

Get the look

Sali Hughes on the best men's fragrances

Fragrance is where my beauty nerdery crosses into a full-blown, slightly creepy obsession. I'm mad for the stuff. I've seldom left the house without a generous spritz of Diptyque Philosykos and have yet to show any romantic interest in a man who didn't smell fantastic.

Which is why I'm so disappointed that many men unthinkingly choose those generic, bland aqua-type aftershaves that flooded the market in the 90s, then quite literally hung around like a bad smell. You know: "clean", "fresh" fragrances in frosted blue bottles, marketed until every bloke on the bus smells of Toilet Duck and apologetic surrender.

Scent should be personal, not conformist. Men: separate yourself from the boys by hunting down something that not every woman can recognise from 100 paces. Go to a proper perfumer, not some duty-free-fags-and-Toblerone shop en route to Alicante. Liberty, Miller Harris, Jo Malone and Roja Dove Haute Parfumerie all sell perfumes made from high-grade, natural ingredients rather than horrid synthetics that give everything an identical department store fug. The staff know their stuff and can guide you. Here are the six men's fragrances that consistently do strange things to me:



RUI PARRIA FOR THE GUARDIAN; GETTY IMAGES

Diptyque L'Ombre Dans L'Eau (pictured above) from £48, johnlewis.com
Whenever I smell this, I stop in my tracks and swoon. Recognising it is like belonging to a secret club.

Chanel Pour Monsieur from £43, boots.com
I've loved this all my life. Modest, classic, chic, always appropriate. A great fragrance for men who fear perfume.



Dior Eau Sauvage from £43, boots.com
A firm handshake of a fragrance - woody, spicy, herby, with old-school sex appeal. Wear with a great suit.

Tom Ford Grey Vetiver from £55, houseoffraser.co.uk
I often suggest this lemony scent to men who ask advice: it suits everyone, offends no one, yet is still distinctive.

Byredo Mister Marvelous £130, liberty.co.uk
I love this brand, so it's hard to pick a winner. But this vibrant, herb-scented fragrance is sex in a bottle.

Creed Green Irish Tweed from £82, creed-fragrances.co.uk
Iconic. Sexy but clean, strong but elegant: like an invisible pass to a gentleman's club. JFK was a fan.

