

UNDERWATER BLOOMS

Olympéa, £70 for 80ml, Paco Rabanne

While the larger-than-life sweet scent of jasmine causes some of us to envision sun-drenched landscapes, others find it more cloying than a Barbara Cartland caper. So to bring out the flower's fresher side, perfumer Loc Dong grew the flowers in water instead of soil – a technique born out of Nasa research into growing vegetation on Mars. He discovered that "less soil brings out the green, watery side of jasmine rather than the creaminess we usually associate with this flower, for a clearer, brighter result". If you were sitting on a beach at dusk, sipping a glass of crisp pinot grigio the air would smell like Olympéa; fresh and citrusy, topped off with a salty vanilla, like a blast of sea spray.

