



DIAMONDS AND PEARLS

Prince's pop anthem takes on a whole new meaning when applied to beauty treatments. The latest spa indulgences contain more gems than a jewellery store and are taking luxe to a whole new level.

For the face: The Paddington Beauty Room Platinum Rare Treatment, two hours, \$400, at The Paddington Beauty Room, 217 Glenmore Road, Paddington, tel: (02) 9356 8700. Similar facials available at La Prairie spas internationally, tel: 1800 649 849.

As a former trainer for La Prairie, Anna Field, a facialist and owner of the Paddington Beauty Room, knows the Swiss brand inside out. Her version of the brand's über-facial is deliciously long and peppered with slumber-inducing interludes of her famous facial massage. Skin is masked and buffed to perfection with the Microdermabrasion Cream (which contains micronised diamonds, pearls and crystals), before being gold-plated with the company's top-shelf platinum cream (\$1,500 in stores). Treatment includes a scalp, foot and arm massage.

For the hair: Kérastase Chronologiste, \$85, at Brad Ngata's Ivy salon, Palings Lane, Sydney, tel: (02) 9235 2723. (Also available at Kérastase salons nationally, tel: 1300 365 552.)

Stepping into the plush surrounds of Ngata's stylish Ivy salon, the urban grind seems a million miles away. Even more so when it's time for your shampoo: Chronologiste clients are given their own private room. After a wash, the Chronologiste formula is applied with a deliciously long massage. Made up of tiny pearls to mimic caviar, the concentrate contains squalane, a hydrating fatty acid, antioxidants vitamin A and E and nutrient-rich Pacific sea water to repair ageing and damaged locks. After a blow-dry, hair is silky and shining with health.

For the body: Pearl Brightening Body Glow, \$170, at Chi, The Spa at the Shangri-La, The Rocks, Sydney, tel: (02) 9250 6000.

From the soft lighting and rich mahogany tones to the Tibetan bells and artefacts that line the walls, Chi takes you on a journey. It conjures the calm spirituality of the Himalayas and Eastern practices wrapped up in the convenience of a high-rise city hotel. The treatment is inspired by the Chinese tradition of using pearls to clarify and illuminate the skin, and features a luxurious massage using a pearl body polish pumped with minerals and amino acids to help build collagen and improve tone. The application focuses on reviving pressure points and finishes with an indulgent vanilla orchid and rose body creme.

Scented smalls

ADDING A DASH OF GLAMOUR TO THE DOMESTIC AND MUNDANE, OUR FAVOURITE

BOUTIQUE BEAUTY BRANDS ARE BRINGING OUT LAUNDRY WASHES. KAI WILL LEAVE DELICATES SCENTED WITH EXOTIC WHITE FLOWERS, WHILE FRANCIS KURKDJIAN'S AQUA UNIVERSALIS EVOKES THAT FRESHLY LAUNDERED LINEN SMELL.



Maison Francis Kurkdjian Aqua Universalis liquid laundry wash, \$60, from Mecca Cosmetica.



Youngblood Natural Mineral Foundation, \$50, and large kabuki brush, \$60.

Forever young

Mineral make-up advocates rave about the skin-perfecting benefits and lightweight coverage of the powders, but there is also a hidden bonus: sun protection. Many mineral make-up powders, such as Youngblood Natural Mineral Foundation, are made with titanium dioxide, a natural sun block that bounces rays away from skin without the use of harsher chemicals.

TRAVEL TIP

Give any hotel room an added dose of luxe by packing a scented candle. Homegrown eco-brand Ecoya uses only soy wax, which emits 90 per cent less carbon emissions than many other candles, so you can rest easy in your scented haven.



Ecoya Natural Soy Travel Candles in Wild Frangipani and French Pear, \$16 each.