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Photo by Debbie Porter

This is one of those times of year when I love to hear the words, "It's that time of year again." In fact, it is my favorite time of year. It is a time of year during which you have carte blanche to eat and drink to excess. Fine foods and champagne overflow on buffet tables and in crystal flutes at countless holiday parties at which old friends and new friends and family converge. You get to ignite the fireplace (whether it is cold or not) and to experiment with the fabrics and styles of this year's winter fashions that populate your wardrobe.

I am sitting here in almost eighty degree weather as I write these notes, anticipating temperatures that will plunge into the forties tomorrow night. In the background, there is a Christmas special on the television. I hear the familiar lyrics, "Chestnuts roasting on an open fire," and it makes me feel cozy. I think I am going to pick up some chestnuts at Whole Foods on the way home. I instinctively begin to hum the melody of *It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas*. This season is inescapably joyous.

Happy Holidays and best wishes for a fashionably Happy New Year to you and your families!

V. Hoang



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The color yellow has played a recurrent symbolic role throughout the history of Asian culture. It symbolizes the earth that sustains all life, yet has been embraced by Buddhist monks as an expression of unchallenged power. Such is the role of yellow: always revered but in different ways under different circumstances.

The mission of *Yellow Magazine* is to introduce our readers to the artistic, fashion, lifestyle and entertainment contributions made by Asian Americans. It is our hope that the depth and breadth of the topics and events we cover do justice to the pride that the color yellow has represented throughout the millennia. As the editor in chief of *Yellow Magazine*, my last name is Hoang, which also means yellow. Just as I am proud of my name, I am proud of my heritage, and proud of *Yellow Magazine*.

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On the cover
Dress by Alexander McQueen, available at Neiman Marcus
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Collar by Preen by Thornton Bregazzi, available Laboratoria
Vintage Chanel necklace, available at sloan/hall
Coat by Simone Rocha, available at Laboratoria
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Kelly Gale Amen Studio
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December 2013
January 2014

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SMILE ARM CHAIR
Design by Francesco Rota

The Smile armchair is made of cold injected stress resistant polyurethane. The removable upholstery cover is made of Sailor, a new texturized polyester knitted fabric by Paola Lenti which has been expressly shaped to adapt to this seating piece.

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Online Makeup Superstar Creates a Beauty Empire

by **LEO SIPRAS**

Michelle Phan

What started as a simple how-to for her online blog readers quickly became the beginning of a career in beauty for Internet makeup queen Michelle Phan. In 2007 Michelle posted a makeup tutorial video on YouTube and garnered over 40,000 views in just one week. With subscribers asking for her expert insight and talent, the interactive dynamic between Michelle and her followers helped launch em



Michelle Phan

What originally drew you to makeup?

People have different interpretations for makeup. Some see it as an accessory, which lets them change up their look — no different from a cute pair of shoes or statement necklace. Others see makeup as a way to cover up flaws. For me, makeup is art. It's a way to be creative. To me, everyone who has used makeup is an artist in their own right.

Why/how did you decide to start doing video tutorials?

My background is in the arts. As an art student, I loved experimenting with makeup, and treating my face as a living canvas. As I honed my skills as an artist, I began to share my knowledge of makeup artistry on my personal blog. After a while, readers asked me to post a video tutorial. I did and it got 40,000 views — and I've been doing it ever since!

Were you originally surprised by your online success? Did you ever envision what it would lead to?

I never imagined it would be so successful. My beauty journey started with a desire to help my family and it's taken me to places I've never imagined — from being the top beauty vlogger on YouTube, to now working with L'Oreal on my own makeup line. It's a dream come true!

Tell us about your childhood and your family.

One of 10 brothers and sisters, my mother escaped Vietnam as a war refugee at 14. She had arrived in the United States, but was financially destitute. Growing up in the States caused a strain in my parent's relationship. After my father left, we later settled with my step-family in Tampa, Florida where I was raised for most of my teenage years. Art was my escape, so I decided to enroll at Ringling College of Art and Design after high school.

Has your Vietnamese culture affected your choices/career/etc.?

My Vietnamese roots are what inspired me to name the brand "em". em is a Vietnamese word expressing youth, a term of endearment, of adoration. em is a reflection of me.

How did em come about?

While I was working with Lancôme (which is also a part of the L'Oreal Luxe division), I was approached by Carol Hamilton about starting a line together. From our very first conversations, it was clear that her team "got it." They were just as passionate as I was about creating a makeup line. We agreed that the line should be co-created by the community, provided products for real life moments and had a digital DNA. em was designed for and with my community to meet their authentic beauty needs, based on years of input I received while being a beauty mentor. Creating the makeup line included many meet-ups with fans and students to get their feedback on everything; from product names to packaging design. I actually recruited a lot of my subscribers to appear in package design, brand photography and on the em website. They were a part of every process.

