

# LA VIE EN ROSE

If there was ever a time to slather yourself in roses, this is it—stock up on love-inducing, rose-infused products this month and *swoon* By Shantila Lee

To prep for Valentine's Day this year, we're indulging in products infused with either the extract or scent of the undyingly romantic, amour-evoking rose. As clichéd as it may seem, the flower oozes decadence and inspires an addiction that never abates; Coco Chanel innately understood this when she chose Rose de Mai for Chanel No. 5, and so did perfumer François Demachy who commissioned Domaine de Manon in Grasse to provide unexcelled organic roses for many of Dior's *extrait de parfums*, including J'adore and Miss Dior.

So take a big cue: roses are IN and nothing spells exotic romance and a lovey-dovey jive of the gushy kind like it, and with an upsurge of beauty brands going *au naturel*, EVERYTHING is coming up roses this season: oodles of parfums spiked with accords of the *fleur d'interdit* and rose-infused skincare amped-up with antioxidants are all the rage. While that saccharine, syrupy rose fragrance that initially pops to mind will have anyone running the other way and screaming ick, realise that perfumers have always gone the way of über fresh, crisp interpretations of the rose: just try a spritz of a unadulterated EDT like Roses de Chloé or L'Occitane's Roses et Reines Body Milk and you'll get the idea.

In a nutshell, they're no longer fuddy duddy or relegated to grandmas, nouveau incarnations are going super high tech and the rose is the new 'it' ingredient for beauty, captured—and bottled—in the service of everything from dry skin to a mood-fixing sniff. Here, your rosy go-to stash—indulge in a bottle (or the whole shebang of bath-body-fragrance), slather it on and layer away; one whiff and he'll be weak-in-the-knees putty.

## SCENT OF A WOMAN

The key to smelling divine, and not cloying: the safe choice is ultra *fraîche*, explosively femme designer scents steeped in the exquisitely modern Damascena rose, laced with layers of white musk and flowers like bergamot, violet or amber. Try effortlessly chic perfumes like Roses de Chloé, Yves Saint Laurent Paris Premières Roses or Dolce & Gabbana Rose The One, with salubrious, juicy notes that'll send you to the moon (and then some). For a more refined nose, we love Annick Goutal's

**“[ROSES] ARE DELICATE YET POWERFUL AND PURE, SUIT ALL SEASONS AND THEY'RE PAN-GENERATION.”  
—TERRY DE GUNZBURG**

Rose Absolue with a cocktail of six different roses (May, Turkish, Bulgarian, Damascus, Egyptian, and Moroccan) in a radiant bouquet, or go for purer-than-pure niche scents like Serge Lutens Rose de Nuit, Guerlain Rose Barbare or Frederic Malle's Une Rose. Or if you're really going all out and have a thing for intense, concentrated ouds, grab Francis Kurkdjian's Lumière Noire Pour Femme, a goth rose chypre rooted in earthy patchouli.



**L-R:** Rose The One EDP, Dolce & Gabbana; Lumière Noire Pour Femme EDT, Francis Kurkdjian; Roses de Chloé EDT, Chloé; Rose Absolue EDP, Annick Goutal; Une Rose Editions Parfums, Frederic Malle; Paris Premières Roses EDT, Yves Saint Laurent



## SKIN DEEP

To make sure you're getting the real thing, look out for body products with bona fide rose essential oil, rose water or rose hip (the fruit) that pack mega skin benefits. Grab one of these, lock yourself away and prepare to pamper: douse yourself in L'Occitane's sublimely yummy, rose-water imbued Roses et Reines Body Milk, Kiehl's Patchouli & Fresh Rose Body Lotion is divinely light, Melvita's L'Or Rose Firming Oil with rose hip oil busts cellulite (massage it on your legs before bed and wake up with toned, glowing gams), Shu Uemura's Depsea Water Rose Mist bestows dewy, rose-scented skin, or for something nifty to tow in your handbag, snag The Body Shop's luscious rose oil-enriched Wild Rose Hand Cream. And for Chanel-philosophers who'd die for it, the No. 5 Loose Powder is beyond luxe and totally worth the splurge, shrouding the body with a lavish trail of that cult No. 5 May Rose note.

you've even walked out the loo. There are soap bars *du jour* (a magnificent one from Chanel No. 5 and L'Occitane's Bonne Mère Rose Soap are must-buys), and a trifecta of shower gels you'd want to immerse in (Jurlique's Rose Shower Gel smells fantastic, The Body Shop's Atlas Mountain Rose version is bliss on tap and Aesop's A Rose By Another Name Body Cleanser leaves skin feeling fabulously supple). If you're out for serious bath products that really pack a glow-giving punch, we love Ren's Moroccan Rose Otto Sugar Body Polish for gleaming, polished skin in a snap, and if you have a tub, get Dr Hauschka's Rose Nurturing Bath Essence, a blend of just about every possible part and extract of the Damascena Rose, for velvety, lush skin.

To really amp things up, try layering a shower scrub/gel, a body oil if you have dry skin, a body lotion and a rose-spiked perfume. Layering like this makes the scent all the more intense, lasting and rich, so you'll waft around smelling like it all day long. Try layering L'Occitane's soap and Roses et Reines body lotion and fragrance for a sublime rosy scent that never quits.



**L-R:** No. 5 Loose Powder, Chanel; L'Or Rose Firming Oil, Melvita; Roses et Reines Beautifying Body Milk, L'Occitane; Depsea Water Face Mist Rose, Shu Uemura; Wild Rose Hand Cream SPF15, The Body Shop; Patchouli & Fresh Rose Skin Softening Body Lotion, Kiehl's



**L-R:** No. 5 Bath Soap, Chanel; Atlas Mountain Rose Shower Gel, The Body Shop; Bonne Mère Rose Soap, L'Occitane; Rose Shower Gel, Jurlique; Moroccan Rose Otto Sugar Body Polish, Ren; Rose Nurturing Bath Essence, Dr Hauschka; A Rose By Another Name Body Cleanser, Aesop

## RINSE REQUIRED

Haute shower necessities of the most transcendent, petal-pushing kind: get drenched in big wallops of it and you'll look and smell intoxicating before

Go to [www.marieclaire.com.my](http://www.marieclaire.com.my) for more rose-infused beauty goodies.

## FACE TIME

More rosy goodness in wee jars with rose hip, rose water and the works for a smooth, glowing complexion.



Rose Face Mask, **Fresh**



Cellulose Nutri-Baume, **By Terry**



Black Rose Precious Face Oil, **Sisley**



Rose Stem Cell Bio-Repair Gel Mask, **Peter Thomas Roth**



Absolue L'Extrait, **Lancôme**

