



Once Upon a Time

ISSEY MIYAKE TOP, \$480, HOLTRENREW.COM

Call it fairy-tale theatre: a holiday gift guide inspired by myth and magic. Enchantment rules with suitably moody fragrances, sparkly things that catch the light (and pierce the heart) and heels so special they'll set you on the path to happily ever after. Your "big gift" list starts here

By Jennifer Berry | Photography by Katherine Holland

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CHANEL



HERMÈS BARENIA
EAU DE PARFUM, \$212
(100 ML), HERMES.COM

INTO THE WOODS

Like *Hansel & Gretel*, this complex perfume involves an adventure into the trees, a magical sweet and the fortitude to come out on top

A chypre perfume is, by definition, a mysterious study in contrasts. It's fresh yet woody, strong and soft, demure but assertive. And while all other fragrance categories describe a type of scent, like floral or gourmand, chypre is an accord, or group of notes, comprising citrus top notes, a floral heart and a mossy base. So for Hermès's first ever chypre fragrance, in-house perfumer Christine Nagel leaned into its incongruities, blending tradition with innovation.

Nagel took nearly 10 years to bring the scent to life, with the persistence of the witch working meticulously to fatten up *Hansel & Gretel*—but without the nefarious intentions. Cozy oakwood and sultry patchouli are complemented with rich butterfly lily, instead of the rose that punctuates traditional chypre scents. Nagel added a fantastical embellishment: a note called miracle berry, which sounds plucked straight from a fairy tale; it contains a protein called miraculin that makes everything sour taste sweet.

Despite its whimsical backstory, this is an elegant scent that isn't for kids. "A chypre is an instinctively attractive scent, ready to be drawn like a magnet to the skin," says Nagel. It's true: The poetry of this type of fragrance is revealed when it touches a wearer's *peau* and evolves over time, much like the patina of the house's Barenia leather the *parfum* is named after.

The discreetly studded flacon is a little tough, no? It's Hermès's first translation of its classic *Collier de Chien* bracelet into a perfume bottle, and the result is both au courant and iconic. It's sure to never blend into the woodwork.



Hansel or Gretel can wear this unisex cologne inspired by Japanese forest bathing, with cedar and hinoki woods, cinnamon, clove and tonka bean.
JO MALONE HINOKI & CEDARWOOD COLOGNE INTENSE, \$296 (100 ML), SEPHORA.CA



Black coffee, tonka bean and cedar merge in this scent that was inspired by tree bark and smells like you've just bitten into a slab of opera cake.
DIPTYQUE BOIS CORSÉ EAU DE PARFUM, \$446 (100 ML), HOLTRENFREW.COM



The beloved minimalist makeup brand now makes perfume. It starts clean, opens with a floral centre and finishes with a vanilla-musk dry-down.
MÉRIT RETROSPECT L'EXTRAIT DE PARFUM, \$125 (30 ML), MERITBEAUTY.COM



This woody perfume blends warm vetiver, sweet buckwheat and rich cedar into a spicy brew that'll impress the scent snob on your list.
L'ARTISAN PARFUMEUR L'ÉTAIT UN BOIS EAU DE PARFUM, \$300 (100 ML), ETIKET.CA



This gourmand scent whipped up from vanilla bourbon, cinnamon butter and white sandalwood satisfies a sweet tooth like a plate of snickerdoodles.
MAKER DREAM EAU DE PARFUM, \$236 (50 ML), AVAILABLE DEC. 3, SEPHORA.CA

FIRST FROST

Enchant your giftee with beauty treats as glittering as the Snow Queen herself

It's become a cliché to say that a highlighter gives a "lit from within" glow, but Clé de Peau Beauté's Luminizing Face Enhancer really does just that. It imparts the incandescent shimmer of a fresh snowfall, or the ice melted in the heart of a boy in Hans Christian Andersen's *The Snow Queen*. But unlike a twisted mirror that magnifies ugliness and evil, this compact offers an instant glow-up that'll make 'em wonder if you just escaped a hobgoblin's curse. No magical powers here, just opal powder to reflect light and argan oil for a kiss of moisture.

Sliding an exquisite compact like this one out of your minaudière and opening it to discreetly check your lipstick, left on the rim of a Champagne flute or a canapé napkin, is a moment rather than a task. And since nowhere savours such intentional pleasure quite like Paris, Clé de Peau Beauté's limited-edition holiday collection uses the City of Light as its backdrop and inspiration.

Artist Jean Dalin's detailed illustrations adorn everything from a serum bottle to a bullet of lipstick, and tell a grand tale. We follow a plucky heroine rediscovering life's joys, guided around Paris by the mythical Pegasus. For the Luminizing Face Enhancer leg of her journey, our gal freezes the surface of a river using only her imagination, throws on some skates and glides across the ice, leaving a beautiful design in her wake. Now that's a Snow Queen.



CLÉ DE PEAU BEAUTÉ THE LUMINIZING FACE ENHANCER, \$125, CLEDEPEAUBEUTE.CA



Like tinsel for your pout, this longwear liquid lipstick magically takes on a glittery finish when lips are pressed together. Frost yourself!
DIOR ROUGE DIOR FOREVER LIQUID SEQUIN LIPSTICK, \$65, DIOR.COM



This splurge-y eye cream addresses drooping, puffiness and dark circles (the unholy trinity of holiday fatigue). It comes with a lovely massage tool.
SISLEY SUPREMYA ANTI-AGING EYE CREAM, \$520, SISLEY-PARIS.COM



Spice up a stocking with a gem from Victoria Beckham's buzzy brand. This hero highlighter stick imparts a dewy slick without a hint of glitter.
VICTORIA BECKHAM BEAUTY REFLECT HIGHLIGHTER STICK, \$55, RENNAI.COM



Glossier's It girl scent is now a lush body cream whipped out of shea butter and jojoba oil. The red glass tub brings subtle cheer to the vanity.
GLOSSIER CRÈME DE YOU DRY-TOUCH BODY BUTTER, \$61, SEPHORA.CA



Come for the jazzy gold compact, stay for the luminous powders that highlight, sculpt and blush the entire face.
NARS PURE LUXURY LIGHT REFLECTING FACE & EYE PALETTE, \$81, SEPHORA.CA

PHOTOGRAPH BY NATHANIEL WATSON; STYLING: KRISTINA LEE; HAIR: LUCY WATSON; MAKEUP: ASHLEY FREDRICKS; CADRE ARTISTS; OFF-FIGURE; STYLIST: ENCA; MAKEUP ARTISTS



CHANEL NECKLACE, \$2,075.
SELECT CHANEL BOUTIQUES

CROWN JEWELS

Party-worthy baubles fit for a princess are their own happy ending

Was Rapunzel the original party girl? Letting one's hair down is now synonymous with cutting loose, throwing caution to the wind and the sense of freedom that comes with a really great night out. The imprisoned princess might not have been on the club scene, but her mile-long hair symbolized a path of rebellion (it's how she met her forbidden prince) and, ultimately, her salvation. Liberated from her chilly tower with a chic new bob, Rapunzel was free to live and love how she wanted.

Virginie Viard, too, explored themes of freedom when designing the Chanel Cruise 2024/25 collection. She was inspired by the *à l'aise* lifestyle of the southern French port city Marseille. "The sun, architecture, music and dance: Marseille has a very strong sense of freedom,"

wrote Viard, now the former creative director of the house, in the collection notes.

The clothes, which were shown in Marseille, channelled that heady sense of liberation. Playing with nautical references and all manner of marine life, the lively assortment included everything from bow-covered wetsuits and teal fishing-net-like crochet sets to whimsical accessories like the above glass and resin necklace adorned with an on-trend crustacean charm and signature double Cs.

Whether you're booking it south for a mid-winter break or just holding out the months until we can dust off our sundresses again, joy-giving jewellery is delightfully seasonless, free from the trappings of the Gregorian calendar. We bet Rapunzel would approve.



Party season might be the time to let one's hair down, but these new galactic earrings demand to be seen, so updo it is.
JENNY BIRD EARRINGS, \$168.
JENNY-BIRD.CA



These stars will bring as much (if not more) joy than the one atop the Christmas tree. Slip on a few of the open rings for a cool layered effect.
PANDORA RING, \$75.
PANDORA.NET



