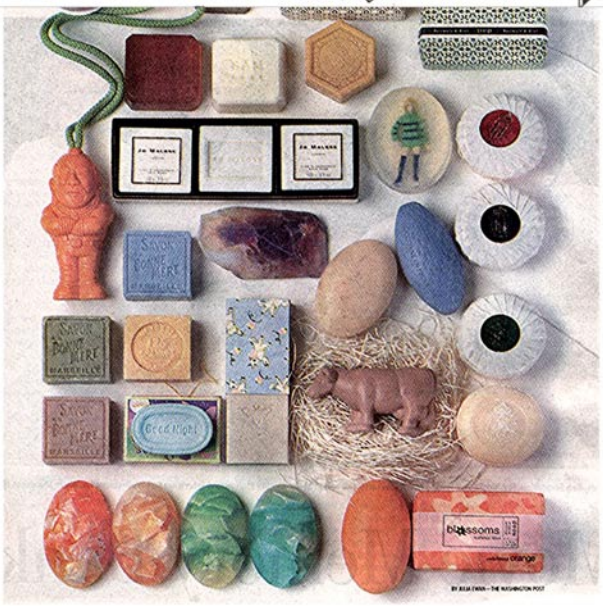
The Washington Post



SHOPPER

Soap, Scented for Serenity

There are those few minutes—post-alarm clock, treadmill and coffee; pre-bagel, ironing and school lunches—that are a shrine to calmness: those spent in the shower. And where would the shower be without the soap? Despite gels, scrubs and rubs, soap has remained a steadfast contender. It can take on almost any scent: aloe, jasmine, sandalwood, coffee . . .

Or, make up your own bars. Samia Patel's company, Sam Soap, can customize any soap you can think up, from grassy-smelling exfoliators to a moisturizing base with goat's milk. "I've never been a beauty person . . . but I've always been nuts about bath products," says Patel.

—Janelle Erlichman

From top left: Red Flower soap balls with dish in Thai honeysuckle, Egyptian chamomile, Japanese peony, North American lilac and Italian blood orange, $18 each at Blue Mercury, Georgetown and Dupont Circle, and Redflower.com. Pharmacopia soaps in lavender, citrus blossom, ginger with lemongrass and rosemary with mint, $9 each or two for $16 at Tin Can Allee in Annapolis, Beauty First in Rockville or pharmacopia.net. Sam Soap citrus and grass bar ($10 each) and custom-made honey with jasmine and goat's milk with almond ($14 each for body soap) at Samsoap.com. Honey soap, $5 at local L'Occitane boutiques or Loccitane.com. Mr. T soap-on-a-rope, $12 at Urban Outfitters, 3111 M St. NW. Jo Malone soaps, $50 at Neiman Marcus. Go Go girl from Toi Toiletries, $5.95 at the Cheeky Monkey, 9360 Main St., Manassas. Truefitt & Hill assorted soap collection, $36 for four at the Grooming Lounge, 1745 L St. Bonne Mere perfumed bath-size soaps in lavender, honeysuckle, linden and wild rose, $4.25 each at L'Occitane. Soap rocks in amethyst, $10 at Pulp, 1803 14th St. NW. Exfoliating scrub bars, $6 each or three for $8 at Inner Self, Tysons Corner Center. Lavender spindle soap, $6 at L'Occitane. Good Night Fairy soap, $3, and Baby Mudlark soap with fresh goat's milk, honey, almonds and oats, $5, at Pulp. Chocolate milk cow soap, $18 at Wishingfish.com. Vivi Plant Origins in vanilla, peach, citrus and lavender, $15.96 for four at Viviforyou.com. Blossom soap in Calabrian orange, $7 at Pulp.