



Cbeauty

California's Cream of the Crop

The must-try spas,
salons, shops
and serums that
keep Golden
Staters glowing

BY NADINE HAOBESH +
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alifornians are rightfully considered experts on beauty. Blame it on Hollywood, but everyone seems to have a coveted colorist, an unlisted facialist or a secret serum. Here, we've combed the state for the crème de la crème in skin, body and hair care, and we're proud to anoint the following California's Best in Beauty 2008.

Kate Somerville



Lisa Hoffman

Skincare

SECRET AGENT

Breeze through the X-ray machine with **Lisa Hoffman Skincare Single Packette**—a travel-friendly, 24-hour system including 10 mini-doses of cleanser, toner, eye cream and serum. lisahoffmanskincare.com.

HIGH IMPACT

The intensive multi-step **Obagi Nu-Derm Skincare System** isn't for the lazy, but those willing to put themselves through the deeply exfoliating paces (yes, that snake-like shedding is to be expected) will be rewarded. Formerly only by prescription, the good doctor launched **ZO Skin Health** at

select Nordstrom stores. 270 N. Canon Dr., Beverly Hills, 310-275-3030; obagi.com.

TIME MACHINE

Innovator in natural skincare, **Susan Ciminelli's Restorative Red Marine Algae Cream** boasts a 20% increase in firmness and a 70% increase in moisture retention within four weeks. *The Private Susan Ciminelli Sanctuary*, Montecito, 805-695-8448; susanciminelli.com.

MOISTURE MAGIC

A natural daily hydrating gel, **Arcona Magic White Ice**

is the prize winner among moisturizers. 425 Broadway, Santa Monica, 310-458-3800; arcona.com.

FREEZE FRAME

No needle. No pain. Just brush on **O2 Intraceuticals' Atoxelene Line Wand** for an instant (though temporary) botox-like effect. intraceuticals.com.

VIP CLINIC

Kate Somerville's recently expanded Melrose Place **White Room** is a results-driven skincare clinic frequented by Hollywood's most famous faces. 8428 Melrose Pl., West Hollywood, 323-655-7546; katesomerville.com.

FAB FACIALIST

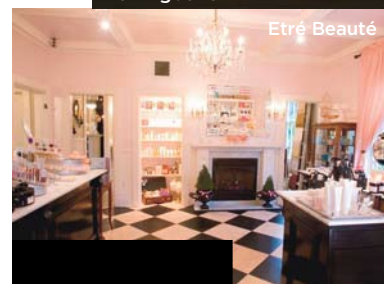
Eva Zablocki at Montecito-based **Mareva International** is a fan of Epionce, Ayur-Medic and Jane Iredale natural makeup—but still prefers her grandmother's home remedies. 1485 E. Valley Rd., Santa Barbara, 805-969-7374.

ELITE AESTHETICIAN

The Nile Institute features one of California's two Remodeling Face Machines (which tighten and firm through electro frequencies), but it's the magic facial from **Nina Curtis** that gets everyone. 9053 Nemo St., West Hollywood, 310-275-6453; thenileinstitute.com.



Herringbone



Etré Beauté



Bluemercury

5 ALL-STAR APOTHECARIES

The Golden State's leading one-stop-shops for the best edited beauty supplies.

Herringbone 1527 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-9442; herringboneshop.com.

Etré Beauté 156 E. Napa St., Sonoma, 707-939-2700; etresonoma.com.

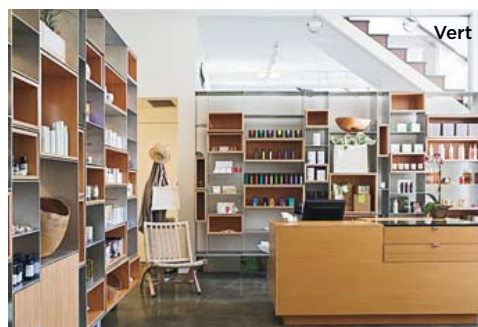
Bluemercury 1624 Redwood Hwy., Corte Madera, 415-924-5400; 10250 Santa Monica Blvd., Century City, 310-553-4400; bluemercury.com.

Marie Mason Apothecary 225 26th St., Santa Monica, 310-394-5710; mariemasonapothecary.com.

Vert 1121 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, 310-581-6126; vertlosangeles.com.



