

NOTES | BEAUTY

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Astro Beauty

Organic beauty products may be the purest, but the biodynamic variety goes a step farther. Biodynamic is a unique farming method conceived by Austrian scientist Rudolf Steiner back in 1924, and combines organic methods of soil regeneration with dynamic practices such as filling cow horns with quartz or compost and burying them in the ground, as well as germinating and harvesting under the full moon (for romantic effect too perhaps). These cosmic practices are said to attune the farm to the natural rhythm and cycle of the land and have been used by Aussie brand Jurlique for the last 25 years.

Green Cause

Kate Hudson has teamed up with her hairstylist, David Babaii, to launch a new line of cruelty-free, environmentally-friendly hair care products, with 10 per cent of the profits going to the wildlife charity, WildAid – a global wildlife conservation organisation. Hudson, who spent two years developing the David Babaii For WildAid line, decided to create the range after reading about all the chemicals she massages into her scalp every time she washes her hair.

Developed using natural and exotic ingredients, the eco-friendly range is free of parabens, sulfates, petrochemicals and animal products. In fact, she personally tested them on her famous mane. The success of the range has now prompted the star to start work on a new cosmetics line.

Natural Lippie

Widely popular as the lip gloss that sells 27 tubes every minute around the world, Lancôme's Juicy Tubes has now gone P.U.R.E. The limited edition of five variants boasts a 95 per cent natural formula that includes organic essential oils, shea butter and castor oil in sweetened flavours of lavender, tofu and mint tea.

Tea Time

How does tea of the Yerba Maté variant benefit us? Let us count the ways. Originating from South America, it's known to indigenous tribes as "the drink of gods" and a cup a day is said to enhance longevity and boost energy and immune defences. As a skincare ingredient, Yerba Maté is packed with 24 vitamins and minerals, 15 amino acids and 11 antioxidants to revitalise, combat dullness and improve skin texture without clogging pores. You can find it in New York apothecary-style skincare Kiehl's Yerba Maté Gel-Cream (\$78), the latest addition to its current line of three items.

Made To Measure

The idea of getting a facial in a hair salon is not new, but to experience a treatment by a skincare brand produced by a professional haircare expert? We had the opportunity to sample K.rastase's luxury skincare line, K.raskin Esthetics, designed using Advanced L'Or.al Research to create perfect skin with bespoke facials and superior products.

Each K.raskin facial bears close semblance to K.rastase hair rituals – it starts with a skin analysis after which, you enjoy the comforts of a roomy cabin where the therapist mixes concentrations of active ingredients for use in conjunction with exclusive massage techniques. But like anything luxurious and tailor-made, these treatments don't come cheap. The facials range between \$170 for a hydration massage to \$275 for a dark spot diminishing treatment.

There are 30 products, 25 patents with as much preservatives and alcohol removed from each item so as not to compromise efficacy. Every product has a different scent enhanced with natural essential oils to make layering holistic and pleasurable. Must buys include Lait No 27 (\$120), an amino-rich soy rich cleanser that is drip-proof and removes stubborn make-up in one easy sweep, and Immuniste (\$240), a nine-patent youth serum infused with Procyteine to refine lines, rehydrate and protect.

Mix-Match

Life is so much easier when every cosmetic arsenal you need can be packed in a tidy palette. Bobbi Brown's hottest beauty accessory is a six-pan palette that allows you to custom-fit and organise all your make-up, and accommodates foundations, blushers, eyeshadows and lip quads. Simply click each one in for a precise fit. Colours sold separately from \$32; case at \$28.

Age Defying Act

Men want to be in control of everything, including their skin. And we're all too happy to help them in this area with Clarins latest age-control line. Moving away from lightweight textures and hydrating formulas, this treatment line harnesses the power of botanicals to repair collagen fibres and addresses dullness, laxity, deep wrinkles and leathery skin. For the 30something, there is an Energizing and Revitalizing line consisting of a hydrating gel and eye serum infused with ginseng, goji berry and Bison grass to lighten fine lines and energise dull skin. The older man will benefit from the Anti-Wrinkle and Firming range, which comprises face balm, cream and eye balm enriched with caffeine, shea butter and Madagascar paracress for deeper nourishment and intense action on wrinkles and sagging skin.