

# THE KIT

## HOLIDAY DOUBLE ISSUE!

*Issue 1: A self-care plan for holiday stress, the world's most stylish hotels and sleep hacks for a dreamy snooze*

*Issue 2: Sparkly Canadian jewels, unique gifts for your best friend and wines to bring to your next party*



TOP: CHANEL JACKET, PRICE UPON REQUEST, CHANEL.COM. TOP, STYL-IST'S OWN.

BOTTOM: MICHAEL MICHAEL KORS TURTLE-NECK SWEATER DRESS, \$250, MICHAELKORS.CA. HAIR & MAKEUP: KARIMA SUMAR/PIM.CA. STYLING: CHERRY WANG

# Joy to the world

Bestselling author Cat Marnell on the art of travelling solo

BY RANI SHEEN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARLOS + ALYSE

“Listen, it’s said that you can’t run away from your problems, but guess what babes, untrue. Of course you can.” This is how N.Y.C. media *enfant terrible* Cat Marnell begins her new audiobook, an account of her travels titled *Self-Tanner for the Soul: How I Ran Away to Europe and Found My Inner Glow When Life Got Dark*.

As a rising assistant editor at *Lucky* magazine in the early 2000s, Marnell spent her days in the glittering Condé Nast Times Square offices, a career path she famously

self-sabotaged in a drug-addicted spiral of chaos, the subject of her first book, *How to Murder Your Life*. “Some people are of the streets and some people are of the fancy hotels,” says Marnell. “A lot of the isolation I felt then was because my personality type didn’t match. I’m supposed to be this glamorous person, quote-unquote, but really, I’ve always been more comfortable with graffiti writers as opposed to gallery owners.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4





Dress  
\$29.99



Enjoy every little moment. Happy Holidays!

THE KIT X H&M

Shimmery jewels and luxurious fabrics are always associated with festive dressing, but fashionable best friends Janna and Funké are making the case for an “overdressed casual” look this holiday season. They’ve mixed and matched fancy pieces with day-to-day basics like distressed denim from one-stop party dressing shop H&M. The best part? These items can be remixed and re-worn long after the holiday season has passed.

The BFFs: Janna, a communications student, and Funké, a journalism student and freelance writer

What do you like most about each other?

**Janna:** “I’ve never met anyone with as many creative outlets as Funké. He makes music and podcasts and writes about gaming. He’s creatively charged and it’s a very nice thing to see.”  
**Funké:** “A lot of our mutual friends are quiet people, but Janna is very opinionated. She does her own thing and her confidence is super inspiring.”

How would you describe your approach to holiday fashion?

**Janna:** “I’m always so overdressed!”  
**Funké:** “Overdressed, definitely. I have a big furry coat—it’s very toasty. My mom said it looked like something her mom would wear!”

What’s your favourite element in your H&M holiday look today?

**Janna:** “Definitely the brooch; I love anything sparkly and shiny. It also complements the puff sleeve on this one-shoulder top. They work very well together. I’d honestly even wear it to class—it’s the perfect level of overdressed casual.”  
**Funké:** “The shirt, 1,000%. It makes the whole outfit pop. I don’t wear that many buttoned-up things—I wear a lot of T-shirts—so this was a nice change. It’s a bit formal but very comfortable.”



ON JANNA: TOP (WITH BROOCH), \$29.99, JEANS, \$64.99, SHOES, \$59.99, AVAILABLE IN-STORE AND ONLINE AT HM.COM. ON FUNKÉ: TOP \$29.99, PANTS \$39.99, SHOES \$69.99, AVAILABLE IN-STORE AND ONLINE AT HM.COM

OUR H&M WISH LIST



H&M SWEATER, \$29.99; H&M HOME CANDLE, \$7.99; H&M HAIR CLIPS, \$14.99; H&M SWEATER, \$31.99; H&M HAT, \$14.99; H&M SHIRT, \$23.99, ALL AVAILABLE IN-STORE AND ONLINE AT HM.COM





LEFT: COS SWEATER, \$150, COS-STORES.COM. RIGHT: SID NEIGUM DRESS, \$825, SIDNEIGUM.COM.

## Peak cozy

Upgrade your bedtime routine and settle in for luxurious lounging

BY KATHERINE LALANCETTE | PHOTOGRAPHY BY CARLOS + ALYSE



Made of Italian linen, these pyjamas help provide work and support for women living in conflict regions.

POUR LES FEMMES PYJAMA SET, \$431, POURLESFEMMES.COM



Warning: After lying down under this airy gauze bedding woven from the finest Turkish cotton, you may never want to get up.

PARACHUTE DUVET SET IN SMOKE, \$344 (FULL/QUEEN), PARACHUTEHOME.COM



Tune out the day's chaos by sprinkling these calming salts—laced with spa-like wintergreen and spearmint oils—into a steaming bath.

KAIA NATURALS THE SLEEP HOT BATH, \$15, KAIANATURALS.COM



Stay warm and cozy with these cashmere joggers from socially conscious brand Naadam.

NAADAM JOGGERS, \$345, HOLTRENFREW.COM



Just shake this sleek alarm to snooze or flip it over to turn it off, activating a warm ambient light that makes waking up so much smoother.

GINGKO ALARM CLOCK, \$59, URBANOUTFITTERS.COM



With its wavy trim and tassel details, this swanky robe takes lounging to chic new heights.

MORGAN LANE ROBE, \$451, NET-A-PORTER.COM



Studies show total darkness is key to a restful slumber. Let this padded silk mask usher you to dream land.

LUNAYA SLEEP MASK, \$70, MATCHESFASHION.COM



A silk charmeuse set so breezy, you'll feel like you're not wearing a thing.

VIOLA GREY CAMISOLE AND SHORT SET, \$319, VIOLAGREY.COM



It doesn't get more joyful than plush slippers topped with a fanciful faux-fur pouf.

PATRICIA GREEN SLIPPERS, \$100, NORDSTROM.COM



AWAY PACKING CUBES, \$75 (SET OF FOUR), AWAYTRAVEL.COM



### THE FREQUENT FLYER: ALIZA JABÈS

Aliza Jabès founded Nuxe, her plant-based skin and body care line, 30 years ago, long before clean beauty went mainstream. Today, the Paris native travels the world to check on Nuxe's spas in Dubai and Morocco, launch products or simply get inspired. "I love observing how women in Korea, Japan or China use beauty products," she says. In the air, Jabès applies plenty of moisturizer, of course. "My skin gets super-dry on long flights. I always take Crème Fraîche 48-hour moisturizer. And the honey lip balm is mandatory." But her skincare doesn't stop there. "I always have a silk pillowcase with me. It makes a huge difference to the skin and the hair. I always change the pillowcase in the hotel and on the plane—the cotton absorbs moisture from your skin."

**The hack:** "I cannot live without fragrance—I need it to go to sleep. I'll put it on my pillow to smell like home no matter where I am."



NUXE PRODIGIEUX LE PARFUM, \$70, THEBAY.COM



### THE FREQUENT FLYER: VALERIE MESSIKA

Jewellery designer Valerie Messika grew up in the business—her father is a diamond dealer. But she wanted to create a different kind of line, one that allows women to celebrate themselves. "No need to wait for an eternity ring to start your relationship with diamonds," she says. Travel is a requirement of the job as the brand continues to expand around the world. Whether she's off to Paris Fashion Week or a yoga retreat in Thailand, Messika always manages to pack light. "I only pack a carry-on; I never want to feel like I have too much stuff." Messika has a no-work policy while she's in the air. "I love to be on airplanes. It's the only place in the world where you don't have Wi-Fi and can focus on yourself. It's a nice pause. I'll write about my goals and my mood."

**The hack:** "I pre-plan everything I'll wear on a trip in front of a mirror. That way, I don't give myself the option to change my mind. I'll pack lots of black but warm it up with rose-gold jewellery."



MESSIKA ROSE-GOLD AND DIAMOND BRACELET, \$2,578, MESSIKA.COM

## THE KIT

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# The art of running away

Continued from cover



“

When you go into rehab treatment, you talk about being in your bubble, and I sort of felt like I was floating in a bubble through Europe.

