

10 easy ways to update your fall style

We clocked every runway show of the season to bring you the top fashion and beauty trends you need to know about

1

FUR JUST GOT FUNKY

SEEN AT: CHRISTOPHER KANE, MONCLER GAMME ROUGE, PRABAL GURUNG, MARY KATRANTZOU, DEREK LAM

The fur coat is expected to make a return to the runway every fall season, but this year, the addition of psychedelic starburst prints, painterly windowpane patterns and pastel ombré effects elevated its status from winter staple to statement piece.



CHRISTOPHER KANE

BLUMARINE

ANYA HINDMARCH

VERSACE

2

CHOKERS ARE HUGE. LITERALLY.

SEEN AT: DRIES VAN NOTEN, FENDI, MSGM, LOEWE, BALMAIN

One way to grow up the choker trend worn by Kendall Jenner and seemingly every other millennial? Super-size it. The structure pairs perfectly with tailored tops.



BALMAIN

RODARTE

LANVIN

3

THERE'S NO NEED TO STRAIGHTEN YOUR CURLS

SEEN AT: CHANEL, BURBERRY, DEREK LAM

Gone are the days when models' hair had to be straightened, waved or styled into submission before getting close to a runway. Standout curly-haired stars like Alanna Arrington (right), Imaan Hammam and Frederikke Sofie bounced along major runways with their natural texture flying free. At Altuzarra, hairstylist Odile Gilbert was applying Kerastase L'Incredibly Blowdry Lotion to damp hair for crunch-free moisture and drying the hair with a diffuser and her fingers to create movement, working with each individual's texture. "We really want it to have a natural feeling," she said. "Middle part, side part, curly hair, short hair, long hair: Nobody looks the same, which is a reality in life."



ZAC POSEN

PRABAL GURUNG

ALTUZARRA

ERDEM

4

BARRETTES CAN GO ANYWHERE

SEEN AT: DOLCE & GABBANA, SONIA RYKIEL, RODARTE

If there's a quicker way to take a simple hairstyle from desk to dance floor than by throwing on a jewelled barrette, we've yet to see it. This season, hair accessories hit a new high, with mismatched vintage clips scattered along roughed-up hairlines, simple long barrettes clinging onto messy buns and jewelled pins clashing with equally ornate earrings. We say pile 'em on.



BOTTEGA VENETA

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

5

GLOSS ISN'T JUST FOR YOUR LIPS

SEEN AT: PROENZA SCHOULER, NINA RICCI, LACOSTE, BURBERRY

Patent finishes were a notable refresh on the standard transitional jacket this season. To pull it off, keep your supporting pieces neutral (think a camel shift dress and knee-high boots) or go bold in head-to-toe juicy colour. Leather weather just got a whole lot more interesting!



ISABEL MARANT

EACH X OTHER

LACOSTE

6

THE LITTLE BLACK DRESS IS GOING BEYOND BASIC

SEEN AT: MARC JACOBS, LANVIN, ROBERTO CAVALLI, VALENTINO, ALEXANDER MCQUEEN

An enchanted, decidedly romantic mood infused the entire season, producing our favourite black-tie upgrade. Step up your LBD by opting for delicate details, including super-sexy lace and modern silky overlays. It will add just the right touch of darkness to your evening look.



VALENTINO

LANVIN

RODARTE

RODARTE

LANVIN

7

SMOKY EYES JUST GOT A LOT SOFTER

SEEN AT: ALEXANDER MCQUEEN, ROBERTO CAVALLI, CAROLINA HERRERA

A hazy wash of charcoal or chocolate across the eyelid was a firm favourite this season; lighter than a typical smoky eye but with more presence than a neutral base shadow. There are lots of variations to try: softly winged out (like at Givenchy), topped with gloss (seen at Alexander Wang) or smudged out from the waterline like at Alberta Ferretti. There, makeup artist Diane Kendal applied M.A.C Kohl Power Eye Pencil in Feline along upper and lower lashes, added black cream liner and Shine Mixing Medium, then diffused the mixture outward for a translucent but dramatic effect.



