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# ELLE

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OCTOBER 2016  
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**EXCLUSIVE**  
**SAKSHI MALIK**  
OLYMPIC CHAMPION  
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TOTAL SWEETHEART

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## THE SKIN PANTRY

It started as an organic diet to calm the effects of menopause, but pretty soon Colette Austin decided to purge harsh chemicals from all areas of her life. Finding almost no options in the beauty department lead her to experimenting with scrumptious things—Madagascan vanilla, Burmese mango butter, marula oil—along the general principle that what's good enough to go *in* your body, is good enough to go *on* it. While Austin's foody skincare line has loyal fans around the world she still prefers to work out of her kitchen. The Vanilla Bean Drench moisturiser, by the way, is exactly as decadent as it sounds.

**Rest easy:** No parabens, sulphates or phthalates; certified organic ingredients; no animal testing. Available at [Facebook.com/theskinpantry](https://www.facebook.com/theskinpantry)

## INDIE LUXE

For a well-deserved treat

### AYCA

The recipes that pastry chef Mallyeka Watsa inherited from her great-grandmother are not for Sunday lunch, but for magic massage oils. They can blur stretch marks, ease muscle aches and even keep mosquitos away. Watsa uses these and other family secrets to create a skincare line for Ayca that's rooted in Ayurveda and aromatherapy. She and co-founder Himani Singh create small, handcrafted batches using divine-smelling ingredients like oudh wood, bergamot and jasmine. Their perfumed aloe vera gels are popular with women, and men love the oudh body wash.

**Rest easy:** No parabens or SLS; natural ingredients; no animal testing. To order, write to [talk@ayca.in](mailto:talk@ayca.in)

Ayca Oudh Wood Body Wash, ₹ 875



Ma Earth Botanicals Exfoliating Facial Scrub, ₹ 875



The Skin Pantry Rhassoul Clay face mask, ₹ 1,026

## MA EARTH BOTANICALS

Geetanjali Sukh sometimes gets enquiries from people looking for skin-lightening creams. She explains patiently that they're in the business of health, not quick fixes. With two experienced homeopaths at its helm, Geetanjali and her mother Swarn, Ma Earth is understandably interested in more than just making cosmetic changes. As the name suggests, they use plant and vegetable extracts to tackle specific issues like damaged hair, dryness and cellulite. The special oil blends claim to work even deeper to improve focus and treat conditions like ADHD.

**Rest easy:** No chemical preservatives and additives or artificial fragrances; no parabens or sulphates. Available at [Maearthbotanicals.com](http://Maearthbotanicals.com)

## SUPER SPECIALISED

### MASTER BLENDER :

Payal Thaker, blogger at [YourBeautyPal.com](http://YourBeautyPal.com), has designed the Makeup Perfector ([YBPCosmetics.com](http://YBPCosmetics.com)), a multi-tasking, latex-free sponge that you can use to blend and apply concealer, foundation, bronzer, highlighter and even powder.



### APRICOT CRUSH :

The aromatic oil extracted from the kernel of plump little apricots is kind of miraculous: it's a lightweight moisturiser, fights sun damage and soothes inflammation. Pahadi Local ([Pahadilocal.com](http://Pahadilocal.com)) and Junali ([Instamojo.com/Junali](http://Instamojo.com/Junali)), sustainably produce this oil and a body scrub made from the kernel meal that remains.



### BOUTIQUE SCENTS :

There's more than one Indian company with roots in the perfume capital of the world, Grasse, France. All Good Scents ([Allgoodscents.com](http://Allgoodscents.com)) has a reasonably priced range and let's you try samples in a free Scentbox. The new Bombay Perfumery ([Bombayperfumery.com](http://Bombayperfumery.com)) offers India-inspired scents, like the cardamom-flavoured Calicut and the lemongrass-y Chai Musk.



### CURE-ALL BLENDS :

There's an oil out there for whatever ails you: pigmentation, hair fall, the cruel march of time. Uma Oils ([Umaoils.com](http://Umaoils.com)) are made at a family-run farm in Chhattisgarh and have an A-list Hollywood fan club. Founder Shrankha Holecek believes we all need to calm down about coconut oil now and give frankincense a try.



### LIP LOVE :

*Skincafe.in* makes balms, tints and scrubs using vegetable oils, waxes and butters. No petroleum jelly, artificial fragrances or mint flavouring that dries out your lips; plenty of nice-smelling essential oil. How good does Ginger Watermelon Sorbet lip butter sound! ●

