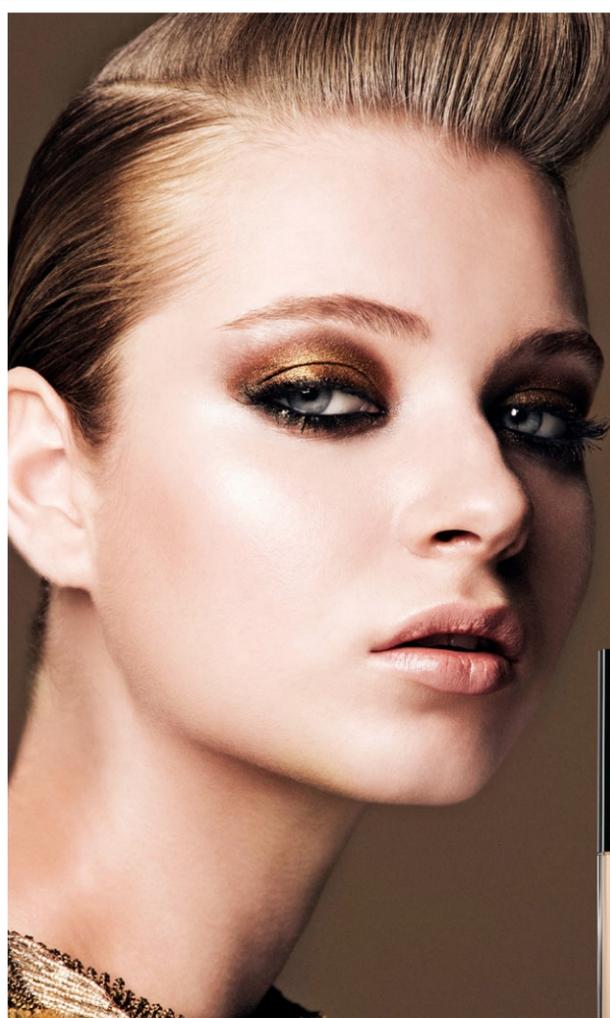




Elsa McAlonan's Beauty upgrades

Race you there!

LOOKING for a last-minute stocking filler? Lancôme's Monsieur Big Mascara has had a Christmas makeover with this sparkling pink edition (£21, Boots and lancome.co.uk). A dazzling addition to any make-up bag, it is perfect for those who don't want to bother with touch-ups during the day. Smudgeproof, waterproof and sweatproof, this promises to last up 24 hours.



WHAT'S NOW & HOW TO DO IT... GOLDEN EYE

NOTHING beats a glint of gold on your eyes at Christmas. But make-up artist Lisa Prostamo says: 'Avoid anything too glittery.' The new Kryolan Golden Hour palette (below, second left, £23.90, kryolan.com) has a velvety texture. Or try cream formulas, such as Barry M Crushed Jewel Cream Eyeshadow in Bronze (£4.99, Superdrug) paired with L'Oréal Paris Infallible Nudist Eye Paint in Peach Me Bare 305 (£5.99, Boots). The Laura Mercier Caviar Stick Eye Colour (£23, Space NK) in Sugar Frost has just the right amount of glimmer.



Picture: ANTONIO TERRON/TRUNK ARCHIVE

SHIRLEY BALLAS'S HAIR CAVIAR

IF YOU wonder how Strictly head judge Shirley Ballas (pictured) keeps her hair so shiny, it could be down to the new products she is using. The star, who will be seen in tomorrow's festive Strictly special, has recently discovered Kerluxe CAVIAR4, a luxury range with four caviar extracts that optimise healthy, strong hair, resulting in weightless shine. With a pretty floral scent, the range starts from £42 (kerluxe.com).

Picture: KEN MCKAY/ITV/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

This works

THIS clever cream blush-highlighter duo in stick form comes in a shape that means you automatically apply highlighter on the top of cheekbones and blusher below. Even better, Revlon's PhotoReady Instant Cheek maker (£10.99, Boots) is free when you spend £10 or more in any Boots store. Perfect for mature or dry skin.



How can I make a blowdry last?