”

After Marnell’s memoir was published internationally in 2017 to great acclaim, things got dark again. She was burned out, she had a bad break-up that imploded her social circle, and there was an incident (only vaguely described in the audiobook) involving a month-long prescription amphetamine binge, a flooded apartment and, somehow, the loss of her long, blonde hair, which became “chemically embedded” into her neck, shoulders, face and ears, plus scarring up and down the back of her body. Hence the running away. Marnell decided to pack up, buy a one-way plane ticket and travel alone across Europe by Eurail train pass for 117 days, her bags stuffed with prescription Adderall and various colourful, surprisingly heavy wigs.

*Self-Tanner for the Soul*, which is an Audible Original Project, is basically Marnell reading her solo travel journal aloud. Her voice is deeper than you imagine, more steady and sure, and the daily entries are lit up with evocative descriptions of deserted amusement parks at night, off-the-beaten-path places like Bratislava and odysseys to see concerts by her favourite rock star, Pete Doherty (of heroin/Kate Moss/The Libertines fame) who happens to be on a European tour.

Marnell travels hard, to the point of exhaustion, covering multiple cities in a week and often staying in a place only one or two nights. “Sometimes it did feel like I was an athlete, especially carrying the luggage,” says Marnell. “You put up with a lot worse conditions when you’re by yourself. You’re like, ‘It’s okay, I’m on a mission.’ I don’t always travel like

that. I felt like I was training for some sort of Olympic event.”

The self-destructive impulses detailed in *How to Murder Your Life* are peppered throughout the diary. There are frank descriptions of a bulimic binge in Bruges; getting drunk on cheap wine outside a regional French train station; two days of wrenching withdrawal and “pill-head” regret when her drugs are lost with her luggage. Marnell mentions having been through multiple rehab stays but addiction issues are still clearly in the picture.

At times, you definitely worry for her safety. “It’s good that I travelled alone as a 34-year-old,” says Marnell. “If I had travelled when I was 24 instead, I think I would’ve been in much more danger all the time, being drunk and not as streetwise, not as wise about anything in general.” But really, she was mostly in her comfort zone while wandering the squares, clubs and beaches of Europe. “I was always on the streets, and that’s sort of my natural habitat,” she says.

As anyone who has travelled alone can attest, it’s full of lonely moments. Marnell describes watching thunderstorms from the terrace of an Airbnb and feeling elated and awed, but melancholy; sitting in throbbing night-clubs alone and missing her friends; watching German kids play in graffiti’d playgrounds and thinking about the family she wouldn’t have with her ex. She relates it all with refreshing honesty. “I used to feel a lot of shame about being lonely, especially in my 20s, but it’s a human condition,” says Marnell. “It’s nothing to be ashamed of because that’s part of being alive.”

## CAT MARNELL’S SOLO TRAVELLING TIPS

- 1. Pick cities over beaches** “When you’re travelling, there’s good lonely and there’s bad lonely. Bad lonely for me is when I’m lying on nice beaches—when I arrived in Portugal, I was on a chaise lounge in a bikini having a drink, and I was like, “I’m depressed,” because it’s a social thing. A good lonely is when you’ve got your headphones in, listening to some Britney and the energy is crackling and you’re connecting with the world and you’re doing everything you want to do, like charging up a hill. The kind of thing where if you were with someone, they’d be like, “Slow down!” That’s when I start really loving being alone. Paris is obviously an explosion for the brain, so is Istanbul, and Marseilles for me was the most fabulous place; that’s a city where there’s so much to take in.”
- 2. Make an effort to connect with people** “No one is better at travelling alone than I am. Sometimes you have to be careful, though; it can be a little too comfortable. When you go into rehab treatment, you talk about being in your bubble, and I sort of felt like I was floating in a bubble through Europe. That’s self-protective, but sometimes it’s good to pop the bubble and make eye contact and connect with people. Sometimes it’s not, because someone tries to take your cigarette pack out from between your boobs and you’re like, ‘I’m never making human contact again, it’s too annoying.’ That happened to me in Brussels.”
- 3. Get a roaming cellphone plan** “Every country I arrived in, it was like, ‘Ding!’ I didn’t need to get SIM cards because of my cellphone plan. People travel using just WiFi and that’s very dangerous; you get lost a lot and you need to have that cellphone reception. Google Maps really helps. Another thing is, don’t be afraid to stay at hostels, the places where all the travellers are, as opposed to more isolated situations, in a bad neighbourhood. Or spend extra money to stay closer to the areas where it’s popping off.”
- 4. Listen to podcasts** “I like having someone in my ears. I got really into this NBA podcast produced in New York, and they became like my friends in my head. You can listen to podcasts while you’re walking around, which is another reason why I was excited to do an Audible project, because people can walk around with it, like a friend.”
- 5. Plan your itinerary by following a rock star around** “It’s really fun to follow an indie musician like Pete Doherty around Europe because you go to the coolest, crazy theatres—he’d play a little burned-out church or something. Seeing him was also like seeing a friend, and I always tweeted him after, like, ‘Hey, great show!’ but not trying to go backstage or anything. I do feel like I know him. The treatment centres I go to in Thailand are run by the same addiction specialist who treated him, so I do have a direct connection to him. But I’ve had many opportunities to meet him, and I don’t need to do that. I like keeping my rock stars on pedestals, and I believe in hierarchy.”
- 6. Unload on social media** “When I was travelling, I would babble and narrate everything I was doing and thinking on social media because I didn’t have anyone else to talk to. And I still find myself doing that. I’m actually an introvert—I’ve come into a public career, but I really am a writer personality. I have no desire to be on camera, and human connection has never been my specialty. No one in my family is a social person, so being alone is quite natural to me. I’m quite extroverted on social media, but of course that’s not real. It’s not real human connection, but it is something.”



I've always found family get-togethers at the holidays very stressful. There's so much build-up around Christmas, and it's a bit isolating if you don't relate to that happy-go-lucky movie ideal. When you see that your life hasn't played out in a certain way, it feels a little like a failure—say, if your family doesn't spend the day having a wonderful time in matching onesies.

For me, all that time with family is the worst part of the holidays. I think the stress is in the expectations of how I'm supposed to behave. I lose so much of myself in that; it's a miserable experience. When I was younger, I ran away from it—if I had a partner, we'd book a vacation to somewhere like Cuba; sometimes I'd join my friend Matthew's family to have a piece of a happy-go-lucky Christmas that you'd see on TV.

As I've gotten older—and my parents are getting older—I've started to think it's really important to show up and spend time with my family. But I need to do it in my own way that makes me feel comfortable. I've been working with my therapist to figure out how I can put some boundaries in place so I can attend these family functions but still have that reset and recharge that I feel is really necessary after visiting family. That's how hotel Christmas was born!

Actually, this year it extended to Thanksgiving. I was visiting a whole bunch of family in the Hamilton, Ont., area—I had four different lunches and dinners—so I set up a home base at a nearby hotel. My dog was able to come with me, I could go for a swim in between family functions, I could get room service and wear a robe and really treat myself. It meant I wasn't associating the holiday with just negativity and dread; there was something happy to look forward to.

You'd be surprised how quiet it is at a hotel during the holidays. Not all of the amenities are open because the staff is with their families. It's not a vacation vibe. I don't mind at all—the quieter the better. There's no one in the pool, your room service comes up quickly.

Self-care is such a trite expression, but I really am taking care of myself, and there's no better place than a hotel for self-care. You bring a face mask, you have the longest, hottest shower, you bring all your nice beauty products, and after a swim you just lounge in that beautiful king-sized bed.

It's about creating the comfort of a home base when you don't feel that your parents' home is a home base. I never once woke up in my home on Christmas morning. A lot of my childhood involved being trekked around to different relatives—you were sleeping on weird couches and you couldn't take a shower. This is a way of reclaiming the things that are important to me, which are comfort and a certain degree of luxury, being able to wake up in my own space and get ready at my own pace. I can do my workout, nobody is harassing me about eating weird things, I can take care of my own breakfast. It's about being able to do things that are right for me; then I can fulfill obligations that are important to the family.

# A hotel room of one's own

A clever self-care strategy for the stressful holiday season

I used to resent that I had to do the holiday trek all on my own because my brother had moved away. Sometimes bringing a partner into it is even more stressful because you're protecting them from it as well. The joy of being alone is that you can forge your own path; you're not responsible for anyone. Last Christmas, I watched close to 50 movies—I'm not joking! It was amazing to just order pizza and watch all the stupid Netflix holiday movies I wanted.

Things are about to change a lot because I'm eight months pregnant. I'm wondering if I'm going to keep up hotel Christmas. Everyone's going to want to see the baby, so I think having that space to recharge and claim as my own will be even more essential. I wonder what I'll do with my daughter in the future: It would be fun and exciting to wake up with a bunch of presents in a hotel room, but I didn't like not waking up in my own home on Christmas, so I'll have to think if I want to do that with her. Maybe we'll come up with our own traditions, for the two of us. —as told to Rani Sheen by Vanessa Petkus



COS SHIRT, \$125, COSSTORES.COM  
BERMAN & CO GLOVES, PRICE UPON REQUEST, RE-PULL LIBRARY  
PANTS, \$175, RE-PULL.COM

## THE KIT X COCA-COLA



# Holiday sweetness

Skip the naughty list and find your perfect match this holiday with new Coca-Cola Stevia



While we all aim for balance, the holidays can feel like an unwinnable race. The most indulgent season of them all throws a lot your way: a packed party calendar, a workplace that overflows with as many merry treats as meetings, and countless get-togethers with friends and family. It's easy to let your self-care go sideways as you cram all that festive joy into the busiest weeks of the year, bouncing from pot luck to open bar soirée.

But it's possible to have all of the fun and none of the burnout; all of the indulgence and none of the guilt. How? You just have to implement a few simple strategies for success.

### ADD A TOUCH OF SWEETNESS

First, look for smart solutions to satisfy your celebratory sweet tooth. Reach for a refreshing Coca-Cola Stevia, which has the same great classic Coca-Cola taste you love, but is sweetened with 100 per cent stevia extract.

Best of all? Coca-Cola Stevia is a zero-calorie beverage; the plant-based sweetener is derived from the leaf of the stevia plant, which is native to Brazil and Paraguay. Now available in grocery and convenience stores nationwide, Coca-Cola Stevia is a perfect choice if you're looking to lighten your caloric load this season.

**GET PREPPED** During the hectic season, give yourself a break and order groceries online so your fridge is always stocked with healthy, fresh snacks and you have fewer reasons to lean on takeout or fill up on rich hors d'oeuvres.

**SET UP THE BAR** Offer your guests (and yourself) low-sugar cocktail options. Set up a bar area with a few essentials: a bowl of juicy lime wedges and a dish of lime-infused salt so friends can zest up the rims of their highball glasses. A frosty pitcher of equal parts iced black tea, low-sugar lemonade and Coca-Cola Stevia makes for a playful and feel-good take on a Long Island Iced Tea; a twist of juicy orange transforms Coca-Cola Stevia into a super seasonal thirst-quencher.

**PRE-GAME** If you're worried about over-indulging on your family's rich recipes, have a light and healthy pre-party meal to help you keep your hunger in check. And when you're filling your plate at a buffet, serve yourself a heaping portion of hearty salad or vegetable soup first, before diving into decadent holiday fare.

**SERVE UP GOODNESS** If you're hosting, set out a hearty, nutrient-packed meal that is light but still satisfies. Classic roast turkey is a lean protein that's easily served buffet-style, while roasted in-season winter veg like sweet potatoes and Brussels sprouts make vibrant sides full of fibre and minerals. To finish, give your guests a treat they can feel good about with a chocolate avocado mousse, or use apple purée to help sweeten a batch of ginger cookies. Whatever you choose to serve, refreshing Coca-Cola Stevia complements the big flavours of a holiday meal—and leaves everyone feeling good.

**GET MOVING** After dinner, get outside with friends and family for a crisp evening stroll. Not only will the fresh air and exercise help digestion and clear your mind, it's the perfect way to reconnect with those you love and truly savour the holidays.

Cheers to celebrating this year's sweet moments!

#cocacolacanadastevia







**Fashion inspiration:** Isabel Marant's bohemian beauty  
**You should stay at:** Casa Cook Rhodes, Greece

Tune out the rest of the world when you check into one of Casa Cook Rhodes's suites, with a terrace, garden and private pool. When you've basked in the sun poolside, sign up for one of the many off-site activities that suit even the most mellow traveller. Sail the Aegean sea with a crew or get your heart rate up by hiking the property's scenic trails. If you're looking for a cultural experience, join a guided tour through the Byzantine-style historic town of this UNESCO World Heritage city.



**Fashion inspiration:** Stella McCartney's eco-warrior  
**You should stay at:** Sanara Tulum, Mexico

If you value tranquility and eco-consciousness, look no further than luxe eco-boutique hotel Sanará Tulum. Clever design means the buildings are raised above ground to allow sand flow and access to the beach for nesting turtles. The plastic-free, chemical-free and minimal waste property minimizes environmental impact.



**Fashion inspiration:** Jacquemus's eccentric glamazon  
**You should stay at:** El Fenn, Morocco

El Fenn is one of the most Instagram-worthy hotels in the world. Each room (and bathroom!) is unique, so every corner is worthy of a photo shoot. Get lost in the bougainvillea-filled courtyards or curl up with a book in one of the colourful nooks. Unwind in the hammam, then take in the amazing views from the 7,000 sq. ft. roof terrace with a snack, a cocktail or even a yoga class.



**Fashion inspiration:** Issey Miyake's artistic minimalist  
**You should stay at:** Aman Kyoto, Japan

Tucked away from the city centre, the new Aman Kyoto is a sanctuary of wellness. Inspired by the traditional Japanese Ryokan inn, the spacious rooms feature grand windows that allow for spectacular views. De-stress with mindful meditation or yoga in the courtyard, and then sink into the hotel's own onsens (mineral hot springs).



**Fashion inspiration:** Louis Vuitton's classic globetrotter  
**You should stay at:** Six Senses Duxton, Singapore

A reimagined row of 19th-century storehouses, Six Senses Duxton pays homage to Singapore's multi-cultural vibe with a design mix of Chinese, Malay and European elements. Visit the onsite traditional Chinese medicine doctor or rent bikes to explore the booming Chinatown neighbourhood and sample the abundance of cuisines.

PHOTOGRAPHY: GEORGE BOKOR/ANA SANTO FOR CASA COOK RHODES; COURTESY OF EL FENN; COURTESY OF SIX SENSES DUXTON

THE KIT X YORKVILLE VILLAGE

Gifts He Will Love

The holidays are a time to spoil the people around you—but let's get real for a moment; men are notoriously tough to shop for. Luckily, Toronto's luxury style destination Yorkville Village is flush with stylish finds for the men in your life, whether it's your husband, dad, boyfriend, brother, friend or nephew. Here's our hand-picked edit of the best gifts for him.



3. COMME DES GARÇONS CONCRETE COLOGNE, \$245 AND SAXX UNDERWEAR, \$30, TNT MAN



1. LONGINES WATCH, \$498, SERLI & SIROAN



4. SWEATER, \$498, AND JACKET, \$3,548, BELSTAFF



2. SHOES, \$1,200; LEATHER CASE, \$450; PASSPORT HOLDER, \$450, FARRÉ BY EMMANUEL



5. CORNELIANI BELTS, \$345 EACH, PHILIP



6. BRUNELLO CUCINELLI GLOVES, \$850; SUEDE TRAVEL CASE, \$1,150; FRANCESCO MAGLIA UMBRELLA, \$950, VIA CAVOUR



7. SAMUEL HUBBARD SHOES, \$345, JEAN-PAUL FORTIN



8. HAT, \$55, AND SWEATSHIRT, \$110, EQUINOX

THE HIT LIST While you shop, cross off a trip to the dry-cleaners, a wine run and alterations from your to-do's

**DOVE CLEANERS**  
If you're looking to have his tuxedo cleaned, go to Dove Cleaners. It's one of the best in the city and uses environmentally responsible equipment.

