



ALL YOU WANT FOR Christmas IS...

... skin that glows, a chic red lip and an elegant new way to wear your hair? Consider it done with our guide to looking gorgeous this party season

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AN OH-SO-CHIC SMOKEY EYE

'We often think a smokey eye needs to be black, but softer colours, such as sage, rose gold and dusky violet, are much more flattering,' says make-up artist Dani Guinsberg, who created the looks for us on these pages. 'The trick is to layer a metallic shadow over a matte one. The metallic gives a modern, gleaming finish, while the matte base creates depth underneath.' A warm, rich shade, such as taupe, is an ideal starting point. For super-speedy application, buff a matte shadow over eyelids, taking it slightly up into the crease and lightly underneath the eye, then layer a metallic shade over the top.

SHOWN HERE: Sisley Les Phyto-Ombres **Eyeshadow** in Sparkling Bronze, £36. L'Oréal Bambi Eye False Lash **Mascara**, £10.99. Diorshow Liquid Mono **eyeliner-eyeshadow** in 650 Copper Sparks, £27.50



PRO TIP: Apply your eye make-up before (not after) your base; that way, you'll be able to tidy up any smudges or scattered pigment particles without ruining your foundation. To give eyeshadow extra grip, prime lids with Nars Pro Prime Smudge Proof Eyeshadow Base, £21, before you start.

SKIN THAT'S LIT FROM WITHIN

A complexion that looks plump and glowing is a year-round beauty goal, but the stresses of the festive season can make your natural radiance harder to maintain than usual. This is the time to boost your regular skincare routine by sandwiching layers of different products together to nourish and brighten fatigued skin and create a beautiful base for make-up. To start, sweep on a liquid exfoliator after cleansing, such as Alpha-H Instant Facial, £37. 'This removes the dead, dry cells sitting on the surface of the skin and encourages the production of new ones below,' says Tom Ogden of Alpha-H. 'These new cells release important oils and ceramides, which help to keep the skin hydrated and looking glossy.'

Next, apply a hyaluronic acid-laced serum to add a juicy plumpness, followed by a hydrating moisturiser. To create instant radiance, you can also mix in a few drops of facial oil before applying. Allow 10 minutes for your skincare to absorb before applying foundation, or enhance your new glow with a dab of something sheer (we love NYX Bare With Me Tinted Skin Veil, £10).



SHOWN HERE: Emma Hardie Brilliance Facial Oil, £39. Murad Replenishing Multi-Acid Peel, £48. Glossier Super Bounce Serum, £24. Glamglow Moisturetrip Omega-Rich Moisturiser, £42



GOWN, £375, PARASOL ROSE. SLIP, £599, GILDA & PEARL AT HARRODS





PRO TIP: Lip liner is to lipstick what a base coat is to nail polish: not compulsory, but it can add longevity. Simply line lips, then fill them in completely to create a solid base that gives your lipstick something to grip on to. Either match the liner (as closely as you can) to your lipstick, or try a clear formula, such as Rimmel Moisture Renew Lip Liner, £3.99.



AN ELEGANT RED LIP

You don't need to be a sommelier to appreciate the current trend for wine-red lips. With a palette ranging from blackcurrant-hued Malbec to garnet-like Pinot Noir, there's something to suit everyone and, when paired with a barely there base and soft eye make-up, the impact is striking rather than showy. A couple of caveats, though: 'Dark shades can make lips appear smaller and, on more mature complexions (which lose some of their natural pinkness), the contrast between lip and skin can look severe,' says Dani. To counter this, she recommends satiny formulas; the sheen creates a 3D volumising effect. Then, pat a subtle wash of beige-pink blush on to the apples of your cheeks to put natural-looking warmth back into the skin. If you're still hesitant, a tinted balm is a wearable entry point into the wine lip, offering a sheer hit of colour without too much intensity.



SHOWN HERE: Givenchy Le Rouge Night Noir Lipstick in Night in Red, £28. Clarins Intense Natural Lip Perfector in 18 Intense Garnet, £18.50. Clé de Peau Beauté Cream Blush in Perfect Peach, £40. YSL Beauty Holiday Look Rouge Pur Collector in 97, £29. Nars Lipstick in Impulse, £22

DRESS: £245, GHOST AT JOHN LEWIS & PARTNERS





PRO TIP: On set, Dani used a dry sponge to apply powder, pressing and rolling a tiny amount over skin to give it a healthy, rather than flat, sheen.

SHINE-FREE MAKE-UP THAT GLOWS

'Velvet skin' is a red-carpet favourite for good reason. 'My A-list clients need their foundation to be paparazzi-proof, which means looking perfect for long periods of time,' says Dani. 'It's also great for parties, as the matte-but-luminous finish creates a polished look that's not powdery.'

A demi-matte foundation adds radiance without shine. Apply it in layers, focusing on the areas that need the most coverage (usually cheeks, forehead and chin). Then, for a fresh-looking finish, bounce a damp Beauty Blender Original Sponge, £17, lightly over the top to really push the product into your skin and soften any hard edges. For denser coverage, especially around the nose and over under-eye circles, dot on a creamy concealer, then blend it in with a small, flat brush. Don't be scared of finishing powders; new, finely milled formulas contain hydrating and softening ingredients to set make-up in place without dustiness.