Marie Mason Apothecary



Vert

Body

STELLAR SUITE

From the 10,000-square-foot, Peter Marino-designed **Four Seasons Biltmore Spa**, each treatment suite looks out at Montecito's Butterfly Beach for breathtaking Pacific views. 1260 Channel Dr., Santa Barbara, 805-969-2261; fourseasons.com.

EASTERN PROMISE

Transport to the Himalayas at the **Claremont Resort and Spa**. Vibrational waves from sacred Tibetan bowls transform the full body **Tibetan Sound Massage**. 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 800-551-7266; claremontresort.com.

MAGICAL MUD

At **Solage Calistoga**, begin the **Mudslide Treatment** in the Mud Lounge and Bathhouse, followed by a customized, mineral-infused "mud cocktail" from the mud-tender. 755 Silverado Trail, Calistoga, 866-942-7442; solagecalistoga.com.

TURNING JAPANESE

Traditional Japanese baths, **Kabuki Springs and Spa** features a hot pool, cold plunge, dry sauna and steam room. A bathing attendant is on hand to guide the ritual. 1750 Geary Blvd., San Francisco, 415-922-6000; kabukisprings.com.

OENOPHILE'S DELIGHT

Spa Terra at the Meritage Resort is the world's only spa in a wine cave. Drink in the two-hour **Solo Vino**: a grapeseed scrub, mud mask and Terra massage topped off with wine, fruit and

cheese. 875 Bordeaux Way, Napa, 707-251-3000; themeritageresort.com.

DIY DUO

The **Pair's Polish** at **Tru Spa** brings new meaning to do-it-yourself. Couples scrub each other down in a Tropical Rainforest Room. 750 Kearny St., San Francisco, 415-398-0133; truspa.com.

ESCAPIST SPA

Beyond the 42,000-square-foot spa featuring a myriad



Solage



Wax



Recess



Claremont Resort and Spa



Tru Spa

of superior offerings, the breathtaking beauty of Santa Barbara's **Bacara Resort** ensures guests never want to leave. 8301 Hollister Ave., Goleta, 805-968-0100; bacararesort.com.

ZEN RETREAT

Encinitas' **Bergamot Spa + Boutique** is an urban sanctuary with stream, koi pond and private bungalows, plus a full

menu of services. 466 N. Coast Hwy 101, Ste. 11, Encinitas, 760-436-5140; bergamotspa.com.

POOLSIDE PEDI

The rooftop pool at **Peninsula Beverly Hills** just received a major renovation, and they've redefined pampering with their poolside cabana pedicure. 9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, 310-551-2888; peninsula.com.

SILKY FEET

Straightforward, superior service, reasonable prices and blissful foot massages make **Silk Hands and Feet Spa's** hour-long pedicure an insider S.F. secret. 1425 Franklin St., San Francisco, 415-885-3277; silksf.com.

GREEN THUMB

Recess is L.A.'s greenest hand-and-feet pampering spot: devoted eco-friendly celebrities agree. 8408 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, 323-782-9919; recess-la.com.

TASTY TREAT

With flavors like Pink Buttercream, Pina Colada and Peach Parfait, the thick body butters from Santa Barbara-based **Jaqua Beauty** are so tasty, you don't know whether to use...or eat them. jaquabeauty.com.

HANDS DOWN

Infused with olive oil, aloe vera and sea kelp, Napa's **Olivina Hand & Body Wash and Lotion** are intoxicatingly fresh. olivinanapavalley.com.

HEAD TO TOE

Kim Huynh at West Hollywood's glamorous **Wax** starts with shapely brows and works her way all the way down to tootsie toes. 7924 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood, 323-951-9616.

JOIN THE CLICKS

ECLECTIC BEAUTY STORE Kneipp? Carthusia? Serge Lutens? Check, check and check. **BeautyHabit.com** is the best for all the products you never knew you wanted (but will soon be unable to live without).

INDISPENSABLE BEAUTY ADVICE The add-

ictive **TotalBeauty.com** spotlights the nation's top beauty blogs, step-by-step how-to, detailed videos and an exhaustive library of product reviews; we wonder how we ever procrastinated before. **MOST ANTICIPATED LAUNCH** Renata Helfman's Venice-based eco-friendly beauty boutique goes global this month on **VertLosAngeles.com**.

BROW RX

Not a fan of the one-brow-fits-all philosophy, **Art Luna Salon's Kris Levine** has a unique vision for each visage. 2116 Main St., Santa Monica, 310-452-1669.

