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THE EVERYTHING GUIDE TO EYELINER

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Water World

If you can think of something more appealing than a steaming tub in a little house on a rocky outcropping at the edge of the sea, we'd love to hear it. A warm tub on a cold day is quite simply the best thing that exists. Period. Besides being the definition of cozy, taking a bath is cinematic in a way that few household activities are. If you don't believe that, watch almost any movie.

It's hard to make a logical argument for taking a bath. Showers clean more efficiently, and if you need a warm place to lie down, save some water and get in bed. But baths aren't supposed to be logical. The sole purpose of a bath is pleasure. The glamour of the bath lies in its utter simplicity: Porcelain meets skin meets water. Or as Karl Lagerfeld put it, "I have several houses with several bathtubs. But in fact, I like the most classic and basic ones." **By Ramona Emerson**

SUPER SOAKING

The only downside of a bath in dermatologists' eyes is that it can dry out your skin, but there are ways around that.

Save soap for the end. The main drying culprit isn't hot water; it's hot, soapy water. "Soap is worse than the water in terms of breaking down the skin barrier," says dermatologist Amy Wechsler, who advises washing at the end of the bath. No need to despair if you like bubbles, though. Wechsler suggests adding a

little oil to your bubble bath or using a formula that already has it. We like all of the Library of Flowers bubble baths with cocoa butter.

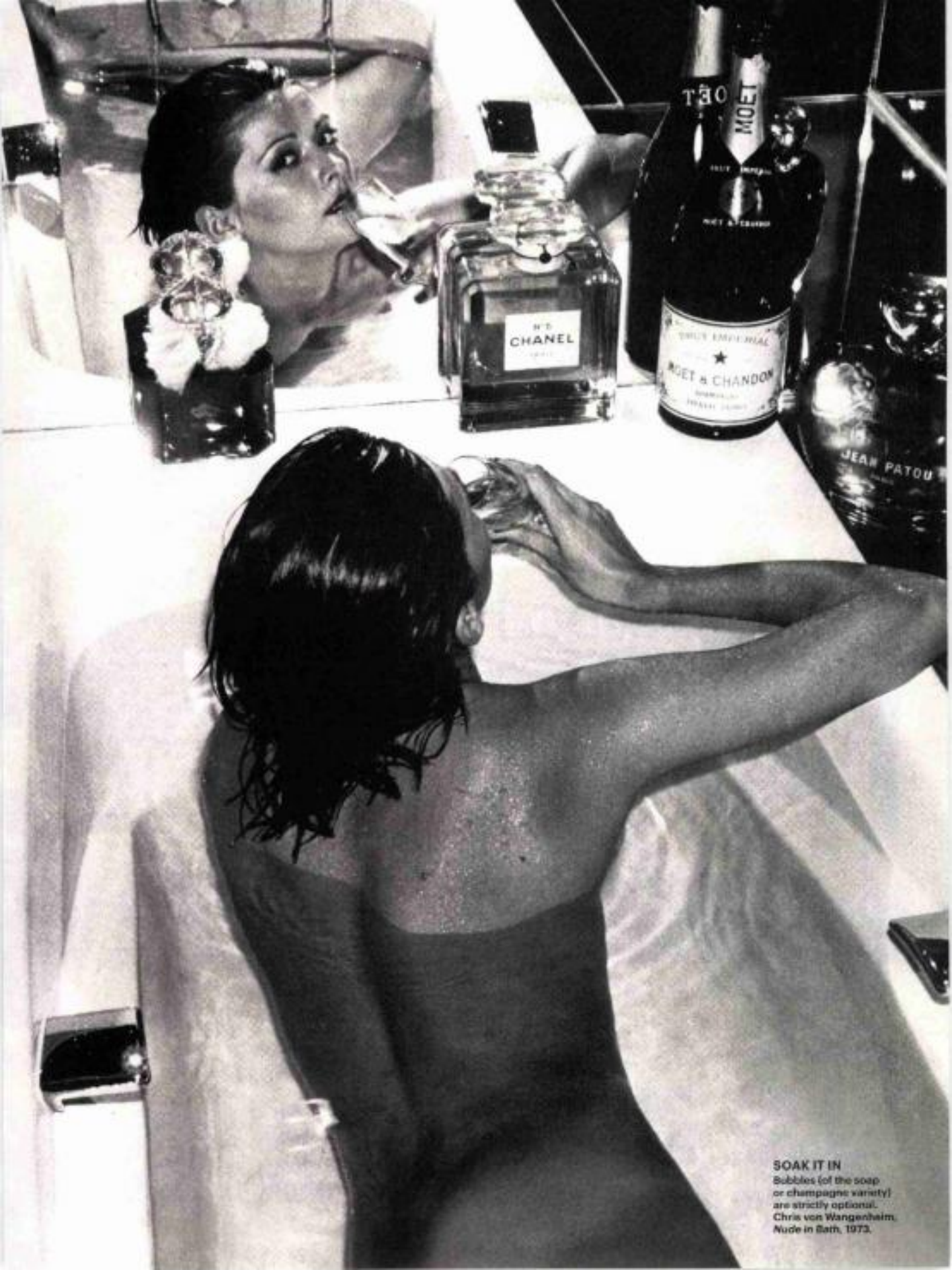
Don't stay in for more than 15 minutes. "Longer than that and you'll get prune-y skin," says Wechsler. Wrinkly palms and feet happen when the top layer of the skin has lost water, causing it to shrivel up. If you do stay in for an hour, moisturize immediately when you get out, before your skin has

dried. "When your skin is still moist, it acts like a sponge," says Wechsler. (Bath salts are especially drying; if you use them, get out after ten minutes.)

