

# Get the look

## Sali Hughes

### on the new smellies

**M**y beloved grandmother had a “smellies drawer” under her bed. Whenever someone unexpected dropped by over Christmas, she’d grab some dusty bath cubes or unwanted bubbles from the archive, which I imagined were then stored in the recipient’s own smellies drawer to be similarly recycled next year. And so on, until the Christmas my grandmother would get them back, boxes bruised but still emitting potent rose and lavender.

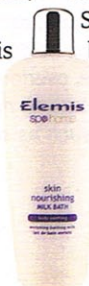
Not much has changed. Only the old “smellies drawers” are now guest loos, where watery body lotion is arranged next to unloved potpourri; or the school raffle, where rattan baskets of bath pearls (scarcely used since 1992 but still, inexplicably, a staple of the Christmas toiletries coffret) are donated with a cathartic sense of relief.

But I’m still comforted by the idea of gifting “smellies”. Winter is the season for languishing in the bath, sudsy wine glass in hand, biography on the go; and Christmas is a time for indulgence. I’m all for bringing festive bodycare products back in style, but I want them to be useful, pleasurable, fragrant. So here are the smellies I’d give my last-minute guests, and know they’d never find their way back home.



RUI FARIA FOR THE GUARDIAN; REX

**Elemis Skin Nourishing Milk Bath** £39.90, [timetospa.co.uk](http://timetospa.co.uk)  
Those with dry skin have to endure horrible, medicinal products. This luxury bath cream is a rare treat.



**The Body Shop Candied Ginger Bath & Body range** from £4, [bodyshop.co.uk](http://bodyshop.co.uk)  
I can't stop sniffing these. Spicy, wintry bath gels, hand washes and scented candles.

**Laura Mercier Honey Bath in Crème de Pistache** (above), £31, [spacenk.co.uk](http://spacenk.co.uk)  
I ask for this every Christmas. Simply the loveliest bath foam there is.

**Korres Fig Shower Gel** £6.38, and **Vanilla-Cinnamon Shower Gel** £7.50, [harveynichols.com](http://harveynichols.com)  
Love these. Smell Christmassy and foam nicely without drying.

**Gielly Green Hand Wash** £12, and **Hand And Body Lotion** £18, [giellygreen.co.uk](http://giellygreen.co.uk)  
If I were rich enough, I'd have these at every basin, year round. They feel like heaven.



**Soap & Glory The Righteous Butter Body Lotion** £10.21, [boots.com](http://boots.com)  
I love the whole range, but this makes a great pressie. As rich as body butter in a lotion formula.