



# Best of Beauty

*Thousands of beauty products were launched last year, joining the tens of thousands of jars, bottles, and tubes already on the shelves. Overwhelmed? Don't be. These exceptional lipsticks, line erasers, frizz fighters, and more are all you need to know—and own.*

*By Theresa O'Rourke*

Mask by Threesfour. Makeup colors: Les 4 Ombres Quadra Eye Shadow in Smoky Eyes and Rouge Allure Velvet lipstick in L'Exubérante by Chanel. These pages: Hair, Diego Da Silva; makeup, Fulvia Farolfi; manicure, Sheril Bailey. Prop stylist: Bryn Bowen. Model: Isabeli Fontana. Fashion editor: Paul Cavaco. Details, see Shopping Guide.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY TOM MUNRO



# Eyes

We dusted on pastels, metallics, and even the brightest of brights to find the shades that flatter all skin tones.

## Eye Shadow

**BEIGE.** Some neutrals are so timid, we forget they're even there. **Shiseido Makeup Eye Color in BE 202** is a silky golden hue with a pretty, eye-catching sheen. With its chubby stick, **CoverGirl Smoky ShadowBlast in Bronze Fire** covers lids in a buttery champagne that's refined, no matter how sloppily (or quickly) it's applied. **BROWN.** Swept across lids or drawn along the rim, **Nars**

**Single Eyeshadow in Bengali** is an eye-awakening shot of dark espresso. **Tarte Amazonian Clay Waterproof Cream Eyeshadow in Shimmering Bronze** gives lids a dewy, golden brown wash. And once dry, it doesn't budge or settle into creases. **GRAY.** **Chanel Ombre Essentielle Eyeshadow in Taupe Gris ** turns silver, taupe, or mauve, depending on the light. Despite its name, **Benefit Cream Shadow/Liner in Skinny Jeans** is incredibly

forgiving. The smoldering gunmetal easily blends into an icy wash. **COLOR.** **Est e Lauder Pure Color Eyeshadow in Fire Sapphire** is our top pick of the trendy cobalt blues—its vibrant pigment is dazzling worn wet or dry. If you mixed emerald, olive, and khaki, the superflattering **Laura Mercier Caviar Stick in Jungle** is what you'd get. **PALETTE.** With 12 gorgeous neutrals ranging from subtle to sultry, there isn't a single shade in the **Urban Decay**

**Naked palette** (left) that will go unused.

## Mascara

**LENGTHENING.** **Lanc me D finicils Precious Cells mascara** elongates and lifts, so everyone notices your eyes—not just your lashes. **WATERPROOF.** We're not sure how many lashes we've lost to sticky long-wearing mascara. We're just glad we found **L'Or al Paris Voluminous Million Lashes Waterproof Mascara**, which conditions as it separates and thickens, and gently washes away. **DRAMATIC.** You could spend an hour gluing on falsies. Or you could give wimpy fringe a once-over with **CoverGirl LashBlast Volume Mascara**. It's that good.

## Eyeliner

**BLACK.** Inky black and incredibly creamy, **Elizabeth Arden Smoky Eyes Powder Pencil in Smoky Black** swiftly draws thick or thin lines. **BROWN.** **Dolce & Gabbana The Eyeliner in Chocolate** is a rich cocoa that's soft enough to artfully smudge. **COLOR.** **Nars Eyeliner in Abbey Road**, a metallic peacock blue, brightens brown eyes and gives light ones extra sparkle. **LIQUID.** **Smashbox Limitless Liquid Liner Pen** is fully matte and opaque, and its fine tip excuses even the shakiest hands. **GEL/CREAM.** All 13 hues of **Bobbi Brown Long-Wear Gel Eyeliner** are saturated and stay in place without caking or flaking. **WATERPROOF.** Far too many long-wear pencils have waxy, watered-down colors. **Chanel Stylo Yeux Waterproof Eyeliner** has neither. The lush, velvety pigments cling to lids, even in high humidity.

## Brow Groomer

**Lanc me Powder Pencil for the Brows** comes in seven natural colors that go on precisely and fill in brows with a featherlight finish.

## Eye-Makeup Remover

**Almay Oil Free Eye Makeup Remover Pads** make quick work of liner, shadow, and mascara, minus the vision-obscuring film.

ROGER CABELLO



Sterling-silver-and-blue-topaz pin by Stephen Dweck Design. Makeup colors: Queen Collection Eye Shadow in After Midnight and NatureLuxe Gloss Balm in Marble by CoverGirl. Details, see Shopping Guide.



### Shampoo and Conditioner

**NORMAL HAIR.** **Clear Scalp & Hair Therapy Total Care Nourishing Shampoo and Conditioner** deliver the glossiness and bounce every woman craves.

**FINE HAIR.** **Nioxin System 1 Cleanser and Scalp Therapy Conditioner** fatten hair while preventing breakage with amino acids, vitamins, and antioxidants—and the mint scent makes it feel more like a treat than a treatment.

**DRY HAIR.** Silky. Smooth. Sleek. **Redken All Soft Shampoo and Conditioner** are so loaded with hydrating argan oil, you'll be able to check all of the above.

**COLOR-TREATED HAIR.** **Wella Professionals Brilliance Shampoo and Conditioner** don't just protect your color; their crystallized polymers give hair mirrorlike shine.

