

KRISTEN MICHÈLE

Q&A with
perfumer and
owner of
Kristen Michèle
Parfumeur in
Newport
Beach

For as far back as she can remember, Kristen Michèle has poked her nose in things.

It's not other people's business she's interested in, however, it's the scent of, well, everything.

Though she studied broadcast journalism, public relations and music at USC, her love for scents and perfumes remained since childhood. In 2004, she started creating customized scents through one-on-one consultations with clients. She launched her fragrance line with three scents – Fleurs Blanches, Épice Orientale and Notes Fraîches – in January 2008, and already has several celebrities like Marlee Matlin and Ashley Roberts of The Pussycat Dolls buying custom scents and from the line.

Michèle took some time off from her busy blending schedule one afternoon to answer some *Coast* questions about her fragrances and her keen nose.

What inspires your fragrances?

Many different things, I think, as many artists would say. I'm such a visual person – I love interior design... Typically, I'm inspired by people that I admire, and by gardens... I love going into Roger's Gardens and just smelling flowers. In doing that, I can almost, in my head, put together something... One thing I'm not inspired by – trends. I'm inspired by things – classical things, classical places.

Online: 

www.coastmagazine.com

Check out Beauty in our Style section online for more on our interview with Kristen Michèle.



JOHN BLOW PHOTOGRAPHY

When creating custom scents, how are you able to capture intangible things like emotions and memories in a bottle?

A lot of it is really intuition. A lot of it is getting a read, being able to connect with someone and getting a vibe and a feeling from them, what they're saying.

What's the strangest fragrance you've been asked to create?

Something that smells like sex.

The Kristen Michèle Parfumeur line is available at Spa Gregorie's in Newport Beach, The White Dress in Corona del Mar and can be ordered through kristenmicheleparfumeur.com for \$70-\$75 a bottle (ask about lip-stick-size purse sprays available through the site for \$35). E-mail Kristen Michèle through the site for sample vials or to schedule custom scent appointments, bridal scent appointments and perfume parties. -JESSICA PERALTA

DISPOSABLE INCOME

Art Comes Clean

You won't find Gianna Rose soaps on aisle 12 at CVS, or even in the specialty gift section at upscale department stores. That's because Gianna Rose isn't your average soap company, it's an atelier, an artist's workshop where the humble bar of soap is transformed into an exalted opera of personal care.

Based out of Santa Ana, the venerable atelier has become an institution known for impeccable quality with an artisan's touch. Signature fragrances and all-natural botanical extracts form the base for Gianna Rose's triple-milled soaps, but likely more noticeable are the forms the product takes on. Consider the acorn- and pinecone-shaped soaps, or honor your favorite furry sidekick with her very own linen-

scented likeness, like our favorite, the regal Scottish terrier (\$21, pictured). But with a price tag in the range of \$11 for a simple bar to nearly \$50 for robin's egg-shaped soaps, you might want to limit your lather time. Or just stick to Irish Spring.

Available at Roger's Gardens, Montage Laguna Beach and The Resort at Pelican Hill. Gianna Rose, (714) 435-9880; giannarose.com

-JESSICA FORSYTH

