

BORROWING *from the* BOYS

In fragrance today, prescriptive rules as to who can, and should, wear what are resolutely passé. This trio of scents from the house of Creed can't be confined to outdated categorisation: they're sometimes sexy, at times regal, but always chic. Expect compliments

words TESS DE VIVIE DE RÉGIE

Creed Millésime Impérial,
\$389 for 50ml.



Gold Standard _____

To capture this scent in a few words, think of Millésime Impérial as sunrays in bottled form. The fragrance paints a portrait of the sun in all its shimmering, glistening glory, an olfactory effect mirrored in its striking golden flacon. A bounty of citrus – bergamot, mandarin and lemons – supplies a dose of sunny sparkle, while a salt-inflected accord of marine notes at the heart of the composition counterbalances pretty Florentine iris and sweet blackcurrant and provides a hint of a sea breeze throughout. The whole is rounded out with a cosy, woody trio of cedarwood, musk and sandalwood at its base. Millésime Impérial brings the invigorating freshness of a traditional men's cologne but boasts greater complexity – and, of course, longevity. It's a creation that manages to be at once timeless and also wholly suited to myriad occasions; it smells the part for grand black-tie affairs while lending a little cachet to everyday ensembles. Yet for all its classic appeal, it's a fragrance that is indisputably exceptional, from its selection of choice ingredients to its finely calibrated composition – and, of course, that unforgettable vessel.

Crown Jewel _____

Truly a scent fit for a queen (or a king), Royal Oud draws its inspiration from the intricately bejewelled and sumptuous palaces of dynastic Persia. Indeed, it was within perfumed halls like these that oud found its earliest patrons – the ingredient was traditionally worn by only the very wealthiest given its steep price tag. Today, it remains synonymous with the art of Middle Eastern perfumery, prized for its unmistakably luxurious feel. Oud is often assumed to be universally heavy and thus is ardently avoided by some, and while Creed's interpretation of the note does bring a certain regal gravitas to its wearer, it supplies all the opulence without any dreaded cloyingness. Warm and woody, thanks to cedarwood and Guaiac wood, the fragrance is flecked with a cosy spiciness via cardamom, clove, frankincense and musk. Piercing this richness are sparkling notes of bergamot, lime and a twist of pink pepper. Bold, exceptionally elegant, even powerful, Royal Oud never fails to provide a sense of occasion. If you and your fragrance need to play big, look no further.

Creed Royal Oud, \$399
for 50ml.



*It's the sort of scent that reads as sexy and intemporal
on a man and a little unexpected on a woman, in a
very chic way*

Creed Virgin Island Water,
\$389 for 50ml.



Island in the Sun _____

Virgin Island Water, a fresh and tropically inspired composition, captures a sailing trip that Olivier and Erwin Creed (the father and son duo currently helming the house of Creed) took around the postcard-perfect Ginger Island in the Caribbean some two decades ago. The scent evokes a crisp breeze and pure blue waters via a palette of clean citrus notes: bergamot, Jamaican lime and Sicilian mandarin. A hint of coconut brings to mind a summery cocktail, while the warmth of patchouli, tonka beans and musk imparts a balmy feel. There's a blossoming array of flowers – think sweet ylang ylang, jasmine and hibiscus – that threads fragrantly through the whole. It's the sort of scent that reads as sexy and intemporal on a man and a little unexpected on a woman, in a very chic way: charming, compliment-inviting and the ideal fragrant accessory befitting a cocktail party, a sun-drenched afternoon out on a yacht (lucky you) or any ordinary day simply spent dreaming of one. We could see James Bond wearing it on one of his jaunts to the Caribbean, although it would suit an enviably cool Bond Girl just as well – perhaps, dare we say, even better. HB