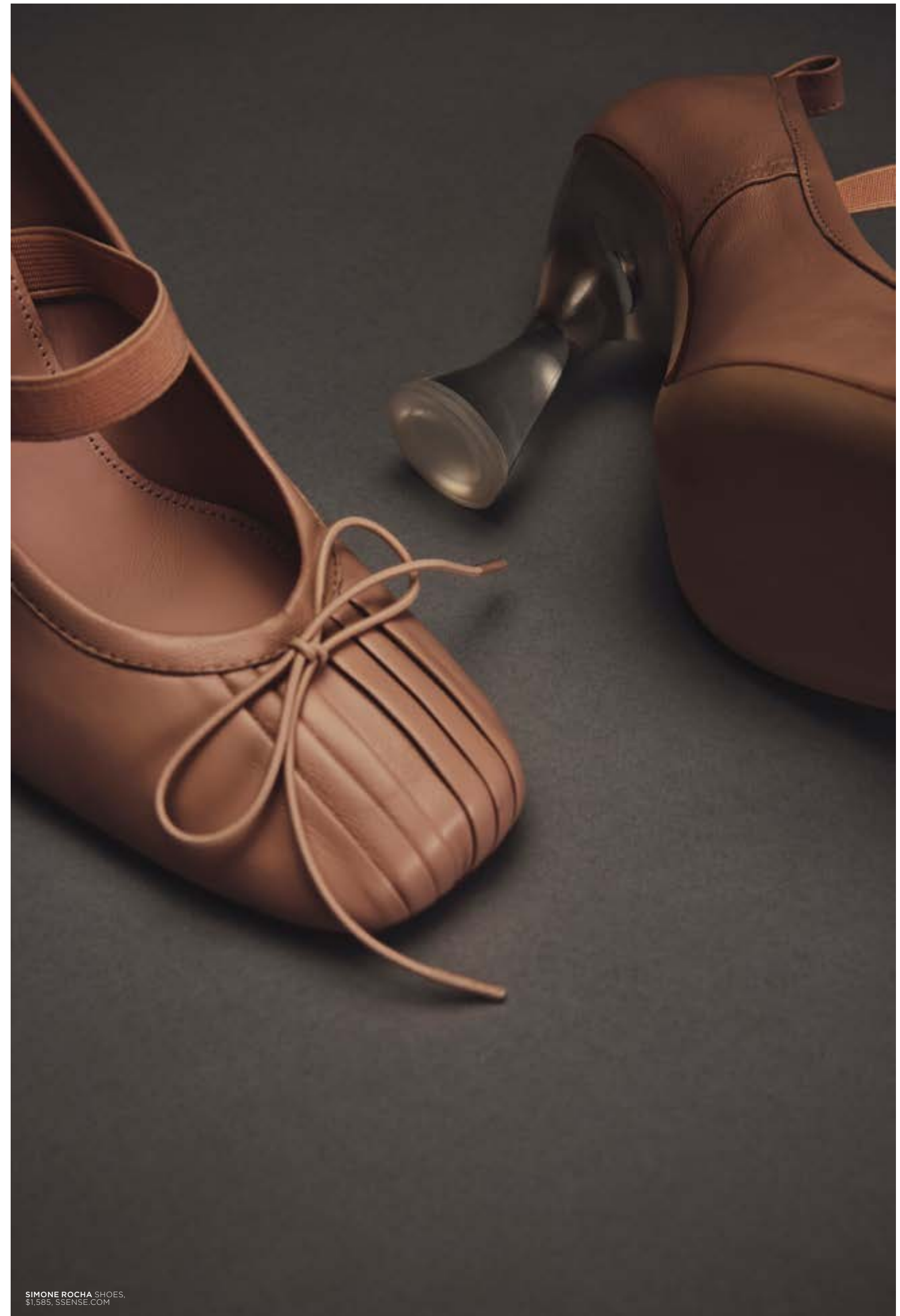
Delicate sparkles adorn golden swirls on these statement earrings that could easily be mistaken for a vintage family heirloom.
LILI CLASPE EARRINGS, \$251.
LILICLASPE.COM



For the minimalist on your shopping list, a strong collar necklace in gleaming silver is a party season power move.
BIKO NECKLACE, \$485.
ILOVEBIKO.COM



Freshwater pearls are anything but traditional when strung with 18K-gold spike rondelles and finished with a diamond clasp.
TIFFANY & CO. BY PHARRELL WILLIAMS BRACELET, \$21,400. TIFFANY.CA



SIMONE ROCHA SHOES,
\$1,888. SSENSE.COM

IF THE SHOE FITS

There's no time of year more suited to a sparkly heel, a fancy flat—or a glass slipper

Cinderella's ballgown ranks high in the realm of literary sartorial showstoppers. Who would design such a look today? Our vote goes to Irish designer Simone Rocha, who poetically conjures romantic archetypes via frills and frothy fabrics. Now, Rocha has designed a shoe that a certain on-the-rise heroine might wear to an A-list party if she were a gallivanting single today.

All things hyper-feminine have been trending in recent years, thanks to coquette-core, bows on everything and Barbie, but Rocha has been dreaming up princess-worthy wares since 2010, the year she graduated from London's Central Saint Martins. Exaggerated puff sleeves, long ribbon ties, heavily embroidered lace and OTT pearl ornamentation are all Simone Rocha signatures.

