

LEMON



In aromatherapeutic use, the oil of lemon, extracted from the fruit's skin, has very powerfully cleansing and revivifying properties, both physically and psychologically. It is considered by many cultures to be something of a panacea. While sometimes used in the 'lemon torte' manner by perfumers, contrasting the mouth-puckering tang of fresh lemon peel with custards, mousse or vanilla cream in the manner of the finest cheese cakes – most famously in Guerlain's *Shalimar*, which contrasts a very prominent lemon top note with sensuous balsams and vanilla in the base – the majority of lemon-centred fragrances are, as you would expect, much more zingy and fresh: immediately head-focusing and perfect for bright mornings.



Eau de Fleurs de Cedrat by Guerlain 1920
In many ways for me the most perfect lemon scent, *Eau de Fleurs de Cedrat*, one of the lesser-known Guerlains, captures the soul of the lemon and the lemon tree in an exquisitely clear and diaphanous manner, combining citron lemon (a variety of lemon prized more for its fragrant skin than its pulp) and bergamot but no base notes. While you luxuriate in the pleasure of those first few moments – and no other lemon scent, in my view, has a more perfect top note – the perfume, containing only natural citrus, is unfortunately already on its way to disappearing. This was apparently quite deliberate on the part of Guerlain, though, as it was intended as no more than a wakening spritz, a burst of citrus. The scent is also recommended as a way of layering and boosting your other perfumes – particularly if they contain a lemon note – without interfering with their progression on the skin.



Acqua Vivo by Profumum 2006
Amalfi lemons, sometimes known as the 'Queen of Lemons', are grown on terraced hillsides in this picturesque southern region of Italy and are at least double the size of other varieties, with a thick and wrinkled skin that produces the finest lemon essential oil, which infuses this perfume. Blended with a light floral back tone of Sicilian broom flower and anchored in a harmonious cypress and cedar base, for true lemon lovers, this is a delight.



Mediterraneo by Carthusia 2003
Like eating lemon sorbet on the balcony of a villa in Capri in the mid-afternoon sun, *Mediterraneo* is a sheeny, soapy lemon scent with green tea and floral undertones that cools like a gentle summer breeze. Also available in convenient solid perfume, this is a very likeable, gentle lemon perfume and mood booster that you can carry about like sunshine in your pocket.



Bleinheim Bouquet by Penhaligon's 1902
A lip-pinched gin lemon on an immaculately tended lawn. Beyond, the spruce trees and privet hedges. In the foreground, a sedate but rather formal, *poak, poak, poak* of summer croquet as a ball runs slowly but surely along the grass.
A quietly gentleman-ish English idyll, inspired by the grand, stately home of Bleinheim Palace in Oxfordshire, ancestral home of Winston Churchill and the other Dukes of Marlborough, *Bleinheim Bouquet* is a discreet and muted citrus perfume. Refined but faint, this scent has a sourness, very removed from reality (just like the upper classes who have always ruled the land): a consummately realised confusion of lemon, pine, pepper and lime, and a subtle sun-dried lavender.

CITRUS



draft cover

Perfume

In Search of Your Signature Scent
Neil Chapman

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Full colour illustrations

A guide to selecting your next signature scent

A beautifully made scent can encapsulate a particular feeling or even transport you to a specific time in life. In *Perfume*, Neil Chapman guides readers through a world that can at times seem overwhelming. Fragrances of every variety are listed 'note by note' in clearly divided categories that will steer you towards 'your' signature scent. Chapters explore popular notes or a broader identifiable group, giving an insight into that particular category as well as a clear sense of the similarities and differences between the scents described within it. Featuring over 700 scents, from vintage perfumes to department store classics, *Perfume* is a true portal into the world of perfume.

Neil Chapman began writing his perfume blog, *The Black Narcissus*, in 2012. He has won the ultimate prize for perfume writing – the Literary Award at the 2013 Jasmine Awards – for his first published piece, 'Perfume Haters', in *ODOU* magazine.

- With new perfume brands and perfumeries popping up all the time, never before has there been such a need for a comprehensive guide
- By grouping perfumes according to a key 'note' it is possible to explore and compare different perfumes within each category
- Neil has an encyclopaedic knowledge of perfume, and inserts fun information about the scent, people who wore it and personal anecdotes throughout

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Lemon

O de Lancôme by Lancôme 1969
Similar to other citrus scents from this period – such as the beautiful, but now vanished *Quinquee* by Givès (1975) – also by perfumer Robert Gonnon) and Lancôme's male version of *O*, *Tragédie* (1992) – these perfumes share the same refreshing lemon, green leaf top notes (a quite different facet of the lemon tree to the fruit), and effortless, balanced finesse. But only *O de Lancôme* has that soft, panoramic serenity that seems to contain every aspect of summer: from the joy of intense sunlight as you run and tumble on the flower-edged garden lawns, to the cool comfort of cotton blankets as the sun is going down in the late light, and the inherent, unavoidable dread that it is all about to pass.

OTHER LEMON PERFUMES

Petit Matin by Maison Francis Kurkdjian 2016
a more lemony than-thou, blindingly clean and almost futuristic long-lasting lemon scent that is perfect in small doses.

Citron Citron by Miller Harris 2000
a thoughtful scent that undercuts crisply delightful lime, orange and Sicilian lemon top notes with a faint, woody, herbal heart and base accord of thyme, basil, marjoram and mint, over lightly spiced cedarwood.

Brooklyn by Gallivant 2017
an upbeat, lemon-meringue white musk that is sweet and sassy, an easy-going blend of lemon peel infused soufflé and a freshly washed white tee: one for a relaxing Saturday brunch out on the town.

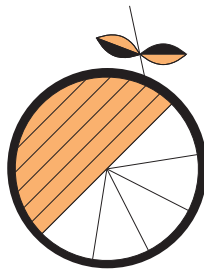
Acqua Vitae by Maison Francis Kurkdjian 2013
Francis Kurkdjian's softer, more yielding interpretation of 'day wear' lemon: a vin and yang entwining of fresh citrus notes and gaitic wood, tonka bean and vanilla infusion.

Diorella by Dior 1972
haughty, almost arrogant, decadent, seventies lemon chypre with notes of melon, yasmine, and honeysuckle.

Agua de Colonia Concentrada by Alarcos Gomez 1913
classic and well-loved picnic-lemon cologne sold in giant, splashable bottles with a spicy clove and rosemary drydown.

Lemon by House of Rose 2018
nothing but lemonade: lemons, over ice, popping in the glass.

GRAPEFRUIT



This most bitter and involved of all the citrus fruits, with its thick skin, oily pores, so fragrant yet almost sulphurous, is in some ways a difficult fruit that famously interferes with medicines in the body and yet simultaneously is also a cure for hangovers, dizziness and can even alleviate depression. Grapefruit is used less frequently than other citrus notes as a star player, though when blended well, this full and solar citrus note can be quite emboldening.

CITRUS

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