

A Perfect Makeup Pairing

Summer is here, patios are full and people everywhere are sipping glasses of wine. While I would never call myself a wine connoisseur, I do enjoy the occasional glass of squished grapes. I am always open to wine pairing suggestions, like sauvignon blanc with your shellfish or a rich merlot with your roasted chicken dish. Tips from a well educated wine lover do seem to make a meal that much better.

Makeup pairing does not have to be quite as elaborate or confusing as choosing the perfect wine with the perfect meal. As with wine, there are pairings that work better together than others. It's easy to think of the great color combinations that look effortless and applications that are classic. Other pairings may seem unusual at first but are so complimentary that you'll wonder why you never tried the two together before.

Let's cover some classic "looks". Most people know that a smoky eye and nude lip are dynamite together. A person's attention is quickly drawn to the intensity of the eye and the natural lip color blends nicely with the rest of the face so as not to overwhelm any one feature. If you play up your eyes, pile on the blush and glam up the lips, you may find people landing their gaze on your nose because they honestly don't know where to look. It's just too much going on and does not create a nice, even balance.

Another great pairing is the intensely rich red or berry lip with a silky liquid liner dancing across the upper lids. It's a tribute to the glamorous starlets that graced the movie screens years ago and is a sophisticated look that gives the eyes a defined shape without being too dramatic.

One of the easiest ways to apply liquid liner is to use a thin angle brush to pick up the product (cake or cream liners that you add water to are great). Once you've got product on your brush, drag it slowly from the inside of the upper eye lid to the outside and angle the end of your line slightly up.

This line does not need to be thick or dramatic to give you diva eyes, so start thin and build up as you go. It is always easier to add more than to try and take it off. Don't forget to add a lengthening mascara for the full effect.

To finish off your classic look, be sure to define your lips with a creamy lip liner that matches the color of your lipstick. This will create a nice edge that will keep your color in place. If you want to give your lipstick more staying power, apply one coat, gently dab the excess off with a tissue and reapply a second coat.

I could be wrong since I don't know my wines, but I can't imagine that there would be a wine that would compliment a tub of cookie dough ice cream. And I'm also guessing that some women may consider a combination of pink and blue or purple and green on their eyes just as odd.

But have you ever taken a pale pink with a soft sheen and applied it to your entire eyelid only to follow it up with a dramatic indigo liner? It's the pairing of nearly neutral color and the pop of a better-than-just-brown shade that works so well. If your eyes are already blue or you have chocolatey colored peepers, watch out for the wonderful way the color will stand out against them.

So now we get to the grapes – green and purple. Can they be mixed? Should they be mixed? Yes and yes! Grab your brush, dip it in a celadon green or pale mint eye shadow and reach for a deep plum or aubergine liner to add some zest.

Cover the eyelid area with your shadow and focus the eye liner on the outside corners of the upper eye lids. Dot the color between the eye lashes and then blend it from the outside in towards the eye, going no further than halfway across. Use a volumizing mascara and you can be sure that you will have a bright-eyed look and defined, thick lashes. Finish with a light shade for the lips that will give you enough color but one that won't compete with your eyes. A perfect pairing!!

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