

LUCY IN THE SKY WITH DIAMONDS

A touch of gold here, a sprinkle of diamond dust there... opulent beauty products of the most luxe, glamorous kind, inspired by, infused with or invocative of everything bijoux. We've got the low-down and shopping guide *du jour* By Shantila Lee

"BIG GIRLS NEED BIG DIAMONDS,"

Elizabeth Taylor once said, and as it turns out, we need 'em on our fingers AND faces. With baubles of every bijoux and blingy variety being fuelled into beauty products by the bucketload, jewel-adorned beauty products have become a real 'thing' in the beauty industry. Beauty has long taken cues from fashion, colours, places and so much more, and jewellery isn't an exception here: we've seen it trickle down from couture collections to runway looks, to makeup and fragrance incarnations that embody the bling, physically or innately, or sometimes created in homage to the jewellery. Take Chanel's pearl obsession—so emblematic of the maison's codes, starting with Mademoiselle Chanel's profound affinity for chunky faux pearl necklaces, to being encrusted on their runway couture and accessories, and now, pumped into their whitening Le Blanc skincare range (read more about this on the third page). Gemstones are your skin's best friend, decked out on your next perfume buy, and an essential part of your makeup arsenal, so listen up and get keyed in.



A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND

Is a nirvana-inducing bottle of perfume, and even more so when it comes decked out in bling. While expensive metals and gems have no 'smell' associated with them, perfumers and designers have either created a fragrance that evokes an iconic piece of emblematic jewellery, or, interprets jewellery to have a certain attitude or emotion that is, in turn, associated with carefully selected fragrance notes. So the next time you pick up a perfume bottle adorned with sparkly bits, you'll know the scent is meant to conjure something symbolic about the jewels it bears.

BULGARI LE GEMME

Bulgari's first Haute Parfumerie collection of scents, Le Gemme's six fragrances are each inspired by a semi-precious stone emblematic of their jewellery collections. The notes come from the historic symbolism of gemstones, a 'gem route' that represents the ideas and emotions associated with a gem. Lilaia is green peridot, Ashlemah for amethyst, Amarena for tourmaline, Noorah for turquoise, Maravilla for citrine and Calaluna is moonstone-white.

CHANEL 1932

Named after the year Coco Chanel revealed her first white diamond jewelry collection for the house, and just as she chose the precious jewels "because they represent the greatest value in the smallest volume,"

IN THIS VERY INTUITIVE WORK, I ADDRESSED THE MEMORY OF ANCESTRAL BELIEFS ON STONES AND FRAGRANCES LIKE A DEEP-SEATED EMOTION WHICH RADIATES FROM THEM.
PERFUMER DANIELA ANDRIER ON CHANEL LES EXCLUSIFS 1932

the fragrance's creator, Jacques Polge, chose the jasmine flower because "jasmine is to perfume what diamonds are to fine jewellery — essential". And indeed, like a sparkling shower of starry aldehydes, 1932 is an exquisite incarnation of Mademoiselle's diamonds in olfactory form.

VERSACE YELLOW DIAMOND

Topped with a massive, chock-a-block-sized transparent glass piece, Yellow Diamond was made to immortalise the 20-carat canary-yellow diamond ring that Gianni Versace gave Donatella before his death. "The jewel has always stimulated a feeling of brightness, sensuality and energy," says Donatella. "This is what I set out to capture. Pure as sunlight, sparkling a way that only a diamond can."



ELIZABETH TAYLOR

LISA HOFFMAN FRAGRANCED JEWELRY

A case of perfume inspiring jewellery-inspiring perfume, perfumer Lisa Hoffman and renegade jeweller Tom Binns unleashed a collection of scented pendants enthused by her love for fine jewellery and scent pods. Each pendant comes with wooden beads scented with one of Hoffman's five matching signature perfumes, from Tunisian Neroli to Agarwood and French Clary Sage.

ELIZABETH TAYLOR WHITE DIAMONDS

Going back to Dame Liz Taylor, perfumer Carlos Benaim who created her White Diamonds fragrance didn't have to look far for inspiration: "We met in her living room and spoke at length about her vision for White Diamonds," muses Benaim of the iconic scent. "She was wearing the legendary Krupp diamond ring. After all, diamonds are so timeless and she believed they should be worn every day — as jewelry and as fragrance."

EMPORIO ARMANI DIAMONDS

Designed to give a stone a flavour, Thierry Wasser's Diamonds resulted in a surprising gourmand fragrance to give the idea of diamonds a sense of feeling, with rose, raspberry and lychee notes juxtaposed against patchouli, freesia and amber. The flacon was cut in an ice-crystal-esque contour, packaged in a box encrusted in stones, all meant to epitomise the sparkle, brilliance, strength and sexiness of the Armani woman.





basically a blend of platinum and H2O—is amped up with a bevy of other wrinkle-busting ingredients, including an antioxidant extract from malachite, the anti-inflammatory resveratrol, peptides that prevent glycation and a blend of hydrators that La Prairie is calling a ‘moisture matrix’.

SKIN BLING

Platinum slathered on the eyes, skin drenched in 24-karat gold, pins exfoliated with diamond dust—it’s avant-garde, incredibly indulgent, proven to work, and we promise you won’t end up glittering like a disco ball. Cutting-edge skincare brands are plonking diamond dust, platinum extract, gold bits and gem powders into skincare products, an ultra luxe, swish list of ingredients that were once only found at Tiffany’s. While using these as exfoliants and radiance boosters are self-explanatory and ancient, what really makes a difference is the cocktail of other anti-ageing or whitening ingredients they’re coupled with.

