

# COUNTER INTELLIGENCE

For the purest of products, max out on minerals



## SALON SPY:

SCIN

27 Kensington Park Road,  
London W11 (020-3220 0121;  
www.scin.uk.com)

**Atmosphere and clientele:** Given its location, Scin is a remarkably unselfconscious establishment. The staff are trendy but not intimidating, and many come from the local area, which lends an atmosphere of easy conviviality. The customers are mainly well-heeled yummy mummies, shading into professional single women towards the evening, and even the occasional metrosexual male. Upstairs is white and airy, downstairs more relaxing.

**Products and treatments:** The focus is on high-class beauty treatments. Our spy had a manicure and pedicure (£50) and a full-body massage (£65). The latter was one of the best she has ever had. Expertly and with enormous energy, the therapist (trained by Anna, one of the two sisters who run the salon) smoothed away tension, working diligently on areas of extra tenderness to leave an overall feeling of extreme wellbeing. The manicure and pedicure were equally thorough, the manicurist dealing sensitively and efficiently with our spy's ragged cuticles and unkempt extremities. The salon stocks a variety of product lines, including Jo Wood Organics and Dermalogica.

**Highs:** Professionalism, service and enthusiasm.

**Lows:** A bit cramped downstairs – but that's Notting Hill for you.

**Marks out of five:** Five.

*If you have a salon that you either love or hate, e-mail sarah.vine@thetimes.co.uk*



L'Oréal Paris True Match Minerals Make-up (£13.99, available nationwide) lends skin a matt, smooth finish that will even out the complexion and flawlessly cover blemishes. Be careful not to overload the brush, though – the powder may end up everywhere but your face.



Pure mineral make-up should contain no chalk or talc and have a texture that allows it to be smoothed over the skin like a cream rather than a powder. This is true of all i.d. bareMinerals products, including its Eye Glimmer (£12, 0800 123400).

The shade Joy, an iridescent gold, is perfect on olive skin.



Rituals Natural Shine Silkening Lipgloss, £9.90



Jane Iredale Liquid Minerals Foundation, £38



Non-sticky, with a sheer colour and subtle glimmer, Rituals Natural Shine Silkening Lipgloss (£9.90, 0845 6025446) contains ruby to stimulate the circulation and moisturising agents to soothe. Available in ten colours (shade 7124, pictured), it's versatile enough to go from day to night.

Doubtful that powder really can rival regular foundation?

Let Laura Mercier convince you. Its Mineral Powder Make-up with SPF15 (£28, 0800 123400)

not only delivers the flawless

finish of the finest liquid foundation, but also offers UV protection, without clogging pores or collecting in the nooks and crannies of nose and chin.



Jane Iredale Liquid Minerals Foundation (£38, 020-8450 7111) encapsulates a light-diffusing formulation and rejuvenating ingredients in time-release liposome beads. Contains vitamins C and K to nourish, and aloe vera to moisturise.