

Decoding PERFUMES

Just as the creation of melodious music requires a combination of notes to align in perfect harmony, perfumes too need separate pieces or notes that combine to create the divine scents that we love so much. These notes, which come in separate layers, together help build a range of scents from one single perfume, which is one of the reasons why the scents seem to evolve over the course of the day.

Almost all perfumes consist of three notes. The opening note is the first one you come in contact with, and it is what gives you the first impression. This is also the lightest, and hence evaporates the quickest. Most opening or top notes consist of citrus smells, or those of berries or herbs, to provide that strong and sharp scent to attract us almost instantly.

Next is the heart of the notes, which makes up most of the fragrance. This can be felt once the top layer fades off, and lasts much longer than the more volatile first layer. Since this is more long-lasting, it usually comes in smoother scents such as rose, lavender, jasmine or other floral or amber scents.

The heaviest is left for last. The base note is the longest lasting of all, and helps boost the scent of the first two layers before finally releasing its own scent, which makes it a pretty important layer. The base notes cling onto the skin, becoming richer with time, and are mostly composed of sandalwood, patchouli or other similar woody scents.



The evaporation process of the three distinct notes is what creates the accord, and releases a different scent once every layer evaporates away.

Even though it takes many ingredients to stir up the perfect combination of scents, they all boil down to three categories. Scents are either developed from plant products, animal products such as wax or natural musk, or chemicals, which layer beautifully in different combinations of top, middle and base layers to create your perfect scent.

Although we might differ in choices, at the end of the day, we all love perfumes. They act as instant mood lifters and shield us from outside odours. So it is important that we understand the basic composition of this prized possession of ours and choose them wisely.

By Anisha Hassan



Fruity and Floral

A lady is often known by her scent, and what else would provide you a better way to create your own aura but perfumes? Fragrances, which were smoky, light, fruity or floral; the variation of essence kept changing through time. Of all the different aromas, the fruity and floral essence stands out the most because, who does not want to smell like a fresh bouquet of love?

DAISY EAU SO FRESH' EAU DE TOILETTE: MARC JACOBS

Marc Jacob never fails to amaze the cosmetic industry. DAISY is an exhilarating, bubbly and playful fragrance, which is a mix of many ingredients. By "many" we mean a handful of natural raspberry, grapefruit, pear on the top, violet, wild rose, apple blossom in the middle and musk, cedar wood, plum for the base. The burst of fragrance will take you on a "five seconds summer breeze" experience. The price ranges from Tk 8400- Tk 9,400. However, the prices may vary in different stores and online shops.

VERA WANG PRINCESS FOR WOMEN: VERA WANG

The fruity floral essence comes with a diamond lavender coloured glass which has the most whimsical and sparkling aroma. Dipping into a heart of a ripe pink guava, wrapped in a mysterious air of amber and of forbidden woods, you are sure to smell like a novelty!



The price of this perfume will be around Tk 2800.

DOLCE FLORAL DROPS EAU DE TOILETTE BY DOLCE GABBANA

Note that amongst the many essence that this perfume line presents, this specific aroma preserves its harmonious signature of white flowers with a heart of white amaryllis and neroli leaves. It costs about Tk 7500 to Tk 8400.

WHITE MUSK: THE BODY SHOP

This cruelty free lush perfume smells of fresh floral and musky essence. It lasts longer and customers could not help but rate it a 4.6/5. The price range is around Tk 1500 to Tk 2600 approximately.

BODY MIST: VICTORIA'S SECRET

One of the most popular and affordable body mists you will get under Tk 1000 to Tk 1500 is here to steal your heart. The brand says it all. "Love is Heavenly", "Crush fragrance" and many others will lure you towards ecstasy.

While buying a perfume certain requirements should also be kept in mind other than the fragrance itself, which is, the packaging it comes with, the price, and of course, the duration it will tend to last when you put it on. Let your adventure for perfume be wild this season!

By Sumaiya Tasnim

Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed

