



In the mood for Paris

Take a jaunt to the City of Light with Alyssa Lau, content creator, new mother, and one of Canada's most stylish people



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WELCOME TO THE NEW **THEKIT.CA**

Dear *The Kit* readers,

Friends, I have a request: After you finish reading this issue of *The Kit*, please head over to our newly revamped website. We launched it earlier this month with you, our wonderful audience, in mind, and I'd love to hear what you think.

For *The Kit*, storytelling always leads. As our audience has grown, we've expanded to include more inspiring lifestyle content, including home, weddings and travel, our beauty & lifestyle director Katherine Lalancette's shiny new baby.

As online shopping exploded during the pandemic, we noticed that many of you were buying from thekit.ca. We wanted to kick up that experience for you, to showcase more amazing items in editor-curated sliders across the new site. We're now able to spotlight editorial packages and celebrity photo shoots in exciting new ways. We've also added a new "most popular" bar so you can see the stories that are resonating the most.

Please share any feedback: ldc@thekit.ca. Thanks, as always, for reading.

—Laura deCarufel, editor-in-chief, *The Kit*

Just say oui!

Allow Alyssa Lau to transport you to the streets of Paris. Spring in the air and a suitcase full of fabulous clothes. La vie est belle

By Renée Tse
Photography by Brian Rankin



A POP OF COLOUR FOR BRUNCH AT BAR VENDÔME

"I'm not usually someone who wears colour all over, but I love a statement-making jacket with neutral basics like a tank top and dark jeans. I also have a weakness for pearls because they have that connection to the beach. I live in Edmonton, where there is no beach, so I'm always trying to manifest beach vibes in my life!"

JACKET, EARRINGS, CHANEL. TOP, NECKLACES, ALYSSA'S OWN



Makeup: Mehdi Rguiba for Chanel Beauty. Photographer's Assistant: Thenappan Chinnaiah

MENSWEAR-INSPIRED FOR DRINKS AT LA COQUILLE D'OR

"I added suspenders to my white 3.1 Phillip Lim trousers for a fun masculine-meets-feminine take on a nighttime look. This elevated cropped Chanel sweater made me feel confident. I'd wear this look to go for drinks with my husband at the hotel bar."

TOP, EARRINGS, SUSPENDERS, BAG, CHANEL. PANTS ALYSSA'S OWN

It started as a lark. Back in 2011, as style blogs were exploding across the internet, Alyssa Lau began documenting her outfits with a self-timer and a tripod camera—she wanted something else to do besides studying chemistry at university. Fast-forward to 2014, and Lau had attracted a deeply engaged social media following and also launched New Classics, an online boutique featuring a curated edit of responsibly made brands. Almost a decade later, that sustainability ethos remains a core part of Lau's life—and her feed. She spotlights slow fashion creators and posts photos of herself wearing handcrafted luxury items paired with vintage pieces she discovers on her adventures around the globe.

Recently, the fashion entrepreneur began a new adventure: motherhood. Last year during COVID, Lau and her husband, Eric Yun (who snaps all of her pics), started a family. Baby Jacob is now 9 months old. With characteristic honesty, Lau admits the beginning wasn't easy. "It made me question our choice to willingly become parents." A month after the birth, she shared Instagram photos of her postpartum

body with a caption that said each day felt like a year. "But around the three- to four-month mark, Jacob started to become more interactive—and he started to sleep a bit longer! That's when we finally started to get the hang of being responsible for a tiny human."

Coming into her own as a mother has also impacted the way Lau approaches fashion. "In the back of my head, I'm like, 'Oh, I'm a mom now, maybe I shouldn't look like a 16-year-old-girl.' I don't know if this is just me implementing societal norms, but I do notice the clothing choices I make tend to be more mature. So when I incorporate colour, I do it with a jacket or a bag—small pops here and there."

Lau got to showcase her evolving style during the latest Paris Fashion Week. It was her first international trip since COVID and her first-ever with baby Jacob. "Travelling with a child has its challenges—like thinking of creative ways to distract him while eating out at restaurants! But the difficulties were all worth it. To see him experience new environments and see the world through his eyes has been such a joy as a parent."

We caught up with Lau in the City of Light, where she styled herself in Chanel's Spring 2022 collection mixed with much-loved pieces from her own closet. "I feel like I have different personas depending on where I am. In France, everyone is impeccably and effortlessly dressed. It inspires me to do the same, and to play with the clothing I already have."