**THE WINE SHOP**  
Vino is the ultimate last-minute gift. The Wine Shop is a taste of Niagara with the best from Peller Estates, Trius, Thirty Bench and more.

**EMPIRE CUSTOMS**  
The tailors at Empire Customs can do it all, from creating a custom suit to taking in that velvet smoking jacket from last year.

**KEBABERIE**  
For a mid-shop snack, visit this modern Mideast kitchen that focuses on fresh, quality ingredients and old-world cooking methods.

**1. WATCH OUT**  
A timeless timekeeper is the perfect gift that any man will treasure for years. This stainless-steel Longines watch combines quality, elegance and great performance.

**2. BETTER OFF BESPOKE**  
Surprise and delight the guy whose shoe wardrobe rivals yours with a made-to-order pair. Farré by Emmanuel offers cobbler services as well, plus an impressive offering of small leather goods.

**3. UNCOMMON SCENTS**  
Shake things up by giving your guy a new fragrance to try: We suggest Concrete by Comme des Garçons, which has warm notes of cardamom, rose and musk. For stocking stuffers, look no further than fun underwear.

**4. OUTER LIMITS**  
A rugged leather jacket is a great big-ticket item for a stylish guy, whether he leans classic or contemporary. Paired with a chunky knit, it calls to mind '60s movie star Steve McQueen.

**5. BELT IT OUT**  
If there's a guy in your life who could use a belt upgrade (we see you, dad), Philip offers simple, elevated styles that can be worn with anything, from denim to tailored slacks.

**6. FASHION FORWARD**  
A discerning man needs a gift that shows style and taste, like cashmere gloves, a leather travel case or a wood-handled umbrella.

**7. HIGH KICKS**  
A pair of well-made leather sneakers—like these Samuel Hubbard sneakers from Jean-Paul Fortin—are fashionable and functional.

**8. TOP PERFORMERS**  
A membership to Equinox is a killer gift, but also check out its stylish athleisure finds like this cap and hoodie.



# Festive Beauty

Need a little beauty inspiration for the party season? Look no further—read on for everything you need to recreate this classic holiday look, from standout red lips to glowing skin to liner that just won't quit.



### STEP 1: GET GLOWING ▶

If you're planning to attend holiday parties wearing a cocktail dress, ensure your body is glowing from head to toe by prepping skin with St. Tropez Self Tan Express Bronzing Mousse. For a flawless application, use the St. Tropez Prep & Maintain Tan Applicator Mitt and buff mousse into skin using circular motions. Wash it off in the shower within one, two or three hours to reveal your custom light, medium or dark streak-free golden glow.

ST. TROPEZ EXPRESS MOUSSE, \$54, AND APPLICATOR MITT, \$9, SHOPPERS DRUG MART AND SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA/BEAUTY



### ◀STEP 2: HYDRATE THAT FACE

Skincare is just as important as makeup when it comes to achieving flawless skin. Before applying foundation, massage 2-3 drops of Korres Wild Rose Vitamin C Active Brightening Oil onto clean skin with your fingers, to ensure your face is beautifully hydrated. And once you've finished your makeup, set it with 2-3 sprays of Korres Wild Rose H2Rose Hydrating Face Mist, for a look that lasts all night.

KORRES HYDRATE & GLOW SET, \$59, AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY AT SHOPPERS DRUG MART AND SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA/BEAUTY

### STEP 3: ACE YOUR BASE ▶

Perfect your complexion with Nude by Nature's Glisten Good For You Essential Collection. Start by applying a pea-sized amount of the Perfecting Primer all over your face. Spot conceal dark circles or imperfections with Nude by Nature Perfecting Concealer, then, using the Nude by Nature Mineral Brush, set your concealer and mattify oil-prone areas with a dusting of Nude by Nature Translucent Loose Finishing Powder. Even out your overall complexion using Nude by Nature Radiant Loose Powder Foundation, buffing it onto skin in light, circular motions using the Nude by Nature Mineral Brush.

NUDE BY NATURE GLISTEN GOOD FOR YOU ESSENTIAL COLLECTION, \$55, AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY AT SHOPPERS DRUG MART AND SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA/BEAUTY



### STEP 4: ADD SOME SHINE

Add a touch of holiday sparkle to your eye look with Stila's Glitter & Glow Liquid Eye Shadow in Bronzed Bell. Bronze is the coolest metallic—less flashy than gold or silver but just as eye-catching. Apply directly using the applicator and blend the product out using your ring finger. You could apply it on just your lower lids for a modern look, in the inner corners to brighten up your eyes, or on the full lid for an all-out metallic eye.

STILA GLITTER & GLOW LIQUID EYE SHADOW IN BRONZED BELL, \$31, SHOPPERS DRUG MART, SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA/BEAUTY AND STILA.CA

### STEP 5: LINE AND LASH ▶

There's nothing like a cat-eye for a sophisticated glam look. Using Stila's Stay All Day Liquid Liner, pull gently on the upper corner of the eye area to stretch and smooth the lid before lining the upper lashline as close to lashes as possible. Finish the look with big, bold lashes—apply two coats of Stila's HUGE™ Extreme Lash Mascara for maximum impact.

STILA LIGHT UP THE NIGHT EYE & LIP SET, \$33, SHOPPERS DRUG MART, SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA/BEAUTY AND STILA.CA



### STEP 7: GET LIPPY ▶

For a bold statement, it's hard to look past a red lip. Sweep Stila's Beauty Boss Lip Gloss in "In the Red" onto lips for a standout seasonal look, or if you're feeling more minimal, go with the shade "Casual Friday" to enhance your natural lip colour.

STILA ETHEREAL ELEMENTS BEAUTY BOSS LIP GLOSS SET, \$78, SHOPPERS DRUG MART, SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA/BEAUTY AND STILA.CA



### STEP 6: POWER UP YOUR BROWS ▶

No makeup look is complete without a bold brow to frame the face and add a touch of polish to the overall look. Use Stila's Stay All Day Brow Color to create feathery, hair-like strokes that mimic the direction of your natural hair growth—you'll have defined, natural-looking brows in no time.

STILA STAY ALL DAY WATERPROOF BROW COLOUR, \$27, SHOPPERS DRUG MART, SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA/BEAUTY AND STILA.CA



### ◀STEP 8: MAKE A LASTING IMPRESSION

Fragrance is the perfect finishing touch to any look. Create your own customized scent according to your mood by layering on your favourites from Clean's Classic Rollerball Layering Collection such as Warm Cotton, Rain and Skin.

CLEAN CLASSIC ROLLERBALL LAYERING COLLECTION, \$28, SEPHORA AND SEPHORA.CA



# SCENTS FOR THE MEN IN YOUR LIFE

FRAGRANCE IS A THOUGHTFUL GIFT FOR ALL YOUR FAVOURITE GUYS.  
HERE ARE THE SEASON'S SCENTS FOR HIM



1



8



2



3



7



6



5



4

**1. RALPH LAUREN** Polo Blue Gold Eau de Parfum, 75 mL, \$101  
Inspired by Ralph Lauren's iconic navy blazer with brass buttons, this fragrance exudes modernity and sophistication.

**2. HUGO BOSS** Boss Bottled Infinite Eau de Parfum, 100 mL, \$110  
Aromatic, woody notes meet fresh citrus in this energizing fragrance that suits the modern man.

**3. MONTBLANC** Explorer Eau de Parfum, 100 mL, \$115  
Adventurers will be drawn to this unconventional woody aromatic leather blend that stars fresh bergamot and rich patchouli.

**4. PACO RABANNE** Pure Xs Night Eau de Parfum, 100 mL, \$118  
With sweet caramel and vanilla notes set against balsamic and green accords, this mysterious spicy oriental cologne will be the perfect accompaniment for his late-night holiday parties.

