

mix master

'Tis the season to glam things up: Xmas, New Year's and the holidays are all excuses to party, and partying is the perfect excuse for mixing up your makeup. Embrace the frivolity of the season and rock bold, out-there shades, but before breaking out the audacious lippie and glittery eyeshadow, dig into this definitive guide on party-worthy hues for Asian skin tones

By Shantila Lee

reds & pinks

The one thing that Asian women can completely rock is ra-ra red lipstick, which is amazeballs against dark tresses and full, luscious pouts. While the idea of wearing a smashing red can be at once instantly glamourising and totally terrifying, and we're not about to sprout theories of undertones and what-goes-with, it's really not rocket science: the key is to try EVERYTHING before you buy (as in, go from wine to chilli to plum—don't limit yourself to a teeny range of hues), pout out in front of a mirror and see if it makes your skin pop. Makeup magnifico Pat McGrath's advice for the less plucky: "If you're afraid of red lipstick, I love putting it on and then blotting it to wear it as more of a stain." And keep the rest of your face down to a minimum, or risk looking trampy and a tad passé.

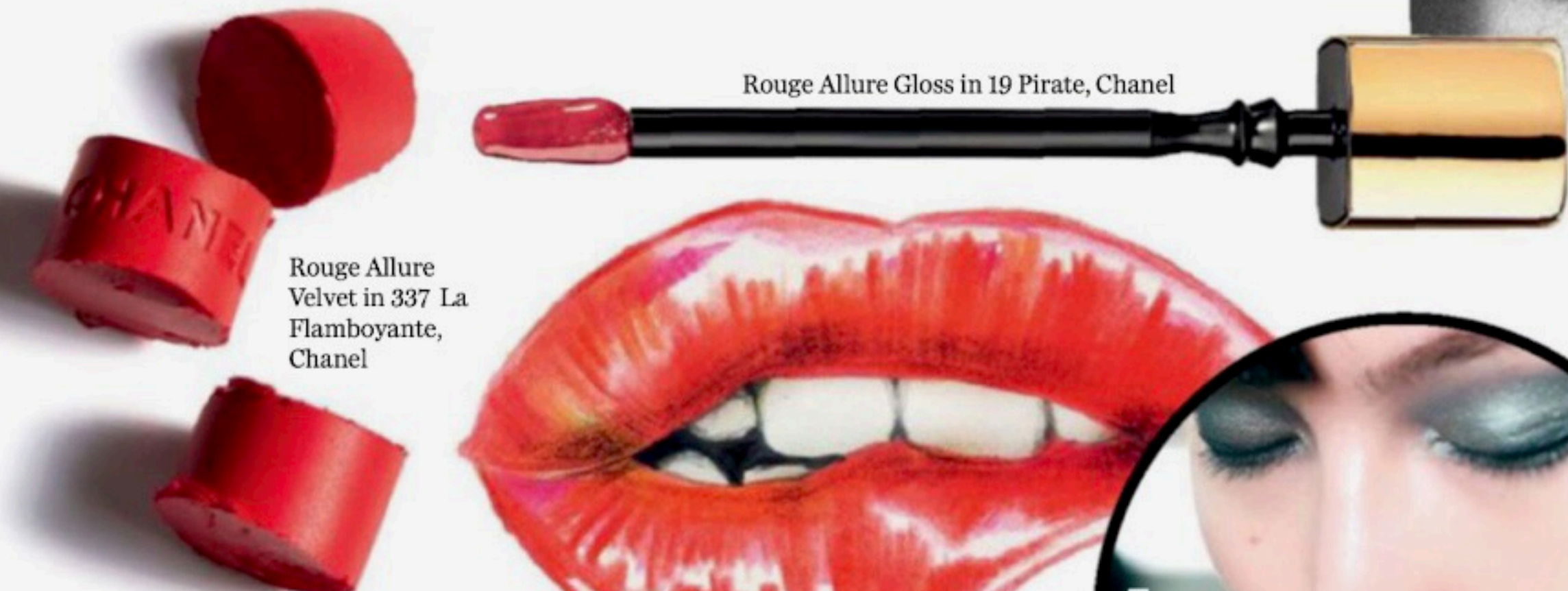


These are tried n' tested hues that absolutely match your garden variety Chinese, Malay and Indian skin tones, but always experiment and try something new for the party season.