**FRIZZY AND/OR CURLY HAIR.** Grape-seed extracts in the orange-scented **Fekkai Advanced Perfectly Luscious Curls Shampoo and Conditioner** seal in the moisture that curly hair needs.

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN HAIR.** The vitamin- and coconut-oil-enriched **Pantene Pro-V Relaxed & Natural Dry to Moisturized Shampoo** is the rare find that lathers as generously as it hydrates. **L'Oréal Paris EverCrème Cleansing Conditioner** contains sulfate-free cleansers and omega-3 oils to coddle fragile hair.

### Treatment

**MASK.** **Living Proof Restore Recovery Regimen** is true hair therapy. Apply one ampoule a week for a month and hair emerges with no evidence of bad behavior.

**OIL.** Use **Kérastase Elixir Ultime Oléo-Complexe** pre-shampoo or post-styling to make rough hair silky.

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN HAIR.** **Motions Deep Penetrating Treatment's** pumpkin-infused batter makes coarse hair more pliable, so it's less likely to break. The glassy shine is icing on the cake.

### Styling Products

**VOLUMIZER.** **Tigi Bed Head Superstar Queen for a Day Thickening Spray** gives wispy hair major body but still leaves it feeling clean.

**DEFRIZZER, THICK/COARSE HAIR.** Plenty of defrizzers work—when it's not humid. **Living Proof No Frizz Nourishing Styling Cream** keeps the cuticle down, no matter the weather.

**DEFRIZZER, FINE/NORMAL HAIR.** Insult, meet injury: Fine hair fluffs, too. **John Frieda Frizz-Ease Sheer Solution** glazes over hair without weighing it down.

**DEFRIZZER, AFRICAN-AMERICAN HAIR.** Deceptively thin, **Kérastase Nutritive Oléo-Relax** serum tames the thickest, most chemically fried hair.

**CURL DEFINER, THICK/COARSE HAIR.** **Moroccanoil Curl Defining Cream** makes good on its name—and also conditions, prevents frizz, and adds loads of shine.

**CURL DEFINER, FINE/NORMAL HAIR.** **Bumble and Bumble Curl Conscious Defining Creme** keeps drooping curls afloat.

**CURL DEFINER, AFRICAN-AMERICAN HAIR.** **Carol's Daughter Macadamia Heat Setting Foam** protects against the highest temperatures.

**WAVE ENHANCER.** **Oribe Après Beach Wave and Shine Spray** gives even limp hair the waves of a swimsuit model.

**STRAIGHTENER.** **Fekkai Coiff Contrôle Ironless Straightening Balm** makes even kinks relax—fast.

**HAIR SPRAY.** **Kérastase Resistance Double Force Spray** puts hair in its place but brushes out just as easily.

**HEAT-PROTECTING SPRAY.** Loaded with keratin and silk extracts, **Sally Hershberger Hyper Hydration Super Keratin Spray** protects from scorching heat and locks in shine.

**SHINE BOOSTER.** With its light mist, **Garnier Fructis Style Sleek & Shine 5-in-1 Serum Spray** makes hair glossy—not greasy.

**GLAZE.** A five-time winner, **John Frieda Clear Shine Luminous Glaze** brightens hair, makes streaks pop, and smooths over all kinds of damage.

**POMADE.** **Short Sexy Hair Texture Pomade** lifts and sculpts—without that icky sticky feeling.

**DRY SHAMPOO.** **Redken Powder Refresh 01** gives day-old blowouts a second wind, sweeps away oils, and disappears even into dark hair.

**AT-HOME STRAIGHTENING KIT.** In four steps that take about an hour (without any harsh chemicals), **Keratin Earth** straightens rebellious hair, and the silky-smooth results last for up to three months.

Latex bra by Atsuko Kudo. Makeup colors: Liner Design in Black Fishnets and Color Design Lipstick in Pale Lip by Lancôme. Details, see Shopping Guide.



# Hair

Arm yourself with these outstanding shampoos, conditioners, and styling products, and bad hair days cease to be an issue.

## Home Color

**SINGLE PROCESS.** Even the klutziest of home colorists can't mess up with **Garnier Nutrisse Nourishing Color Foam**. The mousse, chockablock with avocado, olive, and shea oils, glides on as easily as shampoo, and the resulting color is shimmery and bright.

**HIGHLIGHTING KIT.** The trickiest thing about highlighting at home is getting the placement right. The nifty fingertip attachment that comes with **L'Oréal Paris Touch-On Highlights** makes the process easy—and even fun, creating streaks in 15 minutes flat.

**ROOT COVERAGE.** If your colorist can't squeeze you in, **TouchBack Temporary Hair Color Marker** covers your roots and grays. The smooth, ammonia- and peroxide-free color blends with your shade, doesn't budge, and easily shampoos out.