**5. DIOR** Sauvage Eau de Parfum, 100 mL, \$165  
The juicy and spicy freshness of the original Sauvage fragrance is now more sensual than ever with the addition of smoky vanilla absolute and woody, ambery Ambroxan notes.

**6. DOLCE&GABBANA** K Eau de Toilette, 100 mL, \$118  
This regal scent's fresh blood orange and Sicilian lemon are balanced by fiery pimento essence and earthy vetiver.

**7. GIORGIO ARMANI** Code Absolu Eau de Parfum, 60 mL, \$119  
Seductive and masculine, Armani Code's tonka bean base is warmed with rum accord and vanilla.

**8. BURBERRY** Mr. Burberry Eau de Toilette Spray, 100 mL, \$120  
Picture the dynamic London streets by night, and you'll be in the world of this intense interpretation of the original Mr. Burberry.

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DRUG MART







# Stylish stays

Five chic hotels that will make your winter getaway picture perfect

BY RENÉE TSE

Dreaming of your next getaway? Who isn't? Bookmarking fabulous locations has become a daily activity, thanks to all the fashionable world travellers we follow on Instagram who have inspired us to travel more than ever. Front row regulars like Aimee Song, Yoyo Cao and Dree Hemingway travel the world to attend fashion parties and runway shows (and yes, take an artfully arranged picture or two) and between them have recently jet-setted to Tokyo, Paris, Beijing, Iceland and Greece.

If you're planning a winter escape, relying on the fashionable globetrotting crowd for travel inspo is pretty ingenious. Just as they influence the next must-have designer shoe or beauty product, they know better than anyone else what makes a hotel A) worth staying at and B) supremely photogenic.

So whether you're longing for a bohemian getaway or a sophisticated city break, here's our guide to some of the world's most beautiful hotels for your next adventure.

**Fashion inspiration:** Isabel Marant's bohemian beauty  
**You should stay at:** Casa Cook Rhodes, Greece

Tune out the rest of the world when you check into one of Casa Cook Rhodes's suites, with a terrace, garden and private pool. When you've basked in the sun poolside, sign up for one of the many off-site activities that suit even the most mellow traveller. Sail the Aegean sea with a crew or get your heart rate up by hiking the property's scenic trails. If you're looking for a cultural experience, join a guided tour through the Byzantine-style historic town of this UNESCO World Heritage city.



**Fashion inspiration:** Stella McCartney's eco-warrior  
**You should stay at:** Sanara Tulum, Mexico

If you value tranquility and eco-consciousness, look no further than luxe eco-boutique hotel Sanará Tulum. Clever design means the buildings are raised above ground to allow sand flow and access to the beach for nesting turtles. The plastic-free, chemical-free and minimal waste property minimizes environmental impact.



**Fashion inspiration:** Jacquemus's eccentric glamazon  
**You should stay at:** El Fenn, Morocco

El Fenn is one of the most Instagram-worthy hotels in the world. Each room (and bathroom!) is unique, so every corner is worthy of a photo shoot. Get lost in the bougainvillea-filled courtyards or curl up with a book in one of the colourful nooks. Unwind in the hammam, then take in the amazing views from the 7,000 sq. ft. roof terrace with a snack, a cocktail or even a yoga class.



**Fashion inspiration:** Issey Miyake's artistic minimalist  
**You should stay at:** Aman Kyoto, Japan

Tucked away from the city centre, the new Aman Kyoto is a sanctuary of wellness. Inspired by the traditional Japanese Ryokan inn, the spacious rooms feature grand windows that allow for spectacular views. De-stress with mindful meditation or yoga in the courtyard, and then sink into the hotel's own onsens (mineral hot springs).



**Fashion inspiration:** Louis Vuitton's classic globetrotter  
**You should stay at:** Six Senses Duxton, Singapore

A reimagined row of 19th-century storehouses, Six Senses Duxton pays homage to Singapore's multi-cultural vibe with a design mix of Chinese, Malay and European elements. Visit the onsite traditional Chinese medicine doctor or rent bikes to explore the booming Chinatown neighbourhood and sample the abundance of cuisines.

PHOTOGRAPHY: GEORGE BOKOR/ANA SANTO FOR CASA COOK RHODES; COURTESY OF EL FENN; COURTESY OF SIX SENSES DUXTON.



## Best of Budapest

Lara Buchar maps out the must-dos in this lively, stylish city

Meet your next favourite European destination. Budapest is a visual feast of opulent architecture, ornate thermal baths and dazzling Hungarian delicacies. Separated by the Danube river, Buda is serene and historic while Pest is bustling and cool; the two areas combined offer all the essentials for a dreamy getaway. Here's how to enjoy the best of both worlds.



### Where to stay

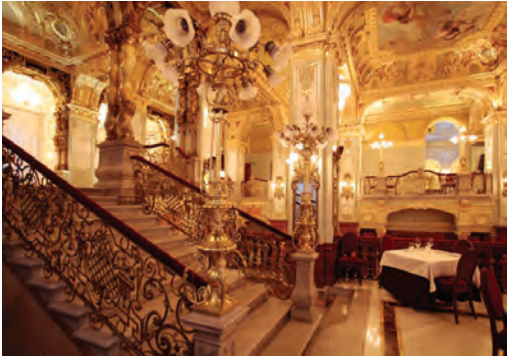
Brody House is a chic hotel rooted in Budapest's art and culture scene, named after the 19th-century Hungarian writer Sandor Brody. Each room in this neoclassical townhouse features eclectic art and furniture by local artists, some of whom have studios within the building. Take your pick of the rooms and learn the story of the artist who curated it. Then, call room service and order the Fizz Bucket of Hungarian bubbly on ice—the perfect nightcap after a long day of sightseeing.

BRODY HOUSE, BRODY.LAND

### Where to soak

No visit to Budapest is complete without a trip to the iconic wedding-cake-shaped Szechenyi Baths. But for a more serene bathing experience, head to the historic Gellert Spa, which features stunning Art Nouveau architecture and tile work, multiple geothermal baths and seemingly endless spa treatments. Skip the standard massage (these are performed in the bustling area near the lockers and are no-nonsense, functional procedures) and instead go to the concierge desk and book the Royal Thermal Massage—the price difference is nominal but the experience is exponentially better. This treatment is performed in a private room on the serene upper floor of the spa and features the Thermal Massage Cream, which is infused with the healing waters flowing through the baths below.

GELLERT THERMAL BATH, GELLERTSPA.COM



### Where to caffeinate

Opulent, OTT and extra in every sense of the word, New York Café claims to be “the most beautiful café in the world” and we're not about to argue. With gilded ceilings, too many chandeliers to count and a trio of Hungarian musicians that performs once per hour, it's the perfect place to while away an afternoon. Sink into a cushy red-velvet chair and soak in the sights and sounds of a landmark steeped in history (it opened in 1894). While the 24K-gold-dusted cappuccino will run you about \$12, consider this your entrance fee to one of the city's finest attractions. Tip: make a reservation on the website to avoid a long wait with the crowd of picture-hungry tourists at the entrance.

NEW YORK CAFÉ, NEWYORKCAFE.HU



### Where to shop

Situated on a bustling avenue in the heart of the city, Mono Art & Design offers locally made artisan wares with millennial flair: earthy, handmade ceramics, eco-friendly fashion, even an organic beauty section. The bright and roomy storefront also functions as a gallery and event space, which features the city's top emerging artists and designers.

MONO ART & DESIGN, MONOARTANDDESIGN.TUMBLR.COM



### Where to dine

Tucked away on a quiet street, Fricska Gastropub is a modern Hungarian cellar bistro that boasts a Michelin Bib Gourmand rating and some of the most inventive food in the city. Think: an artful plate of duck liver paté served with catfish, Granny Smith apple jelly, beets and housemade walnut bread—a seemingly bizarre combination that really works. The blackboard menu changes daily based on what's freshest at the local market, and there's always a selection of Hungarian wines. Unpretentious and laid-back despite its incredible plates, this is the restaurant to hit after a day of R&R in the baths.