BON APPÉTIT!

Eat like a local with a little help from a Parisian fashion designer



Charina Sartre's clothes read a bit like a biography. Floaty silhouettes and saturated hues recall the sun-drenched Philippines, where the designer spent most of her life. (Her eponymous label is still proudly made there by an all-women staff of skilled seamstresses.) But there's also a chic, insouciant quality to what she does that feels distinctly Parisian.

That's where Sartre moved to five years ago after becoming engaged to a Frenchman. (You might recognize her husband, real-estate agent Valentin Kretz, from the hit Netflix show *The Parisian Agency*.) "It wasn't easy at the beginning, especially with the language barrier," she recalls of the transition. "But it really is such a wonderful city to live in."

Aside from the magnificent architecture, Sartre says it's the city's culture, emphasis on family life and world-famous food that really won her over. "What more could I ask for?" Here, she shares her top restaurant recos, from the most authentic brasserie to the lunch spot that serves up postcard views of the Seine. Hold on to this list for the next time you're in town. —Katherine Lalancette



BREAKFAST

"On Saturdays, [my husband and I] like to go for a walk with our son, Noah, and our two French bulldogs. At the end of our street is the Palais-Royal Garden, so we usually head there and grab coffee at Bonjour (30 Gal de Montpensier), a really fun café. We also love Frenchie (left, 5 Rue du Nil) for brunch. It's delicious and is located on one of the coolest streets of the 2nd arrondissement. There's a cheese shop, fish shop and butcher shop next door so we often do a little food shopping after."



LUNCH

"I love Loulou (above, 107 Rue de Rivoli), which is in the Tuileries. They have an amazing terrace with a view of the Eiffel Tower. It's a wonderful place to people-watch. Plus, the food's not bad either! Langosteria (8 Quai du Louvre), in the newly opened Cheval Blanc hotel, has probably one of the best views of Paris and the Seine. It was bought by LVMH recently and is pretty special."

I don't know if this is just me implementing societal norms, but I do notice the clothing choices I make now that I'm a mother tend to be more mature.



ELEVATED DENIM FOR SHOPPING ON RUE SAINT-HONORÉ

"When I pack for a trip, I want every piece to work with everything because the more versatile they are, the more options I have. I love the look of jeans, especially with Chanel pieces, so I always pack a couple of pairs when I travel, like these high-waisted vintage Levi's I bought in South Korea. For this look, I was going shopping for myself and my baby—Jacadi and Tartine et Chocolat were my favourite stores—so I threw on a pair of ballet flats. But I could easily add heels and go for a fun casual dinner with my husband."

TOP, VEST, SHOES, CHANEL. JEANS, BRACELET, ALYSSA'S OWN



DINNER

"Chez Georges (1 Rue du Mail) is my top French brasserie. If you want to feel like a local eating traditional French food, go there. Balagan (above, 9 Rue d'Alger), a wonderful Israeli restaurant, is definitely one of our favourites, too. You have to order their special dessert when you go. The staff dance and sing around while they smash it, creating some cool abstract confection."

Happy feet

Hit the cobblestone in the season's snazziest—comfiest—sandals

Athletic The warm-weather equivalent of dad sneakers: casual yet subversively cool.



SOREL SHOES, \$130, SORELFOTWEAR.CA



NATIVE SANDALS, \$34 (ORIGINALLY \$65), NATIVESHoes.COM

Platforms Extra height without the crampy arches—sometimes you can have it all.



OSO! SHOES, \$445, SSENSE.COM



TORY BURCH SANDALS, \$258, NORDSTROM.CA

Fisherman's From utilitarian to über-stylish: Woven sandals get a high-fashion rebrand.



HEREU SHOES, \$519, MATCHESFASHION.COM



MARNI SANDALS, \$670, SSENSE.COM

Gladiator These intricately laced beauties are just begging to be taken on vacation.



ALDO SHOES, \$70, ALDOSHOES.COM



ANCIENT GREEK SANDALS, \$327, FARFETCH.COM

THE KIT COLLAB

Gifts she'll adore

Spoil Mom with something extra special this year



TABLE TALK

For the ones who love to spend time in the kitchen, there's no better gift than top-of-the-line cookware that's as beautiful as it is practical. Let Mom know how much you appreciate her with a gorgeous hammered copper set inspired by Italian mealtime traditions. Crafted with a stainless steel interior for increased durability and an aluminum core for flawless heat distribution, this 11-piece oven-safe set makes whipping up everything from simple weeknight dinners to elaborate family feasts a joy.