## Sensitive Skin

- **SkinMedica Redness Relief CalmPlex (1).** Packed with vitamin B<sub>3</sub>, this skin-soothing moisturizer doesn't just hide inflammation—it heals it.
- **Simple Cleansing Facial Wipes (2).** Not a speck of alcohol, irritating dyes, or perfumes to offend the fussiest faces.
- **Burt's Bees Sensitive Eye Cream (3).** Anti-inflammatory aloe and soothing cotton and rice extracts are a gentle remedy for swollen, puffy eyes.
- **Neutrogena Pure & Free Baby Sunblock Stick SPF 60+ (4).** When convenience is crucial, this hypoallergenic sunscreen comes in a compact stick that you can toss in your bag and reapply over makeup.
- **Blue Lizard Australian Sunscreen in Sensitive SPF 30+ (5).** Its broad-spectrum physical blockers withstand sweat and won't give you a geisha-girl cast.
- **Eau Thermale Avène Skin Recovery Cream (6).** Under this blanket of anti-inflammatory hydrators, skin is much less likely to misbehave in the first place.
- **Klorane Soothing Make-up Remover Lotion (7).** This cornflower water whisks away even waterproof mascara with ease.
- **La Roche-Posay Physiological Micellar Solution (8).** This extra-gentle cleanser lifts every last trace of makeup without stripping skin. And unlike other tissue-off solutions, it leaves skin feeling fresh and clean.



## Top Splurges

- **Giorgio Armani Eyes to Kill Mascara, \$30 (1).** Asymmetrical bristles and a volumizing formula inflate every lash.
- **Clé de Peau Beauté Lip Gloss, \$48 (2).** Deliciously rich gloss at its most sophisticated.
- **Prada Candy Scrub, \$75 (3).** Vanilla-scented exfoliators smooth and sweeten skin, leaving it almost lickable.
- **Edward Bess Quad Royale blush, \$45 (4).** A just-off-the-slopes flush that's impossible to overdo.
- **Dr. Brandt Time Arrest Crème de Luxe, \$200 (5).** Antioxidants fend off UV damage while high-tech peptides undo what time has already wrought.
- **La Prairie Cellular Lip Renewal Concentrate, \$105 (6).** This orange-scented cream makes
- lips plusher and naturally pinker, and you don't need much (our tube lasted a year).
- **Leonor Greyl Shampooing Reviviscence, \$65 (7).** A riot of oils absolutely spoil hair.
- **Rodin Olio Lusso Luxury Face Oil, \$150 (8).** A drop of this jasmine-scented oil makes skin gleam—we also dab it on our wrists.
- **Prevage Day Ultra Protection Anti-Aging Moisturizer SPF 30 PA++, \$129 (9).** Potent idebenone makes this fast-absorbing sunscreen a powerhouse.
- **Sachajuan Volume Powder, \$32 (10).** Misting at the roots makes blowouts bouncier—even on the third day.
- **Clarisonic Aria, \$199 (11).** This oscillating brush leaves skin extravagantly soft—and ready to lap up anti-agers.



## Natural Wonders

- **RMS Beauty Un Cover-Up (1).** An all-natural concealer with the perfect consistency: creamy (not tacky).
- **Josie Maran Magic Marker Lip & Cheek Stain (2).** More hydrating than the average stain (but just as long-lasting), all nine shades are packed with hyaluronic acid.
- **Clark's Botanicals Intense Radiance Mask (3).** This clay-based solution works like a scrub, peel, and brightener.
- **Korres Cheek Butter (4).** A hint of color makes cheeks look kissable; shea butter makes them feel that way.
- **Priti NYC Soy Nail Polish Remover Wipes (5).** Each acetone-free pad erases two hands' worth of polish.
- **Neutrogena Naturals Lip Balm (6).** A petroleum-free stick with all the hydration
- you need, and no stickiness.
- **Jane Iredale Eye Gloss in Champagne Silk (7).** This preservative-free liquid shadow glides on and deposits a shimmery wash.
- **Davines Oi/Oil Absolute Beautifying Potion (8).** Our testers couldn't believe how this lightweight oil transformed damaged hair.
- **Alterna Bamboo Sustainable Volume Spray (9).** Spritz your roots on Friday; hair still looks lush and thick on Sunday.
- **Yes to Cucumbers Gentle Milk Cleanser (10).** The creamy formula whisks away dirt.
- **Ren Moroccan Rose Otto Body Wash (11).** The delicate oil blend smells *just* like the namesake flower—and it leaves skin petal-soft.



## Guys' Stuff

- **Baxter of California Super Close Shave Formula (1).** Though it's from one of the oldest men's-grooming product companies, this still has the richest lather.
- **Degree Men Clinical+ (2).** Formulated to fight off sweat (and stink) for an impressive 24 hours.
- **Jack Black Intense Therapy Lip Balm SPF 25 (3).** Keeps lips flake-free and moist, in five nongirly flavors.
- **The Art of Shaving Pre-Shave Gel (4).** Softens stubble to make shaving easier over time—and eliminates the need for toilet-paper patches.
- **Axe Understated Natural Look Hair Cream (5).** Lightly holds hair in place, but has enough give that you can mess it up, too.
- **Lab Series Oil Control Daily Hydrator (6).** Just a drop sops up shine without leaving skin tight or dry.
- **Molton Brown Re-charge Black Pepper Bodywash (7).** Rich, powerful, and insanely sexy.
- **Kiehl's Facial Fuel Energizing Face Wash (8).** The menthol scent is more invigorating than a double shot of espresso.
- **Redken for Men Mint Clean Invigorating Shampoo (9).** Peppermint extract gives the scalp such a satisfying tingle, we've been tempted to steal this for ourselves.
- **Lubriderm Men's 3-in-1 Lotion (10).** Lightweight, nongreasy, and laced with a musky citrus fragrance—he can use it head to toe.