FRICKSKA GASTROPUB, FRICKSKA.EU



# THE KIT

*Holiday Gift Guide Special! Pour a glass of bubbly and flip for ways to celebrate the ones you love*



# I'll have the sparkling

Style editor **Liz Guber** toasts the finest jewellery made by Canadian designers

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIEL HARRISON

To fit all of the Canadian jewellery designers I wanted to include in this issue, I would need a page the size of a billboard. There's just so much talent here. A few worth highlighting: Melissa Gobeil and Susan Shaw of Attic turn fine metals into deceptively simple, effortlessly cool chains and bracelets. Sarah Magwood works magic to make her shimmering necklaces look like liquid gold. Jenny Bird's sculpted creations

hit the perfect balance of artful and avant garde. And Edilou Canedo's glam-with-an-edge line, Cuchara, is known for pieces that have just the right amount of drama. Gilded jewellery—whether it's a pair of swishy, shoulder-grazing earrings or a sculptural pendant—offers the kind of mood-boosting, wear-with-anything appeal that makes it a holiday styling essential. I know what I'm wearing this New Year's—you?

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: **CUCHARA** RHINSTONE EARRING, \$145 FOR PAIR, CUCHARA.CA. **STANDING O** SQUARE PENDANT NECKLACE, \$126, ETSY.COM/CA/SHOP/STANDINGOACCESSORIES. **HANIA KUZBARI** DIAMOND AND GREEN TOURMALINE EARRINGS, \$1,880, HANIAKUZBARI.COM. **DEAN DAVIDSON** LABRADORITE EARRINGS, \$305, DEANDAVIDSON.CA. **G.SHERMAN** VINTAGE SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL NECKLACE, \$595, GSHERMANJEWELS.COM. **MAGWOOD** NECKLACE, \$270, MAGWOOD.CA. **STANDING O** CHAIN EARRINGS, \$114, ETSY.COM/CA/SHOP/STANDINGOACCESSORIES. **MEJURI** BRACELET, \$140, MEJURI.COM. **ATTIC CHAIN** NECKLACE, \$990, ATTICGLD.COM. **JENNY BIRD** DROP EARRINGS, \$125, JENNY-BIRD.CA. **RICHARD BRENDON** GLASS (LEFT), \$220, **SCHOTT ZWIESEL** GLASS (RIGHT), \$32, HOPSONGRACE.COM



FASHION YOURSELF A HOLIDAY CAESAR  
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HOLIDAY 19 // CANADA



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If you only buy one

Beauty director **Katherine Lalancette** kisses chapped lips goodbye with the best balm ever

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DANIEL HARRISON

I was waiting for the bus the other day. It was snowing and windy and my shoulders were hunched so high, they practically doubled as earrings. An older, burly guy braved the cold beside me. I grabbed a lip balm from my pocket, half to pass the time, half to quell my disdain for dry lips. The man did the same. We shared a very Canadian smile that seemed to say, “Winter, eh!”

In that moment, it dawned on me: Dry lips are Canada’s great equalizer. No matter who you are—burly man or hunched-over woman—by the time November winds down, your lips are hankering for hydration. That’s because lips are universally vulnerable. First of all, they are thin—three to five cellular layers compared to the 16 on the rest of your body—and secondly, they don’t produce any oil, so they can’t protect themselves.

That’s why I decided to search for the best lip balm on the market. This felt bigger than beauty, it was patriotism. I slicked on every formula I could find until I landed on the one. If I run into the man at the bus stop, I’ll be sure to let him know.



IF YOU’RE A SHINE FIEND

It looks like a gloss, it applies like a gloss, but I assure you it’s a balm. Infused with shea and mango seed butters, the pink-tinged formula makes even the sorriest lips look plush and pretty.

FENTY BEAUTY BY RIHANNA  
PRO KISS’R LUSCIOUS LIP BALM, \$24, SEPHORA.CA



IF YOU’VE GOT A SWEET TOOTH

The headliner here is sugar, a natural humectant that keeps lips silky and supple. Supporting players include anti-aging orange extract and sea fennel to plump up fine lines. No wonder Meghan Markle’s a fan.

FRESH SUGAR ADVANCED THERAPY LIP TREATMENT, \$34, SEPHORA.CA



IF YOU LOVE YOURSELF A CLASSIC

Dating all the way back to 1892, this rose-infused salve is as iconic as it gets. It works miracles on parched pouts but also helps soften rough knees and elbows and tames flyaways.

ROSEBUD PERFUME CO.  
ROSEBUD SALVE, \$9, INDIGO.CA



IF YOU’RE ALL ABOUT SIMPLICITY

This was the first personal care product from Burt’s Bees. It utilized left-over beeswax from Burt’s honey biz and was poured into tins hand-painted by co-founder Roxanne. The rest is lip-coddling history.

BURT’S BEES BEESWAX LIP BALM WITH VITAMIN E & PEPPERMINT, \$6, SHOPPERSDRUGMART.CA



IF YOU WANT IMMEDIATE RELIEF

Soothe sore lips in seconds with this medicated pick. It’s analgesic, so it eases pain, and it’s topped with cooling menthol to provide comfort and lanolin and petroleum jelly to lock in moisture.

BLISTEX LIP MEDEX, \$4, WELL.CA



IF YOU ONLY BUY ONE LIP BALM, GO FOR...

Technically, it’s meant to be used as an overnight mask, but I go off-label and smooth it on all day because it just feels so good. The buttery balm wraps lips in a plush blanket of minerals and hyaluronic acid, banishing flakes and restoring moisture in no time. Results are positively juicy.

LANEIGE LIP SLEEPING MASK, \$26, SEPHORA.CA

THE KIT X COS

Holiday Mix

Party season is here, and you’ve probably RSVP’d to more fêtes than your wardrobe can handle. Need a few timeless evening outfits at the ready? The Kit editor Renée Tse put together four sophisticated looks from COS that will ensure you’re best-dressed at every soirée in your calendar



The Elegant Jumpsuit

The utilitarian jumpsuit gets a seasonal update in lush midnight-blue velvet. Reach for this powerful silhouette for an office holiday party or after-hours cocktails with friends.

COS JUMPSUIT, \$225, GREY CLUTCH BAG, \$250, POINTED KITTEN HEEL MULES, \$275, AVAILABLE AT COS STORES

The Asymmetrical Dress

Be the best-dressed guest at your New Year’s fête with this elegant standout piece. Pair it with sleek jewellery and accessories to let the dress take the spotlight.

COS ASYMMETRIC STRAP JERSEY DRESS, \$150, STERLING SILVER LARGE HOOPS, \$150, AVAILABLE AT COS STORES. SHOES, RENÉE’S OWN

The Colour Story

Wearing one colour head to toe—like this wine-hued, sheer turtle-neck and midi skirt—can transform simple separates into a showstopping outfit. Add cool leather boots to ground the sultry look.

COS TANQUAM TURTLENECK, \$115, PANELLED A-LINE SKIRT, \$250, TUBULAR HOOPED EARRINGS, \$49, BEIGE PADDED LEATHER CLUTCH, \$250, LEATHER BOOTS WITH TILTED HEEL, \$290, AVAILABLE AT COS STORES

The Playful LBD

This little black dress will be the life of the party with its voluminous ruffled hem (perfect for twirling around the dance floor). Take the playfulness up a notch by adding sparkly metallic socks under your pumps.

COS FRILLED SHIRT DRESS, \$150, LEATHER TRIANGLE EARRINGS, \$49, METALLIC SOCKS, \$11, AVAILABLE AT COS STORES. SHOES, RENÉE’S OWN





# Are ceramics the new luxury candles?

Liz Guber examines our collective obsession with speckled clay mugs

COMMON GOODS STUDIO  
VASE, \$68, PITCHER, \$68,  
CURATEWITHCARDAMOM.COM

Last year, the decor site Apartment Therapy released a (virtual) Millennial Apartment bingo card to poke good-natured fun at the generation's collective love of certain design tropes—fiddle-leaf fig plants, Edison bulbs, brass bar carts and signs that say things like “Good Vibes Only” or “This Must Be The Place.” I think there was one glaring omission: a ceramic vase.