Equal parts playful and feminine, these ballerina heels from her Fall 2024 collection conjoin the fantasy of a glass slipper with the whimsy of a pointe shoe, complete with a square toe wrapped in leather pleating. Cheeky details like a dainty bow and an elastic band (the same accoutrements that adorn young ladies' ballet slippers) lend more personality than a handsome prince on date night.

They'll look decidedly more avant garde paired with a sheer gown than a petal pink leotard; do add white tights for an extra helping of coquettish charm. And while Cinderella's transportation may have turned into a pumpkin at midnight, these sturdy curved lucite heels will allow the urban princess to dance all the way to the after-party. New Year's Eve shoes, anyone?



Black suede pumps are anything but basic when decorated with unserious bows that channel baby barrettes. The evil stepsisters could never!
COACH SHOES, \$270.
COACH.COM



The perfect party shoe for when you cannot bear to wear heels, these satin beauties are elevated with graphic cutouts and crystal embellishment.
PRADA SHOES, \$1,820.
HOLTRENFREW.COM



Tuck that trusty sequin dress away this holiday season and let your gams do the, uh, legwork in a pair of fashion-forward spangled pumps.
LOEWE SHOES \$1,910. LOEWE.COM



These elegant flat mules in sumptuous velvet will sail through party season and into spring, when they will look right at home with cuffed blue denim.
REFORMATION SHOES, \$348.
THEREFORMATION.COM



Make like a Parisienne and wear these sandals with sheer black tights and a long-sleeve mini-dress for a look that's more Isabel Marant than *Emily in Paris*.
BA&SH SHOES, \$515. BA-SH.COM



BVLGARI
ROMA 1884

BLOOR STREET WEST, YORKDALE SHOPPING CENTRE, HOLT RENFREW AT PACIFIC CENTRE



BVLGARI WATCH
\$49,000, BVLGARI.COM

HAPPILY EVER AFTER

These spellbinding watches are ripe for the picking

In some circles, an apple a day keeps the doctor away. In others, it's a forbidden fruit that gets you banished from paradise. For Snow White, it was a poisonous trick that made time stand still.

Now, Bulgari's Serpenti Tubogas watch is every bit as tempting as a blood-red apple. But it's made to last a lifetime, and unlike an actual slithering snake, the only danger of letting a Serpenti timepiece wrap around your wrist is the sudden urge to empty your bank accounts.

The sinuous coil is crafted from 18-karat yellow gold, with a bezel-set 35mm watch face iced with brilliant-cut diamonds and a white opaline dial. A cabochon-cut pink rubellite button adds to the allure.

Lithe and devastatingly glamorous, this watch merges two classic design codes from the famed Italian house: the fluid curves of the

beguiling serpent and the tubular flexibility of the tubogas chain.

The story of Bulgari and the snake began in 1948 when the brand debuted the first Serpenti creations, breaking ground with the bracelet-watch hybrid that decorated the wrist like jewellery. That same year, the first Bulgari Tubogas watch hit the scene, inspired by tubes made from articulated bands that were used to transport pressurized gas in the 1920s.

That's the power of transformation—an apple can be a force of good or evil, a snake sheds its skin in a continuous cycle of rebirth and a humble tube can become a gas pipe or a spectacular timepiece they'll have for eternity. Mirror, mirror on the wall, which watch is the most special of all?



A classic silver chain-link piece with a rectangular face is the perfect start to a watch collection—and a truly exceptional gift.

FREDERIQUE CONSTANT WATCH, \$1,595, FREDERIQUECONSTANT.COM



Two elegant drips of diamonds, a sleek chestnut leather double strap, roman numerals on the watch face—oh, she's fancy.

OMEGA WATCH, \$6,500, OMEGAWATCHES.COM



A charming gold face gives this brushed-black stainless-steel watch just the right amount of retro playfulness.

SWATCH WATCH, \$310, SWATCH.COM



A pop of red is perfect for gift-giving season but chic all year round, especially when it's in the form of this cerise multi-strap, Swiss-made timepiece.

LONGINES WATCH, \$2,200, LONGINES.COM



While some accessories fall into trend timeouts, Van Cleef's Alhambra watch—with black satin strap and mother-of-pearl face—is eternal.

VAN CLEEF & ARPELS WATCH, \$11,500, VANCLEEFARPELS.COM

THE KIT

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LOEWE



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BARÉNIA



SKIN IS A SCENT



REFILLABLE OBJECT