

Jo Ellison

Chanel Palette Essentielle, £32, [chanel.com](#)
This three-way palette includes a concealer, highlighter and rouge in colourways designed to suit four different skin types. Lots of concealers, and reds that work on the cheeks or the lips, this "little black palette", as Chanel's global creative make-up and colour designer Lucia Pica describes it, is ingenious: exactly what you need to perfect a rose gold glow or a pop-py sparkle. If only it came in a broader range of skin tones.



Dalix Go, portable hair straightening aerosol, £99.95, [uk.dalix.fr](#)
The creator of the "first and original hair straightening brush", Dalix launched its smaller travel sized option for girls – and boys – on the go earlier this year. Three years in development, the brush is said to cause less damage to the hair and racks up solid five-star ratings on most consumer websites. Its creator, Sharon Kahl, was a 28-year-old mother of two when she came up with the brush, and she's now listed as one of *Forbes* 30 Under 30: Hair with entrepreneurial flair? You go, girl.



Perfect Skin, by Alexandra Severin, Random House, £12.99, [amazon.com](#)
Super-facilitator Alexandra Severin's no-nonsense guide to a great complexion is part science lesson, part old-fashioned common sense. It also includes dozens of massage tips to boost your radiance and recipes for DIY skincare treatments. This, and a pot of her bestselling Angel Balm Deep Pure Cleanser (£11), should attend every stocking this Christmas.



Victoria Beckham: a Little Louder, Eye Ink eyeliner in Blackest, £10, [victoriabeckham.com](#)
Victoria Beckham's debut make-up collection with Little Louder sold out twice when it launched last year. The second collection, released in August, revisited many of the original products: *Blackest* is a fine-line eyeliner in black. "The shiny felt tip allows me to create the perfect fine line with ease," says Beckham. Better still, it doesn't budge once it's on.



Chanel, Rouge Allure velvet lipstick in Four Light, £28, [sefbridges.com](#)
Like the palette essential, this punchy orange lipstick was also part of the Travel Diary Collection released by Lucia Pica earlier this summer. But the collection is so good I've nominated it twice. Inspired by a California road trip and the saturated sunsets of Big Sur, the colour is strong but it works just as well on worn winter faces as it does on tanned summery ones.



Insight, anti-frizz hair care, from £5 (for 500ml), [amazon.com](#)
I discovered this new-ish (they launched in 2016) Italian hair and beauty range on holiday in Ireland, and am now obsessed. All of the brand's products are petroleum, silicone, paraben, colourant and SLS free, and the company uses organic ingredients and environmentally friendly raw materials in its formulas. From more granola, the anti-frizz hair care is made with hemp oil. Greasy? Plus, the products really work. Insight is not widely stocked in the UK, and while I would always recommend a trip to Evergreen Healthfoods in Banna Village, Galway, you may find it more convenient to buy it on Amazon.



Glossier, Cloud Paint, cheek colour quad, £15, [glossier.com](#)
Not technically a new product, but Glossier's launch in the UK this autumn means we no longer have to find willing friends to ship over its cult jelly Cleanser and Boy Brow to these shores. My hero products are the Cloud Paint blushes, which come in handy little tubes of easily applicable colour. And because I couldn't choose between the four shades, I've gone for them all.



L'Oréal x Siley vanity case, £12.75, exclusive to Sefbridges
Beauty queen dreams: this Christmas, Siley Paris has collaborated with L'Oréal, the French manufacturer of catnip bags, to create a limited edition of vanity cases in beige cotton and black pink. Each contains three of Siley's most popular products: Supreme's Bounce, Supreme's



Best beauty buys 2017

Shopping | Whether you're looking for instant glow, frizz-free hair, perfect skin or the ultimate shampoo for your dog, the FT Style team has rounded up their hero products of the year



"This has been an absolute life-changer. no exaggeration... I'm sleeping better and, I like to think, looking better too"



Yous and the Black Rose Precious Face Oil. Yes, the price is eye-watering. But those who understand, will understand.