As a fashion editor, it's my job to spot the latest style trends, but the persistent, steady rise of ceramics over the past few years has been impossible for me to ignore. Wherever I look,

there they are. On my go-to fashion e-comm sites like Matches-Fashion, Garmentory and Need Supply, they're glossy and painted cheery hues like eggshells at Easter. On Instagram, they star in sunlight-filtered shots, styled with a single plume of pampas grass. Offline, cool boutiques like Toronto's Easy Tiger, Vancouver's Cardamom and Atelier Make in Montreal carry vases, mugs, incense burners and other objets made by local and independent artists. Ceramics have become, like \$50 scented candles before them, A Thing.

Since opening her west end Toronto shop, Rose City Goods, earlier this year, Christie Pinese has expanded the number of ceramicists she carries from three to 10, and she can't restock the stuff fast enough. “Everyone loves a mug, everyone uses mugs,” says Pinese. “They're usually the first thing people gravitate towards.”

That ceramics are typically functional objects is part of their appeal. It's art you can drink coffee out of, or serve brie on, or drop your keys into; a beautification of ritual and routine.

Nostalgia is also at play here. “We don't know what to expect from our futures, so our generation is reaching for things that remind us of our parents' or even grandparents' homes to feel warm and comforted,” says Pinese. When faced with constant disenchantment, the hope-deprived next gen is reaching for a handmade pitcher, finding in it the same kind of tangible delight offered by succulents or Diptyque Feu de Bois.

Amusingly, there are trends within the ceramic trend. Currently, anything speckled is all the rage, as are paint-dipped geometric shapes and designs of faces. Pinese also points out the work of Winnipeg artist Kylie Hoydalo of Ky.Ramics. The artist's sassy Titty Mug, with its glazed, gold-nippled breasts, is a feminist statement in clay form. “There's a ceramic for everything,” muses Pinese. Michelle Organ is the Toronto-based artist behind Mima Ceramics. She also runs The Shop, a membership-based creative space that offers tools and equipment to ceramicists, and classes for a growing number of ceramicist wannabes. “I've had my studio for five years, and each year the interest in learning keeps going up,” says Organ. “Once people try it, they get a newfound appreciation for the process.”

The first lesson for any beginner: Turning a lump of clay into a bowl isn't as easy as Demi Moore made it seem. “The thing with ceramics is that there's a lot of inactive time—there's a couple days of drying time, there's two days of firing time, then everything has to cool, then it has to be glazed, then there's two or three more days of firing and drying time.” Most aspiring artists leave their first class feeling a little frustrated, says Organ. “It's a big shock that they're not good at it right away. You just have to learn and practice.”

The time it takes to make a finished piece is a big factor in the cost, along with materials, equipment and firing fees. “If you're getting something for under \$20, chances are it's mass produced,” says Pinese. That many of us are willing to pay a premium for something handmade seems like a natural reaction to the Amazon age (a quick search on the site reveals hundreds of mass-produced knock-offs). There's also our shared yearning for individuality. As millennials become the largest sector of the home-buying population, we want our glass boxes in the sky, filled with the same Ikea, Article and EQ3 furniture, to nonetheless feel one-of-a-kind. These days, everyone is a collector, a curator, a show-off.

If decor trends tell us a story about our world, then ceramics signal our collective yearning for that mythical simpler time, when the polar ice caps weren't melting and the rainforests didn't burn. An oblong incense holder may not solve the world's problems, but there's a comfort in having something that's been thoughtfully, lovingly moulded from earth. After all, pottery is humankind's oldest maker movement, next to cave drawings. It was due for a comeback.



### The artsy specs

Bonlook's designers tapped the team at Fellow Earthlings, a Prince Edward Island eyewear manufacturer, to create its first made-in-Canada collection that's inspired by PEI's coastal landscape.

BONLOOK GLASSES, FROM \$225, BONLOOK.COM

## Locals only

Shop, gift and wear Canadian this holiday season with our edit of stylish finds and coveted pieces, all made close to home

### The cocktail upgrade

This Edmonton-based line of cocktail tinctures is the brainchild of a chemical engineer, a bartender and a bar owner. Most of the ingredients are sourced from farms in Alberta and blended sans chemicals or preservatives.

TOKEN BITTERS, \$23, TOKENBITTERS.COM



### The status suds

When Karen Kim, the mastermind behind beloved Toronto soap brand Binu Binu, couldn't find a soap dish worthy of her bars, she set out to design her own sculptural, marble pieces that elevate any vanity.

BINU BINU SOAP, \$29, SOAP DISH, \$100, BINU-BINU.COM

### The heavenly scent

This sweet, woody floral from Edmonton's Libertine Fragrance features notes of black pepper and juniper berry.

LIBERTINE FRAGRANCE SOFT WOODS EAU DE PARFUM, \$120, LIBERTINE-FRAGRANCE.COM



### The not-so-dainty hoops

Pyrrha's old-world-inspired pieces are created by hand in Vancouver using reclaimed sterling silver, bronze and 14K gold along with conflict-free precious stones (which you can customize, btw).

PYRRHA EARRINGS, \$1,383, PYRRHA.COM



### The luxe loungewear

Knit from a cotton that's custom-milled in Montreal, this printed hoodie and jogger pants set can effortlessly go from couch to brunch (and right back again).

TWENTY MONTREAL HOODIE, \$259, PANTS, \$246, NET-A-PORTER.COM



### The cold-brew companion

Glass artist Brook Drabot of Warren, Manitoba, creates the prettiest vases and planters. Her colourful, handmade glass straws are an ideal zero-waste gift for your iced-coffee-obsessed friend.

BROOK DRABOT GLASS STRAWS, \$28, BROOKDRABOT.COM



### The pleasing print

Artists and frequent collaborators Marie-Pier Guilmain and Maud Beauchamp's latest project is a series of surreal graphic art prints rendered in soothing pastel hues. Only 100 were made.

MPGMB PRINT, \$80, SIMONS.CA



### The gourmet spirit

Made by Prince Edward County's only distillery, this lemony, aromatic gin is crafted from locally sourced juniper berries, lavender and hops. Tom Collins, anyone?

KINSIP GIN, \$39, LCBO.COM

**The hero bag**  
Toronto accessory genius Sonya Lee designed this bucket bag to be worn on the shoulder, cross-body or even as a backpack. The oxblood hue feels fresh yet classic.

SONYA LEE BAG, \$610, SHOPNECESSARY.COM





# Gifts for everyone on your list

Haven't made a dent in your list yet? Not to worry, there's plenty of time to cross everyone off it—just head to one-stop gifting destination Nordstrom. Here, our picks of perfect presents for your nearest and dearest

FOR MOM



Set your mom up for a blissful day off with a super-soft wrap and luxe candle topper that spins when you light the flame.

CASLON WRAP, \$199. DIPTYQUE CAROUSEL CANDLE TOPPER (CANDLE NOT INCLUDED), \$82. NORDSTROM

FOR DAD



Make your dad's holiday season extra-cozy with a fleece-lined plaid robe and well-designed gloves.

NORDSTROM SHERPA-LINED ROBE, \$116. THE NORTH FACE GLOVES, \$44.99. NORDSTROM

FOR YOUR BOYFRIEND



Kit out your guy with a sleek duffel for weekends away. Plus, this sneaker-cleaning kit will give his collection of kicks a new lease on life.

HERSCHEL BAG, \$100. GENTLEMAN'S HARDWARE SNEAKER CLEANING KIT, \$26. NORDSTROM

FOR YOUR NIECE



Does this rainbow sweater come in our size? Kidding (sort of). It'll look gorgeous on your wee niece, and she'll love this festive board book too.

TUCKER + TATE SWEATER, \$46. JELLYCAT BOOK, \$16.50. NORDSTROM

FOR YOUR BFF



Show your best friend how much she means to you with a high-design portable speaker and cute, cozy socks.

