

## time in a bottle

Perfume bottles are more than pretty vessels for fragrance, they are tiny works of art and keepers of special memories from the past.



"AS A CHILD, I STOOD ON TIPTOE TO SEE the beautiful bottles my mother kept on her dresser," says Keiran Kaci, whose own collection of more than a thousand perfume bottles long ago surpassed her mother's. Ranging from highly valuable, such as the handblown amber stem bottle (far right), to dime-store quality (center, pink), her colorful glass bijoux were mainly gleaned from European and U.S. flea markets. Among Keiran's favorites are French bottles made between 1920 and 1950, "when couturiers like Coco Chanel began competing with perfume makers like Houbigant with their own designer fragrances." The intricately engraved frosted glass vessel by Lalique (far left, front), the streamlined bottles from Brossé (creators of the classic square-cut Chanel No. 5, not shown) and the lyrical designs of Baccarat are among her prizes. The diminutive blue-stoppered facon, circa 1890 (front, lying down), is among the oldest in her collection. "In Queen Victoria's era," she says, "these were discreetly tucked inside a glove."

photographed by DAVID PRINCE. produced by JULIE FOWLER. art by TERRY MICHAEL.