



# Beauty

## Lesley Thomas

### 9 things I like to smell on a man



**Tom Ford Italian Cypress**  
(£118 for 50ml; [tomford.co.uk](http://tomford.co.uk))

This mossy, woody aromatic with a breezy hint of mint is cool but still very hot. Think of Idris Elba in a Tom Ford suit and you get the idea. Yes, think about that for as long you like ... It smells (and is) so expensive, it could hypnotise you into thinking the wearer's old Marks & Spencer jacket was picked up at Ford's Milan boutique last week.

It's part of the "private blend" collection (ie, the premium, more expensive Tom Ford scents), and the fittest one of the lot.

**Louis Vuitton L'Immensité**  
(£185 for 100ml; [louisvuitton.com](http://louisvuitton.com))

I like all kinds of smells on a man: Sicilian lemons, musk, cigars, fresh sweat, whisky, petrol and Sure for Men roll-on deodorant, to name just a few. But if I were forced to live with one man-smell I'd say: fresh. If it's for keeps, I like the smell of clean and crisp. This fragrance is addictively breezy with ginger, grapefruit and rosemary. It's airy and spacious-seeming, with a longevity not typical of this style of perfume. There's a smidge of amber that gives it a little hint of sensuality that goes a long way.



**Frédéric Malle Vétiver Extraordinaire**  
(£97 for 30ml; [johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com))

Well, this smells like a very charming man. You can't really go wrong with any Frédéric Malle scent, particularly the ones created by Dominique Ropion – always constructed with maximum elegance. This is one of Ropion's best works: a perfect, balanced blend of musk, moss, woods, bergamot and some uplifting pink pepper.

**Dior Homme** (£55 for 50ml; [boots.com](http://boots.com))

I love a bit of high-street fashion – but for fragrance, not so much. There aren't too many scents you can just buy in Boots that I like. But this one – ah, this one makes me a bit weak at the knees. If I smell it on the Tube, I might inch myself in its direction and breathe



**If I smell this on the Tube, I inch myself in its direction and breathe it in for a few stops**

it in for a few stops. Hey, not in a weird way! Actually ... in a little bit of a weird way. If there's an olfactory equivalent of a voyeur (voyeur?), I am it. This fragrance is modern, masculine, hugely popular and yet not remotely clichéd. It's woody and subtly spicy; low-key sexy; seductive without really trying. I could hang out with it for hours and hours. Fellas, if you are clueless about scent and don't know what to wear on a first date, try this.

**Le Labo Oud 27** (£127 for 50ml; [lelabofragrances.com](http://lelabofragrances.com))

Ah, Le Labo, the globally mega-successful yet still niche-seeming fragrance brand. A man who wears Le Labo is quite cool and really knows his fragrance – and likes people to know that he is quite cool



and knows his fragrance, too. The man who really wants to drive this message home wears Santal – the brand's bestseller, which you'll smell everywhere in Shoreditch and Brooklyn. To be fair, Le Labo has made 17 fragrances so far and not one is a dud. But for me Oud 27 is the one that smells knockout on a chap. It's a mighty oriental with cedarwood, agarwood, incense and saffron. It's a fragrance for a cool and stylish man – but very much a grown-up.

**Creed Himalaya** (£155 for 50ml; [creedfragrances.co.uk](http://creedfragrances.co.uk))

Hark! I hear Bonnie Tyler singing the climax of *I Need a Hero*. What's not to love about smelling like a mountaineer or an explorer? Or any man with carabiners, ropes, a weather-beaten face and a bit of stubble? So what is the scent for the rugged, fearless swashbuckler? Grapefruit, sandalwood, nutmeg and mandarin and fresh bergamot, that's what. Wear this to smell like an adventurer, even if you're scared of heights.



**Gallivant Istanbul** (£65 for 30ml; [gallivant-perfumes.com](http://gallivant-perfumes.com))

It's as spicy, aromatic and balmy as you'd imagine a fragrance called Istanbul to be. It's got a sweetness to it, too, with some patchouli and myrrh. It is perfect if you are – in your mind – a Byzantine man about town.



**Byredo Rose of No Man's Land**  
(£105 for 50ml; [spacenk.com](http://spacenk.com))

Raspberry, Turkish rose and amber – mmmm, let me fall into its softly reassuring embrace. I like a man to smell soothing, delicate and warm sometimes. No gender stereotypes to see here.



**Memo Paris African Leather**  
(£205 for 75ml; [harveynichols.com](http://harveynichols.com))

Then again, this insanely in-your-face masculine fragrance with leather, cumin, musk and oud makes me feel a bit giddy, a bit hormonal. Wear this if you know how to fight a crocodile with your bare hands – or at least are willing to learn. ■

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