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December 1, 2013
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The 2013 Scented Hound Christmas Gift Guide

Ahhh, tis the season. Thanksgiving has passed and our thoughts now turn to Christmas. Of course, I have not yet begun to start my holiday shopping, but lucky for you I have mapped out some of my favorite finds for Christmas 2013. This year, I have some fragrance related and not so fragrance related picks for the perfect Christmas gifts. I hope you find something that you like!



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PENHALIGON'S GIFT SETS

Penhaligon's really knows how to package their wonderful fragrances with the most inventive and charming holiday gift sets. This year, the theme for the sets is "A Songbird's Christmas." Each gift collection carries this songbird in a cage theme and I know I would love to receive one of these charming sets.

From the [Penhaligon's website](#):

Inspired by Victorian music boxes, Penhaligon's A Songbird's Christmas Gift Collection features stunning illustrations of singing mechanical birds, each of the ornamented tin boxes are filled with an array of scented treasures.

The collections are reasonably priced from \$50 to \$150 depending on the collection. Additionally, you can purchase for \$50 a songbird music box that you can fill the the products of your choice. Collections include a ladies and a gentleman's miniature, as well as Blenheim Bouquet, Artemisia, Vanities and Sartorial collections. All of the offerings can be found at the [Penaligon's website](#).

AFTELIER PERFUMES CUIR DE GARDENIA



I was lucky enough to be introduced to Cuir de Gardenia by the wonderful Mandy Aftel after she launched her latest fragrance. In the past month, Cuir de Gardenia has easily become my favorite after work comfort scent. Basically, after a long day at work I apply just a little and let the warmth and beauty of this magnificent fragrance whisk me away. But besides being a fantastic scent, Mandy offers it in both liquid and solid form. And even better, you can purchase this wonderful

scent in an antique holder filled with the solid fragrance. It's perfect of a one of a kind gift.

From the [Afelier Perfumes website](#):

Costamor
Coty
Creed
Diptyque
Dr. Vranjes
En Voyage Perfumes
Etat Libre d'Orange
Etro
Farmacia SS. Annunziata dal 1561
Fragonard
Frapin
Frederic Malle
Givenchy
Guerlain
Halston
Hanae Mori
Hermes
Histoires de Parfums
Houbigant
Ineke
Jardins d'Ecrivains
Jo Malone
John Russo
Jovoy Paris
Keiko Mecheri
Kerosene
Krigler
Lancome
Lanvin
L'Artisan Parfumeur
Les Parfums de Rosine
LM Parfums
Lubin
M. Micallef
Maître Parfumeur et Gantier
Maison Francis Kurkdjian
Maison Nicolas de Barry
Maria Candida Gentile
Mark Birley
Mary Kay
Mona di Orio
Montale

Cuir de Gardenia retains the unique beauty of the tiare flower, not allowing it to morph into the hundreds of petals of a floral bouquet. I had been incredibly fortunate to find an artisanal grower and distiller of the ultra-rare, costly, precious gardenia. In Cuir de Gardenia, I wanted to retain the pure loveliness of the creamy sweet and singular gardenia fragrance, and knew that the rounded warmth of an oil-based perfume (solid and extrait) would be the perfect format.

Cuir de Gardenia is unusual in that it has no top notes; I created it in such a way that the gardenia appears immediately, unimpeded from the opening of the perfume onward, merging seamlessly with the leather. The natural isolates ethyl phenyl acetate (reminiscent of a bunch of sweet peas) and the candy-like maltol contribute sweet and floral notes to the animalic base of the perfume.

Featured Notes

Middle: tiare (gardenia) absolute, jasmine grandiflorum absolute, benzyl acetate.

Base: astoreum, ethyl phenyl acetate, maltol.

You can purchase the .25 oz solid perfume for \$240 and slightly more for the solid perfume in an antique container (click [here](#) to see all the available antique containers). The 2ml Parfum Extrait is \$55. Cuir Gardenia and Mandy's other fragrances can be found at [aftelier.com](#).



