



2016 BEST IN BLACK BEAUTY AWARDS

Along with more than 1,000 ESSENCE BeautyBox subscribers and ESSENCE insiders, we've voted on the hottest people, places and products that are rocking our beauty world
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRIAN HENN

MOST SPLURGE-WORTHY BEAUTY BRAND...

IT'S A TIE! CHANEL & NARS

It was a split decision between two companies that not only offer huge color payoff for brown skin, but also pump out gorgeous collections season after season. While Chanel wows with brilliant blush compacts and lipstick formulas, Nars flourishes with foundation, color for lips and just about everything else.

NARS lipstick, lip gloss and foundation (\$26-\$48, narscosmetics.com); **CHANEL** lipshine, lip color and blush (\$36-\$70, chanel.com).

BEAUTY



MANE MARVEL

**PRODUCT GAME-CHANGER...
COWASH**

Our beauty gurus agree that cleansing conditioners have completely changed the game for both curly and straight girls. Moisture-rich formulas that clean without stripping or overdrying and leave behind hydrating ingredients help whip strands into the best shape (and curl pattern) ever.

DEVACURL No-Poo Conditioning Cleanser (\$20, 12 oz, devacurl.com); **R+CO** Analog Cleansing Foam Conditioner (\$29, Neiman Marcus); **ORIBE** Cleansing Crème (\$44, oribe.com); **MISS JESSIE'S** Co-Wash (\$11, 12 oz, missjessies.com).

INGREDIENT YOU LOVE MOST FOR MOISTURE...

SHEA BUTTER

Slather your skin, lips and hair with this tried-and-true all-purpose hydrator.

SKINFIX Ultra Rich Body Butter (\$15, Target); **S.W. BASICS** Shea Butter (\$16, swbasics.com); **DRUNK ELEPHANT** Lippe Balm (\$22, Sephora).



**MOST COVETED HOT TOOL BRAND...
CHI**

Flat irons were just the beginning for this heat-styling authority. Chi's assortment of irons, dryers and products equips even hair novices with the essentials to be pros at home.

CHI Onyx Euro Shine Dryer (\$130, Ulta).

BEST ONE-STOP BEAUTY SHOP... ULTA

WORTH EVERY PENNY!

SPLURGE-WORTHY HAIR BRAND...

**IT'S A TIE!
MOROCCANOIL & MIZANI**

One thing's for sure, our readers know what's best for their hair. Money isn't a factor if the products work, and these brands topped the list for reliability and consistent results for both curly and straight textures.

MOROCCANOIL Treatment Original (\$44, moroccanoil.com); **MIZANI** True Textures Intense Moisture Replenish Treatment (\$18, Ulta). ▷



HAIRSTYLE YOU'RE DYING TO TRY... FAUX NATURAL

"A faux natural would allow me to keep my desired look without having to spend so much time washing and styling my own hair."

—**RO ALEXANDER-MCLENDON**, METAIRIE, LA

KURLY KLIPS Hair Extensions (\$160-\$200, kurlyklips.com).



WOMAN: GLENFORD NUNEZ; PRODUCTS: COURTESY OF BRANDS.