

Coconut Sandals

“A unique vegan sandal that is eco-friendly, coconut scent-infused and female-founded in the USA, Vines Islandwear will be your new obsession for any adventure!”

They had me at coconut sandals. And I admit I didn't read the press release much beyond the fact that somewhere in the world, someone was making sandals that smell like a tropical vacation. In my head Vines Islandwear were actually made of coconuts.

Beyond Birkenstocks, I don't think of sandals as comfortable. I associate them with toe rubs and blisters. But when Meerah pulled the sandals out of the little white bag they came in, they did smell like coconut. They were cute. (Birkenstocks, on the other hand, embody a different aesthetic.)

Once I figured out how to put them on and ascertained they were not going to cut off the blood flow to my big toe, the coconut sandals (I know they are called Vines, but they will forever be “coconut sandals” to me) were comfy. I was feeling brave so I decided I'd test out the memory foam heel and walk downtown.



They stayed comfy.

As Meerah put it, “although I probably wouldn't take them on a 10-mile hike (not that they wouldn't work, just that I wouldn't want to wreck them), with Vines, I felt good dressing them up with a nice maxi dress, wearing them with jeans or grabbing them on the way out the door to a yoga class.”

And here Eugene where the words “recycled” and “eco-friendly” go a long way, they make a nice, “summer will return” gift. Also, the price point isn't terrible for a solid pair of sandals — all styles are under \$60 on their website. Luvmyvines.com. — *Camilla Mortensen and Meerah Powell*

Dreampad Pillow

I'm not a man of luxury. The Dreampad pillow is supposed to immerse one into deep sleep thanks to its comfort and internal speaker. When I received the Dreampad pillow, the first thing I did was lie down on the ground to get some sleep to see what an expensive pillow is like. To truly experience the pillow, you have to use the Dreampad app — because every company has to have an app. The curated music apparently increases deep sleep. But I went with a classic to increase deep sleep and calmness: Enya. Even though the speaker is inside the pillow, it doesn't prod you but it does muffle the music. Overall this pillow is fine unless you're listening to Enya's music from *The Lord of the Rings*, then you'll be in a deep sleep dreaming about hobbits and Sméagol. Dreampadsleep.com, \$139 to \$159. — *Henry Houston*

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