PAUL & JOE KITTEN EYE & CHEEK COLOR SET

OK, if the Scented Hound wore lipstick I would buy this in a heartbeat for myself. Kitten lipstick is just too cute and this makes for a perfect gift for the younger set. Comprised of an eye color duo, blush and a kitten lipstick, this all comes in a kitten print zip pouch. Available for \$65 at [Urban Outfitters](#) (online only)!

FRANCOISE CHARLES SOAP BY RANCE SOAPS

[Naomi Goodsir](#)
[Nasomatto](#)
[Neela Vermeire Creations](#)
[Nez A Nez](#)
[Nobile 1942](#)
[Nomad Two Worlds](#)
[Odin](#)
[Ormonde Jayne](#)
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[Tableau de Parfums](#)
[Tauer Perfumes](#)
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[Yves Saint Laurent](#)

FAVORITE E-STORES

[Aedes De Venustas](#)
[Beautyhabit](#)
[Lucky Scent](#)
[MiN New York](#)
[Parfum1](#)
[The Perfume Shoppe](#)

SCENT BLOGS & SITES

There is nothing more luxurious than a gift that is classic, timeless, yet simple in its beauty. Rance soaps make wonderfully long-lasting and wonderfully elegant gifts. One of my favorites in the collection is the Françoise Charles soap collection.

From the [Rance Soaps website](#):

Francois Charles was created and dedicated for the only son of Napoleon Bonaparte, year 1811. Bold intensity of this fragrance embraces the favored Mediterranean tones. A very masculine fragrance that includes Basil, Cardamom, Lavender, Bergamot, Calabrian Lemon, Ginger, Geranium, Carnation, Jasmine, Virginia Cedar, Florentine Iris, Ambergris, Leather and Musk. Fresh, aromatic, Amber and woody. Elegant dark gray linen paper covered handmade box with gold and silver overlay. Each bar of soap is embossed with the Rance Crest.

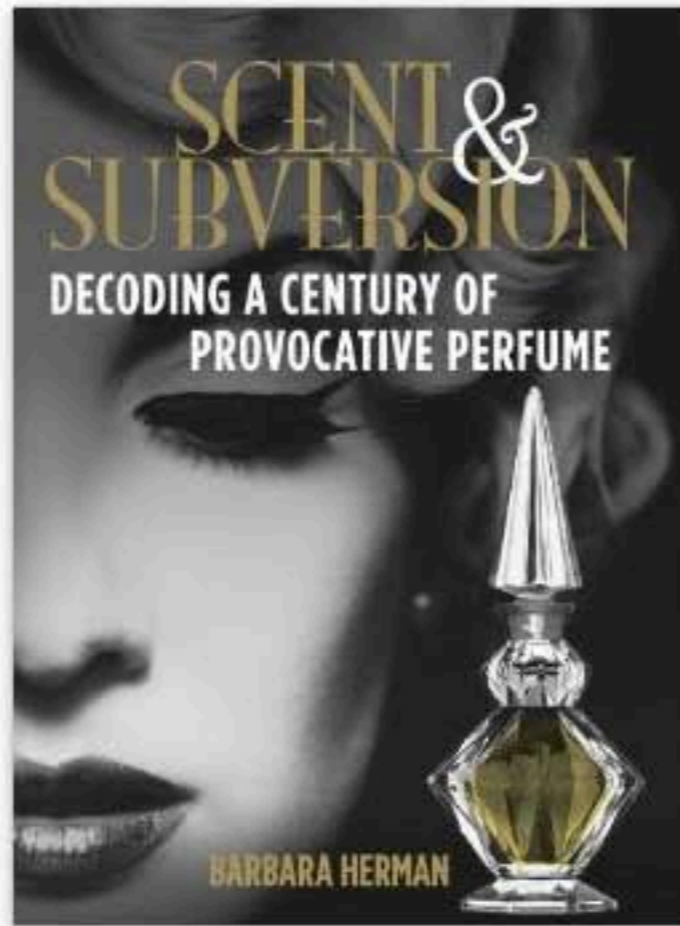


You can purchase a single bar for \$10.99 or a collection of 6 bars in a boxed set for \$67.99 through the [Rance Soaps website](#).