LAGOSTINA MARTELLATA COPPER 11-PIECE COOKWARE SET, \$549.99



SIP AND PLAY

Why not crack a bottle of something special this Mother's Day? Headed by Martha Stewart, self-made icon who turned her passion into a thriving business empire, 19 Crimes' first-ever California chardonnay brings the flavour big time. Juicy stone fruit notes followed by a ribbon of creamy, caramel oak lend a perfectly sweet character, while a final pop of acid delivers a crisp, thirst-quenching finish. This palate-pleaser was destined to stand out from the pack—just like Mom.

19 CRIMES MARTHA'S CHARD, \$19.95



MAGICAL. ROMANTIC.

These breathtaking fragrances are inspired by the magic and romance of French Chateau Royal gardens. Each is a secret message of love which adorns you and intensifies your beauty. Choose from Orange Blossom Garden & French Vanilla, luscious, creamy, and sensual; French Pear & Queen's Lilac, sensuous, dewy, and delectable; and Raspberry Royale & French Black Pepper, a dreamy, seductive fragrance with spicy intrigue. Each fragrance can be worn individually or layered in your own magical way to say something breathtakingly beautiful about you.

MICHEL PARFUM COLLECTION BY MICHEL GERMAIN, \$205 EACH

This content was created by The Kit; the featured brands funded and approved it



CHANEL

CHANEL.COM



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



KAREN WAZEN
SUNGLASSES, \$231,
FARFETCH.COM



FENDI BAG,
\$4,500,
FENDI.COM



NUDE GLASS
VASE, \$265,
SSENSE.COM



BANANA REPUBLIC
DRESS, \$260,
BANANAREPUBLIC.CA



MEJURI PEARL
EARRINGS, \$98,
MEJURI.COM



JO MALONE
SAKURA CHERRY
BLOSSOM COLOGNE,
\$189, JOMALONE.CA



DIOR LIPSTICK
IN 720 ICONE, \$49,
SEPHORA.COM



CHRISTIAN LOUBOUTIN
SHOES, \$1,195,
CHRISTIANLOUBOUTIN.COM



DIPTYQUE LIMITED EDITION ROSES
CANDLE, \$103, NORDSTROM.CA



HERMÈS
LES MAINS
HERMÈS NAIL
ENAMEL
IN ROSE
BALTIQUE, \$63,
HERMÈS.COM



LA MER THE TREATMENT
LOTION, \$160,
CREMEDELAMER.CA

Out to brunch

It's almost time to clink mimosas to Mom—maybe even on the first patio of the season? Treat her to something joyful, inspired by the time-honoured ritual of Mother's Day toasting

THE KIT X LOWE'S

Style meets function

Pro tips for setting up your own outdoor sanctuary

1. SPRUCE UP THE SPACE.
Before you dive into decor and furniture, show some love to any areas that are looking worn. Use wood cleaner and a stiff brush to refresh your deck and fence, add fresh mulch to your flower beds, seed the lawn and trim any overgrown vegetation. A little heavy-lifting can go a long way, too: "Replace old-looking patio tiles or switch to a gravel path for a Mediterranean look," says Thammavong. If you need a simpler solution, try an outdoor area rug. "A rug is an accent piece that will bring everything together, help you create different zones in your backyard, make it instantly cozier as well as protect your bare feet from heat."
ALLEN + ROTH OUTDOOR RUG, \$149, LOWES.CA

2. THINK IN ZONES.
Just like in your house, you'll want to create different areas for different activities. "It starts with a dining room set—something of the right size that fits within the available space and allows for a good flow," says Thammavong. Next, consider where you'll lounge. A sectional with

1.

2.