Why do you think em is different from other makeup lines?

em is the very first makeup line that was co-created with a community of fans. I am continuously inspired by my community and fans. It's also the very first makeup line inspired by life moments that we all experiences. It's really a new way of experimenting, playing, and creating beauty. No matter what beauty story you want to tell during any of life's big moments, we've got you covered!

What do you think is the coolest feature of emcosmetics.com?

Anyone who uses the site will really feel like they have sisters online they can connect with. This is first and foremost a social ecommerce experience, where the act of shopping is made engaging and fun. Our site will allow consumers to interact with friends and other users, provide feedback, and engage in social media to enhance the shopping experience. Some of our unique features include:

- Tutorials for EVERY product and makeup tutorials for overall looks such as *Girl's Night Out* and *Date Night*
- "People Like Me": a feature that allows you to shop products, tutorials, and other users' uploaded looks according to young women who look like you (i.e. skin color, hair color, style, eye color, etc). Additionally, you will also be suggested to other users to follow according to your purchase history and interactions on the site
- Custom Video Player Experience: a video player that showcases the products used to create each of our custom looks, so users can shop directly from the player while learning how to style with our products
- Video and Photo Product Reviews: when reviewing a product, users will be able to upload photos and videos to showcase how they used a product along with their product review
- Uploaded Looks: users have the ability to upload looks created with the em cosmetics line to their profiles. They will also have the ability to view other user's uploaded looks to learn more about the products and get inspired

Anyone who uses the site will really feel like they have sisters online they can connect with.

Tell us how you believe women can be empowered through makeup.

Makeup allows women to experiment, have fun, and be creative. That's what I wanted for em. em lets you discover the personal artistry of your many looks, through playful shades, customizable palettes and community sharing. Whether you want to express your mild side or explore your wild side, em lets you make-up your own story.

What is the future for em michelle phan? Will the line remain exclusively online or will it be available at retail at some point?

This is a truly digital brand and we wanted to stay true to its DNA, so we decided that em should be launched exclusively online. It's a brand that came to being through a community on the Internet, so it makes sense to have it live online. We are planning to expand internationally in 2014.

What other plans are on the horizon for you?

I will continue to be involved with ipsy.com (a service where subscribers receive monthly "Glam Bags" containing deluxe samples and full-sized beauty products, along with videos showing how stylists use those products) and fawn.com (For All Women Network — a lifestyle network for women with fashion, beauty, and lifestyle videos), as well as my other business ventures. Of course, I will also continue creating tutorials and being accessible to the community. Without my community I would not be who I am or where I am today. Their enthusiasm gives me the motivation and inspiration to educate and share. I will never let them down.



For more information visit emcosmetics.com



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Clean Diesel

An Evening with
Eva Longoria

Beauty and Brains

I had no complaints while I waited an extra thirty minutes in the press room for the gorgeous Eva Longoria of *Desperate Housewives* fame to arrive. It was a pleasant Saturday evening at the University of Houston Hilton where Ms. Longoria was the keynote speaker at the University of Houston's Center for Mexican American Studies' (CMAS) 17th Annual Noche Cultural Scholarship Banquet.



Ruchi Mukherjee

Ruchi Mukherjee is the Editor/Founder of the Houston Society News: Lights Camera Action, which is Houston's South Asian lifestyle society digital magazine. Ruchi started her career in journalism and reporting at a very young age, and her stories have journeyed from India's notorious red light districts, to NASA breaking news and the most happening parties. She has interviewed personalities such as George Clooney, renowned Beverly Hills plastic surgeons, Hot Yoga Guru Bikram Choudhury, Lynn Wyatt, Becca Cason Thrash, Joanne King Herring and more.

Ruchi also volunteers for various nonprofit organizations that involve women and children. She is on the Nominating Committee for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, is the media coordinator for Pratham Houston, active participant with the Indo American Chamber of Commerce, Alliance For Multicultural Community Service and many others. Ms. Mukherjee was awarded the Citizenship Award for Media/Community Involvement by the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society in 2011.

For more stories and society happenings visit LCAhouston.com

The event was bustling with mostly young star-struck students, but I will confess I, too, was desperately waiting for her arrival. Once she began to speak, I was very impressed not only by her beauty but by her gracious personality and intelligence. Ms. Longoria stressed the importance of giving back to the community. "I come from a very philanthropic family and while growing up, volunteer work for charity was just a natural course," she stated. "And, as my voice became bigger, I chose to help Latinos in the US and, in particular, the women of our community."