Carola Long
Universal Emulsion, £28, [sefbridges.com](#)
I like the view of L'Oréal's founder Colette Haydon that we overheard one skin with active ingredients and it's better to "ask our skin to do one thing at a time". Her new range, with its very chic, millennial pink packaging, has three core products – a moisturiser, cleanser and mask and these Night Switch serums for specific skin concerns. I love the Universal Emulsion, a day or night cream, which has a subtle rose and ylang-ylang scent and leaves skin glossy.

Josh Wood salon, Fix It Colour, from £200, [joshwoodsalon.com](#)
Founder Josh Wood is known as a super-colourist, and this new service is an MOT for hair that has been over-dyed and needs restoring. As well as expert colour application it starts with a "concern" consultation, and ends with a treatment to lock in the new shade. I came away with a bright, but natural, buttery blonde.

Aseop, The Enigmatic Mask gift kit, £85, [aseop.com](#)
Inject your grooming with a little graffiti. Aseop's gift kits (left) are a full-on, classy Christmas present, and this year's six versions are named after influential social psychology experiments. The Regard kit references the bystander effect (whereby people are less likely to offer help to someone in distress if there are others around), and the case includes Fabulous Face Creamer, Mandarin Facial Hydrating Cream and Geranium Leaf Body Creamer in a deck washboard.

Pat McGrath Labs Lust 004 Lip Kit – Everything, £75, net-a-porter.com
Superstar make-up artist Pat McGrath's debut range was one of the biggest launches of 2017, aimed at people who really, really love cosmetics. The Lust Lip Kit (main image) contains matt colours, lacquer and glitter as a finishing touch to turn your pout into a work of (pop) art.

Atlantic Kelp And Microalgae Anti-Fatigue Bath Oil, £26, [renskir.com](#)
The fresh, salty scent evokes a bracing sea swim, while kelp and plankton leave the skin delightfully smooth. Some of the FT Style team like their bath oil grossy, but I can't be doing with wiping down the bath or slipping about like a hippo so I like the fact that this doesn't leave any residue.



It Cosmetics, Your Skin But Better CC Cream, £30, [sefbridges.com](#)
This cult American brand arrived in the UK, at Sefbridges, this summer, and I've been hooked on the CC cream ever since. I just put two blobs on my hand and apply to my face with a foundation brush: however splashy the application, my skin looks much fresher and the tone more even. And despite the light coverage it lasts really well.



Guy Bourdin Image Makers, £65, [amazon.com](#)
Make-up adds more than just polish in this slick book of Guy Bourdin's fashion photography in the 1970s and 80s: it's a tool in his surreal, cinematic storytelling. His made-to-order scarlet lips and multi-coloured eyes show the power of fearless, expressive make-up. As glam and glossy as it gets.

Males+Gusto Dog Shampoo, £22, [malesandgusto.com](#)
Give your breed a good hair day with this dappy shampoo from stylish skin-care brand Males + Gusto. It has a gentle neroli fragrance and for every bottle sold, the company will donate £3.66 to Battersea Dogs & Cats Home.

Flora Macdonald Johnston Aqua di Parma Colonia Para-mo de cologne, £116, [arquistiparoma.com](#)
This most recent men's cologne is a new direction for the brand, with a clear icy juice and reliable bottle. It takes its inspiration from the Tuscan countryside. The crisp citrus and bergamot notes make it as easy to wear everyday scent. But the packaging should come with a warning for too good to give away...



Beyond, Altar, £54, [beyond.co.uk](#)
I wait with bated breath for Beyond's limited edition set of candles each Christmas, and this year's collection did not disappoint. Altar is a modern take on a classic prayer candle, featuring sweet ylang-ylang and clove blended with vetiver. It smells, excuse the pun, divine.



Dulce & Gabbana, Pastorelles mascara in Nero, £28, [hugoboss.com](#)
My quest for the perfect mascara is never-ending. Do I want a lengthening wand, a curling tip, a thickening brush? My search has ended thanks to this new and silky product. The wand delivers the curls of the lashes and, thanks to its curving bristles, it never changes upon application giving me fuller longer lashes.