ALBERTA FERRETTI

GIORGIO ARMANI

PUBLIC SCHOOL

8

NAIL COLOUR DOESN'T HAVE TO BE PRETTY

SEEN AT: PROENZA SCHOULER, NARCISO RODRIGUEZ, SUNO

There's always a place for a power red, but this season the cool woman would do well to go for a murky, androgynous manicure the colour of mud, sand or mushroom. Try Jin Soon's Dulcet, an offbeat camel polish the manicurist used to complement the masculine shapes and rich fall tones at Karen Walker.



KAREN WALKER

SUNO

9

PINK IS THE NEW POWER COLOUR

SEEN AT: KENZO, CHANEL, GUCCI, ALEXANDER WANG, PORTS 1961

Sure, there is comfort in an all-black uniform, but designers are giving us good reason to switch to pink. Hear us out: The many shades of bubble gum, carnation and cotton candy read as unapologetically feminine and proved flattering on every skin tone on the runway. A nubby knit in sweet peach or an amaranth-hued boardroom-ready blazer paired with simple slacks says, "I am woman, hear me roar."



COURRÈGES

GUCCI

10

(ALMOST) BLACK LIPSTICK CAN BE EXTREMELY ELEGANT

SEEN AT: BOTTEGA VENETA, MARNI, LOUIS VUITTON, MAX MARA

Deep burgundy lipstick is a fall staple, but even deeper blackberry hit full stride this season, looking elegant, strong, even sporty. At Dior, a blackened plum lip topped with a slick of gloss was a strong focal point on a minimally made-up face, and at Rodarte the extra-dark matte lip (a blend of Nars Velvet Matte Lip Pencil in Train Bleu and Audacious Lipstick in Liv) was counterbalanced by subtly darkened eyebrows. Keep the rest of the face fresh and don't pair it with a black-rimmed eye—unless you want to look like the gothic wraiths at Marc Jacobs.

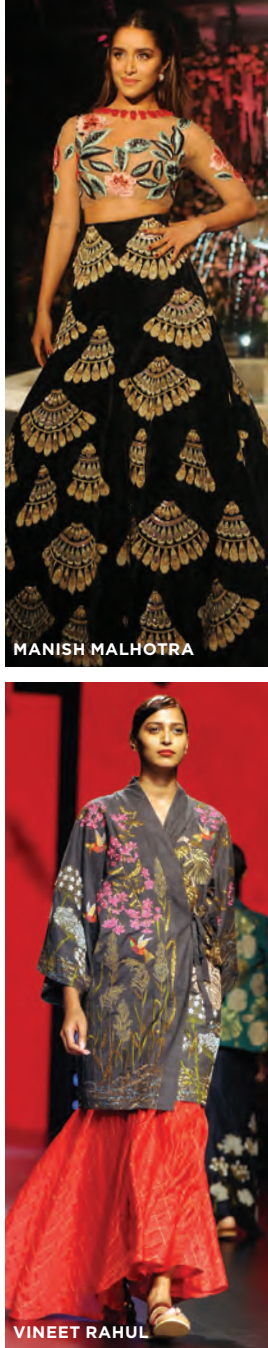


MAX MARA

RODARTE

DIOR

LAKME FASHION WEEK
The runways of Mumbai lit up for the 2016 Winter/Festive season. Here are the highlights from the South Asian style set



MANISH MALHOTRA

VINEET RAHUL



SHANTANU & NIKHIL



KASHA

TEST DRIVE

TAKING A SHOT

A lifelong fashion lover, Nyka Alexander headed to Milan fashion week to snap street style. Here's what she learned

Lesson 1: Outside the Marni show, it was impossible to miss Eva Chen, Instagram's head of fashion partnerships. Equally clear? This street-style star is really nice.

Lesson 2: Serious photographers gear up seriously. Without a puffer or slicker on, I was clearly the only one dabbling in this pursuit.

Lesson 3: Even boldface names pose with regular folk! This fan had a selfie moment with famed fashion journalist Anna Dello Russo.

Lesson 4: Shoes are an important topic of conversation. Model and style star Candela Novembre carefully discussed her footwear choices.

Lesson 5: Streetside regulars know they will be photographed from all angles. While I awkwardly stationed myself behind, pro Tamu McPherson crouched in front to get her shot.

Lesson 6: Mixing patterns makes for a compelling street-style shot! Maybe I'm getting the hang of this?