SCENT AND SUBVERSION BY BARBARA HERMAN

I was lucky enough to meet Barbara Herman at this past fall's Sniffapalooza and found her to be a wonderful engaging and incredibly knowledgeable perfumista. Barbara's new book *Scent and Subversion* has been the talk of the perfume community this fall and rightly so. Luckyscent has a great recap of Barbara's book:

All I am – a redhead
Another Perfume Blog
australianperfumejunkies
Basenotes
Beauty on the Outside
Between You and Me
BL'eaugOG
Bloody Frida
Bois de Jasmin
Bonkers About Perfume
Cafleurebon
Chemist in a Bottle
Cocktails & Cologne
EauMG
Eiderdown Press
Fragrantica
From Pyrgos
From Top to Bottom – Perfume Patter
I Smell Therefore I Am
Il Mondo di Odore
iscentyouaday
Kafkaesque
Mad Perfumista
Make Perfume Not War
Memory of Scent
Nero Profumo.
notableScents
Notes from Josephine
Now Smell This
Olfactoria's Travels
Parfumista's Diary
Parfumistans blogg
Perfume Posse



In her first book, blogger Barbara Herman offers a well-written glimpse into "an aesthetic of pop culture that is worthy of analysis, shaped by and shaping the culture in which it's embedded." Indeed, the 20th-century scents she focuses on—in their olfactory personalities and advertising—were often a reflection of the politics, social mores, and evolving sexual identities of their time, and serve as sensory snapshots of history. So 1912's *L'Heure Bleue*, with its "melancholy" blend of soft, sweet notes "evokes a prewar, romantic Paris, before darkness descended upon the city, " while flappers of the '20s were dabbing on smoky, traditionally masculine scents like *Habanita* (to mask the smell of cigarettes)

and musky *Arpège*, a perfume that Herman likens to a "sensual beauty, slightly corrupted, at the end of a night of dining and dancing." *Rosie the Riveters* redefining their post-WWII roles could reach for scents that were "butch" or aggressively feminine, while the 70s brought perfumes that imparted a sense of "loosening up, " and the '90's, which ushered in technological advances, saw "clean, uncomplicated" scents like *CK One*. Illustrated by vintage ads, Herman's decade-by-decade study is followed by engrossing interviews with "scent visionaries, " and tips on boosting expertise and creating a collection of classic scents. The book will delight perfume lovers.

For a great price of \$24, Barbara will take you on an incredible perfume journey. *Scent and Subversion* is available from [Luckyscent](#) and other fine retailers.

[Perfume Shrine](#)

[Pojkfroken](#)

[Scent Bound](#)

[Scent Trails](#)

[ScentBriefs](#)

[Scentrist.com](#)

[Scents Memory](#)

[Scents of Self](#)

[Scentsate](#)

[Smellythoughts](#)

[Sniffapalooza](#)

[Sorcery of Scent](#)

[Te de Violetas](#)

[That Smell](#)

[The Alembicated Genie](#)

[The Black Narcissus](#)

[The Candy Perfume Boy](#)

[The Fragrant Man](#)

[The Perfumed Dandy](#)

[The Silver Fox](#)

[The Unseen Censer](#)

[Undina's Looking Glass](#)

[What Men Should Smell Like](#)

[Yesterday's Perfume](#)

OTHER GREAT BLOGS & SITES

[Beguiling Hollywood](#)

[coolcookstyle](#)

[Stirred, Straight Up, With a Twist](#)



ANTICA FARMACISTA MANHATTAN HOME FRAGRANCE COLLECTION

I guess it should come as no surprise that I am also a huge fan of fragrances for the home. The new Manhattan collection by Antica Farmacista is fantastically refreshing and vibrant.

From the [Antica Farmacista website](#):

In honor of the classic cocktail and the city that never sleeps. Our tribute to both is a captivating infusion evoking warmth, sparkle, and mystery.

Top notes of zesty Satsuma and bergamot citrus balance the spice and aromatic black pepper. A subtle brandied cherry note is an elegant accompaniment to the rich notes of deep cognac, vetiver, amber and bourbon.