LIU WEN AT THE 2014 CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

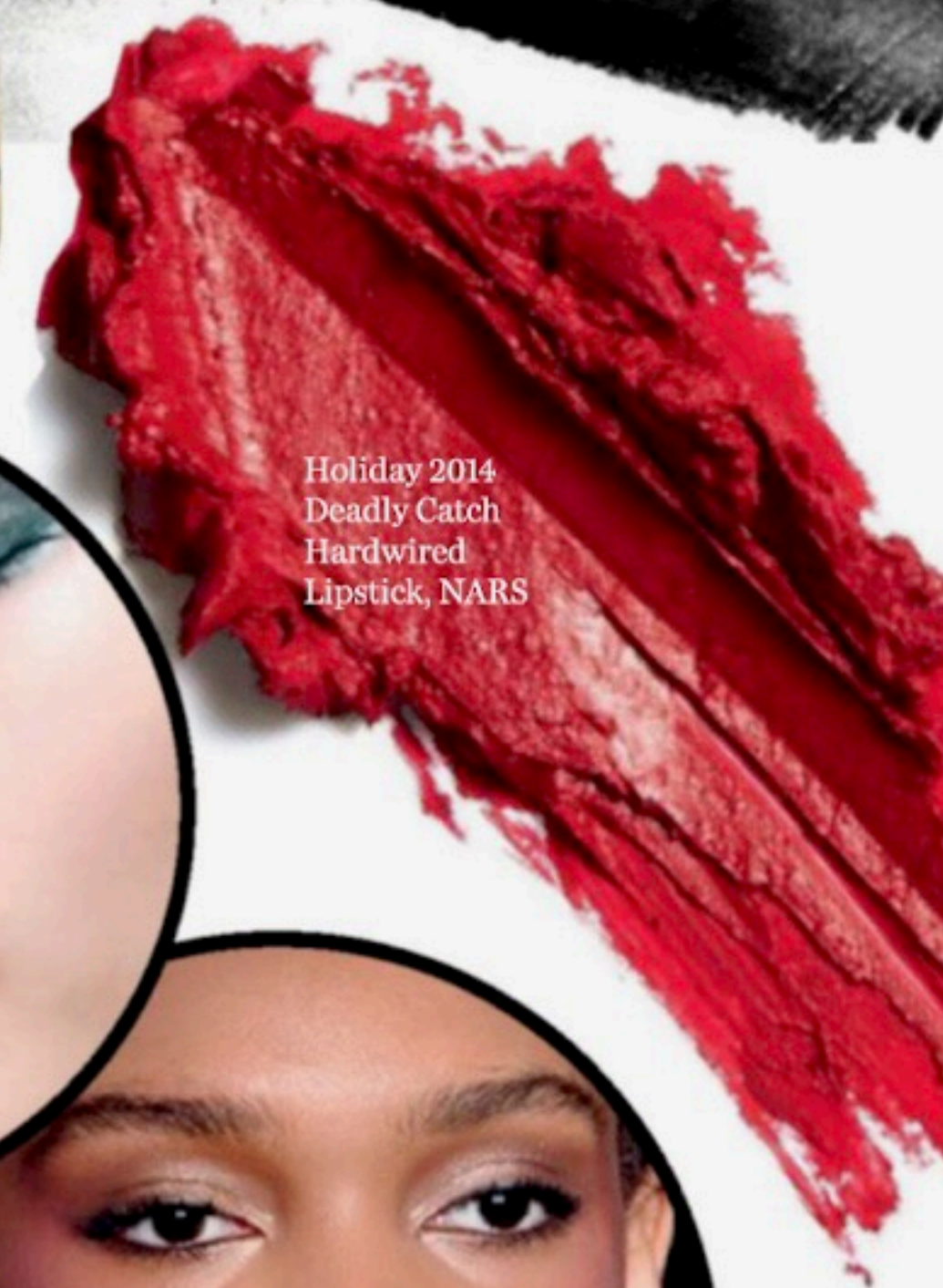
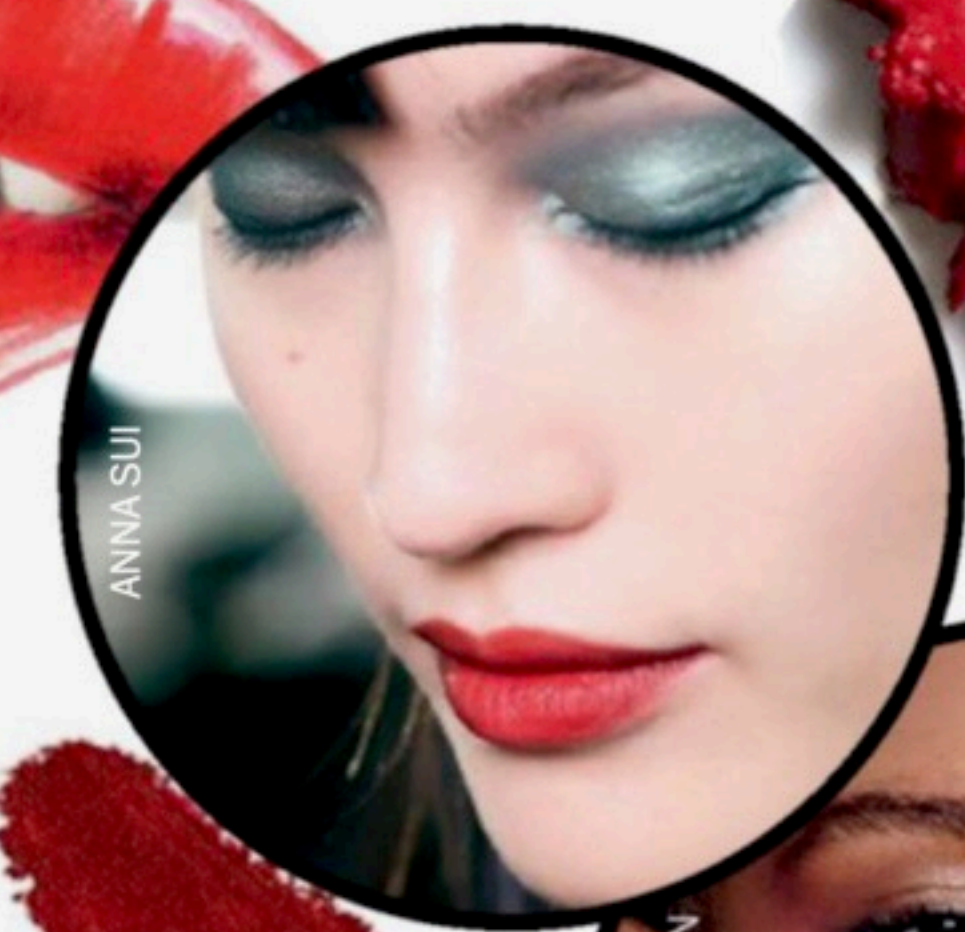


"IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF RED LIPSTICK, I LOVE PUTTING IT ON AND THEN BLOTTING IT TO WEAR IT AS MORE OF A STAIN."



Electric Youth

For megawatt, bright shades, hold nothing back, drop all preconceived notions of I can't and not me and experiment away. It just takes guts, confidence and a blasé, in-your-face attitude. What really pops: a citrusy orange Guerlain Kiss Kiss in Sexy Coral on fair skin, olive skin loves purples like NARS' Audacious Lipstick in Silvia, and Chanel Rouge Allure in Extatique bubblegum pink on dark skin is magic.



“VIBRANT JEWEL TONES MAKE THE EYES APPEAR BRIGHTER IN A BEAUTIFUL, MODERN WAY”

[T-B] Highliner Gel Eye Crayon in Teal Green, Marc Jacobs; Puerta Del Sol Eyeliner, NARS; Artist Liner in Satiny Blue, Make Up For Ever



If smacking on a chunk of teal eyeshadow gets your palms sweaty, try a thin slick of aqua blue, teal or turquoise eyeliner instead, like the look at Chanel, above.



greens & blues

Slicks of bright teal, turquoise or cerulean eye makeup would usually send even the most makeup-accustomed gal running the other way, but realise two things: one, those pigments are always a smash hit on runways, and two, wearing a flick of, say, indigo eyeliner could really set off an accessory or outfit. As François Nars once put it, “Vibrant jewel tones make the eyes appear brighter in a beautiful, modern way”; the maestro suggests that if a blazing azure seems too daunting, layer it over black or brown liner for a softer effect. When shade shopping, choose to A, err on the side of caution and opt for soft-but-bold cobalts or teals, or B, go nuts and be colour-savvy with eyeshadow: olive and violet pastels contrast gorgeously against fair and medium skin tones, and vivid, intense bashes of chartreuse green or sapphire really burst with darker skin.

ASHWARYA RAI AT THE 67TH CANNES FILM FESTIVAL



[L-R] Stylo Eyeshadow in Blue Bay, Chanel; Twinkle Pop in Shoshanna, Marc Jacobs

Green Envy

James Kaliardos dishes out makeup wisdom for splashing on teal and icy green shadows: one, use feather-light application (“the key is to leave most of the eyelid bare”) only up to the crease and a below the lower lashes (“Greens shouldn’t travel too far beyond the crease. It cheapens the look.”)

