

TRAVELING WITHOUT MOVING

Feeling cooped up? Every scent here indulges a sense of wanderlust, letting in fresh air and inspiring new adventures. By Sable Yong

IT MIGHT SEEM as if the whole world has been frozen in amber these days, but with the right fragrance suddenly your mind—and mood—is somewhere else.

“Perfume has always been the fastest way to get to your dream destination without actually having to travel,” says Ben Krigler, the fifth-generation perfumer of the famed Krigler fragrance house, which was founded on the concept of journeying to distant lands—and even other eras. “We create perfumes that mirror the expectations of where you wish you could go.”

Each of these scents unlocks a sense of possibility, a reminder that while we may not be moving much farther than the couch right now, a wider, wilder world is waiting.



DESTINATION: ITALY

In 1920, the Italian playwright Giuseppe Adami commissioned the House of Krigler to re-create the aura of Bordighera, a laid-back resort town on the Italian Riviera. A century later, Villa Bordighera 20 (\$395) feels as fresh as ever—at once warm, lemony, and elegant. Carthusia Mediterraneo (\$80) is another lemon perfume, although inspired by Capri: This one’s a little sparklier, with notes of green tea.



DESTINATION: BRAZIL

Some of the most popular fragrances in Brazil are all about pure sweetness: Sol de Janeiro Sol Cheirosa '62 (\$78) is a velvety blend of salted caramel and vanilla, as if they were warmed by the sun. Natura Ekos Açaí Frescor (\$47) is more refreshing; think icy acai and juicy tropical fruit. Treat this like a splash, not like a precious perfume.



DESTINATION: SPAIN

Cult brand Escentric Molecules is famous for fragrances built around a single synthetic molecule. In this case, it’s Cashmeran, a musky, pine-like note that founder Geza Schoen uses to elicit the wooded coast of Majorca, his summer hideaway. Molecule 05—one of two new scents—is so spectacular, it works as a stand-alone fragrance. Escentric 05 combines Cashmeran, bergamot, and fig with hints of juniper and cypress, which together take on a more resinous aroma (\$150 each).



DESTINATION: CHINA

Memo Paris Winter Palace (\$300) conjures Imperial China and the enduring beauty of its traditional tea ceremonies. The tart red tea notes give way to toasty maté and a warm vanilla and amber base. Both zesty and cozy, this exquisite and unusual fragrance has major staying power.



DESTINATION: JAPAN

The concept of “forest bathing” (or *shinrin-yoku*) has popped up in the self-care conversation in recent years, but the practice—simply spending time in nature to absorb its healing benefits—was born in Japan. It’s easy to understand why: Much of the island nation is dotted with evergreen hinoki and hiba trees, the woods that inspired Aēsop Hwyl (\$135). The earthy mix of cypress, vetiver, and frankincense was designed to impart a feeling of solitude, the kind you might find in one of Kyoto’s many moss-covered temples.

Floraïku The Mountain Standing Still (\$350) also bottles a quiet mood. A blend of oud, black tea, and saffron, it imagines the scent of incense like a soft haze rising behind temple windows.



DESTINATION: NEW ZEALAND

There are plenty of perfumes that promise to invoke the scent of the beach, but Abel Cyan Nori (\$150) is brave enough to go big on briny seaweed, an element most other marine fragrances leave out altogether. Mixed with white peach and warm musk, this 100 percent natural perfume is electric, salty, and captures the essence of New Zealand’s rocky coastline. About that musk:

The brand uses ambrettolide, a plant-derived musk that doesn’t pose risks to aquatic life as fossil fuel-based versions do.



DESTINATION: SOUTH KOREA

Home fragrances are bigger than perfume in Korea, says Soohyang Kim, creator of Soohyang, an ambient scent brand. Our favorites from her line: Gangnam 8, a spicy candle that evokes luxury boutiques in Seoul’s poshest district; and Itaewon 565, a subtle green floral that brings to mind morning dew on blades of grass (\$46 each).



DESTINATION: TAHITI

With its too-blue-to-be-believed waters and rainforests, Tahiti represents everything pristine and unspoiled. Chantecaille aims to bottle that sort of escape with Tiare (\$185). Known as “the flower of beauty,” the tiare is an ancient symbol of the French Polynesian island. While the name would lead you to think that Tiare is a single-note perfume, it’s a white floral bouquet that blends gardenia, lily of the valley, orange blossom, and other creamy petals to hypnotic effect. ■