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INTERNATIONAL FASHION PREVIEW

FROM THE STREETS OF
SÃO PAULO TO THE
LAWNS OF LOS ANGELES:
WHAT WE'LL BE WEARING
THIS SUMMER

BONDI TO BOND STREET:
SURFWEAR IS MAKING WA
COSTA RICA CHIC



Typically tropical

This year's love affair between beauty companies and the luscious lotions and seductive scents of Polynesia is more than just a holiday fling

The South Pacific has become the latest hunting ground for beauty pioneers from the West. And this time the fascination with the cosmetic potential of the tropics has nothing to do with the coconut-drenched tanning lotions which emerged in the 1970s and everything to do with the complexion-nurturing properties of the archipelago's luscious plant life.

The unrivalled moisturising power of the Tahitian skin and hair-care staple, monoi oil – made from coconut oil infused with the tiare flower – together with the rash-healing properties of the indigenous tamanu oil has encouraged skincare range, Ren, to scour the area for ingredients. Elemis has done the same, assimilating traditional oils and Lomi Lomi massage techniques into its Hawaiian Wave Four Hand Massage (£120).

The tiare flower (or Tahitian gardenia) has inspired a number of cult scents, from Chantecaille's Tiare Eau de Parfum (£45), to Hel Pos's Tiare Eau de Toilette (£20). The latest, including Kai Perfume Oil (£45) and Monyette Paris (£45) were developed as a result of their creators' nostalgic memories of the islands. Other indigenous scents seducing perfumers are Tahitian jasmine, which has crept into Mac's new Mi's Eau de Toilette (£15), and vanilla, which is at the centre of the Exotic Vanilla Trio (£70) from Comptoir Sud Pacifique.

The sensual magnetism of the Pacific Isles proved so strong for Francis Nars, that after travelling to Polynesia and creating his monoi oil-based Body Glow (£42), he returned and bought his very own island there. ★
For stockists, see Resources, page 270

Island dream: above left, the Monyette Paris fragrance was inspired by its creator's memories of the Pacific Isles