

# DEPARTURES

SEPTEMBER 2015

## FALL FASHION

Seduction in Seville  
A 16-Page Portfolio

The Return of Bill Blass  
New York's Biggest Little Stores  
Brazilian Jewels  
Valentino's Power Couple  
**PLUS:** The Real Guys of Soccer





ONLINE RESOURCE

## INSIDER INTEL

It may seem odd to point this out in a magazine, but not everyone reads magazines. Which is one of the reasons Robin Sobin decided to create *Charlotte's Book*, a user-friendly site for busy women who want to look their best, but don't know how to separate the wheat from the chaff when it comes to dermatologists, doctors, procedures, and products. A former credit analyst for J.P. Morgan, Sobin's aha moment came when a colleague asked for advice on facialists. "She didn't have a clue (or time) to research options," she says. The site focuses on Manhattan, but if Sobin has her way, it will list other cities soon. [charlottesbook.com](http://charlottesbook.com) —Sandra Ballentine



BATH WORKS

## IS THIS REALLY THE BEST SOAP IN THE WORLD?

Laftco New York's founder, Jon Bresler, thinks so.

When you open a box of Laftco soap, you will find a small card that says: "Three reasons why you will love this soap." It then explains the virtues of having a 100 percent-vegetable base, containing only natural ingredients, and producing a luxuriously creamy lather. "It was like a life's mission to make the best bar of soap I possibly could," says founder and president Jon Bresler. To that end, he scoured saponifiers throughout Europe to find one in Italy who could make it right, with moisturizing olive, coconut, and palm oils, and hydrating almond oil. Add to that his newest line of scents with floral, fruit, and green accords, and, by Jove, we think he's got it \$12 each; [Laftco.com](http://Laftco.com).



ON THE GO

## COMPACT MAKEUP

Despite their first impression as fake kids' makeup, the tiny-sized lipetick, mascara, eyeliner, rouge pot, concealer and BB cream in the Stowaway

Cosmetics kit (\$75) are actually high quality. Founders Julie Fredrickson (above), an e-commerce and digital-marketing entrepreneur, and

Chelsea Crowley, a makeup artist and chief creative officer, found a need for premium makeup that can be carried with you and not weigh you down. Standard sizes, they believe, reflect the past when women did their makeup at home. Plus, you can use up the small batches before they expire. All products are paraben-, phthalate-, and cruelty-free. From \$10 when sold individually; [stowawaycosmetics.com](http://stowawaycosmetics.com).

—Codie Steansma

SERIOUS SKINCARE

## A ROYAL RITUAL

In a visit to his practice in Munich, dermatologist Timm Golueke gives us the story behind his recently launched skincare line, *Royal Fern*. Available here at Bergdorf Goodman and SpaceNK, from \$190.



You are the only dermatologist on Maximilianstrasse, sandwiched between Valentino and Jil Sander, with Loro Piana across the street. You must get a very high-end clientele?

We get all the top hotels in the area calling us for their guests who want medical-grade facials and the like. Just yesterday, Rocco Forte's Charles Hotel called

about treating an American actor, whose name I cannot disclose, who was having an allergic reaction.

How did fern extract become your key ingredient? I read a study done by a doctor at Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on the impact of fern extract on melanoma patients. They found the extract protected the cell DNA from UV radiation. So I looked for other plants that could strengthen these effects and developed the Royal Fern Complex, containing seeds of the African vocanga tree, wild-rose blossom, sea buckthorn, and mineral oxides.

Is that why your cream doesn't contain SPF? Correct, it doesn't need it. The cream already provides

natural protection against the sun's UV rays.

Is it for a certain age? I am not a fan of recommending products based on age, unless you are 15 and have acne. It is more a question of skin type.

So are you developing a range for different types? I am coming out with both a lighter and a richer formula to complement the original. And this month I have introduced a cleanser.

Your products have a nice consistency and no lingering fragrance.

I made sure the formula had a very light unisex scent. You apply the products, get a little aromatherapy, then it's gone. I use them myself and I have to love them.

"An object that embellishes the lips—the beacon of sensuality and organ of communication—has to be fairly amazing."

—Christian Louboutin

Never mind the 38 long-lasting shades and three different textures—Silky Satin, Sheer Voile, and Velvet Matte—of Christian Louboutin's first Lip Colour collection, the case they are housed in is a unique talisman to be worn as a pendant or shown on a vanity. \$90; [christianlouboutin.com](http://christianlouboutin.com).



LATEST OBSESSION

## THREE IN ONE

This month La Prairie introduces its most innovative product yet: Skin Caviar Concealer Foundation SPF 15, an extension of its iconic Skin Caviar line of firming and lifting creams. The new formula with caviar extract blurs imperfections, wears longer, and best yet, blends in seamlessly—the concealer, cleverly housed in the cap of the foundation bottle, is exactly one half shade lighter to match perfectly without creating raccoon eyes. In addition to the integrated concealer, the packaging also comes with a precision brush for spot touch-ups and a face sponge, making the foundation buildable from sheer to full coverage. \$215; [laprairie.com](http://laprairie.com).