The Eisenberg Signature Customised Facial, £120, Urban Retreat at Harrods
My only regret after having this facial was that I wasn't skipping off to a party to show everyone my newly glowing skin. Each treatment is entirely bespoke using Eisenberg Paris products: it starts with a quick consultation to discover your skin concerns – rejuvenation, hydration or



smoothing – and includes an upper body massage. All considered, it's a deliciously indulgent treat.

Memo Paris, Marla Spices, £39, available from [harrodsparis.com](#) and [cuffbeauty.co.uk](#)
A combination of bold, graphic gold bottles and the brand's unique blend of herbs, flowers and spices, has made Memo Paris the scent on everyone's wrists right now. The brainchild of world travellers John and Clara Mulvey, each scent is aimed at transporting the wearer to far-flung corners of the globe.

Marla Spices is my favourite, with notes of orange blossoms and tuberose. It's the perfect pick-me-up – and it lasts for hours.

Arket, Oatmeal handwash, £10, [arket.com](#)
The eighth brand to be launched by the Swedish retailer Hennes & Mauritz, Arket has created quite the Scandinavian brand with its minimalist fashion and hygge homeware. Although this handwash was an accidental discovery, it has since become a permanent feature beside the sink for its clean, earthy notes. No surprise it smells so good. Arket's hand and body range was all developed by the celebrated perfumer and biochemist Johanne Epiette.



John Varvatos, Artisan Pure, £32, exclusively at Sefbridges
Another inadvertent find worthy of any male boudoir, this scent combines craftsmanship in creation and design. The glass has been handblasted and wrapped in durable handwoven cotton, while the cap and foot of the bottle has been inspired by driftwood. Notes of Spanish lemon, cardamom and prunella wood from Mexico lend it a hot-to-paradise feel.



Kathleen Baird Murray Charlotte Tilbury Hollywood Beauty Light Wand, £29, [charlottetilbury.com](#)
Make-up artist Charlotte Tilbury's unstoppable trajectory continued with the launch of her Hollywood reflecting sponge-tipped highlighter. With no annoying glitter particles to instantly age you, a few quick dabs on the cheekbones is the perfect touch-up for dewy fresh skin and an instant glow.



Readcents, Air Freshener, £10, [readcents.com](#)
Readcents, the brainchild of former magazine editor Tina Gaudin and the luxury French perfume house Robertet, has created two dandy car fresheners that can also be used to scent drawers, wardrobes, or bathrooms. RoseRage smells of red rose, jasmine and musk, while Goodwill is a blend of patchouli, sandalwood and cedar. The best tester you'll ever spend.



Nature, Inc, redible Marla My Day Liquid Matte Lip Paint, £8, [nature.com](#)
Cheap as chips, this lip colour goes on like velvet, doesn't fade, and is smudge-proof without drying out the lips. Created by Nature's founder Theo Green, the colours are eminently wearable – I'm a fan of Fake It Or I Make It, a dark raspberry shade.



Sara Jardin, Barber Blonds, £80, [sara-jardin.com](#)
The founder of this new perfume house, Amy Christensen St Ahmed, was a pro-hair adviser for the Clinton Foundation before teaming up with master perfumer Carlos Benaim to create seven charismatic fragrances. The barbers in Morocco have been taught new social enterprise skills as they can upcycle the leftovers into a line of orange blossom water and candles, and keep 100 per cent of that revenue. Barber Blonds is a warm rendition of orange blossom and feels like a tonic on a dark winter's night.



Sleep Pure Silk Sleep Mask, £45, [cuffbeauty.co.uk](#)
I've long sworn by the benefits of silk pillowcases for waking up with crease-free skin, but this softly-contoured eye mask has been an absolute life-changer, no exaggeration. It doesn't slip off, blocks the light out, and it's made from mulberry silk so perfectly harmless to allergies. I'm sleeping better and, I like to think – looking better too.

