

Get that Glow! Luminous Skin Without the Shine



"I've never liked my skin," Angela, 31, admits. "Hardly anyone has seen me bare-faced — not even my boyfriend."

Angela, a travel writer and New York native, details a complicated relationship with her skin from her chic pre-war West Village brownstone. Between sips of tea, she goes on to describe a dull complexion and uneven skin tone.

"I long to go without foundation. I would love to be a wash-and-go girl. But my skin gets in the way of that," she says.

Angela's skin concerns aren't uncommon, especially among city dwellers exposed to pollution and environmental stress. Dull, irritated skin can have even the most confident woman reaching for full-coverage makeup. Most women wish for a brighter, more even complexion, but it seems few products live up to their claims.

But there is hope for lifeless, dull skin. Enter Creme VIP O2 by Biologique Recherche, a brand famed for its cult-favorite P50 toner. Creme VIP O2 is an intensive daily treatment cream that instantly

calms skin and imparts a luminous, healthy glow for a softer, more even complexion.

Unlike fly-by-night treatments that contain minimal active ingredients or make dubious marketing claims, Biologique Recherche has a decidedly clinical approach. Creme VIP O2 contains a high concentration of active ingredients (over 20 percent), which are cold pressed for maximum efficacy. And the glow is unreal.

Thanks to advanced actives like marine collagen, cellular oligopeptide, hyaluronic acid and silk extract, the formula delivers radiant results and protection from pollutants. It is fragrance-free (expect a natural, earthy scent), and suitable for sensitive skin.

The French company began 40 years ago with a mission to "develop formulations for professionals dissatisfied with existing products." Their products promise to "recondition the epidermis and help activate both its regeneration properties and those of the skin's deeper structures".

Their philosophy is to avoid overcorrecting any one skin issue. Doing so typically leads to yet another imbalance, the company explains, which is exactly why this cream is so radically different from alternatives on the market. The goal is to find a balance, and that's exactly what Creme VIP O2 offers. I tried it myself and was blown away.

As a longtime sufferer of combination skin, my dermis is oily yet dry with a ruddy, uneven complexion to boot, particularly around my cheeks and nose. Finding a calming, well-balanced moisturizer that leaves me glowing and hydrated (but not oily) is quite a feat.

I noticed a difference immediately. My skin was perfectly balanced — neither too dry, nor overly moisturized. My face appeared radiant

and hydrated without looking too dewy. This is great news for oily-skin sufferers who want to look luminous but not shiny.

A little goes a long way. The white pearlescent cream spreads smoothly and easily, yet it dries down to a matte finish in seconds. It melds into skin, becoming part of it, instead of leaving a visible layer on top. My skin looked and felt like my own, just more healthy, bright and even, thanks to the cream's oxygenating complex. It's all I ever wanted.

Right away, I could tell I did something good for my skin. It looked soothed, hydrated and just...happier! I can see the possibility of going without foundation in the near future, which is the ultimate goal. I could have probably skipped foundation that very first day, but trepidation got the best of me. Makeup went on smoothly afterwards, and it didn't interfere with my water-based foundation.

This luxury comes at a price - \$186 to be exact. Sample sizes are often available on eBay. RescueBeauty.com provides a free sample of Creme VIP O2 with an online order of P50 Toner (which is magical, by the way!). [Rescue Beauty Spa](http://RescueBeautySpa.com), located in New York City, offers samples along with a complimentary skincare consultation, by appointment.

Biologique Recherche Creme VIP O2

WHAT IT IS

A revitalizing cream for dull, tired skin

WHAT IT DOES

Hydrates, soothes and adds a luminous glow without shine

WHY IT WORKS

Concentrated actives like marine collagen, cellular oligopeptide, hyaluronic acid and silk extract soothe and repair