Lesson 7: Be humble. Your best shot may turn out completely out of focus. Also, this was super posed. She stared studiously at her phone until the camera clicking finished.

BEAUTY INSIDERS

Passion project

Continued from cover

Why did you want to make a jasmine fragrance?

Ray: “Jasmine is the unofficial flower of India—it is threaded into your everyday life there. It’s used to adorn temples. In south India, women thread fresh jasmine flowers into their hair every single day. And in Bombay, when you’re caught in one of those death-by-traffic jams, where you’re literally sitting there not moving for three and a half hours, there are often women selling gajras — jasmine flowers on a thread. The women are weaving in and out of cars in the middle of the stink and the chaos and the sound, selling these little pristine pops of purity. Everyone is frustrated, grumbling or on their devices, and all of a sudden, you catch this whiff of jasmine. It just brings you back to your senses. I buy gajras all the time and keep them in my bag.”

What other notes did you include?

Ray: “The top notes are orange and bergamot. But then we’ve got lovely frankincense, myrrh, those really alluring, exotic, but still timeless, scents.” Stegemann: “I think of India and I think of spices like cardamom and ginger, and then fruit, the orange blossom. And of course the jasmine, the sacred flower, that Lisa wore to her wedding.”

Lisa, you’ve lived in India off and on but you grew up in Toronto. How did that shape your identity?

Ray: “As a kid growing up in Toronto of mixed heritage, half Indian, half Polish,



Actor Lisa Ray (left) and entrepreneur Barb Stegemann were at Hudson’s Bay in Toronto recently to talk about their new fragrance. Photography by Kayla Rocca. PICADILLY X DAVID DIXON TOP (ON RAY), \$119, PICADILLY.COM FOR STORES



THE 7 VIRTUES LISA RAY JASMINE OF INDIA, \$70 (50 ML), HUDSON’S BAY.

a lot of the questions I used to get in the ’70s were, ‘What are you?’ and ‘Where do you fit?’ People would try to put me in a box. And of course, Barb quips, ‘Now we have put you in a box!’ But it’s a box of my own making, so it makes all the difference! I certainly hope that Indian Canadians enjoy the scent, and it evokes something for them. But so many people who are not ethnically Indian are also attracted to the culture. It’s a very seductive and alluring place. It’s a very difficult place too. I don’t have rose-tinted glasses about India at all. This fragrance is a way of evoking a little bit of that allure and capturing what India stands for in the rest of the world.”

Why did you want to bring social responsibility to the beauty biz?

Stegemann: “A lot of young people and social entrepreneurs really connect with what we are doing as a business: being fair and making sure that everybody does all right—the retailer, the farmer or the supplier, and us. Nobody’s making all the money. And that’s how we change the world and flex our buying power.” Ray: “What strikes me about the model that Barb has created is that it’s subverting the beauty counter. There’s a lot of debate about the beauty [industry] and how it often ends up chipping away at women’s self-image, requiring us to fulfill a particular kind of unrealistic image. So to subvert that and do something that actually becomes an access point for women to come closer to what they want to stand for in the world, and to be part of a movement, that’s powerful.”



GLOBAL GLAMOUR Lisa Ray stuns on red carpets from Toronto to Mumbai.

1. At the Costume Designers Guild Award in Beverly Hills, 2007. 2. At a Toronto gala in 2013. 3. At the Vanity Fair Oscar party in 2007. 4. On the red carpet in Mumbai in 2015. 5. At the 2005 premiere of her movie Water at TIFF.

The 7 Virtues

Canadian entrepreneur Barb Stegemann has been out to save the world one fragrance at a time since launching her perfume company, the 7 Virtues, in 2010. The main essence in each scent is sourced from farmers in war-ravaged or impoverished regions such as Rwanda and Haiti for a fair price, helping to bring reliable income to communities that are struggling to rebuild. One of the company’s first scents, Noble Rose of Afghanistan, helped farmers transition from the dangerous heroin-poppo market to selling rose oil, legally and safely, for twice the profit. In fact, the story of how Stegemann came to start her perfume business after her best friend, a soldier stationed in Afghanistan, was attacked by a Taliban fighter is told in the documentary Perfume War, which premiered on September 21 at the Atlantic Film Festival in Halifax, where Stegemann lives.

British model Neelam Gill.