Manhattan comes in candle, diffuser and home spray forms and is available from fine retailers or through the [Antica Farmacista website](#).

POSTS I LIKE



Christmas Gift Idea 3 - Cire T... on [The Fragrant Man](#)



Armani Privé Ambre Orient: LIV... on [AustralianPerfumeJunkies](#)



Spontaneous me: Diptyque Volut... on [Undina's Looking Glass](#)



One of the 5 Hottest Guys in P... on [The Fragrant Man](#)



L'Artisan Explosions d'Emotion... on [AustralianPerfumeJunkies](#)

HOUND TWEETS

The 2013 Scented Hound Christmas Gift Guide wp.me/p27fJb-EN 9 hours ago

Happy Thanksgiving wp.me/p27fJb-EH 4 days ago

[@coolcookstyle](#) [@poodleofdoom](#) Yea!!! I'm not familiar with Noel au Balcon at all... but it sounds Christmasy! 4 days ago

[@coolcookstyle](#) [@poodleofdoom](#) Spill it. What did you buy? 4 days ago

RT [@AftelierPerfume](#): Cuir de Gardenia "A large, empty space in perfumery has been filled by this fragrance," thx F.A.! <http://t.co/iGiaRfXA...> 4 days ago

[@poodleofdoom](#) True Poodle my dear. Not that I have to worry. All that vacation will entail is eating, sleeping and lying around! 4 days ago

[@saffyishere](#) A juice detox...excellent idea my dear Saffy. The [@MacysDayParade](#) is on Thanksgiving Day, which is tomorrow, Thursday! 4 days ago

If I'm feeling this fat and bloaty before Thanksgiving, what will I feel like afterwards??! [#Thanksgiving](#) 5 days ago

ARCHIVES

Select Month



RIVE SUDE INTERIOR CANDLES

You cannot deny the finest of ingredients and quality. Rive Sude's candles are ultra luxurious and are the epitome of understated elegance. One of my favorites in the collection is Via Della Basilica. The fragrance to me is like stepping through the doors of a 15th century church in Italy. I can almost hear the echos of footsteps on the marble floors. Beautiful.

From the [Rive Sude Interior website](#):

Like a poem by Pavese, the streets Will open into a hill of pines and stones leading to the basilica silently.

Head: black pepper

Heart: myrrh

Soul: incense

Via Della Basilica is available for around \$340. It and the other elegant candles in the collection are available via the [Rive Sude Interior website](#).



NAKED DECOR

One of my favorite finds this year was right in my own home town. Naked Decor, based out of Washington DC, offers fun and fresh products that will sure to make you smile. I especially love that they have many products that revolve around cats and dogs. Products range from pillows to home decor and other fun offerings.

You can find all of the products at their website

at nakeddecor.com. And through December 8th, you can get the following discounts: \$20 off for spending \$45 with code - GIFT20; \$30 off for spending \$75 with code - GIFT30; \$40 off for spending \$95 with code - GIFT40

ARCHIE MCPHEE

Of course my list couldn't be complete without the mention of my favorite stocking stuffing stores, Archie McPhee. This year one of the best products is fun, yet genteel...the Jane Austen Action Figure. She even comes holding a quill pen along with her copy of *Pride and Prejudice*.

For you darker types, Archie McPhee also carries a Edgar Allen Poe action figure complete with his own raven.



The Jane Austen Action Figure is a mere \$13 at the [Archie McPhee website](http://ArchieMcPhee.com). Check it out along with all of their other fun and sometimes down right rude and crude offerings that always make the perfect unexpected gift.



BAGGU BAGS

Baggu bags are fun in design, inexpensive, and can hold 2-3 plastic grocery bags worth of stuff for only \$9 a bag. Plus they can fold up and fit into a 5" pouch. What's not to love? You can find all of the Baggu bags on their website at baggu.com.

I hope that you find something here that you like. It's time for me to run off and start my own shopping!

Happy Holidays from The Scented Hound!

Categories: [Uncategorized](#) / Tags: [Aftelier Perfumes](#), [Christmas](#), [Perfume](#) / [Permalink](#).
