

WHO MADE THE CUT?

EXPERT OLIVIA FALCON TESTS ALL THE NEW HOLIDAY HAIR TRICKS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

OH THE FRAYED, FRIZZY and fraught unpredictability of holiday hair. I still cringe when I think about the time I strode into the surf at Macaroni beach on Mustique and was tumbled back onto shore like the contents of a washing machine. Limping up the sand past Mick and Jade Jagger, Tommy Hilfiger and Pierce Brosnan with a bikini full of sand and my hair matted, balaclava-style, around my face was humiliating enough, but weeks later I was still picking grains out of the strands. Just the memory of it is making my scalp itch.

If only I knew then what I know now. I've travelled far and wide to investigate the secrets of glorious, bouncy hair that stands up to the challenges of both beach and mountain. I've been to Hawaii and hung out with surfer girls to discover that

when you're rolling in the deep, you need to smooth your hair back, like an otter, with some leave-in conditioner. Living Proof No Frizz Leave-in Conditioner (£21, marksandspencer.com) works for me. The trick is to put it on before you get in the sea, not after, as it creates a barrier that stops the salt from absorbing into the hair shaft and drying it into a frizz ball. For detangling, I've road-tested all kinds of hairbrushes and hands down the best is the Wet Brush (£11.99, cultbeauty.co.uk), which cuts through the deepest, most foresty knots like a hot knife through butter. It saves time and tantrums, so I use it religiously on my children too.

When it comes to holiday styling, my mantra has always been to keep things simple. For years, I've relied on a slicked-backed pony tail to take me from the

beach to the beach bar. However, after a recent visit to über-colourist Josh Wood, I'm rethinking my strategy. 'The wet-look pony tail is very last season,' says Wood. 'If you want to be on-trend but you've no time to dry your hair between showering and running out for dinner, just comb a walnut-sized dollop of hair mask through it.' I love Onira Organics The Mask (£60, [net-a-porter](http://net-a-porter.com)). 'Masks are best for this kind of casual styling as hair oils are too greasy and gels too crunchy,' he says. 'Loosely twist your hair and tie it back in a messy bun, pulling a few stray strands out to frame the front of your face.' After trial and error, I found Pop Bands (£6 for a pack of five, thepopband.com) are the best for the job. They are snag-free hair elastics that don't make your hair kink. I also

THE SALONS FOR ALL SEASONS

ROSSANO FERRETTI SALON AT FAENA HOTEL MIAMI BEACH

In the town where the look is polished and super-glam even on the beach, a celebrity stylist is key and no one is starrier than Ferretti, who counts Kate Middleton and Angelina Jolie among his clients. His staff are well versed in his method cut: a dynamic technique where the hair is cut dry and vertically, rather than wet and horizontally, with special attention paid to how it falls for optimum bounce. The salon also has head-turning therapies, including L'Oréal Professionnel Inoa ammonia-free hair colouring, Shu Uemura scalp rituals to condition and volumise, and treatments that are like hair botox to smooth out kinks. faena.com

BOUTIQUE CHRISTOPHE ROBIN, PARIS

The top colourist's theatrical new salon near the Louvre has everyone quivering with excitement. Rest your head in the clamshell-shaped sink and admire the hand-painted sky murals on the ceiling while his team delivers perfect French-girl cuts and colour. Afterwards, stock up on healthy teas at the in-house café and browse the boutique. Robin is the man responsible for Catherine Deneuve's classic hairdo, and he advises blondes in the sun: 'if your golden locks start to appear green, dip the affected area in aspirin for three to five minutes and then rinse. Aspirin contains salicylic acid which counteracts the alkalinity of the chlorine to neutralise the green.' christophe-robin.com

NEVILLE HAIR AND BEAUTY AT NAMMOS, MYKONOS

Located above the rocking Nammos beach restaurant, Neville Tucker's newest outpost brings all the creature comforts of his London Belgravia salon (reliably glossy blow-dries, Shellac manis and pedis), as well as some pretty cool new beach treats. The most popular is Keraplex, a two-step therapy which makes straw-like hair silky. Hair is first covered with Olaplex, a miracle solution that targets individual strands to repair the damage of colouring and the wear and tear of beach life, and then sealed in with a keratin protein treatment. If you're arriving by boat you can also book styling services for blow-dries on deck. nevillehairandbeauty.net

LOUISE GALVIN AT AMILLA FUSHI, MALDIVES

Although this is a barefoot kind of a place, there's no excuse for shipwrecked hair thanks to Galvin's lemongrass-scented hair spa. With its polished wooden floors and fully reclining chairs, you can zone out during steam-infused conditioning treatments – great for sorting out bird's-nest hair that's been whipped around on a boat. All the staff have been scrupulously trained and deliver Manhattan-grade blow-dries. There are also colour-boosting treatments such as Beach Gloss for brunettes and Vitox, a fizzy hair mask that puts life back into blonde highlights. amilla.mv