While questions poured in about minority numbers and stats, Ms. Longoria said, "We cannot just be a big number; we have to be a movement, a big powerful voting block united in what we want to see. Immigration is what makes this country so beautiful and Latinos play a very important role."

She added that Texas is going to be a very important state in the near future and that although she was so very proud to be a Texan first, she did not want to enter politics. Interestingly, a trip to India is on her bucket list and she is very impressed with the contributions made by South Asian women.

The evening continued with her mixing and mingling with students and a VIP reception followed by dinner. The Corpus Christi-born actress has been outspoken on issues of immigration and the banning of Mexican American Studies in some states. The Eva Longoria Foundation supports programs to help Latinos excel in school and attend college.



Ruchi Mukherjee and Eva Longoria

Additionally, it supports Latina entrepreneurs with career training opportunities.

The 17th Annual Noche Cultural Banquet celebrated the many community supporters of CMAS and the students who benefit from scholarships, mentoring and networking opportunities. "It has always been the mission of the center to support students who may be the first in their families to attend college, to support young scholars as they produce important research about the Latino experience and to bring together community leaders for the benefit of both," said Tatcho Mindiola, professor and director of CMAS. "We are excited to have Ms. Longoria—herself a young scholar—as a central part of our celebration."

Ms. Longoria enthusiastically posed for pictures with the students looking fresh and glamorous in a black and white fitted dress. She was so eager to be supportive of the event that she came to it directly from the airport and headed out right afterward to fly to London.

A trip to India is on her bucket list and she is very impressed with the contributions made by South Asian women.

Designer Spotlight: Bibhu Mohapatra

Fashion Houston 2013 enticed its Houston audience with a host of very talented designers. As the Lights Camera Action host, I was thrilled to catch up with one of the celebrity fashion designers and fellow Indian American, Bibhu Mohapatra. Born in Orissa, India, and living in New York City, Bibhu's designs have been worn by such celebrities as Hilary Swank, Gwyneth Paltrow, Glenn Close, Kristen Wiig, and Elisabeth Moss. His designs have even been favored by First Lady, Michelle Obama. Bibhu's career is a true success story. He has been showcased at Mercedes Benz New York Fashion Week and has several awards under his belt.

Sitting down for a tête-à-tête at Elizabeth Anthony Esther Wolf in Uptown Park, I found out a few interesting tidbits about Bibhu that may not be generally known such as he loves Bengali mustard fish, women dressed in saris, and he is totally star struck around celebrities.

What elevates him and his designs is his humble persona, confidence, and that he embraces his roots. "Even though my garments are Western wear, I do not shy away from but embrace and showcase my roots, my culture," explained Bibhu. "In my Spring 2014 Collection I have used "Palash", a favorite flower of Noble Laureate Rabindranath Tagore". Orissa is known for its textiles and hand woven silks and one can see the appreciation for sumptuous Indian fabrics and vibrant colors in his collection.



Model Showcasing Bibhu's Design at Fashion Houston 2013



Local Upcoming Designer Simran with Bibhu Mohapatra

For spring, we will certainly find palash and a splash of colors. In Sanskrit, palash is the flower that is extensively used as a symbol of the arrival of spring and the color of love. We will see coral, hot orange, pale pink, and versions of black with a great mix of fabrics. Bibhu likes his collections to narrate a story and this spring, the story is inspired by his ballerina friend, Wendy Whelan.



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Photographer: **Debbie Porter** Stylist: **Summar Salah**
Model: **Angie Shi** (Neal Hamil Agency)

Makeup: **Tree Vaello** Hair: **Dennis Clendennen** *Dionysus Salon-Spa*
Location: **Kelly Gale Amen Studio Houston**



Sweater and skirt by Carven
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Dress by Dolce and Gabbana, available at Neiman Marcus
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Unparalleled Historical Sights in
an Ultramodern Context

London Travels by MATT SIMS

London is one of the world's favorite cities attracting over 14 million international visitors per year, making it Europe's most visited city. It is truly a city of sweeping contrasts. Some visitors come for the powerful sense of history that is present in this city which was originally founded by the Romans, and others come for the ultra-modern direction in which it is headed. I'm attracted to both sides of this English coin, the old and the new.

In terms of the old, you just can't think of London without thinking of names that have impacted history like Shakespeare, Churchill, Darwin, and others. I couldn't conceive of passing through without a visit to some of the world's greatest historical sites that are here, such as Buckingham Palace, the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower Bridge, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, and, of course, Westminster Abbey, the resting place of many of Britain's most famous names such as Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Dickens, Robert Browning, Rudyard Kipling, Laurence Olivier, and a host of kings and queens. And speaking of old, the London Underground, known locally as "the Tube," is the oldest underground railway network in the world. However, it can still transport you quickly and easily to almost anywhere you want to go.