SHOWN HERE: Givenchy Prisme Libre Mat-Finish & Enhanced Radiance Loose Powder in Sparkling Mousseline, £45. Sisley Phyto-Teint Ultra Éclat Foundation, £66. Clinique Even Better Refresh Hydrating and Repairing Foundation, £30



THE PERFECT MANI TO FINISH THE LOOK

Christmas nails need one thing: sparkle! Here, we used professional gel colours, decorating the half-moon at the base of the nail with shimmering gold. The only rule? To keep the look modern, don't paint the whole nail with glitter. Ask your manicurist to create subtle accents by filling in the tip of the nail only or painting thin stripes along the nail. If you're doing your nails yourself, invest in a tapered nail art brush (available on Amazon) and let your imagination run free, painting your accents over a soft pink base. If glitter is not for you, there are a raft of new-season colours that will still create impact.



SHOWN HERE: Chanel Le Vernis Longwear Nail Colour in Richness, £22. Essie Nail Polish in Mademoiselle Sheer Pink, £7.99. Dior Vernis Nail Lacquer in 9 A.M., £22. Jessica Custom Nail Colour in Roadster, £11.



PARTY-READY SKIN FROM HEAD TO TOE

Body make-up (or 'skin finishers', as they have been called recently) is a rapidly growing beauty trend that's becoming easier to use than ever. These sheer, smudge-proof formulas give skin a flattering wash of colour with a little bit of sheen, helping blur the appearance of veins, blemishes and bruises, while creating a healthy-looking glow. For a super-natural finish, blending is critical. Try dampening your hands with moisturiser or water before you apply, or invest in a tool, such as Real Techniques Face + Body Blender, £14.99. Finish with an optional dusting of shimmer on your shoulders, décolletage and shins.



SHOWN HERE: Charlotte Tilbury Supermodel Body **Body Highlighter**, £65, Marc Jacobs O!mega Glaze All-Over Foil **Luminizer** in Showstopper, £35



A GLAMOROUS NEW WAY TO WEAR YOUR HAIR



SHOWN HERE:
Thin Red Padded
Velvet **Headband**,
£16, Johnny
Loves Rosie.
Embellished
Headband,
£18.50, Topshop.
Virtue Volumizing
Mousse, £34.
Color Wow Raise
The Root Thicken
+ Lift **Spray**,
£18.50



This year's trend for headbands (plain or patterned) shows no sign of stopping. For winter, they're in luxurious fabrics, such as velvet and silk and embellished with pearls and gems. 'Bands bring an understated cool to hair of any length, type or style,' says Zoë Irwin, ghd UK brand ambassador. She suggests putting some additional texture and movement into your hair to prevent your headband from looking too formal. On shorter styles, try adding some lift with a root volumising spray or mousse first to build body around the band. On longer lengths, use curling tongs to create a few loose waves after you've put your band into position. 'Some casual texture helps the band to become part of your look, rather than something that's been plonked on afterwards,' says Zoë.

TRIED & TESTED



MAKE-UP SETTING SPRAYS

When you need your look to go the distance, a setting spray will fix your make-up in place, helping it last longer without smudging, caking or creasing. But which ones really deliver? We reveal our results...

WINNER Caudalie Beauty Elixir, £12 for 30ml **91/100**

This scored full marks in our lab test and the panel was impressed by the way this left complexions glowing. Many testers felt skin was more hydrated and nourished, while make-up looked refreshed, too. More than 98% of testers did not experience irritation while using the product, making it ideal for those with sensitive skin. Testers agreed that make-up lasted for more than five hours on average.



RUNNER-UP NIP+FAB Cooling Fixing Mist, £15 for 100ml **90/100**

In a handy 100ml size, this mist is small enough to carry with you, so is perfect for refreshing skin on the go. More than 79% of testers agreed that their make-up didn't smudge or run after application, and that the mattifying finish kept shine at bay.



BUDGET BUY MUA Pro/Base Mattifying Fixing Spray, £4 for 70ml **89/100**

This also scored full marks in our lab, and testers agreed that the spray set their make-up in place all day and coped well in a range of temperatures.



★ HOW WE TESTED More than 600 women spritzed their way through 28 brands of make-up setting sprays, judging the evenness of each one's coverage, effectiveness of spray nozzle and how well it extended the wear of their make-up. For our lab test, we misted the sprays over a standardised amount of foundation and assessed how much stayed in place when wiped with a tissue. ☐

DRESS: £384.99, NEEDLE & THREAD AT ZALANDO. HEADBAND: £42, ALICE & BLAIR. TESTING: PAULINE HUI, SUNAYAH ARSHAD, JASMINE LIM. MAKE-UP: DANI GUINBERG AT CAROL HAYES MANAGEMENT. HAIR: HEATH MASSI AT FRANK AGENCY. NAILS: DORINA NACU AT BLOW LTD. STYLING: JODIE DUNNORTH, MODEL: LAURA COLEMAN AT MODELS 1