## Lips

We swiped on hundreds of different shades and determined, without equivocation, that these 12 are the most flattering for everyone.

## Lipstick

**RED.** As opaque as it is moisturizing, **Rimmel London Lasting Finish by Kate Lipstick in O1** out-reds every rival.

**PINK.** **Burberry Beauty Lip Mist in Feather Pink** is a silky carnation shade with just the right amount of warmth.

**NUDE.** Far too many nudes can make dark-skinned women look like the walking dead. **Laura Mercier Stickgloss in Brown Sugar** makes lips look moist, sexy, and fresh.

**Dior Addict Lipstick in Beige Casual**, a peachy nude with a bit of shimmer, warms up fair skin.

**BRIGHT.** Amid all the tacky hot pinks and fuchsias out there, we discovered **Chanel Rouge Allure Velvet in L'Exubérante**, a palate-cleansing raspberry that feels all grown up.

**DARK.** **Revlon Super Lustrous Lipstick in Black Cherry** drenches lips in an intoxicating dark shade.

**SHEER.** Vibrant in the tube, **Giorgio Armani Rouge d'Armani Sheers in 300** goes on like a tangerine mist. Give your balm the day off—it's *that* moisturizing.

## Lip Gloss

Each of the 30 shades of **Estée Lauder Pure Color Gloss** bathes lips with rich pigment and glassy shine that last hours.

## Lip Stain

Most stains can make your lips feel shriveled. Not **Yves Saint Laurent Rouge Pur Couture Glossy Stain**. The color glides on and stays plush all day.

## Long-Wearing Lipstick

**Nars Velvet Matte Lip Pencil** delivers silky, opaque coverage that won't hang your lips out to dry. Our favorite shades: Dragon Girl and Dolce Vita.

## Lip Balm

We love the name, we love the package, and we especially love that **Maybelline New York Baby Lips** saturates lips in SPF 20-infused moisture that doesn't have to be constantly reapplied.

## Tinted Lip Balm

Jam-packed with mango and jojoba oils, **Clinique Chubby Stick Moisturizing Lip Colour Balm** packs a hint of healthy color in 16 juicy shades.



# Skin

Puffy-eye relief. Fast zit zappers.

The toughest wrinkle creams.

These are the products that truly deliver.

## Cleanser

**NORMAL SKIN.** L'Oréal Paris Youth Code Foaming Gel Cleanser has a touch of salicylic acid to keep skin polished. It gets extra credit for the floral scent and the jumbo pump bottle that seems to last forever.

**OILY SKIN.** We love that the menthol-infused Clinique Liquid Facial Soap Oily Skin Formula gently removes impurities while fruit extracts help reduce oil production over time.

**DRY SKIN.** Aveeno Ultra-Calming Foaming Cleanser has the silkiest, mildest lather. Yet it's remarkably good at lifting away makeup, oil, and dullness.

## Cleansing Wipes

Some wipes are so saturated and filmy that you need to rinse after using them. Not so with Pond's Wet Cleansing Towelettes. The nubby texture of the Exfoliating Renewal wipes gently sloughs skin in the a.m., while the Evening Soothe ones cuddle with chamomile.

## Facial Moisturizer

**NORMAL SKIN.** The soy-laced Aveeno Positively Radiant Daily Moisturizer SPF 30 evens complexions so well, you'll be tempted to skip foundation.

**OILY SKIN.** Olay Professional Pro-X Clear UV Moisturizer has the sheerest sunblock and won't gunk up pores.

**DRY SKIN.** Eucerin Daily Protection is a fragrance-free lotion that disappears on contact, so you're left with just a quenched, smooth canvas.

## Instant Brightener

We tap on Clarins Beauty Flash Balm whenever we want dewy skin—stat.

## Anti-agers

**ANTIOXIDANT.** Dermatologists love the combination of vitamin C and ferulic acid in SkinCeuticals Phloretin CF Gel; we're obsessed with the new nonsticky formula that dries to a satiny finish.

**FOR WRINKLES.** Apply Neutrogena Rapid Wrinkle Repair Night Moisturizer before bed, and the first thing to greet you in the morning will be softer, plumper skin.

**FOR DISCOLORATION.** Elure Advanced Skin Lightening Lotion dissolves dark spots in four weeks. Unlike hydroquinone, this brightener isn't at all irritating.

## Eye Cream

**ANTI-WRINKLE.** StriVectin-SD Eye Concentrate for Wrinkles uses peptides to smooth skin and absorbs so quickly, you'll have no problem layering concealer on top. At night, target crow's-feet with RoC Retinol Correxion Sensitive Eye Cream, spiked with a gentle version of vitamin A that won't irritate the tender eye area.

**DEPUFFING.** Jet lag (or even Chinese takeout) is no match for Garnier Skin Renew Anti-Puff Eye Roller. Its caffeine and glycerin work almost instantly.

**DARK CIRCLES.** Clinique Even Better Eyes tackles the darkest shadows with botanical brighteners and gentle exfoliants.

**MOISTURIZING.** Shiseido Future Solution LX Eye—a creamy concoction of plant extracts and elastin boosters—keeps crepiness at bay.

## Facial Sunscreen

La Roche-Posay Anthelios 50 Mineral Ultra Light Sunscreen Fluid SPF 50 Face is so milky-thin and fast-absorbing, you'll never skip this crucial step again.

