

LOOKING GLASS

BEAUTY, HEALTH, AND WELLNESS

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ABOUT FACE

A POTION FOR EVERY PORE

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Four pages of instructions. A five-figure price tag. The extreme French skincare regimen that's got the aristocracy buzzing.

BY GULLY WELLS

FOR ALMOST 30 YEARS I'VE BEEN FAITHFUL—IN my fashion. If you really press me I'll admit that I've strayed, but only a few times, and it never lasted. Sure, I had a brief fling with Erno Laszlo, and I experimented with Estée Lauder's Advanced Night Repair. But I always came back to Clinique. Maybe not the most glamorous spouse in the entire world—easygoing, undemanding, totally reliable would be more like it—but we fell for each other in college and have been together ever since.

That is, until last year, when I met a Frenchman who promised to totally transform my skin if only I would surrender its care to him, and him alone, for six months. Tall, dark, and handsome, in a Gallic Tom Jonesy kind of way, he told me, looking deep into my eyes, "During this time you must not allow your face to come into contact with any other products. None at all." I thought (quite) long and (quite) hard, but in the end, how could I have said no?

Dr. Philippe Allouche's company, Biologique Recherche, was founded by his parents Yvan and Josette (a biologist and

STEP BY STEP
A sampling of the 10-step
custom skincare regimen from
Biologique Recherche that
the writer tested for six months

Photograph by RICHARD PIERCE

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