I started with a walk through Westminster Abbey, where England's royalty have been crowned since 1066. Once inside, you can follow along with an audio guide or simply wander at your own pace and marvel at the sculptures and the elaborate stone coffins holding the remains of such notables as Mary Queen of Scots and King Edward I, nicknamed "Longshanks" because of his long legs (you might remember him as the evil king played by Patrick McGoohan in the Mel Gibson film, *Braveheart*). From Westminster Abbey, it's just a short stroll to see the towering iconic clock known the world over as Big Ben and a few steps further to the Houses of Parliament. Join the crowds of other travelers on the bridge over the River Thames trying to fit the giant monument in their camera's viewfinder, or if you want the best picture, cross the river and go down the steps alongside the river to capture a postcard view of Parliament and Big Ben together.

To see how the current queen lives, take the tube over to Victoria Station and take a short walk to the palace entrance and buy a ticket for the tour. Don't confuse the tour of the Royal Mews (the horse stables and carriages) with the tour of the palace, as the entrances are close to each other. Yes, there is an overpriced and rather formal tour of the royal stables, but it's not worth your time unless you've got a special penchant for ornate carriages and lots of time on your hands. Walking through Buckingham Palace, I was fascinated to think of all the notable figures in history who have walked those halls, had dinner in the banquet rooms, and shared secret conversations among the hundreds of pieces of rare artwork. It's also interesting to be shown a wall where there is a secret entrance that connects to the Queen's private rooms. I'm sure there must be more. You can end your tour by relaxing over tea and pastries in the Garden Café on the Palace's West Terrace overlooking the palace grounds.

If you haven't gotten your fill of paintings and sculptures, head to the British Museum, which houses a treasure trove of art and antiquities from all over the world. The British were among the first to unearth and bring back relics from the world's greatest lost cities, so give yourself plenty of time to stroll among the enormous Egyptian monuments as well as those from ancient Assyria, Greece, and other kingdoms. It's mystifying to think how they ever transported some of these giant works all the way back to London. If it is sunny, take a walk to Trafalgar Square and do some people watching by the huge lion statues. On the day I was there, a Scottish bagpipe player and several other performers were entertaining the crowds.



If the weather doesn't cooperate (this is London after all) take the #24 bus to the Charing Cross stop at Trafalgar Square and spend a pleasant afternoon gazing at the paintings in the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery, two of London's best art museums.

But London is not just about the old. It is a modern global city with striking new architecture, a legendary entertainment business, and its own sense of diverse fashion, which will be on full display during London Fashion Week being held February 14–18, 2014. London style is also on display each weekend at Portobello Market. Portobello Road is world famous for its Saturday antiques market, but you'll also see wall-to-wall crowds of Londoners negotiating the streets and crowds in search of fresh food and funky fashion. Arrive early to find the real treasures. After 10 a.m., the crowds arrive. The Portobello Market actually consists of three markets: antiques, fruit and veggies, and a flea market. Portobello Road begins at Notting Hill Gate, though the antique stalls start a couple of blocks north, around Chepstow Villas. Lining the sloping street are dozens

Portobello Road is world famous for its Saturday antiques market, but you'll also see wall-to-wall crowds of Londoners negotiating the streets and crowds in search of fresh food and funky fashion.

of antique shops and indoor markets. Where the road levels off, around Elgin Crescent, youthful culture and a vibrant neighborhood life kicks in, with all manner of interesting small stores and restaurants interspersed with the fruit-and-vegetable market. This mayhem continues to the Westway overpass where on Friday and Saturday you'll find London's best flea market — a mix of high-class, vintage, antique, and secondhand clothing, together with jewelry and assorted junk. It really is fun!

To see what is hip and happening now among the upscale crowd, stop in at London's most prestigious department store, Harrods. I hesitate to even call it a department store, as it is equal parts fashion mecca, gourmet culinary market, and historical institution. Although the layout of the store can be confusing, that makes it all the more fun to wander, get lost, and eventually find yourself in the vicinity of one of the specialized cafes or food and wine markets scattered about. My favorite was The Tea Room on the second floor, where I spent at least two hours relaxing and sampling delicious English scones and gourmet teas from around the world.

Of course, there are plenty of traditional English pubs in every neighborhood where tourists and locals sit down for a few pints of beer and the typical fish and chips meal, but London boasts some of the most cutting edge cuisine in the culinary universe at the moment.

Kitchen W8 at 11 Abingdon Road combines a modern English style with a French soul which essentially means you get choices of fricassée of cèpes served with chanterelles, cauliflower, salsify and leeks from the French side of things along with English styled pot roasted pork belly, crushed root vegetables, black pudding and apple. Desserts are equally innovative and born out of this dual nationality.