Oil up. Bath oil (or safflower, almond, or sunflower oil) keeps moisture in, but only if you use a generous amount—a whole cup per bath, according to Wechsler. Just make sure to clean the tub really well after you get out so the next person doesn't slip.

Turkish Delights

Not only do Turkish towels instantly make you feel like you're in Istanbul, but they are also thin enough that you can wrap yourself in one without dealing with post-bath overheating. (They make a great picnic blanket or tablecloth in a pinch, too.) Just remember to wash them at least twice before using, since that makes them softer and more absorbent. And skip the fabric softener completely.



SOAK IT IN
Bubbles (of the soap
or champagne variety)
are strictly optional.
Chris von Wangenheim,
Nude in Bath, 1973.

4 THINGS THAT MAKE YOUR BATH INFINITELY BETTER AND 1 THAT MAKES IT WORSE

Bath tray. Reading in the bath is one of life's great pleasures. Straining your arm muscles to keep the book out of the water is not. Teak or metal, the material doesn't really matter. What does matter is whether it has a wineglass holder and a book stand, like the Taymor Aromatherapy Bathtub Caddy. If that isn't sufficiently perfect, it also has a place to put a candle.

Bath pillow. The bath pillow is an easy, inexpensive solution to one of the bathtub's few structural problems: the cold, hard rim. A good pillow is small and quick-drying. We like the Airia Luxury Quick Dry Curved Spa Pillow.

Music. Nothing gets you into that reflective bath mood faster than some well-chosen music. The best genre is soft but not sad (try Sylvan Esso's self-titled album), and the best player is the Mini Jambox,

which is wireless and tiny and has great sound quality. Just don't forget to set your phone to "do not disturb" after connecting via Bluetooth. Nothing ruins an immersive sensory experience faster than the "bleep bloop" of an incoming text.

YogaToes. Wearing these stretchers after a long day in shoes feels like having your toes gently pried apart by gummy bears, and the best place to have this feeling is soaking in a hot bath.

Another person. Company is the most overrated bath accessory. There's nothing like trying to fold two regular-size people into a bathtub to make you go all Zoolander and start screaming, "What is this? A bathtub for ants?" Someone's back is being surgically probed by the faucet. Someone's entire leg is out of the water. All are punished.



Angelina Jolie
filming *The Good Shepherd* (2006)

Robe Rules

You could take a bath without cocooning yourself in a fabulous robe as soon as you get out, but why would you do that?

For the snuggler: Kashmiri shawl-collared robe

The ridiculously soft material feels like cashmere but is machine-washable and doesn't cost as much as a night at the Fontainebleau in Miami Beach, which stocks the robes in every room.

For the dame: Jonquil velvet robe

This full-length silver velvet robe with a leg-lengthening high belt is so elegant, you might find yourself asking etiquette-minded friends if there's any scenario in which you can wear a robe to a party if your last name isn't Hefner.

For the person who wishes her bathroom served spa water: Oscar de la Renta Spa Oasis crochet-trim long robe

Waffle-knit robes are sleeker and cooler than terry-cloth ones (not to mention much more travel-friendly), and this narrow style with delicate crochet trim on the pockets and sleeves is as beautiful as they get.

Just Add Water

The best way to turn your plain porcelain tub into a Japanese onsen or Icelandic hot spring is with carefully chosen bath products.



100% Pure Organic Eucalyptus Sea Therapy Bath

These salts are for people who like to mix pleasure with a tiny bit of pain. After five minutes, the peppermint and eucalyptus oils make skin tingle like icy hot.



Fig + Yarrow Floral Milk Bath

Mix this buttermilk powder with a quart of whole milk and pour it in the tub. It's softening and anti-inflammatory, and it gives water the ghostly look of Iceland's Blue Lagoon.



Kneipp Pure Bliss Herbal Bath

Infused with cannabis-seed and poppy oils, this cranberry-colored soak smells like a mix between raspberry herbal tea and an apothecary in the Swiss Alps.



Hinoki Japanese Cypress Bath Tea

This sachet, filled with shavings from woody, clean-smelling cypress trees, provides a great approximation of the aromatic hinoki tubs in Japan.

Baths With a View

Southern Ocean Lodge, Kangaroo Island, Australia

The Osprey Pavilion is the crown jewel of this 21-room Kangaroo Island resort, located off Australia's southern coast. The view of acres of untouched coastal mallee trees from the egg-shaped tub is so otherworldly, it's like stepping into a science-fiction story set on a better planet.

L'Hôtel, Paris Former resident Oscar Wilde supposedly said, "I am dying beyond my means" during his last days at the hotel where he died in 1900. You may feel the same way when you reserve the subterranean hammam pool, which, along with the attached steam room, is available by appointment for hotel guests.

Six Senses Laamu, Maldives

A glass bathtub hovering over the cerulean waters of the Indian Ocean walks the line between awesome and insanely indulgent.

Glen Oaks Big Sur, California

Side-by-side vintage claw-foot tubs in front of a crackling fire, nestled in a redwood grove within earshot of the Big Sur River? Yes, please.

Viceroy, New York City

With marble everything, intricate brass fixtures, and a leaded picture window, a soak in the bathtub in the twenty-eighth-floor penthouse of the one-year-old hotel offers the best of all worlds: the feeling of being in a charming old apartment in Paris with an unobstructed view of Central Park.