

Spa spy Facial the future

EDITED BY
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Shed a winter layer with the signature treatment from Harvey Nichols

THE TREATMENT

pH advantage Signature Facial, £125 for 60 minutes at Beyond Medispa, Harvey Nichols, St Andrew Square, Edinburgh (0131-524 8332, www.beyondmedispa.com)

WHY GO?

If you feel bewildered by the various components, from microdermabrasion peels and exfoliation to UV therapy and massage, that are offered as part of the average facial, go for this treatment. It offers a bit of almost everything. The products used are by pH Advantage, aka this spa's inhouse brand, created by dermatologist Dr Barry Cohen.

OUR SPY SAYS

The therapy (well, the retail sort) kicks off as soon as you enter Harvey Nichols's store, with all the pretty gewgaws to ogle at. Beyond Medispa is just beside the shoe department, and I eyeball some shiny new footwear as I fill in my consultation form.

The treatment rooms here are pure white and simple. There is no whale music (or music at all) which is a bit sad as I quite like it when sea mammals drown out the gurgling of my stomach. It's still a relaxing treatment though, says my therapist. We'll see, I think, as I spot the techy-looking machine beside the bed.

First of all, make-up is removed with a frothy cleanser, then there's a bit of massage, before a sandy pH Advantage



Polybead Moisturising Cleanser is used to slough off any "crust", as my therapist delicately puts it. She also detects some congestion under the skin on my chin, which has indeed been a bit spotty lately.

To combat the eruptions in waiting, this area, as well as my T-zone, is rubbed with glycolic pads, which smarts somewhat.

Now the machine is engaged. It performs some lymphatic massage on my skin, with the help of a funny metal attachment that sucks on my face like a catfish on the side of a tank. It feels rather pleasant.

I'm then anointed with the gel textured lactic acid peel. My therapist says it'll sting, but I would say it's more of a burning sensation. One must suffer for beauty. Thankfully, it's towelled off

after a couple of minutes, then their soothing AM/PM Hyaluronic Infusion is applied and a bright UV light emitting gadget is used to help the product penetrate my epidermis.

The final flourish is a touch of moisturiser, and I'm released back onto the shop floor.

THE RESULTS

I'm told not to wear any make-up, but I look a blotchy fright without it, so I'm naughty and pop foundation and blusher on in the toilets. Despite this rule flouting, my skin looks shiny and clean. A couple of days later, it starts to flake, which reveals an even smoother complexion underneath. I feel like I've shed a winter layer.

19/20

WHAT'S NEW?

SKIN SORTED

Having a quarter life crisis? People older than you may not be too sympathetic, but Origins will. It has just launched its Original Skin Renewal Serum, £32, which contains exotic ingredients including willowherb, Perisan silk tree and chestnut seed extract and is designed for those in their twenties who want to combat enlarged pores and uneven texture. While stocks last, it is offering a free week's supply of this product on counter. www.origins.co.uk

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BAGS OF STYLE

Until 31 March, spend £50 on the Elizabeth Arden website, on a range that includes the new Sunkissed Pearls Bronzer and Highlighter (£28), and you'll get a gratis floral tote bag with a nautical rope handle. It was designed by fashion duo Preen, who have celebrity fans including Kate Moss, Sienna Miller and Scarlett Johansson. Suits you for spring. www.elizabetharden.co.uk

MAKEOVER MAGIC

Treat yourself and your lovely mummy with the help of beauty brand Illamasqua on the run up to Mother's Day. Book one of their on-counter cosmetic transformations (with a booking fee of £30, redeemable on products) on 13, 14 or 15 March and receive a booking fee free makeover for your lucky parent. *Debenhams, 97 Argyle Street, Glasgow (0141-221 3889, www.illamasqua.com)*

WE DO THE MATHS 3 PRODUCTS TRIED AND TESTED

1+

EVOCATIVE SPICE

Part of this brand's Trade Routes collection, this unisex scent is inspired by Essaouira – the first seaport of Morocco. With notes of clove, patchouli, saffron and cardamom, you'll feel as if you're amongst boxes of spices ready for export. Evocative.

As Sawira, £150, Penhaligons (www.penhaligons.com)



2+

TWEEZY DOES IT

De-fuzz with this fun and low fi gadget, which is perfect for fuzzy cheeks, 'tache and chin (it's not really suitable for areas that require precision tweezing, like brows). Bend the spring, and twizzle the handles between thumbs and forefingers to harvest vast swathes of fuzz. Ouchy.

Tweezy, £10, Tweezy (www.tweezy.co.uk)



3=

YOU SHALL GO TO THE BALL

MAC has teamed up with Disney's Cinderella to create a shimmering collection in homage to the forthcoming movie. Shades include Vapour, a light peachy-pink; Phloof!, a frosty off-white and plum-brown Quarry.

Cinderella Eyeshadow in Stroke of Midnight, £38.50, MAC (www.maccosmetics.co.uk)