Or you can succumb to the temptation and the hype (most of it well-earned) and dine at one of celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay's ten restaurants (gordonramsay.com/find-us/) ranging from small upscale bistros like Foxtrot Oscar, or ultramodern Asian/French fusion ventures like Maze, or full-on art-deco dining room gourmet smack-downs like his namesake, Restaurant Gordon Ramsay, which is one of the very few three starred Michelin rated restaurants.



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When it came to choosing a hotel, I wanted comfort, but not at the cost of having to travel far away from the city's most famous sights and great restaurants. St. Ermin's Hotel in London's St. James's Park area (sterminshotel.co.uk) was perfect. St. Ermin's radiates that cool, yet regal London style with an elegant brick drive where bellmen in smart suits and bowler hats greet you and lead you into a stately lobby mezzanine with ornately curving verandas. I've never seen a lobby quite like it and was ready at any moment for the James Bond theme to start playing.

The eclectic hotel does in fact have a link to secret agents and espionage in that it was used by officers of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) now known as MI6 during the 1930s. The likes of Ian Fleming and double agents Kim Philby and Guy Burgess as well as others were known to have worked in the building during WWII. In addition, the hotel's Caxton Bar was used regularly by SIS, MI5, and Naval Intelligence Division case officers to meet their agents. Guy Burgess frequently met his Russian counterpart in the bar to hand over top-secret government files. In 1940, Churchill, asked a secret group of agents who later became the Special Operations Executive (SOE), to house themselves over an entire floor of the hotel as they planned their covert operations behind enemy lines.

My time at the St. Ermin was less eventful than those days of espionage, but I enjoyed relaxing in my well-designed and immaculately clean luxury suite after busy days exploring the hectic streets of London. The hotel's evocative Art Nouveau styling, Rococo plasterwork, awe-inspiring and theatrical balcony in the lobby were amazing, but it was the staff that really made me feel welcome. All aspects of this fine hotel come together to create a warm, sophisticated London welcome.

On nights that I felt like staying in, the St. Ermin's signature restaurant, Caxton Grill, provided modern European food in relaxed surroundings, and the service was what you would expect from one of London's top eateries. Alongside innovative appetizers like rose veal (with pineapple, spice, and lemongrass), smoked Scottish salmon and cauliflower salad (with roasted sultanas, coconuts, and almonds), there were great traditional offerings of Herefordshire beef, lamb, venison, and seafood. The Caxton also specializes in meat and seafood cooked in a jospier oven, a special charcoal oven/grill that lends a unique flavor to food.



For after-dinner drinks, the enigmatic Caxton Bar with its distinctly British feel and hints of the Orient provided just the right mix of modern comfort, subtle sophistication, and tasty cocktails. If the temperature is right, step outside onto the Caxton Terrace for that drink or even an afternoon tea and enjoy the view overlooking the lush courtyard. There is also the St. Ermin's Tea Lounge, an ornate space resembling a Viennese state room just off the hotel's stylish mezzanine for those who take their tea break seriously.

Breakfast can be an unhurried full-English affair if you have the time, or an efficient Continental if your plans involve moving on. For those who need to get up and grab an early train, the staff will arrange a "wake & take" — a cup of freshly brewed coffee and an artisan muffin, served as a take away from the lobby.

All of the St. Ermin's comforts are appreciated even more because they can all be had within a five minute walk to Buckingham Palace. One is also within walking distance of Westminster Abbey, Parliament, Big Ben, and The London Eye, the iconic giant Ferris wheel on the south bank of the River Thames, the tallest Ferris wheel in Europe. I'm not alone in liking this hotel. The St. Ermin was also "Hot Listed" by *Conde Nast Traveler* as one of the world's best new hotel openings and has won multiple awards and very high TripAdvisor commendations.

With a rich past and a vibrant life today, London is one of the world's most visited cities for good reason. This city has history, culture, shopping, entertainment, and great food all in a foreign locale without the language barrier. Yes, you can safely try out your fake English accent! And even though another 14 million will visit this year, there is still probably room for one more.

ARTS

de Young Museum Presents
Blockbuster Exhibition

David Hockney

The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco present *David Hockney: A Bigger Exhibition*, on view at the de Young Museum from October 26, 2013 through January 20, 2014.

Assembled by Hockney exclusively for the de Young, this exhibition marks the return to California of the most influential and best-known British artist of his generation.

