

GO TO HELL, JACK FROST!

KEEP OLD MAN WINTER AT BAY WITH THESE FABULOUS SPAS

BY SID ANDREWS

Sure, Jack Frost nipping at your nose may sound cute and charming when set to music, but the reality of that cruel man is much more depressing. Every winter, we forget just how rough the cold can be on our skin. With sudden changes from freezing outside to steam heat indoors, is it any wonder that our faces start to look like the floor of the Grand Canyon after a few weeks? But as always, we here at HX are looking out for your best interests. So we went on a grueling search for the best skin care this city has to offer (before it gets too cold to leave our apartments, natch) and found a handful of places that will ensure that this holiday season, you'll glow brighter than any plastic Santa. After all, the only flakes on your face should be made out of snow.

The fabulous (and very popular) Face to Face NYC Day Spa is one of the most relaxing, welcoming spa environments we've ever been to. Lately, owner Enrique Ramirez has been popping up everywhere from *Time Out New York* to *The Howard Stern Show*, thanks to his anal bleaching package. But as much as we love that, we're over-the-moon about his skin treatments that will promise you a newer, fresher face by the next morning. When you go—and book an appointment now, before this place becomes the new It spa in town—order one of our two favorites: The Y Chromosome (which takes care of big strong man problems like ingrown hairs or razor burn) or the Super O2 Facial, which takes care of the dull, gray skin that makes you feel so self-conscious around the relatives. And since you're already there, why not splurge and get the George Hamilton sunless tan. Just because you can't afford a trip to the Bahamas this winter

doesn't mean you can't look like it. Oh, and be sure to stock up on plenty of the products they have for sale (see sidebar for the best of the best!)

Of course, some patrons may prefer a more communal spa experience, which is where the much larger Nickel Spa comes in. With a variety of massages and facial packages, this haven of pampering (located in the heart of Chelsea) is focused on keeping you looking your absolute best. Their complete facial even ends with your aesthetician recommending a skin care regimen to keep your face looking as clean and clear as it did when you stepped back onto the sidewalk.

SmoothMed, which offers walk-in Botox, has thoughtfully made two fabulous services available to help ease us into spring. Their Foamclean acts to remove dirt and debris from the skin's surface while preventing collagen deterioration, and their Hydrate (packed full of deobenone, hyaluronic acid, coenzyme Q10 and peptides) promotes moisturization by attracting and holding water to the skin. And Body Beautiful Spa has a signature facial, which will tone, cleanse and exfoliate the Seasonal Affective Disorder right off of your face.

No need to look as gray and barren as the landscape this year—not when healthy, fresh skin is this easy and fun!

Face to Face NYC Day Spa, 20 W 20th St Suite 603, 212-633-0404, facetofacernyc.com. Nickel Spa, 77 8th Av/14th St, 212-242-3203, nickelspanyc.com. SmoothMed, 111 E 59th St, 212-371-7666, smoothmed.com. Body Beautiful Spa, 96 E 7th St, 212-979-5515, bodybeautifulspa.com.

SPECIAL TREATMENT
Enrique Ramirez and
the Face To Face fellas

ENRIQUE'S PICKS



LIP DEFENDER

This citrus mint-flavored Defender hydrates and prevents chapping and windburn. \$8



SHOWER UP

This shower gel leaves skin revitalized and infused with deep moisturization. \$14



CLEAN SKIN

A gentle face cleanser that helps restore your natural moisture balance. \$16



INFUSION

A specially formulated cream that naturally balances the Ph of your skin. \$18