

Beauty Splurge

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Blossom Cosmetic Boutique has been setting the standard in beauty and couture accessories in Bucks County since 2006. Located in historic Newtown Borough, Blossom features the brands you'd expect to find at Barney's or Bergdorf's in New York and Fred Segal in LA. Explains owner Terry Sykes, "We wanted to remove the makeup counters, display new and interesting products in a boutique style and provide truly personal service for each customer."

Luxe skin care and makeup lines like T Le Clerc and Sonya Dakar and fragrances from Europe, including Serge Lutens and Carthusia, line the shelves. "People in the area were amazed by the couture lines of fragrances — selections available in smaller batches tend to be more intriguing, and since a woman's signature scent is so individual, having something really different was appealing," Sykes says. "Women also loved easy neighborhood access for a lipstick or eyeliner."

Blossom offers customized facials, facial waxing and makeup services, including special prep packages for brides. "We slowly evolved into carrying accessories every day. Women enjoyed browsing for themselves and friends before and after a relaxing facial or waxing," Sykes says. "Shortly after several successful trunk shows that featured jewelry artisans, handbag designers, scarves and shoes paired with makeup consultations, we decided to offer cutting edge-accessories options permanently. Now people come to Blossom specifically to see our exclusive, handpicked collection of jewelry, handbags, scarves and shoes.

"When we buy, we buy with specific customers in mind, and with the exception of our trendy, petite-must-have shoe collection, we only bring in one of each item," she says. "We want every piece to be appreciated individually and that's how we keep it exciting, fresh and new. We know we're doing it right when women are waiting for us to open so they can slip their feet into the last pair of one of our special sandals."

Accessories include jewelry by Presh and Miguel Ases, handbags by Olivia Harris and Linea Pelle, shoes by Pour La Victoire and scarves by Tolani and Nepali by TDM. Of course, Blossom starts with beauty. Makeup and beauty expert Meredith Barger picked out her favorite seven product picks for the summer.

*Blossom Cosmetic Boutique, 13 South State Street, Newtown, 215-860-3388,
www.blossomcosmeticboutique.com*

Face first

I moisturize. I admit it. But it's hardly a science for me. My skin goes from moist to sandpaper within about 30 seconds of stepping out of the shower. So I slather the cheapest moisturizer I can find — usually Suave; \$3.50 for an 18-ounce bottle — all over and I'm itch-free for the day. Never did it occur to me to use a separate, specialized moisturizer for my face, even though it tended to look and feel greasy with the cheap stuff. When a small jar of Lab Series Max LS Age-less Face Cream arrived on my desk, I was willing to try it. It burned the first time on, but it also moisturized without the grease.

I looked it up online. The 1.7 ounce canister retails for \$65. No way would I ever spend that for moisturizer, I said to my girlfriend. Especially when it's going to run out in two weeks. You're using too much, she said. She showed me. I was using too much. Three months later, I'm still not through it. I'm also sadly addicted. I don't know about the proclaimed age-defying qualities. I just like having a light, nongreasy moisturizer on my face. To the point that I'm seriously considering shelling out \$65 for some more. www.labseries.com —Scott Edwards

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