This first comprehensive survey of Hockney's work since 2002 covers one of the most prolific periods of the artist's career. Hockney's book, *Secret Knowledge: Rediscovering the Lost Techniques of the Old Masters* was published in 2001, revealing his discovery that artists had used optical devices in their working processes centuries earlier than had been previously thought. The next decade saw an explosion of activity for Hockney, including a period of two years when he worked intensively and exclusively in watercolor for the first time, followed by painting en plein air, experimentation with the iPhone, iPad drawings, oil paintings on a grand scale, and digital movies. More than 300 works will be shown in 18,000 square feet of gallery space, making this the largest exhibition in the history of the museum.

David Hockney: A Bigger Exhibition builds on the success of a recent exhibition organized by the Royal Academy of Arts in London, but encompasses a much larger scope, and includes many portraits, still lifes, and landscapes. In addition to watercolors, charcoals, oil paintings, and works in other media, the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco will also be the first to exhibit and publish *The Arrival of Spring in 2013 (twenty thirteen)*. This work consists of 25 charcoal drawings, finished in May of this year, and has been described by Hockney as capturing "the bleakness of the winter and its exciting transformation to the summer."

David Hockney: A Bigger Exhibition

de Young Museum
Golden Gate Park
50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Dr.
San Francisco, CA 94118
415.750.3600
deyoungmuseum.org



Above:
David Hockney
"Bigger Trees Nearer Warter, Winter 2008"
Oil on 9 canvases (36 x 48" each)
108 x 144" overall
© David Hockney
Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt

Left:
David Hockney
"Self Portrait with Charlie" 2005
Oil on canvas
72 x 36"
© David Hockney
Collection National Portrait Gallery, London
Photo Credit: Richard Schmidt

Pick One (or More!) of Our Holiday Fragrance Gift Ideas

Sensational Scents

It's that time of year again: our annual round-up of the latest, most aromatic scents that can make the perfect gift for the special person in your life.

The lucky ones of you have already been told what to buy, while some of you have to risk it all by making the difficult choice yourself. Do you get them a scent that *you* like, or one you think *they* will like? Decisions, decisions...

We wish you the best of luck, and can *almost* guarantee that any of these would be an excellent choice.



Michael Kors: Sporty, Sexy, Glam

The new perfumes from Michael Kors are designed for every mood and every moment. Sporty Citrus is casually chic and fresh, Sexy Amber is deeply seductive, and Glam Jasmine is overtly feminine and definitely head-turning.

3.4 oz Eau de Parfum Sprays, \$95

Macy's



Elizabeth and James Nirvana White and Black

By sisters Mary-Kate Olsen and Ashley Olsen, Nirvana White is a captivating blend of delicate peony, chic muguet, and tender musk, while Nirvana Black is an addictive blend of alluring violet, sensual sandalwood, and rich vanilla.

1.7 oz Eau de Parfum Sprays, \$75

Available December 13 for a limited time exclusively at Sephora



Estée Lauder Modern Muse

Be an inspiration with this chic new vision of femininity. Modern Muse is a lush blend of rich florals and sleek woods with alluring contrasts of exotic mandarin, jasmine sambac, amber wood and patchouli.

1.7 oz Eau de Parfum Spray, \$78

Macy's



Elizabeth Arden Untold

A luxurious and modern floral composition, UNTOLD celebrates the sophistication and intrigue of the multi-faceted modern woman. The new fragrance has a radiant floral heart and sophisticated addictive warmth.

3.3 oz Eau de Parfum Spray, \$79

Macy's



Tory Burch

The first fragrance from Tory Burch captures classic elements in unexpected ways. Feminine and tomboy. Easy and polished. Floral peony and tuberose blend with crisp citrus notes of grapefruit and neroli, anchored by earthy vetiver.

3.4 oz Eau de Parfum Spray, \$110

Bloomingdale's



Burberry Brit Rhythm

An iconic fragrance that is sexy and provocative, Brit Rhythm is inspired by the exhilaration and adrenaline of live music and the electric energy of the crowd. The scent mixes electric notes of fresh basil verveina, spicy cardamom, and a shot of juniper berries with black leather, patchouli, and cedarwood.

1.7 oz Eau de Toilette Spray, \$60

Sephora



Gucci Made to Measure

The Gucci Made to Measure fragrance is intensely masculine, created for the man whom others aspire to be. It's inspired by the Gucci Made to Measure suit and specially crafted with the Gucci philosophy of attention to detail.

1.7 oz Eau de Toilette Spray, \$68

Sephora



Bottega Veneta Pour Homme

In a masterful synthesis of ingredients, Bottega Veneta Pour Homme captures the essence of the Bottega Veneta man. A blend of bergamot and fir balsam brings brightness and depth to the fragrance, while a strong, charismatic note of pimento adds refinement.