## Scrub

Rather than bullying skin into submission, Dr. Brandt Microdermabrasion takes gentler measures: Lactic acid and microcrystals suspended in soothing aloe and chamomile soften as they speed up cell turnover.

## Peel

The glycolic acid in Garnier Skin Renew Clinical Dark Spot Overnight Peel comes in a self-neutralizing, easy-to-apply serum. Just one dose reveals brighter, more radiant skin.

## Mask

**OILY SKIN.** Origins Clear Improvement charcoal mask draws oil and dirt out of pores and helps prevent new breakouts.

**DRY SKIN.** The hyaluronic acid and lychee-seed extract in Fresh Black Tea mask drench skin in moisture.

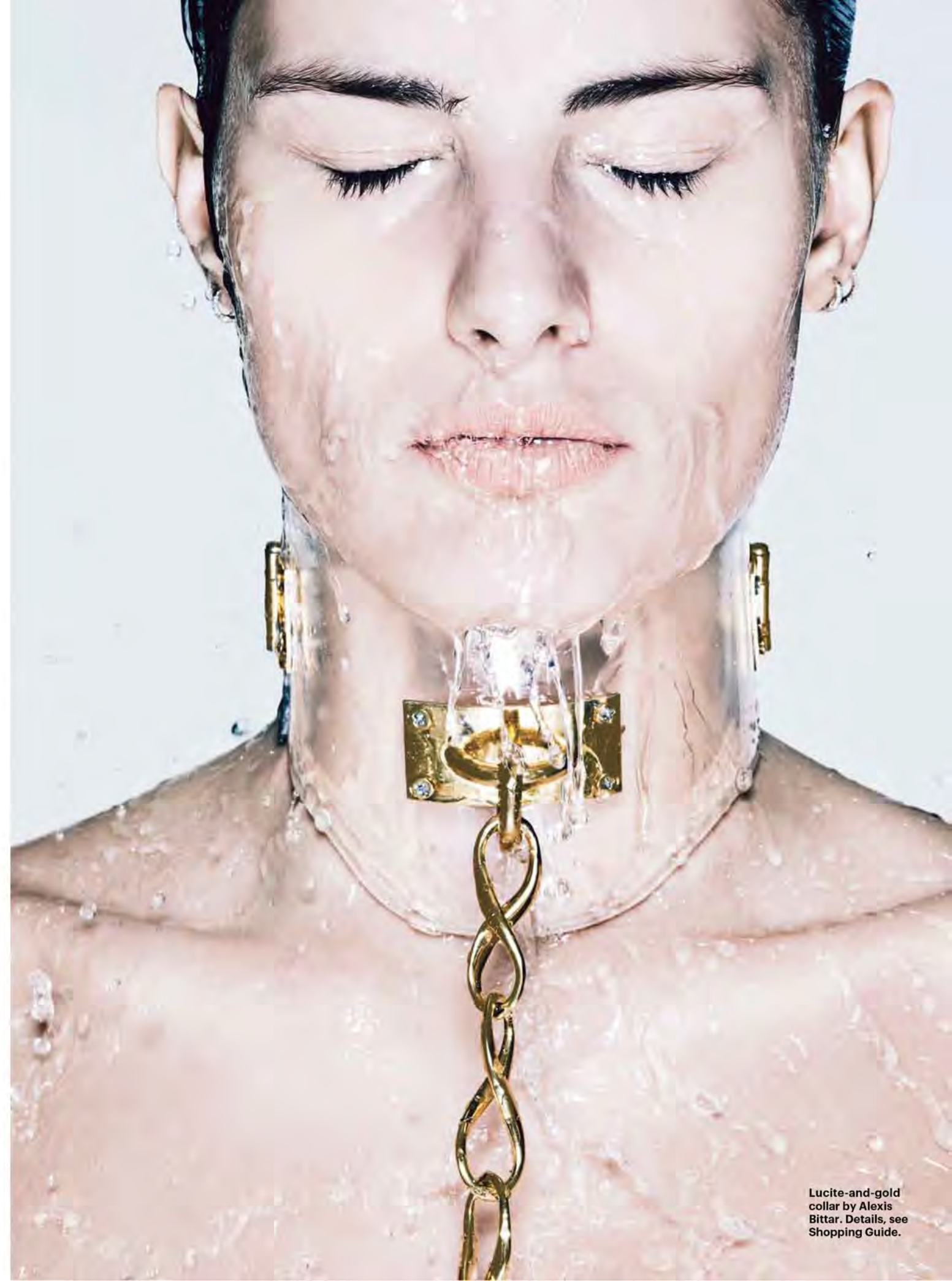
## Zit Cream

Clean & Clear Advantage Acne Spot Treatment shrinks acne (even the cystic kind) with 2 percent salicylic acid.

## Acne Treatment

We appreciate La Roche-Posay Effaclar Duo's two-pronged approach: Benzoyl peroxide zaps zits on the spot while lipo hydroxy acid gently unplugs pores.

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Lucite-and-gold collar by Alexis Bittar. Details, see Shopping Guide.



# Fragrance

It's the one thing you wear that nobody can see, yet few choices reveal more about who you are. These scents are exceptional, no matter what your mood or intention.

**NEW.** **Bottega Veneta's** sensual blend of pink peppercorn and patchouli is warm, enveloping, and as refined as the fashion house's woven-leather bags.

