



**Bethan Cole**  
**THE SYBARITE**

## Queen of fragrance

I am sitting in the Trafalgar suite of the Ritz hotel, sipping a blend of the hot chocolate Marie Antoinette used to drink. It is rich, thick as soup, slightly bitter and utterly delicious. My drinking companion is the author Elizabeth de Feydeau, who has written a book about Marie Antoinette's perfumier, Jean-Louis Fargeon, called *A Scented Palace* (IB Tauris £14.99).

This, I guess, is the start of Marie Antoinette fever. With Sofia Coppola's film of the same name about to be premiered in Cannes, the fashionable world is going to be swept away on a tidal wave of Marie Antoinette mania. De Feydeau has a revisionist take on the queen – despite her reputation, she was, according to the book, a sensitive, socially-conscious, creative creature. As if to prove it, she plays me some music Marie Antoinette composed. The queen's toilette is De Feydeau's specialist subject. "Marie Antoinette would have smelt very different to anyone else at the time," she says. This is because she was fastidious about daily bathing, which she'd learnt from her Austrian mother. Each day, she dipped in a tub laced with a confederation of blanched sweet almonds, pine nuts, linseed, marshmallow root and lily bulbs, then rubbed her body clean with a sachet of bran. Her fragrance, concocted uniquely for her by Fargeon, contained a lot of tuberose. The queen was incredibly fond of rose, and court convention had it that nobody else could wear the same scent. "If she were alive today, she would wear Rose Angel, because it is rose and chocolate, and Chanel No 5," De Feydeau reckons. Let them smell chocolate might have been a more appropriate edict.

RECIPIENTS: ART: LIBRARIEN; FOTOGRAFIA

## [BEAUTY STYLE]

### Way to glow

For a chocolatey, just-stepped-off-lanoma glow, try the Body Shop's Sheer Sun Gel (£10.50). This bronzing gel has a seamless matt finish and looks utterly natural on face or body.

### Let's talk scents

Those who eschew traditional sticky summer scents need look no further than Caron's Eau de Régline, a provocative blend that fuses an initial citrus burst with a spicy liquorice aftertaste. £38 for 100ml. 020 7730 2322



### Save your skin

Dermatologist Steven Victor MD created the latest doctor-designed skincare range to reach the UK. The antioxidant-rich Anti-aging Cleanser has a creamy consistency and nourishes skin as it cleanses. £50. 020 7235 5000

### SHADY BUSINESS

If you can't resist from the smoky-eyed look, Pixi Eye Beauty Kit in Minimum is the one-stop product for you. It contains shimmering shadows and creamy concealers to hide dark eye bags. £26. 020 7287 7211



**DO IT NOW**

Stock up on Skinvitals' travel-friendly individual face masks