HAIR ROOM SERVICE AT CHEVAL BLANC, COURCHEVEL

When he's not busy styling Nicole Kidman's hair for Cannes or organising Johnny Depp's dreadlocks for *Pirates of the Caribbean*, Parisian stylist John Nollet spends one week a month at this tiny gem of a salon. Those in the know arrive in the morning for Kérastase or Leonor Greyl conditioning masks to hide discreetly under their ski hats for the day. Come in the early evening and Nollet and his team turn up the glamour with architectural hair cuts (he was responsible for Audrey Tautou's iconic bob in *Amélie*) and super-sexy blow-dries, which are often accessorised with his own line of couture hair jewellery. For VIP treatment, the stylists also offer an in-room service around the hotel and arrive at your door with Louis Vuitton hatboxes containing their scissors and brushes. courchevel.chevalblanc.com

VELA SALON AT ALBANY, BAHAMAS

The Caribbean's hottest new salon is a favourite of the super-yacht set. People come from Harbour Island and even Miami to get an appointment with resident star Sigita Cooper, who is renowned for her hair extensions, shape-shifting blow-dries and keratin fringe-straightening treatments. There is also the Men's Department barbershop, which offers old-school hot-towel shaves and beard grooming. albanybahamas.com

BEAUTY


discovered that this style is the most low-maintenance way to get beachy, Gisele-like waves – in case you decide to let your hair down after a few Margaritas.

Moving on to colder climes, it's not a bottle of schnapps you need for heading to the slopes but rather Philip B's genius new Russian Amber Roots Up Spray (£59, spacenk.com). A must for skiers who feel panicky about the dreaded prospect of helmet hair, it's the kiss of life for a flat mop. Spritz it over dry hair like a hairspray; I find that tipping my head upside down works best. For added oomph, it has an extra nozzle that flips out like a James Bond gadget to disperse

a more concentrated solution directly onto the roots. It blows the doors off backcombing and the neat bottle fits easily into a backpack.

Back at the chalet, I also souped up my shower routine with Philip Kingsley's Elasticizer (£85, philipkingsley.co.uk), a pre-shampoo conditioning treatment he created back in 1974 for Audrey Hepburn. Comb it through wet hair for a cuticle-smoothing, deep hydration hit. The chilly Alpine air makes hair extra dry and brittle, but this product really helps to curb fly-aways and spilt ends and gives hair an incredibly luscious shine. Drew Barrymore's colourist, Tracey Cunningham

of powerhouse LA salon Mèche, also gave me the best tip: rub a Lenor tumble-dryer sheet across your pillow before going to sleep, to stop static. Don't laugh. It really works.

There are, of course, days when nothing I do with my hair seems to look quite right and this is when professional help is needed. I spent a lot of my summer checking out the top salons in the world with the sharpest cuts and cleverest treatments that, hand on heart, can turn around the most uncooperative mop. So whether you're sporting corkscrew curls or a gamine crop, these pages contain the very best of all my research. 

FOR BEACH OR MOUNTAIN: THE ESSENTIALS TO PACK



Supersonic hairdryer, £299, **Dyson** (dyson.co.uk). The rock star of hairdryers, it works up to eight times faster than conventional products.



Kumudu Volumising Shampoo, £18, **Molton Brown** (moltonbrown.co.uk). Bucks up limp hair after long-haul travel.



Salty Mist, £18.98, **Maria Nila** (sallyexpress.com). Keeps the sun from fading that expensive salon colour.



Wave Spray, £22, **Ouai Haircare** (net-a-porter.com). This spray gives hair scrunchable waves.



Carnal Flower Hair Mist, £110, **Frederic Malle** (fredericmalle.com). A tuberose-scented hair spritz for sun worshippers bored of smelling like a coconut.



Nutrive crème magistrale, £29, **Kérastase** (kerastase.co.uk). Leave in towel-dried hair for extra softness and shine.



Finishing Serum, £38, **Iles Formula** (shop.urbanretreat.co.uk). A protective wonder balm from the new raved-about haircare range.



Sun Beauty Hair, £16.50, **Lancaster** (selfridges.com). Protects against the withering effects of sun, sand and chlorine.



Sumotech, £22, **Bumble and bumble** (feelunique.com). The ultimate styling secret to add texture and shape.



Sheer Blonde Oil Elixir, £9.99, **John Frieda** (boots.com). The best way to keep spilt ends at bay and brighten blonde hair.