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Doctor's Orders

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Scoring an appointment with a high-profile Manhattan dermatologist is about as easy as leapfrogging the waitlist for a Birkin bag. But even if you're not an A-lister, you can still get first-class skin treatment with Steven Victor MD—a new line of nourishing, anti-aging products straight from the dermatologist's Upper East Side chemistry set. Encased in luminous brushed-gold packaging (the kind you'll want to display like little trophies on your bathroom counter), the collection includes the Daily Anti-Aging Facial Cleanser, the Growth Factor Serum, the Intensive Wrinkle Repair, the Eye Repair Rx., the Bio-Nutritive Luxury Cream, and the Miracle Serum. In all cases, the products boast a texture that's decadent yet lightweight and glides on smoothly even after layering. Plus, the formulas contain no unnecessary fragrances or colors.

So where do these luxe products get their anti-aging powers? From a trifecta of botanicals, antioxidants, and cosmeceuticals. More specifically, a mix of tiger grass and banana plants addresses skin atrophy, an amino-acid complex stimulates collagen production and reinforces collagen and elastin fibers, the antioxidant edelweiss neutralizes free radicals, peptides encourage cell turnover, and mineral salts and anion acids serves as messengers, enabling skin to absorb various ingredients. In addition, the line boasts a long list of patented formulas and other ingredients (including hibiscus-seed extract, which the company claims has a Botox-like effect), but those who aren't scientifically inclined can breathe a sigh of relief: The ingredients and directions are available in both unabridged "Science of Beauty" inserts and delightfully brief, Cliffs Notes-style versions.

All of this scientific speak, of course, doesn't mean much unless the collection delivers visible improvements. And fortunately, after using the Steven Victor MD regimen for two weeks, I noticed a real difference in my skin—the surface was softer and smoother.