**CLASSIC.** With rose, lotus flower, and a drop of musk, **Ralph Lauren Romance** feels like holding hands with the one you love: sweet and comforting—and it never gets old.

**FLORAL.** Some florals shove their bouquets in your face. Not **Givenchy Dahlia Noir**. Named for a flower with no smell, it's a mix of rose and iris.

**SPICY.** With creamy sandalwood and cinnamon, **Tom Ford Santal Blush** has a luscious spiced-rum quality.

**CITRUS.** **Maison Francis Kurkdjian Aqua Universalis Forte** is as bracing (Sicilian lemon) as it is complex (jasmine and rose).

**SEXY.** **Chanel Coco Noir**, in a glossy black bottle, proves that the sultriest scents conceal as much as they reveal. Dusky bourbon vanilla is wrapped around geranium and rose.

**GREEN.** True to its name, **Dior Escale à Parati**, with its mix of mint, rosewood, and tonka bean, reminds us of the beaches of Brazil—bright, warm, and slinky.

**FRUITY.** Many fruity fragrances smell good enough to eat, but not tempting enough to wear. **Yves Saint Laurent In Love Again** is a sophisticated berry blend.

**MEN'S.** **Dolce & Gabbana Pour Homme** is exactly how all men should smell: thoroughly clean, a bit musky, and sexy as hell.

**ROOM FRAGRANCE.** **Frédéric Malle Perfume Gun in Jurassic Flower** may look like an industrial cleaner, but the magnolia-and-peach spray is decidedly elegant.

**BODY LOTION.** **Tom Ford Neroli Portofino** cocoons skin in moisture, while the amber-and-neroli scent lingers as long as an eau de toilette.

**CANDLE.** You needn't light **Cire Trudon Abdel Kader** to experience its delicious scent: mint leaves rounded out by vanilla and ginger.

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Silk velvet dress by Bottega Veneta. Thong by Marlies Dekkers. Amethyst-and-zirconium ring by Galeria Mundi for Isabelle K. Nail Lacquer in Lincoln Park After Dark by OPI. Details, see Shopping Guide.



# Nails

You could cross your fingers for gorgeous nails that won't crack under pressure... or just snap up these superior polishes, topcoats, and cuticle soothers.

## Nail Polish

**DARK.** If black is too goth for your taste, the glinty dark green of **Estée Lauder Pure Color Nail Lacquer in Viper** is like Bon Jovi—amplified, but popular for good reason. **Chanel Le Vernis in Vertigo** looks like a delicious coating of dark glazed chocolate on nails. **NUDE.** Tom Ford **Nail Lacquer in Toasted Sugar** is the color of a chai latte—a nude that works on all skin tones.

**BRIGHTS.** We painted on every color of the rainbow and chose these, hands down: **Yves Saint Laurent La Laque Couture in Bleu Majorelle** is a dazzling cobalt. **Essie nail polish in Mojito Madness** will lift your mood faster than its namesake cocktail. The peppy mint green is so richly pigmented, you only need one coat. High-shine and shimmer-free, **L'Oréal Paris Nail Color in Violet Vixen** is

the rare fuchsia that even our mother would call timeless—not tacky. **PALE PINK.** **Essie nail polish in Mademoiselle** makes tips look tidy, clean, and even a touch longer. And unlike most pale pinks, it doesn't require multiple coats to reach full opacity. **RED.** Not too orange and not too blue, **OPI Nail Lacquer in Big Apple Red** is a true red that looks like something Marilyn would've worn.

## Special Effect

Some nail-art strips recall craft projects gone horribly wrong. **Sally Hansen Salon Effects in Lust-rous** look like a starry night, stick without ripples, and last up to ten days.

## Basecoat

Splitting, peeling, dullness: **Essie Ridge Filling Base Coat** negotiates all sorts of

rough terrain—and leaves nails shiny enough to skip color, if you're so inclined.

## Topcoat

**Seche Vite Dry Fast Top Coat** seals in seconds, gives nails glassy shine, and dries polish from top to bottom, so it won't chip for days.

## Cuticle Cream

Chapped cuticles drink in **Sally Hansen Salon Manicure Cuticle Eraser + Balm**, a swirl of hydrating shea butter and sunflower-seed oil that's surprisingly light given its effectiveness.

## Nail-Polish Remover

**Zoya 3-in-1 Formula Remove +** wipes away the darkest, clingiest polish (even glitter) but won't leave behind any chalky evidence.

ROGER CABELLO



Gold plate earrings from Givenchy by Riccardo Tisci. Makeup colors: Double Wear Liquid Eyeliner in Black, Pure Color Lipstick in Crystal Baby, and Pure Color Nail Lacquer in Viper by Estée Lauder. Details, see Shopping Guide.



## Cheap Thrills

Top-notch brighteners, smoothers, and plumpers with rock-bottom price tags (all are \$9 or less).

### Makeup

**NYC New York Color Smooth Skin Perfecting Primer (\$3.99).** The Spanx of primers: It firms, evens, and is so lightweight you won't even notice that you're wearing it.

**Maybelline New York Dream Fresh BB Sunscreen (\$8.99).** Five self-adjusting shades, SPF 30—and did we mention five shades? This multitasker helps women of all skin tones get even.