1.7 oz Eau de Toilette Spray, \$80

Nordstrom



Tom Ford Noir

Tom Ford Noir presents a dynamic new expression of noir as pure citrus oils and herbal notes come to the forefront, brightened, and heightened in their impact. A portrait of cool and confidence that hints at carnal sensuality beneath the surface, it offers a fresh and energized way to wear the Tom Ford Noir fragrance.

1.7 oz Eau de Toilette, \$75

Macy's



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HERE WE GO

Selecting the Best Champagne
for the Price

All In the Process

by PHILIP CUISIMANO

December is a month for celebrations, a time when the festive spirit of the holiday season takes over and the demand for sparkling wine soars. This special drink lends itself to festivities like no other, so much so that it has become the traditional glass of cheer for special occasions. Demand for sparkling wine will peak on New Year's Eve, as multitudes raise their glasses to welcome in the new and bid adieu to the old. With these wines front and center, here are a few thoughts for your consideration.

Sparkling wine's position as the beverage of celebration should surprise no one. After all, these wines are delicious and elegant, with the capacity to pair with most foods. Thus, they can be served before, after, or during a meal. Conveniently, there is a wide selection of labels available from which to choose with a range of prices to fit any budget. Finally, there are the bubbles, providing a socially acceptable degree of naughty decadence, hard to resist.

Demand for sparkling wine will peak on New Year's Eve, as multitudes raise their glasses to welcome in the new and bid adieu to the old.

Sparkling wines are produced by inducing a second fermentation within a still wine and there are two major techniques by which this is accomplished. Production method is critical because the selected technique also serves as the defining mark of differentiation between brands.

First, the "Gold Standard" of sparkling wine production is a process developed by the French, known as the

"Methode Champenoise". While this technique is utilized universally, it is most closely associated with those wines that take the name of their production zone, the esteemed "Champagne". In this process, the second fermentation occurs in the very bottle in which the cuvee is packed and subsequently sold to the public. This is an exacting process, that is time consuming, labor intensive and not surprisingly, expensive. Wines made in this manner state on the label "Methode Champenoise" or "Fermented in This Bottle".

The alternative method of sparkling wine production is the "Charmat Process", first developed in Italy and referred to there as "Metodo Italiano". In this technique, the second fermentation occurs in large, specially constructed holding containers with the re-fermented cuvee later transferred, under pressure, to its bottle. Wines produced in this manner will state on the label, "Charmat Process". Although this technique is less expensive, it also produces wines of high quality.

Now, which style is for you? While quality is a subjective determination, your choice could be influenced by the objective constraints of your budget. No one claims that Charmat Process wines are of better quality than those produced by the Methode Champenoise. In fact, most experts would argue the reverse. However, it is undeniable that the Charmat Process provides high quality products with more attractive pricing. The trick is in finding the optimal quality to dollar ratio. No one wants to be burned by paying more, when there are alternatives of similar quality, costing less.

With wine, you typically get what you pay for, but the sparkling wine category is not typical. There are many more great values to be had but also more opportunities to be burned. Choose well.

Salute!



Wine of the Month

Soligo Brut Prosecco N.V.

Prosecco is currently one of the most popular wines in the United States and this Charmat Process Italian sparkler is one of the best. Soligo is full-bodied and full-flavored, offering up fruit notes of apple and pear with a delicate hint of cream in the finish. This cuvee is elegant, with a refreshing minerality, providing "style" in a glass. Serve with anything but especially use to bring in the New Year! \$21.00

Wines are available at Spec's Wines, Spirits, & Finer Foods, various locations. Visit specsonline.com for the store nearest you.

Dining Guide

Yellow Magazine's featured restaurants

JAPANESE

Tokyo One

7465 W. Greens Rd., 281.955.8898
2938 W. Sam Houston S., 713.785.8899
Tokyo One is a sushi buffet restaurant, situated in a fancy boat house with an outside deck. The food is fresh and is constantly replenished. Selections include: salads such as sea weed, beef, squid, salmon and watercress. Sushi includes a variety of rolls and sashimi.

Zushi Japanese Cuisine

5900 Memorial Dr., 713.861.5588
Zushi serves extremely fresh and high quality sushi. Stand out items are the sashimi appetizers served with perfectly paired sauces or any one of the many house specialty rolls.

Uptown Sushi

1131 Uptown Park Blvd. #14 713.871.1200
Uptown Sushi personifies an upscale sushi restaurant located near the Galleria in the swanky Uptown Park Plaza. The menu offers Japanese fusion dishes and a great selection of high-end sashimi and sushi. Side note: Uptown Sushi has "off-the-menu" specialty rolls served daily!

CHINESE

Auntie Chang's

2621 South Shepherd #290, 713.524.8410
Auntie Chang's offers the most flavorful home-style Chinese cuisine around. Although known for their dumplings, any of your favorite classic Chinese dishes are done extremely well.