SKINCARE

GET THE DIRT

Why you need a next-generation clay mask—even if your teenage years are long behind you

BY EDEN BOILEAU

Remember the mud masks we all used when we were teenagers? They were almost exclusively a weapon in the arsenal of the pimple-prone, designed to suck up sebum and deep-clean pores before semi-formal. Well, times—and masks—have changed. Beauty brands are flooding the shelves with clay-based offerings for every skin type, from dry to oily, teenage to mature. Today’s clays are bolstered with ingredients that soften, moisturize, brighten—you name it. Joining the modern mud bath, L’Oréal Paris has introduced three new masks that each contain three kinds of clay (kaolinite, montmorillonite and ghassoul), plus bonus extras such as smoothing algae or detoxifying charcoal. “Different clays have different properties; they have different affinities with water and oil,” says Charlotte Feltin, general manager of research and innovation for L’Oréal Paris Laboratories. Her team adjusted the ratio of the clays for each mask, so one absorbs sebum while another traps water to help with hydration. Here are five new clay wonders worth a slather, whatever your skin desires.



The detoxifier

Purifying charcoal is the third ingredient in this 90-per-cent-natural mask, right after water and clay. Also packed in there are exfoliating salicylic acid, green tea, olive leaf and ginger. A touch of peppermint makes it tingly and refreshing.

BEAUTYCOUNTER PURIFYING MASK CHARCOAL, \$55, BEAUTYCOUNTER.COM

The hydrator

This pretty pink powder is designed for dry, sensitive or mature skin, with mineral-rich Moroccan lava clay and calming rosewood oil. You can mix it with yogourt, honey or water for a custom consistency. It’s the second gentlest in a line of six clay masks from ultra-natural brand Fig & Yarrow.

FIG & YARROW CLAY MASK ROSE, \$25, THETRUTHBEAUTYCOMPANY.COM

The cleanser

Apply this citrus-scented, rusty-rose-coloured clay cleanser to dry skin with fingertips—it will turn into a creamy, cushiony-soft emulsion when you add water and rub it in. It also contains mineral-rich sea salt and papaya extract.

BAREMINERALS CLAY CHAMELEON TRANSFORMING PURIFYING CLEANSER, \$25, SEPHORA.CA

The brightener

This creamy white mask is one of two clays in the Body Shop’s new line of face masks. This one combines radiance-stimulating ginseng and rice extracts from China and nourishing community-trade organic sesame seed oil from Nicaragua.

THE BODY SHOP CHINESE GINSENG & RICE CLARIFYING POLISHING MASK, \$28, THE BODY SHOP

The smoother

This fluffy complexion-refining mask has red algae to help tighten pores and a grainy texture that provides the exfoliation factor. Massage gently in a circular motion while rinsing for extra-smooth skin.

L’ORÉAL PARIS PURE-CLAY EXFOLIATE & REFINE PORE MASK, \$20, DRUGSTORES

THE KIT

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ONE-MINUTE MIRACLE

Dear Kiehl’s Nightly Refining Micro-Peel Concentrate: I love the idea of a glowy complexion that’s born of smoothies and early-morning yoga. But life is busy, you know? Just two drops of your formula, packed with groundbreaking quinoa-husk extract—a superfood that is apparently super at refining pores and evening out skin tone—helps me get the healthy look without the lifestyle. Bonus: You don’t leave my sensitive skin red or tingly, like glycolic acid products have. Namaste, Kathryn Hudson

BEAUTY TREND

Bite me

Why we're loving the perfectly imperfect smile

BY PHOEBE MALTZ BOVY

I'm American (recently transplanted to Toronto) but my teeth—though healthy—never got the memo. They have that coffee-tinged cast more typical of “British teeth,” and there’s a pronounced canine I’ve christened Yellow Tooth. Yet I remain attached (physically and emotionally) to my smile because of a narrative I have about this particular imperfection: There’s something Frenchwoman-chic about teeth stained from the enjoyment of life. There’s also the fact that a quirky grin is said to be in style.

The collective dental ideal used to be a uniform look described as “Chiclet-perfect veneers” in “toilet-bowl white,” according to Dr. Edward Philips at Toronto’s Studio for Aesthetic Dentistry. But in the past few years, the extreme makeover approach has shifted. “There’s definitely much more of a trend toward natural,” he says. “It’s not ‘Let’s take an atomic bomb and completely redo this person’ anymore.”

