

# Get the look Sali Hughes on soap

I recently found myself in Fortnum & Mason with an hour to kill and, en route to the department selling royal wedding commemorative handbells and 37 kinds of bittermints, wandered into a huge room filled almost entirely with soap.

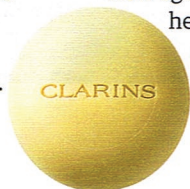
It was quite a startling sight (how often do you see proper soap nowadays, outside of your nan's bathroom?) - comforting yet weirdly intoxicating. It smelled better than any perfumery. The faintly ludicrous pyramids of individually wrapped bars were so pretty, and exactly the right kind of twee, that I found myself giddily gathering up armfuls of soap I couldn't possibly expect to use up this side of 90.

Since then I've become a bit obsessed. There's something about soap that feels right for these troubled times. Sturdy, honest, economical and, I've discovered, not nearly as drying as soaps were back in the day, when they could have stood in for turps.

New-generation soaps are often "triple milled", creating a harder, longer-lasting bar with denser suds (no more wilting, soggy dregs in the soap dish). More are using high percentages of natural oils such as olive in place of animal fats and petrochemicals, for a more luxurious, moisturising clean. I tested too many and found my favourite six.

**L'Occitane Milk Shea Butter soap** £4/100g, [uk.loccitane.com](http://uk.loccitane.com)  
I hate milk, but this is wonderful. Extremely gentle and moisturising (thanks to the ethically sourced shea). I'm hooked.

**Clarins Gentle Beauty soap** £12.26/150g, [uk.clarins.com](http://uk.clarins.com)  
I've not used soap on my face for 25 years, but this me back. It removes and make-up without stripping.



**Heyland & Whittle Olive & Fig Organic soap** £10/150g, [fortnumandmason.com](http://fortnumandmason.com)  
I'm mad for fig scents. The bar lasts ages, and heavenly smells linger.

**Dr Bronner's Almond Pure-Castile soap** £10.95, [conranshop.co.uk](http://conranshop.co.uk)  
The only liquid soap I'll use. All-natural, and good with babies.



**Dove Cream Bar** £1.35/2x100g, [boots.com](http://boots.com)  
OK, so it's not technically a soap, but it is brilliant. Many beauty experts have it hiding in their bathroom cabinets.

**Connock London Kukui Oil soap** £25.55/4x100g, [connock-london.com](http://connock-london.com)  
Soap should impress guests using your loo - this will with style. Rich and sudsy with an expensive smell.



RUJ PABIA FOR THE GUARDIAN; ITV