CHANEL LE BLANC MOISTURISING LOTION

Dousing the skin in pearl powder in the name of fairer skin dates as far back as the Ming dynasty, now harnessed by Chanel for their unexcelled whitening range. Chanel chose two-year Akoya pearl extract, cultivated in Uwajima on the western coast of Japan, known for their exceptional lustre, sublime iridescence and radiance. The active, moisturising molecules within the pearl extract is what sets off the other ingredients, specifically their melanin-regulating TXC molecule.

LA PRAIRIE CELLULAR CREAM PLATINUM RARE

A crème de la crème of anti-ageing creams, this ritzy moisturiser is a silvery-hued soufflé laced with negatively charged microscopic particles of pure platinum. It’s colloidal platinum water—

PETER THOMAS ROTH 24K GOLD MASK

The very definition of opulent skincare, this one has it all—24-karat gold to suffuse a lit-from-within glow, colloidal gold to lift, firm and restore elasticity, and gemstone peridot, rich in magnesium to re-energise and minimise cellular oxidation. The stuff really looks like pure, shimmery, luscious liquid gold, with a gelatinous, jiggly texture, like what pure, real gold would look like if you melted it down.

LA MER THE REFINING FACIAL

There are ‘luxurious’ exfoliating face washes, then there’s La Mer’s Refining Facial: while sea mud and sea quartz soften the skin and lift away dry surface cells, pure diamond powder (how cool is that?) does the physical exfoliation to scrub away all that dirt and excess oil. If you think your pores deserve nothing but the best, our advice is to splash out on this and amp up your skincare routine.

DR BRANDT GLOW RUBY CRYSTAL RETINOL HYDRACRÈME

Diamonds may be a girl’s best friend, but rubies have definitely earned a place on our beauty shelves, with celebs like Mila Kunis signing up for crushed ruby facials. Inspired by the late Dr Brandt’s in-office ruby laser procedure, this baby is packed with micronised ruby crystals. A Ruby Crystal Complex illuminates, transforms external light into an energy source for that extra glow, diffusing light to minimise wrinkles.

CLÉ DE PEAU BEAUTÉ BODY EXFOLIATOR

Another bijouxed-out skin saver, this one polishes your bod a smooth, refined clean without stripping moisture. Diamond dust and Mother of Pearl powder, spiked with silk powder, honey and a botanical scrub complex, create a killer cocktail for buffing away dullness, banishing impurities, softening roughness and promoting micro-circulation. When Rihanna said ‘shine bright like a diamond’, she must’ve tried this beforehand.



GET GILDED

When precious stones and metals either inspire a makeup collection or are infused directly into the product, you're going to be wearing swipes of something jewel-toned on your face, but fret not—there isn't anything richer than a bash of gold nail lacquer or smashing gemstone-hued eyeshadow, and you can never really go wrong when it comes to metallic hues. The only rule is to wear it on one part of your face, and just one, or risk that overload faux pas. Also heavy metals work for anyone and any skin tone, so dive in.

GUERLAIN L'OR RADIANCE CONCENTRATE MAKEUP BASE

Unlike ANY other makeup base you've ever tried, this one is jam-filled with pure gold complexion-perfecting flecks for supreme radiance. Truly worth its weight in gold, the 24-karat gold-soaked cooling gel soaks in to retain moisture, smooth fine lines and tighten facial features, giving skin a plush, luminous sheen when worn under foundation.

TARTE PRECIOUS GEMS EYESHADOW

All that glitters doesn't have to be gold, and jewel tones for the eyes can be sparkle-tastic. These custom-press, long-wear cream eyeshadows from Tarte, immersed and colour pressed in gemstones—amber and pearl pigments—are packed with light-diffusing agents for that soft, radiant, multi-faceted, bejewelled finish. An enclosed plastic disc can be used to condense pigments for a darker evening eye.

DEBORAH LIPPMANN BOOM BOOM POW NAIL LACQUER

Instead of just wearing gold-tinged or plastic metallic nail colour, why not go for a full-on, unabashedly lavish, gold dust crammed lacquer? According to Lippmann, "The name says it all. This glittery gold is full of BOOM glitter - and packed with a punch of POW - 24 karat gold dust." Afloat with pure gold shavings, one coat gives you a piecey, glimmery, glossy finish. Lady Gaga, Lena Dunham and Sarah Jessica Parker are huge fans.

SHU UEMURA BIJOUX EYELASHES

Shu Uemura are legendary for their mad, decked-out-to-the-max faux eyelashes, but this one takes the cake. It's black lashes in little

separated clumps, interspersed with shimmering aurora cellophane and real Swarovski crystals in multiple hues, set against gold-flecked bands. While the idea of wearing bijoux on your lashes may seem a wee bit daunting, choose the right occasion and wear it with a flick of eyeliner and oodles of confidence.

YSL GOLDEN GLOSS

More 24-karat gold flecks abound, but this time on your lips. YSL's gleaming, gold-flecked gloss has a high-shine shimmer, mirror-like effect thanks to the gold bits within, plus nourishing oils to protect and hydrate while you're wearing it. You can see the gold flecks floating within the tube of gloss, when you pull out the wee brush applicator and post-lacquering, so they weren't kidding around. Wear it by itself or under a lip colour for max effect.

MAC X BAO BAO WAN

MAC's recent collaboration with Chinese fine jewellery designer Bao Bao Wan is resplendent in her brazen aesthetic and love for metallic golds and rich jewel tones. Imagine eyes gilded in bronze, skin twinkling with diamond powder, lips flickering with hints of ruby and gem-tastic nail hues. The standout of the collection is Bao Bao's Jewels, a Veluxe Pearlusion eyeshadow palette with gold, steel grey, bronze and pearlescent shimmers.



BAO BAO WAN