In 2015, the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry reported that its dentists were receiving more requests for natural or “organic”-looking porcelain veneers, especially from younger, Generation Y patients. In the U.K., cosmetic-dentistry seekers lost interest in the Hollywood smile even earlier—in 2010, a survey conducted by the British Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry found two-thirds of its member dentists had seen the demand for “perfect” teeth drop by half. This led to a reported rise in patients asking for the “Keira Knightley”: a replica of the actress’s attractively uneven top

teeth, as opposed to the row-of-piano-keys look. In Japan, the trend went further: *yaeba* oral surgery to get deliberately crooked, even fanged veneers took off in 2013, spurred by the three snaggle-toothed members of the J-pop group TYB48.

It’s not just our aesthetic sensibility that has evolved. “You can make veneers look exactly like your own teeth today, and you couldn’t do that years ago,” says Toronto general and cosmetic dentist Dr. Brian S. Friedman. He explains that the porcelain itself has improved in the past decade, allowing for more natural-looking improvements—presumably why celebrities like Hilary Duff eventually downsized their supersized, blinding veneers in favour of a more genuine smile. Philips explains that the latest veneers are “polychromatic,” encompassing the many colour variations of natural teeth, with each engineered to be a unique shade. But like most nice things, they don’t come cheap: up to \$2,400 per tooth.

The current version of “perfectly imperfect” veneers might overlap slightly, have gradation in colour from root to tip and include tiny grooves to mimic natural texture. While their hue doesn’t resemble bathroom enamel, they’re certainly brighter than my old friend Yellow Tooth.

In the name of research, I go for an informal consultation at Philips’s well-appointed downtown office, where we look at digital images of my mouth. The first thing I notice in these is a slight tooth-lipstick situation. The second: My teeth and

my skin are approximately the same shade of off-white. Philips confirms that the paler your skin is, the darker your teeth will look in contrast. (I’d previously been introduced to this fact by another dentist, who, noting my teeth-complexion parity, suggested lipstick.) I’m apparently not a great candidate for bleaching, but I could cover Yellow Tooth with a veneer to match its neighbours. This is intriguing, but not enough to make me whip out my credit card. Yet.

It all points, I think, to something of a chicken-and-egg scenario that’s true not just in dentistry but in beauty generally: As technology allows for a shift from garish upgrades to the more undetectable results people may have wanted all along, the early adopters who paid (but maybe not quite enough) for an overhaul end up looking dated. The rest of us smugly, if anxiously, tell ourselves, “At least we look natural.” (We’re all low-maintenance compared with that other woman over there.) But this pretense starts to fade once we get access to more stealthy forms of artifice.

So while I’m not ruling out having old Yellow Tooth subdued one day, I’m inclined to accept the rest of my imperfect smile. My hair could never do that dishevelled, insouciant Frenchwoman thing, but my teeth? They’re already there.

Famously “imperfect” smiles, clockwise from top: Lindsey Wixson, Uzo Aduba, Georgia May Jagger, Vanessa Paradis, Alek Wek and Brigitte Bardot.



Top: The resort seen from the 10th floor of the Cove luxury tower. Bottom, from left: The whirlpool tub at the Mandara Spa; one of the resort’s 18 waterslides, which runs through the shark tank; a suite at the Cove.

TRAVEL DIARY

TRUE FANTASY

Super-chic, somewhat surreal—inside a must-visit Bahamas resort

BY EDEN BOILEAU

Oh, right, the beach. After a couple days at the Atlantis resort in Nassau, Bahamas, I realized I should probably set foot on what is the reason most of us travel to a Caribbean island. But there are so many distractions at the famed Paradise Island resort that the four beaches are almost an afterthought. After all, how can white sand compete with reservations at Nobu or a waterslide with a five-storey drop?

My suite at the Cove, one of four giant luxurious pink towers that house 3,400 rooms in total, was a split-level affair with a living room and fantastical view of the resort. The bathroom, bigger than most hotel rooms I’ve stayed in, had a soaker tub the size of a small boat. Though I could probably have been happy never leaving my room, staring out at all that blue (ocean, sky, pools), there was too much to do, not the least of which was eat.