3.

a coffee table creates a cozy corner, or if your local bylaws allow, opt for a fire pit for chilly nights.
ALLEN + ROTH POSITANO 2-PIECE STEEL FRAME PATIO CONVERSATION SET WITH CUSHIONS, \$1,199, LOWES.CA

3. GET AHEAD OF THE ELEMENTS.
A pergola or gazebo can help you max out the season by giving you coverage from light rain and scorching rays. "Add string lights all around and your pergola will surely become your favorite place to be in your backyard, during nightfall," says Thammavong. You'll also want to use protective covers for your furniture when the weather gets bad, and you can get clever with spots to stow your throw cushions, too. "Storage bins that convert to a bench are great for extra seating when you entertain."
ALLEN + ROTH GAZEBO WITH SLIDING ROOF, \$1,799, LOWES.CA

4. TAP THE TRENDS WITH SMALL DETAILS.
While you'll want to favour durability and timelessness when it comes to big-ticket furniture pieces, accessories are a great opportunity to embrace trends. Biophilia (a.k.a. design that embraces nature) is hot this season. "Colours inspired by nature like blues, greens and terracotta are a must," says Thammavong, while also highlighting natural materials and handmade pieces. She recommends picking one colour palette for the entire space, or at least one palette per outdoor zone. Add potted plants around the patio and pops of colour with decorative pillows in all seating areas. "Finally, beautiful intimacy screens to frame your flowerbed or to update your fence are a quick fix to make your space feel put-together and updated."



Draw the line

As celebrities make a case for the return of ultra-thin '90s brows, Katherine Lalancette asks: to pluck or not to pluck?

From left: Tyra Banks at a *Sports Illustrated* event in 1996, Pamela Anderson at a *Baywatch* party in 1994, Alexa Demie at a *Euphoria* photo call in 2022 and Bella Hadid at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival.

Brittni Alexandra had been “hearing whispers” for a while. Rumours so shocking she thought they for sure had to be fabrications. “I told everyone, ‘No, no, no, there’s no way.’” But as evidence to the contrary continued to mount, the owner of Toronto’s B. Beautiful brow studio soon had no choice but to face the facts: “Unfortunately, it looks like it’s really happening—thin brows are back.”

On TikTok, the hashtag #skinnybrows has amassed a whopping 4.6 million views. On Google, U.S. queries for “are thin brows coming back” have risen by 300 per cent over the last year. It probably shouldn’t come as a surprise considering the exploding popularity of all things late ’90s/early aughts (think: baguette bags, kitten-heeled mules and swirl prints galore). Model Bella Hadid, who’s propensity for claw clips and *Matrix*-style sunnies has been well documented, has been sporting ever slimming brows of late. So has actor Alexa Demie, who portrays Maddy on *Euphoria*, a show whose entire visual language reads like a love letter to the age of Y2K.

But it’s another buzzy series that’s been blamed for the skinny brow revival. Beauty e-tailer Lookfantastic reported a 392 per cent spike in Google searches for “pamela anderson makeup” following the release of Hulu’s *Pam & Tommy*, a fictionalized account of Pamela Anderson and Tommy Lee’s marriage. A platinum wig and prosthetic chest certainly lent a hand in transforming Lily James into the buxom bombshell circa 1995. But it was witnessing the actor’s normally lush brows be rendered virtually non-existent that made her truly unrecognizable.

In recent months, more and more clients have been coming into Alexandra’s salon asking her for a similar look. For the most part, she says, it’s younger women, some of them still in high school. “I don’t think anyone who’s lived through the ’90s has any interest in doing that.”

Indeed, rare are the arches that survived the decade unscathed. Recall the pencil-thin curves hovering over the eyes of Drew Barrymore or Tyra Banks, often paired with taupe shadow and darkly lined lips. “I’m all about the ’90s—that’s my era,” says Maybelline makeup artist Grace Lee. “But the one thing I have serious regret about is over-plucking my brows—they do not grow back.”

Alexandra shares the sentiment. “When young girls tell me they hate their thick brows, I tell them I’d do anything to have beautiful eyebrows like that. I had mine waxed off in the ’90s for like \$5 and then had to get them tattooed on my face.”

It’s called micro-blading, a technique that consists of tattooing hair-like strokes onto the skin. The results last from one to three years and cost upward of \$650, excluding touch-ups.

Lee estimates she’s spent a small fortune over the years on brow pencils and growth serums in attempts to cover up past mistakes. “I stare at my daughter’s eyebrows and I’m like, ‘Don’t ever touch them—ever!’”

Though to be fair, she admits she does get the appeal. “There’s a reason we did it—it really does open up the eye area. Sometimes those big brows can overtake your face.”

A thinner brow can also make you look older, something Alexandra posits could be part of why young women are drawn to it. Remember when you used to rim your eyes in black liner before attempting to get into a club with your older sister’s expired health card?