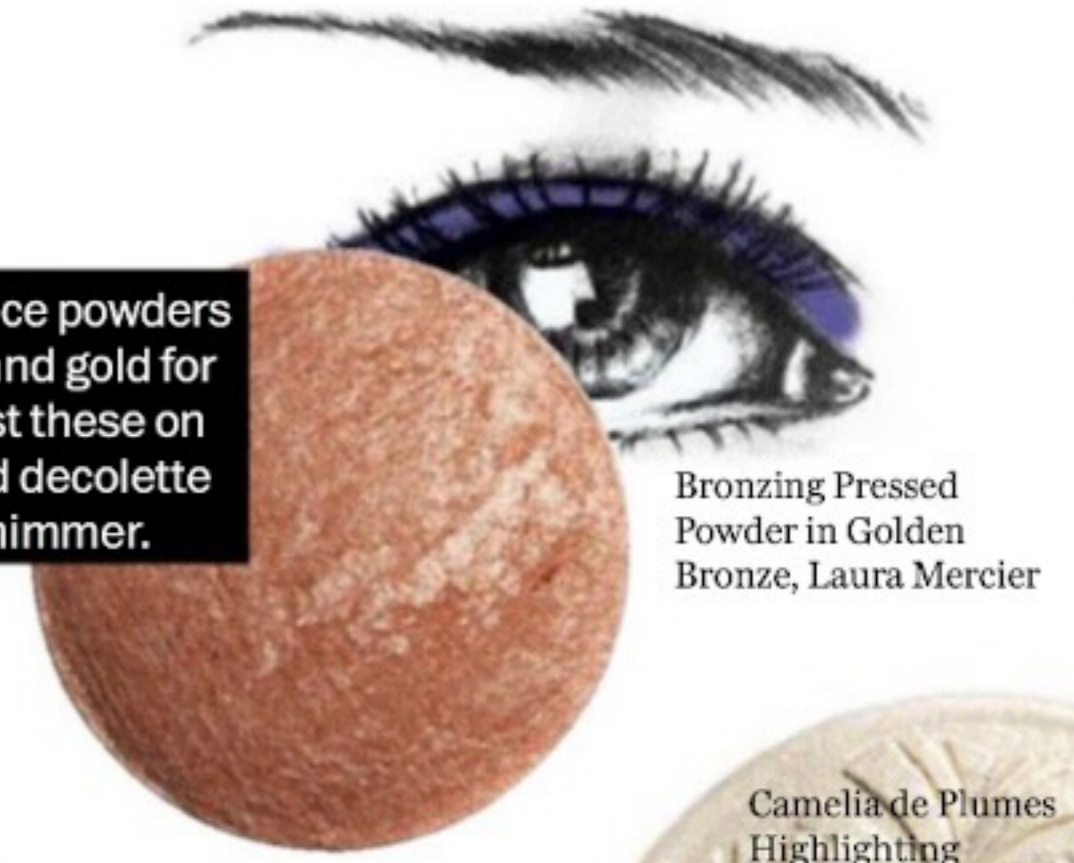


Aqua Cream in Acidic Green, Make Up For Ever



24 Karat Shimmer Brick, Bobbi Brown

Three glimmery face powders in silver, bronze and gold for the holidays: dust these on your temples and decolette for a festive shimmer.



Bronzing Pressed Powder in Golden Bronze, Laura Mercier

Runway looks that are totally copy-worthy, that we can all take a cue from: a cloud of rust eyeshadow at Rodarte, flicks of gold glitter at Altuzarra, and bronzed cheeks at Michael Kors.



Golden Shock Illuminating Pressed Powder, Dior

Camelia de Plumes Highlighting Powder, Chanel

JAMIE LEE CHUNG AT THE PREMIUM RUSH PREMIERE



Caviar Stick Eye Colour in Rose Gold, Laura Mercier



Fusion Mono in Etoile, Dior

“IF YOU HAVE PALE SKIN, GO FOR A BEIGE-GOLD GLOW,”

gold & silvers

Metallic hues are a no-fail, no-brainer way to carry off colour without worrying it looks off on your skin, and we’ve never spotted a hue that doesn’t work for Asian skin, especially when it comes to bronzer. Makeup wiz Dick Page’s bronzer theory is “If you have pale skin, go for a beige-gold glow,” to which we add, iridescent sienna for olive skin and burnt ochre tones for dark skin. When it comes to glitzy eyeshadow, just to be discerning with the shade and rate it from kitschy to cool and beyond, then match it to your skin tone (and age): go-go golds that are very yellowish and would only work for dark skin or the very young (at heart), working women could still go for glitter but in bronzy/gunmetal hues for medium skin, and fair complexions should stick to sheer-but-intense taupe greys that won’t look OTT.



Heavy Metal Glitter Eyeliner in Glamrock, Urban Decay

Fraîche Punk

Try emulating Charlotte Tilbury’s punky-futuristic eye with a fresh, modern twist at Donna Karan this season: smudge pewter eyeliner along the lashline, then top it of with gunmetal cream eyeshadow buffed up toward the crease.

Pressed Pigment in Prim and Proper, MAC



DONNA KARAN