

attitude

Return to Oz

We love new store Aesop

The antipodes have bestowed on us many a great gift: ultrasound technology, the electronic pacemaker, dual-flush toilets, Neighbours, inflatable escape slides and, of course, Ryan Kwanten. They're also a dab hand at concocting some of the best natural skincare products thanks to their varied botanical landscape. Not all of them make their way to these shores but, with the UK launch of Natio, one of the country's fastest growing brands, and a new Aesop store on uber trendy Redchurch Street in E2, all things Oz are very much on the grooming radar. *Aesop Shoreditch, 5A Redchurch Street, London E2 7DJ, +44 (0) 207 613 3793*



1 Jurlique
With ingredients sourced from a self-sustaining biodynamic farm in South Australia, you can rest assured you're not going to get any chemical nasties or synthetics. This doesn't make the potions 'organic' but that shouldn't always have to be a deal breaker when going for natural formulas.
Best Buy: Calendula Cream There's no mention of it anywhere on the packaging but this rich yet non-greasy cream makes for a perfect aftershave balm. *£21.50 for 40ml from Jurlique.co.uk*

2 Eyre BioBotanics
Aimed specifically at men, Eyre's packaging does more than just look pretty. The delivery systems of the pumps ensure that less mineral preservatives have to go into each formula. And while preservatives are usually essential to keep a product stable, they also come with a number of allergy-risks. Not here, though.
Best Buy: Deep Cleansing Mineral Mud Mask This cunning dual-dispenser contains one mineral mask formula for oily T-Zones and another for cheeks and neck. *£32 for 150ml from mankind.co.uk*



3 Aesop
Look beyond the trendy apothecary-style branding and you have a balanced mix of plant-based ingredients alongside non-botanicals. Given that some lab-concocted antioxidants can be more powerful than nature's own, that's not necessarily a bad marriage.
Best Buy: Moroccan Neroli Shaving Serum Not a gel but not quite an oil either. This heavy-duty lubricant improves blade glide so you're less like to massage your mug while shaving. *£34.50 for 100ml; aesop.net.au/stockists*

4 Natio
We'll admit that no-frills Natio doesn't look like much on the outside. The proof, however, is in the pudding not the packaging. Gentle formulas are made from natural ingredients and pack in a surprisingly high percentage of essential oils given their price point.
Best Buy: SPF 30+ Face Moisturiser This daily moisturiser includes an SPF of 30, which might seem like overkill for the typical UK climate but, trust us, you can never have too much protection - even in winter. *£11 from Debenhams.com*

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