

THE BEAUTY EXPERT

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Secret  
Makes a  
Megastar

What Is  
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The Revolution  
On the Runways

Bombshell  
Vamp,  
Disco Queen  
Sienna

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# Beauty PASSPORT

NEWS, TREATMENTS, AND OUR LATEST OBSESSIONS FROM ABROAD



## GOOD NATURED

Sarah Khan moves to Cape Town and finds its rising beauty scene has but one rule: Keep it local.

Above: A beach in South Africa.  
Left: Blooms on the local *Protea neriifolia* plant.

**W**hen I went to Cape Town, I brought Sephora in a suitcase. Together we traveled 7,803 miles from New York City—me and my anti-frizz conditioner and my coconut body butter—to start a new life in South Africa after I fell in love with the city on a vacation.

With Clinique by my side, I could avoid the scary foreign ingredients harvested from indigenous plants I couldn't even pronounce: Zinziba? Rooibos? Have you ever seen a baobab tree? It's swollen and alien, which are two things I do not want people to say about me. But as they say in Cape Town: Local is lekker—local is good. Let me explain.

**Local is flawless skin.** You've probably heard of marula oil. It's in cuticle treatments and hair serums and overnight masks. It's ultrahydrating and ultratrendy in skin care right now—I even packed a bottle in my suitcase. So imagine my surprise when I found out that the ingredient actually comes from my new home. I started ferociously tearing through the ingredient lists of locally made beauty products hoping to find more cult-y oils and extracts: African wild potato, Cape Snowbush, and buchu, all harvested from the mountainous region in and around Cape Town. The women here aren't importing their glowing skin from France or South Korea—they're getting it from the local plant life. The lush green peaks around the city are bursting with skin-care secrets. Insider tip: South African apothecary brands like Africology and Wild Olive are now using rooibos—a bushy little plant found only in the Western Cape—as an antioxidant ingredient that I'm positive will be as ubiquitous as marula oil when word gets out.

**Local is tradition.** In some local Xhosa tribes, when boys in the rural communities of the Eastern Cape return from their *ukwaluka*, or initiation rites, women prepare for the celebrations by beating eggs and applying it to their face. Left to harden overnight, the mixture leaves the skin radiant. The women look luminous and ready for a party. And that's not the only tradition that has made its way into modern beauty routines—ocher paste, a deep-orange earth pigment high in iron oxide, is used by men working in the bush as a kind of sunscreen and has become more popular in urban parts of Cape Town as a quick fix for blemishes. The double-sided tape of beauty.



The city's unique topography includes mountains, beaches, and an urban center.



A colorful building in Cape Town

**Local is supermodel hair.** I'm a DevaCurl devotee. I have to be. I have long, wild, curly hair that tends to misbehave in heat. But when I ran out of DevaCurl and my hair began to realize where we were, I noticed that the women around me were not having the same problem. The women here have shiny, bouncy, abundant hair. Their curls are so, so lekker. Turns out, rooibos is also a great addition to any conditioner. Another local trend? A DIY hair-growth concoction created by South African beauty blogger Amanda Cooke that's packed with natural ingredients—a mix of plant-placenta serum, bergamot essence, bay rum, aloe vera, and castor oil.

## CAPE TOWN HONEY-AND-PEPPERMINT LIP SCRUB

- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 teaspoon marula oil
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- 2 drops peppermint essential oil

Mix the ingredients together to form a thick scrub. Transfer to an ointment jar or an old lip-balm container.



A King Protea flower. Above: A lip scrub concocted by Jesslynn Schlamm, the founder of local skin-care brand Lulu & Marula.

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