

Time to take the plunge Farhi finally gets fragrant

For a woman who's notched up over 25 years in the fashion industry, it's taken an unconventionally long time for Nicole Farhi to release a signature fragrance, usually a preliminary step in turning a fashion label into a lifestyle brand.

Instead, Farhi conquered the myriad heights of diffusion labels, a homeware collection, accessories, swimwear and even restaurants before she took it upon herself to create a trademark scent.

Fortunately, Nicole Farhi Homme lives up to the anticipation its delay has generated with a natural, warm potion that combines lime, tea tree, white pepper, musk and patchouli.

And like the elegantly unstructured clothing the designer is famed for, the container is a suitably anomalous hand-sculpted glass bottle that her playwright husband David Hare has apparently started using as a paperweight.

From £25 for 30ml



Arena reader event

Come walk the walk... Montblanc throws party just for you!

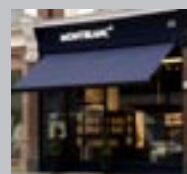


It's not every day that you are showered with food, drink, fine entertainment and top-quality grooming products without sizeable, Sir John Houblon-shaped dents being made to your wallet. Yet, exclusive to *Arena* readers, December 7 has become that very day.

In association with Montblanc – of the stylish writing implements, timepieces and now spicy scent fame – we are offering an evening of free fun, frolics and fragrances to commemorate the launch of its new Starwalker range from celebrated perfumer Michel Almairac.

Aside from suitably sterling smells, the event also serves up party perks and lots of them. So as well as an ample supply of Kronenbourg Blanc, that 'new refreshing fruity white beer', to enjoy and extensive nibbles, expert mixologist Lewis Spindlove will be demonstrating the fine art of drinks-making, creating Starwalker cocktails with luxury vodka/sake blend Wokka Saki.

And if those liquid distractions are not enough to muster maniacal droolings on your part, maybe the chance to win a Montblanc Starwalker pen and exclusive after-hours shopping Colleen McLoughlin-style might just complete the look.



Star treatment
Top-quality smells (left) are just the start for Montblanc's boutique bash at its Sloane Street store (above and right)



Of course, a party wouldn't be a party without goodie bags, and with a variety of fragrances from the Montblanc range, Wokka Saki cocktail booklets and mystery gifts to line your pockets, ours are sure not to be sniffed at (well, actually they are, but you get what we mean).

A drinks-filled night 'up west' you'll come home smelling nice from? As we say, it doesn't happen every day...

The party takes place at the Montblanc Boutique, 151 Sloane St, London SW1 on December 7 from 7-9pm. To attend, RSVP to: readerevent@arenamag.co.uk