**Wet n Wild MegaGlo Illuminating Powder (\$3.99).** Swirled together, the ribbons create a rose-gold blush; used individually (wet or dry), they make lids glisten.

**NYX Matte Bronzer (\$9).** Shimmer-free and available in five sun-kissed shades, the powder makes it easy for every woman to have a believable bronze. The extra-large pan means you can keep the charade going year-round.

**Mark Just Pinched Instant Blush Tint in Berry (\$8).** This cool raspberry sinks into skin for that proverbial glow from within, and doesn't go MIA like so many cream blushes.

**Essence Liquid Ink Eyeliner (\$2.99).** The laser-sharp point is easy for amateurs to maneuver. Pros love that the jet-black line doesn't budge or crease.

**Rimmel London Glam'Eyes HD Quad Eye Shadow in Black Cab (\$5.99).** Blended together, the four shades strike the ideal balance of sparkle and soot for sexy smoky eyes.



**CoverGirl NatureLuxe Mousse Mascara (\$8.99).** This soufflé-like mascara builds long, lush lashes that don't stiffen or flake. Bonus: It rinses off without the need for harsh scrubbing.

**Vaseline Lip Therapy in Cocoa Butter (\$1.99).** So rich and effective, a pot slightly bigger than a Tootsie Roll is all you need to keep lips, cuticles, and even elbows smooth this winter.

**Maybelline New York Color Show Nail Lacquer (\$3.99).** Mint green, canary yellow, silver-flecked navy—there are certain trendy polish shades you want to play with before committing. At this price, you easily can do both.

**Revlon Crazy Shine to Go Nail Buffer (\$3.99).** With an easy-to-grip design, it takes only seconds to give bare nails a just-polished gleam.

### Skin

**Pond's Luminous Clean Daily Exfoliating Cleanser (\$5.79).** So many all-in-ones fail to do much of anything. This mix of kaolin, microbeads, and shea butter smooths and

soothes as well as three separate products.

**Neutrogena Make-Up Remover Cleansing Towelettes (\$1.99).** These alcohol-free wipes erase the smudgy signs of a late night faster than it takes to chug a glass of water. Keep them on your bedside table.

**Ambi Skincare Fade Cream (\$6.49).** This hardworking cream plays offense (breaking up dark spots with 2 percent hydroquinone) and defense (protecting with sunscreen).

### Hair

**Tresemme Moisture Rich Shampoo and Conditioner (\$4.49 each).** These seemingly bottomless bottles are just as generous with shine and frizz control.

**Aussie Moist 3 Minute Miracle Condition (\$3.25).** Reforms the most overprocessed hair yet won't overwhelm fine and frizzy types.

**Suave Naturals Daily Clarifying Shampoo (\$2).** No matter how much buildup you've got, this nonstripping wash gives hair a fresh start.

**Dove Hair Therapy Nourishing Oil Care (\$6.59).** Even the wimpiest strands can handle this argan-oil-infused serum, which fuses split ends and makes dull hair gleam.

**Goody DoubleWear 2-in-1 Ponytailer Bracelet (\$4.99 for three).** Sturdy enough to anchor the thickest ponytail; pretty enough to wear around your wrist. This is no ordinary hair elastic.

### Body

**Jergens Crema Hydrating Coconut Milk (\$5.97).** So deliciously tropical, we half expect this vitamin-E-enriched moisturizer to be packaged in a hollowed-out coconut.

**Caress Evenly Gorgeous Exfoliating Body Wash (\$3.50).** A quarter-size dollop of this lathering shea-butter-and-brown-sugar blend is enough to slough and brighten every inch.

**Aveeno Active Naturals Hydrosport Sunblock Spray SPF 30 (\$8.99).** A beach-bag essential: The clear spray clings to even soaking wet skin while the potent broad-spectrum sun protection swims laps around similarly priced sunblocks.

**St. Ives Naturally Smooth Hand Cream (\$2.99).** This heavy-duty hydrator absorbs in seconds, so it leaves our hands (and iPad screens) grease-free. And it has just the faintest floral-citrus fragrance.

# Base

Like "luxury resort," the phrase "second skin" is tossed around so often it's practically lost its meaning. Let's reserve it for these cover-ups.

### Primer

Technically, **Revlon PhotoReady Perfecting Primer** is meant to go on under foundation, but with light-reflecting pigments that brighten skin right away, we're tempted to skip that second step.

### Foundation

**LIGHT COVERAGE.** **Chanel Vitalumière Aqua Ultra-Light Skin Perfecting Makeup** feels like you're wearing nothing but your own smooth, luminous skin (no redness, no discoloration).

**MEDIUM TO FULL COVERAGE.** Much like the cult concealer that inspired it, **Yves Saint Laurent Le Teint Touche Éclat Foundation** covers with just a few drops. And its lightweight gel base leaves skin radiant, not slick.

**OILY OR ACNE-PRONE.** With .5 percent salicylic acid, **Clinique Acne Solutions Liquid Makeup** treats and covers the flare-ups you might have and intercepts the ones you surely don't want.

**MINERAL.** **BareMinerals Ready Foundation** keeps skin dewy and can double as a concealer, plus the solid formula won't spill in your makeup bag.

**SHADE RANGE.** These days, plenty of foundation lines offer the palest ivories and deepest ebonies. But **Lancôme Teinte Idole Ultra 24H**, available in 28 shades, also hits every skin tone in between.