BUTTER PATTERN CREW SOCKS, \$15. LEXON MINO SPEAKER IN SILVER, \$39.99. NORDSTROM



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AND SILVER BOXES



**The hero jacket**  
Around here, denim and leopard prints are considered neutrals. This reversible number features both—perfect for a friend who can never decide which coat to wear out the door.

**LEVI'S JACKET**, \$248, LEVIS.COM



**The timeless scent**  
We can't think of a single person who wouldn't be delighted to receive a gift emblazoned with some signature Cs.

**CHANEL N°5 EAU DE PARFUM MINI TWIST AND SPRAY**, \$100, CHANEL.COM



**The travel saviour**  
We all have that friend who's always flying off somewhere cool. Their jet-lagged skin would appreciate this.

**LANO JET SET TRIO**, \$36, SEPHORA.COM




# The best gifts for your best friend

Having trouble finding a gift for your ride-and-die? Here are 10 sweet and unique ideas



**The party pumps**  
Of course you know your friend's shoe size. You also know she's been dreaming of a pair of fanciful, pink patent heels.

**ROGER VIVIER SHOES**, \$985, ROGERVIVIER.COM



**The cottage read**  
Gift your BFF the perfect holiday book: Ali Wong's anthology of letters to her two young daughters, covering just about every topic from dating and career advice to Chinese restaurant tips.

**DEAR GIRLS** BY ALI WONG, \$36, CHAPTERS.INDIGO.CA



**The memory maker**  
Print out your most memorable moments with this user-friendly Instax mini printer that connects via Bluetooth and allows you to customize, edit and print your photos straight from your smartphone.

**FUJIFILM INSTAX MINI LINK PRINTER**, \$130, AMAZON.CA



**The conversation starter**  
Your BFF will spread joy and fun at holiday parties with this card game featuring thoughtful questions that spark lively chats.

**HYGGE GAMES THE HYGGE GAME**, \$30, SHOP.NORDSTROM.COM



**The coffee mate**  
Help your pal ditch disposable cups in 2020, with this glass and silicone traveller in a dreamy shade of dusty blue.

**JOCO CUP**, \$27 (12 OZ.), CHAPTERS.INDIGO.CA



**The joyful candle**  
Take your friend's candle game to the next level with this beauty. It turns when the flame is lit, casting magical silhouettes on the wall.

**INNISFREE CANDLE**, \$27, INNISFREE.COM



**The feel-good yoga mat**  
A packable yoga mat that fits into a carry-on suitcase or backpack may be the perfect present for your Pura Vida-bound friend. Bonus: It's made of sustainably sourced rubber and is Forest Stewardship Council certified.

**LULULEMON MAT**, \$88, LULULEMON.CA



Christmas holds special meaning for Nicole Campbell (above left) and Krysta Oben. It was around this time 10 years ago ago that the Torontonians struck up a friendship. Campbell, then a wine rep, came in to now-closed Parkdale restaurant Geraldine to meet with Oben, who was the sommelier. They bonded over their mutual love of wine. “The first bottle we shared was likely an overripe \$14 Malbec. Oh, how we’ve grown!” jokes Campbell. These days, the best friends turned business partners are known as the Grape Witches, and they’re authorities on the natural wine scene. They host themed tasting parties (a recent edition was billed as a wedding without the wedding—all of the fun, no awkward relatives) and curate sought-after subscription boxes. In time for the holidays, we tapped the duo for a list of wines worth gifting. —*Katherine Lalancette*



**THE EASY RED**  
“Austria is having a huge moment with really exciting wines,” says Campbell. “Most are quite pricey, but one of our favourite producers, Meinklang, has incredibly affordable, refined wines.” You can find Meinklang’s offerings, like this fresh, juicy red, in Quebec, western Canada and Ontario for about \$25 a bottle.

**MEINKLANG BLAUFÄHRKISCH**, \$26



**THE WINTER ROSÉ**  
“Rosé season is all the time—let’s make that clear,” says Oben. She and Campbell have a soft spot for those of California producer Martha Stoumen. “They’re more savoury, like you could close your eyes and almost think you’re having a fantastic red.” You’ll want to seek out a local importer in your province for this one.

**MARTHA STOUMEN POST FLIRTATION ROSÉ**, \$43



**THE ZIPPY WHITE**  
Cristiana Tiberio is a producer of lively organic wines in Italy’s Abruzzo region. A tip for inhabitants of the 6ix: Tiberio’s bottles can often be found at the LCBO’s 49 Spadina Ave. location. Another tip: “I encourage everyone to look at her dog on Instagram [@cristianatiberio],” says Campbell. “She has the most beautiful giant dog.”

**TIBERIO TREBBIANO D’ABRUZZO**, \$20



**THE CHEAP AND CHEERFUL WHITE**  
The Grape Witches call this vinho verde the ultimate guilty pleasure. “It’s the La Croix of wine, like a wave of refreshment,” says Campbell. “If you have a friend that you don’t want to share your amazing Chenin Blanc from the Loire Valley with, this is a wine you can be generous with and that still tastes really great.”

**AVELEDA VINHO VERDE**, \$11



**THE CAN’T-GO-WRONG RED**  
“Even the smallest store in the middle of nowhere will have this Beaujolais,” says Campbell. It’s made entirely of gamay, a grape she and Oben often recommend as it’s high in acidity and pairs well with just about anything. “It’s always around and it’s always good, like the classic baguette you get at Loblaws.”

**LOUIS JADOT BEAUJOLAIS VILLAGES**, \$18





Tara Leigh Rose

**How would you describe your style?** “It’s heavily influenced by French style. My grandmother is the chicest woman I know and I love taking her vintage pieces and reworking them into my closet.”

**What do you love about wearing a watch?** “I have a small amount of clothing and focus on buying pieces I feel are timeless so a watch is a piece I’d use to jazz up any outfit.”

**How would you work the watch into holiday party outfits?** “I like mixing textures, so I would pair this

with a silk skirt, cashmere sweater and leather booties.”

**Why does a watch make a great gift?** “Because I like to think of a timepiece as something that gets passed down to the next generation. My brother has a watch that my grandfather wore and it makes the piece that much more special. I would gift these Longines watches to my sister and mom. My sister is more edgy and my mom’s style is more classic, so I’d gift the blue face watch to my sister and the silver one to my mom (and then maybe they’d be on time for brunch!).”

# Time to shine

Swiss watchmaker Longines has been making some of the world’s most elegant timepieces since 1832, and its latest model, the Conquest Classic, is no exception. These modern, feminine watches have sleek steel bracelets and cases that house quartz movements, and the dials come in fine finishes including black or white mother-of-pearl, diamonds and touches of pink metal. We asked two of Canada’s chicest influencers, Tara Leigh Rose and Chloe Zhang, to show how beautifully the Conquest Classic enhances a stylish wardrobe.



Chloe Zhang

**How would you describe your style?** “Classy, simple and sophisticated.”

**What do you love about wearing a watch?** “It always reminds you to be on time and to value time more.”

**How would you style the Longines watch you’re wearing today?** “Anything silky and soft would pair well with an elegant stainless-steel watch. The Longines Conquest Classic is timeless and versatile, and it’s easy to wear with various outfits.”

**What’s the ideal outfit to wear with this watch?** “I’m totally a blazer girl, so I would definitely wear this watch with a simple blazer look. Plus, it can dress up any look and get you ready for the holidays.”

**Why does a watch make a great gift?** “I think a watch is such a meaningful gift—it has a long-term value to it. I would love to gift this Longines watch to my loved ones this holiday—it’s an accessory that someone can wear every day, and every time they wear it, it will remind them of you.”

Elegance is an attitude

*Mikaela Shiffrin*

Mikaela Shiffrin

# LONGINES®

## GRAZIELLA

FINE JEWELLERY

1615 Dundas St East, Whitby  
793 Taunton Rd East, Oshawa  
graziellafinejewellery.com

Conquest Classic



# Her

## Eau de Parfum



**BURBERRY**





**QUESTION**

What's the best  
skincare routine  
for winter?

**ANSWER**

**THEKIT.CA**  
CANADA'S BEAUTY AUTHORITY