Of the fine dining options—from trendy Nobu to celeb-chef spots Café Martinique by Jean-Georges Vongerichten and Olives by Todd English—the newest is 77° West, a South American and Caribbean fusion restaurant. We sat down to a ceviche flight that offered a taste of snapper with onion, papaya and sweet potato; shrimp with mango, avocado and roasted tomato; and tuna with ginger and lime. Our dinners of grilled seafood and beef flavoured with combos of tomatillos, tamarind, guajillo peppers, cilantro and coconut milk likely did not need to be capped off with the dulce de leche cheesecake. But I went for it, leaving me fit for nothing but sleep, rolling back to my room at 9 o’clock.

The next morning, in the hopes of atoning for dinner, we toured the 171-acre resort on foot. “Welcome to Fantasy Island,” our tour guide did not say but probably should have. The sprawling, larger-than-life compound is so far removed from most people’s reali-

ties it’s mind-blowing. We toured the casino, with its four Dale Chihuly sculptures worth a million dollars apiece; we wandered by Prada, Dior and Gucci boutiques in the shopping mall; we passed the beach cabanas you can rent for the day, which have TVs and fridges. Even kids get their own private club with a mini “grocery store,” video-game room, light-up dance floor and a mock ’50s diner, where children high on ice cream treats can take cooking classes.

I stopped to peer into the lagoons and aquariums that dot the property and house 50,000 marine creatures, like stingrays, turtles, sharks (many of them from Atlantis’s marine rescue and rehabilitation program)—the largest marine exhibit in the Caribbean and one of the grandest in the world. I did, however, pass on the opportunity to slide through the shark tank in one of the waterslides.

Looking at all that salt water left me thirsty for a boozy pool-side drink. I figured this was best done on a lounge the size of a king-size bed at the adults-only pool and bar area. I sipped coconut rummy concoctions while a DJ spun Prince on real turntables—definitely a highlight of the trip.

The next day, hoping to get even farther from reality, I hopped aboard the nearly two-kilometre river ride. I coasted along a pale blue river, splashing through rapids and wave pools on an inflatable ring, leaving my real-world worries in my wake.

To leave no experience untried, I checked into the Mandara spa for a Balinese body polish and massage and emerged in a relaxed stupor, smelling of the spa’s delicious blood orange shower gel, which I used in my massage room’s private shower. Finally, with all of that luxurious business out of the way, there was only one thing left to do: pull up a lounge on the beach and contemplate my return to reality.

A STYLISH SHAADI

Yearning for a tropical vibe on your big day, but jetting all the way to India or Pakistan isn’t in the cards? Consider a sun-kissed shaadi on the beach

BY HINA P. ANSARI

It’s no surprise that more and more couples are opting for a beach wedding: It’s a geographically and financially friendlier option. Instead of spending a small fortune and upwards of 11 hours on a plane for the traditional India- or Pakistan-based wedding, heading to the Caribbean involves shorter travel time, and less time booked off of work. Plus, the relaxing island vibe may help take the edge off overwhelming wedding festivities.

Pyaar Atlantis, a specialized South Asian wedding service offered at the Atlantis resort, promises to pair an impeccable beach vibe with South Asian traditions. Jessi Hill, executive director of weddings at Atlantis, noticed a recent increase in popularity of South Asian island weddings and launched Pyaar Atlantis in 2013 to cater to the market specifically. “We have truly built a name for ourselves in this niche market,” she explains. Planning approximately 10 weddings a year (a quarter of them Canadian), Pyaar Atlantis takes to heart the intricate details that go into South Asian weddings. The grand entrance of the groom or bride, for example, can be done by boat with a local Junkanoo band playing. Also on offer? A ceremony site with a mandap, fire pit, jaimalas and ceremony stools.

The resort also works with non-Hindu South Asian couples to customize services and reflect their religion and culture, with add-ons like a decorated archway.

And not to fear, Pyaar Atlantis hasn’t missed the most important aspect of a South Asian wedding: the food. With an impressive offering of vegetarian and non-vegetarian menus the globally savvy staff helmed by an Indian chef know what it takes to ensure that the wedding feast is sure to impress.

For more information visit pyaaratlantisweddings.com



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