### Blush

**POWDER.** Each pearly shade of **Tom Ford Cheek Color** looks as though you're honest-to-goodness blushing. **Love Lust** is a peachy pink that flatters every skin tone.

**CREAM.** You could apply

**Maybelline New York Dream Bouncy Blush** with your eyes closed—the mousselike texture melts into cheeks that effortlessly. **Fresh Pink** looks right on all complexions (we tested it).

### Tinted Moisturizer

**Garnier Skin Renew Miracle Skin Perfector BB Cream** doesn't sacrifice one mission for another: SPF 15 and vitamin C block the sun, hyaluronic acid hydrates, and minerals lend a beautiful glow.

### Powder

**PRESSED.** **L'Oréal Paris True Match Super-Blendable Powder** skims on like velvet, covers as well as foundation, and won't change color on you after a few hours.

**LOOSE.** **Make Up For Ever HD Microfinish Powder** shrinks pores with a sheer veil of coverage.

### Highlighter

**Giorgio Armani Fluid Sheer** is everything that's right about highlighters: Its sheer shades play up cheekbones with subtle shimmer, and it blends like a dream—whether you wear it alone or mixed with foundation.

### Concealer

**UNDEREYE CIRCLES.** **Bobbi Brown Creamy Concealer Kit** comes with a sheer powder to neutralize dark circles without washing (or drying) you out.

**BLEMISHES.** No matter how honking the zit, **Urban Decay 24/7 Concealer Pencil** muffles it. All eight shades blend so beautifully that you don't see the pimple—or the concealer.

### Facial Self-tanner

**Kate Somerville Somerville 360° Face Self Tanning Pads** exfoliate as they bronze, come with a finger mitt (so hands won't stain), and are laced with skin-plumping peptides.

### Bronzer

Swirl your brush through **Guerlain Terracotta 4 Seasons Bronzing Powder**—the matte finish won't settle into fine lines. Once they hit skin, the golden beads in **Givenchy Mister Radiant** burst evenly for a warm glow.



# Body

Feeling pale, dry, flabby? These smoothers and soothers practically work miracles.

## Body Wash

**MOISTURIZING.** With its supermild formula, **Dove Deep Moisture Nourishing Body Wash** seems almost too gentle. It's not until dry spots vanish that you realize this perfectly nice product is kind of badass.

**ACNE-FIGHTING.** It may be unfair that zits get to feast on grapefruit as their last meal, but the salicylic acid-spiked **Neutrogena Body Clear Body Wash Pink Grapefruit** kills bacne so swiftly, we'll live.

## Body Scrub

We're not a big fan of hanging a dried gourd in our shower, but we love **Kiehl's Creme de Corps Soy Milk & Honey Body Polish**. Ground luffa fruit (yes, the fruit that, when dried, produces the loofah sponge) is

suspended in a cushion of shea butter and almond oil, so skin is as moisturized as it is smooth.

## Body Bronzer

**TRADITIONAL SELF-TANNER.** **St. Tropez Self Tan Bronzing Lotion** is made for self-tanner virgins. The subtle tint makes it a cinch to apply, and after a few hours it produces a warm, dewy bronze that isn't overwhelming.

**GRADUAL SELF-TANNER.** If you have commitment issues about color, **Jergens Natural Glow & Protect SPF 20** lets you take things at your own pace. The thoughtful addition of sunscreen proves it's worthy of a long-term relationship.

**BRONZER.** Not too thick, not too makeup-y, not at all shimmery—we love that **Per-Fékt Matte Body Perfection Gel Tan** looks and feels natural.

## Body Lotion

**LIGHT.** **CeraVe SA Renewing Lotion** has salicylic acid to slough off dull skin so ceramides and vitamin D can go to town on dry patches.

**RICH.** Thick as cake batter and teeming with vitamin E and jojoba oil, **Nivea Soft Moisturizing Creme** turns every inch of your skin supple. We also appreciate that it's not greasy or heavily fragranced.

## Bath Product

The lavender-scented **Aveda Stress-Fix Soaking Salts** require just ten minutes to soothe skin and loosen muscles.

## Deodorant

**Secret Clinical Strength Antiperspirant/Deodorant** keeps skin bone-dry, even in sweltering heat (and under pressure), without telltale streaks. Seriously, why aren't they handing this stuff out during *Top Chef* quick-fire challenges?

## Hand Cream

For hands that look like they rarely lift a finger, slather on **Crabtree & Evelyn Avocado Olive & Basil Ultra-Moisturising Hand Therapy**. It hydrates, tames cuticles, and absorbs instantly.

## Sunscreen

Spritz on **Neutrogena Wet Skin Sunblock Spray SPF 50** and you might as well thumb your nose at that big yellow thing in the sky. The broad-spectrum block even sticks to soaking-wet skin.

## Shaving

**RAZOR.** The blade bed of the **Gillette Venus Embrace** is so generously lubricated, you can use a stingy amount of shaving cream (or skip it altogether) and still emerge from the shower with silky, nick-free skin.

**SHAVING CREAM.** No thin, drippy, watery formula here. **Gillette Satin Care Dry Skin Shave Gel** lathers to a whipped floral-scented cream that coats every inch of skin.

*(continued on page 288)*

Gray leather boots by Brian Atwood. Details, see Shopping Guide.