

La Vie en Inde: Louboutin's Jewel-Toned Salute to India's Navratna

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Christian Louboutin's latest limited-edition capsule, *La Vie en Inde*, is more than footwear. It's an homage. Inspired by India's **Navratna** ("nine gems") — ruby, sapphire, emerald, diamond, topaz, coral, pearl, cat's eye, and hessonite — the collection uses colour, texture and symbolism to capture their essence.

Louboutin says he doesn't try to replicate the stones literally. Rather, he channels their energy — through luminous jewel tones, radiant fabrics, metallics, and embellishments.

The Pieces & Their Spirit

The capsule comprises **ten designs**: seven women's styles, two for men, and one standout clutch. Each item bears the maison's *édition limitée* stamp.

Some key pieces:

- **Diwadonna** (Lady Bombay's revival for this collection): a flat shoe with crystal-embellished mesh in vibrant pinks inspired by saree motifs
- **Miss Jane Sandal 55 & Jane Pump 85**: architectural footwear in shimmering Navratna fabrics; heels that blend elegance and drama.
- **Pyraclou 60 & Pyraclou 110** wedges: bold metallic straps, radiant colours ideal for evening celebration.
- **Diwalouis** sneaker and **Chambelimoc Night Strass** loafer for men: fusing ease and sparkle, utilitarian style and festive spirit.
- **Paloma Clutch Small**: a refined accessory in radiant hues, sparkles, and signature Louboutin spikes.

India as Muse & Craftspeople at Heart

For Louboutin, India is not just inspiration but lived experience. He emphasizes his relationship with regional crafts — weaving, metalwork, embroidery — seeing them as living traditions, not relics.

He describes *La Vie en Inde* as more dialogue than fusion: a meeting between his Parisian design sensibilities and India's vivid spirit. That "red thread" — a metaphor in his words — connects his iconic red soles with India's visual vibrancy.

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