GOOD question! If you get your hair blow-dried today, you want staying power. Stylist Adam Reed recommends ghd curl hold spray (£12.95, ghdhair.com). 'To make your Christmas blowdry last longer, revive it on the second or third day by spritzing the hair and then re-blowdrying the top section only,' he advises. 'The bottom areas won't lose their shape as quickly.' An ultra-fine hairspray, such as L'Oréal Professionnel Infinium Pure Hairspray (left, £11.65, lookfantastic.com) keeps hair shiny, with plenty of movement. You could also try a silk pillowcase (Silkskin Original Pillowcase, £69, victoriahealth.com). If tying up longer hair, use an Invisibobble (£4.30, amazon.co.uk) to avoid kinks. And there is always dry shampoo — the travel version, Virtue (£15, cultbeauty.co.uk) is the perfect handbag size.



3 OF THE BEST LUXE BATH SALTS



IN YOUR 50s
NEOM Real Luxury Multi Mineral Bath Salts (£38, neomorganics.com) smell heavenly thanks to 24 calming essential oils, including jasmine and lavender.



IN YOUR 60s
SANCTUARY SPA Rose Gold Radiance Exquisite Bath Salts (£16, Boots) are iridescent salts that make you feel like you're sprinkling jewels into your bath.



IN YOUR 70s
AROMATHERAPY ASSOCIATES Deep Relax Himalayan Bath Salts (£42, spacenk.com) helps soothe the you with sandalwood and camomile.

Shameless Indulgence

CHRISTMAS just isn't Christmas without a beautiful candle to perfume your home and lift your spirits. The new Jo Malone White Moss & Snowdrop fragrance is one of this season's most coveted scents. In fact, this has been such a huge hit since it launched, that the limited-edition cologne soon sold out and the brand has had to

restock to cope with demand. The Jo Malone White Moss & Snowdrop Deluxe Candle (£126, jomalone.co.uk) offers another way to enjoy to the soft, non-cloying scent of forest-fresh moss and snowdrop petals, with warm notes of amber and cardamom. Just what we need to provide comfort — and plenty of joy.



MY LIGHT BULB MOMENT



Kit Kemp, co-founder Firmdale Hotels

INTERIOR designer Kit Kemp, MBE, 61, is the creative force behind Firmdale Hotels. She is married to its co-founder Tim, with whom she has three grown-up daughters.

I WAS working as a graphic designer when I met my husband. Tim had a couple of short-lease student properties in South Kensington, then considered a rather unglamorous part of West London.

Becoming involved in the business was inevitable; Tim was always working, so I was never going to see him otherwise.

On Friday nights at the office, a guitar would come out — we were all like students together. Eventually we wanted to do something more grown-up, so we got permission to open a small boutique hotel.

At that time, they didn't really exist in London. Most hotels offered a rather masculine, unfriendly experience. I thought, why have miles of identical furniture when, for not much more, it's possible to get something far more individual? I wanted to design a



Sailor's Farewell mug gift set, £95, shopkitkemp.com

hotel with a playful, colourful vibe. We had to approach 14 banks before we got the financing, but we were like Jack Russell terriers — nothing put us off.

We opened the Dorset Square Hotel in Marylebone in 1986 as the first country house hotel in London, and it was a hit.

A year later I had my first daughter, Tiffany. She was born very slightly disabled. So Tim and I had our goalposts redrawn.

We were only ever going to have the best for her. I think it made us much more ambitious than we might have been otherwise. I never wanted to be reliant on anybody except ourselves.

We now have ten townhouse hotels in both London and New York. I don't think there should be a huge difference between a hotel room and a bedroom at home: both should have a bit of drama, and both need to be comfortable. We have honesty bars where guests can have a drink as if it's their own drawing room.

Tiff got married this year, which was lovely. My two younger daughters work for Firmdale.

My look is distinctive — some people love it and some people hate it. But that's good because they have a point of view on it. And I just love it. This is me.

■ SAILOR'S Farewell, Kit Kemp's new china for Wedgwood, is available at shopkitkemp.com and wedgwood.co.uk

Interview by LIZ HOGGARD