

# What Women Want

With their critical eye—or in this case, nose—five female editors weigh in on the scents that you put on.



**SAM POTENCIANO**  
Editor in Chief, *Candy*

This scent starts off strong, so a little definitely goes a long way. I immediately thought of my dad, and the perfume he'd save for business dinners. It's very, very clean—like a white room where you aren't sure if you're allowed to touch anything. Then, it fades into a gentle scent with citrus and coconut notes like a summer drink. I have a perfumer friend who reminded me that the body's chemistry brings out different notes in different people, so I realized I may not be the intended wearer. I asked my boyfriend to wear it once, and he thought he smelled like a high schooler on his first date. *Mont Blanc Legend Spirit* (P4,798 for 100 ml), *Rustan's Makati*.



**KARA ORTIGA**  
Associate Features Editor, *Esquire*

At first whiff, *Bulgari Man in Black* feels like sniffing a handful of crushed peppercorns: jarringly spicy with a faint sweetness. Put it on and you are overcome with an unexpected spirit. It's bold with the intensity of wood and pungent with the tanginess of fragrant flowers. On my skin, the scent lingers, making me feel intoxicated. I'd prefer this on a hardworking man like, say, a CEO nursing a glass of whiskey after a long day of work, warming that delicate area of his neck behind the ear with the boozy aroma. The scent is disarming with authority—something a man should wear if he's closing a big deal and open to the possibility of a frisky celebration later in the night. Big boy stuff. *Bulgari Man in Black*, *Rustan's Makati*.



**BELLE RODOLFO**  
Associate Beauty Editor, *Preview*

I couldn't stop sniffing my sweater. This is what *Aqua Vitae* does to you. Well, to me at least. At first, you get citrus and white floral, and it's all so sparkly and bright like your overly optimistic colleague on a grumpy Monday. It gets better as it dries. While I usually can't stand vanilla, this one isn't a young scent. It's a warmer and woodier vanilla, like a hug from a man or woman (the fragrance is androgynous enough) that melts so well into your skin. Too bad it doesn't last very long, because it's the kind of scent that puts you in a good mood. Best worn during a (literal or figurative) Netflix-and-chill session. *Maison Francis Kurkdjian Aqua Vitae* (P11,800 for 200 ml), *Rustan's, Makati*.



**MERIAM AHARI**  
Beauty Editor, *Cosmopolitan*

I have a confession to make: I'm the world's only beauty editor who doesn't like wearing fragrance. Perhaps, I've yet to find a scent that doesn't offend my acutely sensitive nose, which transforms into a running faucet around the slightest hint of perfume. I splashed my wrists, hair, and neck with *Acqua di Giò* and longed for a change of heart. In the first five minutes, the intensely masculine aroma made me feel powerful and sophisticated. I relished in what feels like a blend of a freshly cleaned room and the outdoors, perhaps the seaside. But 10 minutes later, the nausea and runny nose began. It may not have worked out for me, but I'd still recommend this to men who love clean, aquatic scents with a hint of spice. *Giorgio Armani Acqua di Giò Profumo*, *Rustan's Makati*.



**PAULYNN CHANG-AFABLE**  
Editor in Chief, *Yummy*

My husband wore this fragrance a couple of times, and I loved it on him! I'm partial to scents that are clean and fresh (I'm not a fan of floral notes), and this *Issey Miyake* fragrance fits the bill perfectly. It's light, aquatic, and bit citrusy, but with just the right amount of toughness. It didn't come on too strong—I couldn't really smell the cologne from across the dinner table or from the passenger seat, but I loved getting a whiff of the scent each time he'd reach over or walk by. It's perfect for every day. This is for no-nonsense men who want to leave a subtle but lasting impression. *Issey Miyake L'Eau d'Issey Pour Homme Eau de Toilette Fraiche* (P5,200 for 100 ml), *Rustan's Makati*.

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