Hong Kong Food Street

9750 Bellaire Blvd., 713.981.9888
Peking duck and roasted pork hang from cleavers in a front window display giving a Hong Kong street market feel. In addition, the menu is divided into sections including Seafood, Hot Pot, Special Stir Fry, Sizzling and Chef Specials.

San Dong Noodle House

9938-F Bellaire Blvd., 713.271.3945
Authentic hand pulled Chinese noodle dishes are served at a reasonable price. A few favorites include the Roast Beef Noodle soup served in a beef broth accented by ginger and soy, or the oh so addicting pan fried dumplings.

Sinh Sinh

9788 Bellaire Blvd., 713.541.0888
The seafood at Sinh Sinh is quite exciting because everything served comes from live tanks. Prawns, Australian king lobster, King crabs, Coral Leopard trout, Surf clams, Geoduck clams, Trunk clams, Elephant clams, etc...are all featured as live seafood.

THAI

Thai Spice

8282 Bellaire Blvd. 713.777.4888
Thai Spice on Bellaire is a foodies dream. It's a casual place that serves Thai dishes you won't find anywhere else in Houston, with a huge selection of interesting, rare, tasty dishes at excellent prices. A must have is the whole fried tilapia with hot and sour dipping sauce and papaya salad and Tom Yum soup.

Nit Noi

6700 Woodway Pkwy, Suite 580 281.597.8200
Nit Noi means "a little bit" and Thai food lovers pack Nit Noi restaurants and cafes all around Houston. Nit Noi will always be known for their Pad Thai, but other must try dishes include Pad Thai Korat (flat noodles stir-fried with chicken, pork or shrimp with vegetables) and Tom Yum Goong (spicy and sour shrimp soup).

Tony Thai

10613 Bellaire Blvd., 281.495.1711
A sophisticated approach to traditional Thai cuisine, Tony's executes with perfect balance and pizzazz. Tony's Wings, wet or dry, and the Steamed Mussels are popular appetizers. For the main course try the Basil Lamb, Garlic Salmon or the Steamed Fish with Chili.

INDIAN

Kiran's Restaurant

4100 Westheimer Rd. #151, 713.960.8472
This northern Indian style restaurant embodies a fusion approach to its cuisine. With a focus on well balanced flavors rather than spice, the Flaky Halibut Swimming in Watermelon Curry sauce and the Tandoori Platter typify this perfectly.

VIETNAMESE

Kim Son Restaurants

2001 Jefferson (and other locations), 713.222.2461
The menu is the most imposing part of this casual, highly regarded landmark Vietnamese restaurant. There are no poor choices among the 100 or so options. Enjoy finely prepared delicacies as well as the expected fare, such as the pork vermicelli and fried eggroll. Must try is their black pepper softshell crab. Special event facilities available.

Vietopia

5176 Buffalo Speedway, 713.664.7303
Trendy yet elegant, Vietopia delivers top notch Vietnamese cuisine at reasonable lunch prices and a stellar dinner menu. The lounge works perfectly for those who want a less formal dining experience but still want to enjoy quality food.

Mo Mong

1201 Westheimer Rd. #B, 713.524.5664
This Trendy Montrose establishment has a great lunch crowd as well as a packed martini night on Wednesdays. But the real draw is the food- traditional family recipes mixed in with some tasty modern dishes. Must try items include the Mango Spring Rolls, Shrimp and Avocado Spring Roll, Volcano Chicken, and the Bo Luc Lac.

CONTINENTAL

Colombe d'Or Restaurant and Hotel

3410 Montrose Blvd. 713.524.7999
Built in 1923 and originally the mansion of Walter Fondren, one of the founders of Humble Oil, Colombe d'Or Hotel is considered a Texas historical landmark. Featuring French and Continental fare, we recommend the Carre d'Agneau, individual rack of baby lamb grilled with natural herbs and red wine sauce.

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MAGAZINE

PAOLA
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COVER MODULAR SOFA

Design by Victor Carrasco

The sofa series consists of left and right, central, corner, chaise longue and pouf elements which are joined together with a steel coupling system. The visible structure is made of multilayer bentwood, which is available both veneered and dyed in colors; Sabbia, calce, Grigio, Grigio Scuro, or lacquered in matt colors matching the upholstery cover. Seat and back cushions are made of stress resistant differentiated expanded polyurethane. The removable upholstery cover is available in a wide range of fabrics and colors in the collection. A distinguishing characteristic of the Cover sofa lies in the backrests, which can be raised or lowered with a simple hand pressure thanks to a gas piston mechanism. The series is completed by a wooden side table available in the same finishes of the sofa's structure.

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