

Do ankle socks feel like the sweaty hand of death on your feet? Two *ShortList* writers lay down the sock-iquette



DEBATE

ARE NO-SHOW SOCKS OKAY IN SUMMER?



YES

Sam Diss

No-show socks are inherently quite creepy, yes. We know this. And there's that weird instance where, if you visit a particularly fussy friend with a new carpet, you have to argue that you simply cannot take your shoes off, and it all goes a bit Larry David. But there remains one key factor: a lot of footwear just looks better without socks. That they get completely lost/rendered unwearable after four or five washes is by-the-by. Men with weirdly pale, or particularly gross ankles may have turned some off the trend, but for those of us who take pride in our lower-shins, it has become an aspect as important as a well-tailored jacket or trousers with a zipper fly. If it's down to having a totally sockless foot that's sweating and steaming, as opposed to a cool, clean, seemingly sockless foot, there's really no competition.



NO

Hamish MacBain

Opening disclaimer: it would take serious continent-sautéing heat for an extended period or me to even contemplate unzipping my Chelsea boots, so I personally have never had any need for these hideous little cotton appendages. Of course, a lot of people that I love and respect make use of them in the pursuit of showing off the second most grotesque part of the male form (the ankle), but frankly it renders them impossible to take seriously. I start thinking of miniature washing lines with five pairs clipped on, or the sniggers of their wives who have to see them getting dressed in the morning and sliding their feet into them. That is the main issue, really: they are supposed to be "invisible" but have become a great big open secret, and all-too-visible in the mind of beholders, like me. It's as bad as if you knew someone was wearing novelty boxer shorts.

FRAGRANCE

A RARE GIFT

Ajmal Perfumes, who have over 65 years of experience in the art of perfumery, have announced the release of its most luxurious fragrance yet: Oudesire. The limited edition is the first unisex scent from this perfume powerhouse. Base notes of amber, sandalwood and musk set the tone; lighter top notes of orange flower, rose, jasmine and bergamot adding a summery vibe with extra layers found in the spicy and fruity core of ginger, raspberry and cassis. The luxe gold bottle will have it standing like a stunning ornament on both dressing tables and bathroom shelves.

AED750 for 100ml, available now but limited to 1,000 pieces.



TRAINERS

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

The first Air Jordan store is to open in The Dubai Mall this summer - June 29 is the likely date, we hear. It's the fourth store to open after Chicago, New York and Hong Kong, so it's a pretty big deal. Nike's Jordan sneakers still dominate the market more than a decade after Mike stopped playing, with some models from the 30-year back catalogue now genuine collectors' items.



Air Jordan Retro IV "Eminem"

Original Release: 2004

Only 50 pairs of these Detroit-themed Air Jordan Retro IVs were made for Slim Shady and his closest friends to celebrate the release of his *Encore* album. The fact they never hit shops means if you've got a pair, eBay is your friend.



Air Jordan VI "White/Maroon"

Original Release: 1991

Straight from the early years, these are one of the very few Air Jordans that have never been retro'd. Deemed not vibrant enough for the streets and not a colourway Jordan wore on court, but today sneakerheads are on the hunt.



Air Jordan X Sacramento

Original Release: 1995

Sacramento Kings star Mitch Richmond laced these badboys up during the '95 season and became the first basketball star to get a black variation of the Air Jordan X. Only a very small number managed to find their way into the market.