WAX WIZ

Beyond her famous "Full Monty," **Jodi Shays** of **Queen**

ONE-STOP SHOP

Everything from Aesop to Zeno is available from **Apothia** at Fred Segal, the widest selection of gotta-have-em beauty products in L.A. 8118 Melrose Ave., West Hollywood, 323-651-0239; ronrobinsoninc.com/apothia.

COUNTER CULTURE

Chantecaille, Frédéric Malle, Shu Uemura and Annick

DYE DOCTOR

Blessed with a discerning eye and patient ear, Robert James at the **Robert James Color Salon** is renowned for his ability to fix any color mishap, no matter how dire. 1005 Bush St., Ste. 1207, San Francisco, 415-447-0773; robertjamescolor.com.

SUBLIME STYLIST

The crème de la crème of San Francisco society will

any challenge. 9882 S. Santa Monica Blvd., Beverly Hills, 310-551-2888; peninsula.com.

EVENT EXCELLENCE

Byron Williams is Tinseltown's go-to guy for red-carpet-ready hair and makeup. 9294 Civic Center Dr., Beverly Hills, 310-276-4470; byronstudio.net.

PRODUCT ENVY

Known for treating the tresses of Hollywood's hottest blondes, the **Neil George Salon** just launched a new 5-piece haircare line oozing with antioxidant-rich Indian gooseberry. 9320 Civic Center Dr., Beverly Hills, 310-275-2808; neilgeorgesalon.com.

TRIED AND TRUE

From Summer Hair to Sensitive Scalp, **Frédéric Fekkai's** exhaustive haircare collections are a stylist's staple. fredericfekai.com.



Neil George Salon



Byron Williams



Madison Salon

Bee Waxing often hosts waxing for dummies classes (read: champagne-induced fetes) along with skincare experts

10182 1/2 Culver Blvd., Culver City, 310-204-2236; queenbeewaxing.com.

LUSH LASHES

San Jose's **Marini Lash** has made extended gains with a new, improved eyelash conditioner. In a blink, expect longer, denser lashes. janmarini.com.

BESPOKE BLENDS

Strange Invisible Perfumes' Alexandra Balahoutis is breathing new life into fragrance. This year alone, she launched **Musc Botanique**, a bold and blendable scent, and an entire bath and body collection. 1138 Abbot Kinney Blvd., Venice, 310-314-1505; strangeinvisibleperfumes.com.

Goutal help make the beauty counters at **Barneys New York**, Beverly Hills the most glamorous beauty boutiquing in town. 9570 Wilshire Blvd., Beverly Hills, 310-276-4400; barneys.com.

Hair

DYNAMIC DUO

The new **Serge Normant** at **John Frieda** partnership brings renovation to the beautiful white-washed salon with a koi pond at its heart, as well as A-List stylists including highlight expert **Kari Hill**. 8440 Melrose Pl., West Hollywood, 323-653-4040.

LASTING LOCKS

Looking great after a blowout is easy; but maintaining said frizz-free locks all evening long is a true **Primp** accomplishment. 391 Sutter St., Ste. 307, San Francisco, 415-986-9012.

only trust Alex Chases with their locks. At his quiet, elegant **Alex Chases Salon**, those clients lucky enough to score a coveted appointment receive dedicated attention and personalized service. 166 Geary St., San Francisco, 415-397-5505; alexchasesalon.com.

VIP ROOM

Upstairs at Louis Orozco's **Madison Salon** is an intimate, contemporary loft space for one-on-one treatment. 502 30th St., Newport Beach, 949-675-7757; madisonsalon.com.

THE FULL SPECTRUM

A true stylist, **Nicole Davenport** at **Peninsula Beverly Hills** will treat your tresses and then your wardrobe—the image consultant is up for

5 COOL COSMETICS

The industry's homegrown best-of-the-best.

Smashbox, Los Angeles. Impossibly high-quality and durability under photoshoot conditions. smashbox.com. **29 Cosmetics**, Napa. An anti-aging, grapeseed-infused makeup line packed with vinotherapy benefits. 29cosmetics.com. **Benefit**, San Francisco. The vast array of problem-solving, *ne plus ultra* products keep us coming back for more. benefitcosmetics.com. **Josie Maran Cosmetics**, Los Angeles. The model drew upon her NorCal upbringing—and years in the makeup chair—to create a rare thing: a simultaneously luxurious and eco-friendly cosmetics line. josiemaran.com.

Josie Maran

Bare Essentials

Smashbox

29 Cosmetics

Benefit

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