

van der postings

Lucia van der Post, the grande dame of luxury, delivers a trio of first-class dispatches

Almost everywhere we go we come away with olfactory memories that lodge deep in our unconscious. I grew up in South Africa and today I would know where in the country I was simply by catching the scents wafting on the air.

This year a number of fragrance houses are attempting to capture the essence of places that are special to them. Carthusia Fragrances, founded in 1380, has teamed up with the Central Park Conservancy in New York to create The Essence of Central Park (£90 for 50ml parfum). Artemisia, a lush green accord, evokes the wide, open spaces of the 843-acre park and soft summer breezes: Then there's magnolia, sharp citrus and earthy geranium at the heart and, giving it depth and a certain earthiness at the base,

light woody aromas and amber. Fragrance brand Eight & Bob's rather offbeat moniker stems from the fact that John F Kennedy once ordered eight bottles, plus one extra for Bob (his brother Robert), of this lovely cologne created by French aristocrat Albert Fouquet. He'd discovered it in the 1930s when he came to Europe and remembered it.

Fouquet was inundated with requests from America for "Eight & Bob", but when he was killed in a car accident in 1939 his colognes were discontinued. Two years ago the original, slightly spicy formula was rediscovered and the brand Eight & Bob launched. There are two other fragrances also retrieved from Fouquet's archives: Cap d'Antibes (£125 for 100ml EDP) has mint and moss blended with other woody accords to

Clockwise from above:

Carthusia Fragrances The Essence of Central Park, £90 for 50ml parfum. Cloon Keen Atelier Tulum, £55 for 60ml EDP. 4160 Tuesdays The Dark Heart of Old Havana, £60 for 50ml EDP. Bruno Acampora Irazzo, £100 for 50ml EDP. Eight & Bob Cap d'Antibes, £125 for 100ml EDP.

capture the essence of the gardens of the Eden-Roc hotel, and cinnamon to add some warmth and sunshine: Egypt (also £125 for 100ml), evoking a country that had fascinated Fouquet when he visited it in 1935, is a head-turning collection of spices – cardamom and nutmeg, patchouli, sandalwood and an unusual combination of leather and citrus.

Then there's Irazzo (£100 for 50ml EDP) by Bruno Acampora, an oriental chypre inspired by the heat of the Iranian desert and the spices and resins found in its markets. The fragrance is the colour of tobacco and opens with musk and sandalwood giving way to a heart of briar rose, jasmine, amber, galbanum, a warm patchouli and nutmeg oil.

At Les Senteurs is The Dark Heart of Old Havana (£60 for 50ml EDP) by Sarah McCartney of 4160 Tuesdays (who created the joyous What I Did On My

Holidays). According to Les Senteurs perfume archivist James Craven, it reminds him of stepping off a flight "into balmy midnight air full of scarlet hibiscus, mauve oleander and a battery of new and unknown smells."

Lastly, Irish fragrance house Cloon Keen Atelier launched Tulum (£65 for 60ml EDP) in 2014, which smells of Mexican sunshine, mangoes and grapefruit and reminds one of nothing so much as carefree days by the sea. 4160 Tuesdays, www.4160tuesdays.com and see Les Senteurs. Bruno Acampora, www.brunoacampora.com and see Roullier White. Carthusia Fragrances, www.carthusia.it and see Liberty. Cloon Keen Atelier, www.cloonkeenatelier.com, www.eighnandbob.com and see Fortnum & Mason. Fortnum & Mason, www.fortnumandmason.com. Les Senteurs, www.lesenteurs.com. Liberty, www.liberty.co.uk. Roullier White, www.roullierwhite.com.

Carry on travelling

Luggage brand Tumi is loved for its innovative engineering and use of FXT Ballistic Nylon fabric, which gives its suitcases their famous lightness and strength. Now that Tumi has reached a venerable age (40 years), it has created a new collection called 1975 that has a very different air, sporting as it does the retro glamour of the period. There are 14 designs – from travel cases to briefcases, day bags, passport holders and luggage tags – and each style has a special limited-edition embossed number.

The leather is a natural full-grain cowskin in tan or the most beautifully dark buttery yellow, of the sort that will look even better once it's seen a little of the world. To me, the nicest pieces are the International Carry-On (£1,895, pictured far left) and Square Duffel (from £1,295), but the Day Tote (£795, pictured near left) and Slim Portfolio (£645) are also lovely. A chance to buy a piece of luggage, then, that harks back to the grand old days of glamorous travel. www.tumi.com.



Loose change
Omar Mansoor has a collection of incredibly pretty pure silk scarves that will take up little to no room in your luggage. Available in many patterns, they are the answer to many a sartorial conundrum and add a pop of spring colour to an otherwise understated outfit. £35; www.strandofsilk.com.



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