But as we mature, our pursuits tend to veer in the opposite direction. “We always want what we can’t have,” says Lee. That’s because over time, women’s brows can naturally become thinner, especially following menopause. Perhaps that explains why we subconsciously perceive fuller, bushier brows as being more youthful.

So what is one to do if they want to indulge in a little throwback fun without mortgaging their brows’ entire future? Look to drag queens! Lee and Alexandra both recommend taking inspiration from the performers, who are veritable pros at faking thinner arches.

First, you’ll want to glue down the hairs to minimize volume. Drag queens sometimes use actual glue for this, but a waxy pomade should do the trick. Brush your brows flat across, pinching the tails to make them look more slender. Next, cover up what you don’t want to see with a thick concealer. You could also use a brow highlighter for this, which is specifically designed to hide regrowth between appointments. Set with a little loose powder and then draw your desired shape with an extra-fine pencil.

That’s what Alexandra has been teaching her young clients to do instead of heeding their requests for Anderson-style arches. “That way, it washes off at the end of the day,” she says. “It’s kind of like wearing a fun-coloured wig instead of burning all your hair off. We’ve all been there, too—live and learn.”

PHOTOGRAPHY: GETTY IMAGES (CELEBS)

Pencil case

Put the tweezers down and try these instead



MAYBELLINE ULTRA SLIM DEFINING EYEBROW PENCIL, \$13, SHOPPESRDRUGMART.CA



KELLY BAKER CAMO-LIGHT HIGHLIGHT PENCIL, \$32, BBEBAUTIFULBEAUTY.COM

THE KIT

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Giorgina Bigioni
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Direct advertising inquiries to:
Collab Director
Evie Begy,
eb@thekit.ca
Collab Specialist
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Marketing Specialist & Project Manager
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THE KIT X CLINIQUE

Great skin



made simple

This new duo addresses wrinkles from all angles

Want smoother skin without all the fuss? Designed with an expert panel of scientists and the brand’s consulting dermatologist, Clinique’s Smart Clinical Repair™ Wrinkle Correcting Serum has been designed to approach wrinkles—from fine lines to stubborn creases—in three different ways. To start, a blend of peptides ramps up the skin’s collagen production to strengthen the skin’s structure, which is helped by caffeine and algae extract to soothe the skin so it can focus on repair. Then, a next generation retinoid—gentle enough for use twice a day—encourages cell renewal for a smoother, more refined surface. Lastly, hyaluronic acid aids in bouncy, plump skin by regulating and maintaining moisture levels, which minimizes the look of fine lines.

To complement it, there’s also Clinique Smart Clinical Repair™ Wrinkle Correcting Eye Cream. Using the same three-pronged approach as the serum, the product also includes glycerin, mango and shea butter to hydrate and soften the eye area, which is the thinnest and most delicate part of the face. We sent both to a tester to get a report:

How would you describe your skin? “I’m a 48-year-old mother of two, so the collagen has plummeted and I am definitely more dehydrated than I used to be. I also still have hormonal acne on my chin, and that combined with signs of age is just the cruelest combination.”

What are your main skin concerns? “The fine lines that have settled all around my eyes and a general loss of structure and firmness around

my jawline. I also have lots of photo damage in the form of brown spots. And my chin, whether it’s endless blackheads or when there’s a breakout.”

Describe your current morning and evening beauty routine: “In the morning I apply Vitamin C serum and layer sunscreen on top before I head out for my daily bike ride. Usually add a bit of eye cream too in the colder months. In the evening, I love using a balm or jelly cleanser to melt everything off and not strip my skin. Depending on what my skin’s needs are, I’ll then apply a serum or a facial oil, eye cream, moisturizer, and a spot treatment on my temperamental chin.”

What are some of the immediate differences you noticed in your skin after applying the products? “My skin had a really nice glow about it and the eye cream felt plush and lush to apply.”

What did you love most about the serum? “The way it made my skin look in the moment as well as the day after. My skin felt incredibly soft and smooth.”

Who would you recommend the serum to? “Anyone concerned with signs of aging who doesn’t want to use multiple products to address three different issues. This one tackles lines, hydration and cell renewal all in one.”



Frivole collection
Ring 8 flowers and earrings,
rose and yellow gold, rubies,
emeralds and diamonds.

Van Cleef & Arpels

Haute Joaillerie, place Vendôme since 1906

