

START AFRESH

As longer, warmer days prompt a rethink of daily routines, we look to the latest balms and beautifiers that are designed to work wonders – and to look smart on your bathroom shelf. Not sure where to start? A new satin-finish red lipstick is a confident shortcut to chic.



MAKING SCENTS COMMUNE

UK-based husband-and-wife duo Rémi Paringaux and Kate Neal built their brand Commune on a shared admiration for nature. “We wanted to cultivate a community of like-minded people – individuals who have an appreciation for aesthetics and design, and who are mindful about their consumption,” says Neal, a perfumer by trade. The duo became excited by the idea of creating a haircare range when they lived in Vancouver. “We were exposed to a lifestyle centred around nature, wellness and mindfulness, which inspires our products,” says Neal. They eventually founded the brand once settled in the English countryside. Commune’s small-batch shampoo and conditioner are made with potent botanicals, including sea buckthorn and babassu oil, and have a warming woody scent that blends geranium, grapefruit, lavender and cypress. The aluminium bottles are reusable and refillable, to further enhance the positive effect of a pleasing daily ritual. — EWA [commune.cc](#)

LIP SERVICE Celine Beauté

In 2023, Celine Beauté was launched with a quintessentially Parisian red lipstick known as Rouge Triomphe. It is now joined by 14 new shades, all of which are made using a long-lasting formula that incorporates sunflower wax and beeswax. Every sleek gold case is refillable and topped with an embossed monogram, and the range includes shades of fuchsia pink, rosy nude and – for a more daring look – dark purple. — MPP [celine.com](#)



HAPPY FEET Birkenstock

More than 250 years after Birkenstock introduced its sandals, the German shoe-maker is taking a step in a new direction by launching a footcare range. The collection includes a scrub, balm, lotion and oil, all rooted in the brand’s podiatry research. Made in Germany, the products contain natural ingredients, such as rosemary oil, eucalyptus and menthol, to nourish and soften tired feet. It’s proof that Birkenstock’s mantra *Naturgewolltes Gehen* – walking as nature intended – still holds. — CJ [birkenstock-group.com](#)

SKIN DEEP Prof Dr Steinkraus

With more than 30 years’ experience in dermatology, Hamburg-based Dr Volker Steinkraus applies medical rigour to the products in his namesake skincare line. Free of parabens and micro-plastics, his unpretentious but effective products champion natural ingredients as well as effective components such as niacin, retinol and vitamin C. “I’m guided by a philosophy based on realistic objectives, which are unisex and environmentally conscious,” says Dr Steinkraus. His holistic approach also considers the importance of sleep, nutrition and exercise for the wellbeing of your skin. The range includes everything from lip balms to body lotions, face emulsions and serums, which will become stalwarts of your bathroom cabinet. — HPH [steinkraus.com](#)



STILL LIFE: Trisha Ward

The Scent Column

FRAGRANCE / GLOBAL

TURN OVER A NEW LEAF

Fresh, grass-like scents have long encapsulated the freshness of spring. With the right fragrance, earthy aromas and herbal notes can combine to create a sense of vernal rejuvenation.

Photography — Trisha Ward
Writer — Carla Seipp



The scent of cut grass is an earthy, invigorating hallmark of springtime renewal. Whether primly manicured or wild and growing with abandon, grass has a grounding effect that helps us to feel connected to nature. Most of us have wiggled our toes in its fresh blades, covered them with picnic blankets or given them the rough treatment while playing sports. In Walt Whitman’s 1855 poetry collection, *Leaves of Grass*, the writer describes the American prairie as “coarse, sunlit, fresh and nutritious”.

For perfumers, creating a grass-like scent requires a careful balance of the right ingredients. Materials that emulate the earth’s carpet include compounds such as cis-3-hexenol, which plants release when they are injured; karmafloor, an element that naturally occurs in the ashoka flower; and galbanum.

Some of the leafy scents in this metaphorical terrarium are moist and vegetal. The (1) **Jardins der Kerylos 16** by Pierre Guillaume Paris is a good example. The 2006 release smells like a freshly watered lawn. It combines green fig and white peach with sycamore wood and tuberose to mimic the aromas found in the gardens of Villa Kérylos on the Côte d’Azur.

Meanwhile, Beaufort London’s (2) **Fathom V** fragrance is reminiscent of land near a pond. Created in 2016 by perfumers Julie Marlowe and Julie Dunkley, it combines earthy notes with lily, oakmoss, salt, vetiver and patchouli to create a slightly dark demeanor.

(3) **Basilico & Fellini** by Vilhelm smells like plant life in lush bloom. This extravagant perfume takes its name from film director Federico Fellini, who was rumoured to be fond of basil due to its aphrodisiac qualities. Jérôme Epinette’s 2017 creation has a sweet opening of dragon fruit, followed by aromas of green grass, hay, vetiver and, of course, basil, giving it a verdant character.

Other scents, such as (4) **Land of Tulips** by Aura of Kazakhstan, are more floral. This Sébastien Martin eau de parfum features fragrant freesia, tulips, cyclamen and white musk, alongside grassier notes of bergamot. It is one of the more subtle perfumes in this line-up, paying homage to Kazakhstan’s reputation as the motherland of tulips.

(5) **I Am Verdant** by Vyrao brings to mind wet earth (a result of the cucumber and melon facets of cyclamen) and herbs (due to the resinous qualities of frankincense). But the iris absolute and orange flower in its base is what pushes it into the efflorescent category. The scent was designed by Lynn Harris in 2021 to evoke transformation and illumination; a whiff of the eau de parfum is uplifting indeed.

(6) **Bad Wolf** by Nose Republic occupies an interesting space between dry and herbaceous scents; its plump, green aroma is neither overtly moist nor vegetal. The perfume, launched in 2023 by nose Cristiano Canali, was inspired by the image of a wolf howling on the edge of a cliff. With notes of leather, cypress, pine, damp earth and daffodil, this fragrance is both wild and sophisticated.

In the land of aromatic greens, Lorenzo Villoresi’s (7) **Yerbamaté** is a herb garden come to life. The scent greets the nose with a host of plants, including grass, tarragon, mint, *maté*, tea, hay and lavender. Its base contains patchouli, labdanum and oakmoss, all of which give it its earthy nature.

Other options include Pergola by Exaltatum, named after the historical Hill Garden and Pergola on London’s Hampstead Heath. The fragrance, created by Eglia Vaitkevici in 2018, was inspired by vintage scents. Its aroma first centres around *fougère* accents of petitgrain, ginger and bergamot before blooming into a heart of narcissus, galbanum, ivy and violet leaf. On a more woody note, Phaeton Paris’s Lentisque brings to mind the fresh smell of tree bark. Pierre Guillaume’s perfume is inspired by the *pistacia lentiscus*, a Mediterranean shrub that produces mastic resin and is known as “tears of Chios” on the Greek island where it is cultivated. In addition to mastic essence, the scent contains galbanum, labdanum and ambergris.

Folkestone Green by Foras replicates the scent of dried grass enjoying its final days in the sun. Alex Verier was able to create this effect by blending fennel, cassia and jasmine with ylang-ylang and sandalwood. Cowboy Grass, made by David Seth Moltz for New York-based brand DS & Durga, is a nod to the American West. Notes of rosewood, wild thyme sagebrush, basil and vetiver combine to create a rugged eau de parfum reserved for the most adventurous of spirits.

No matter whether you’d prefer to head into vivacious, blooming lands or venture into woodier, weathered patches, olfactory attempts to replicate grassy earth hold the promise of renewal and life reborn. — K