

LUXURY SPA FINDER

THE SPA LIFESTYLE AT ITS FINEST

THE BEAUTY ISSUE

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Behind the scenes

RICHARD HOWARD, PRODUCT
FORMULATOR, TWIN FARMS,
BARNARD, VT

HOWARD'S PRODUCT PROWESS WAS BORN IN THE culinary world. Thirteen years ago, he took a break from his career trading essential oils and worked in the kitchen of a Buddhist monastery in Sri Lanka, thinking he wanted to become a chef. "What inspired me," he says, "was the fact that the women would go out into the garden and collect the raw materials in the same way that you would for a curry, and they would make their face creams and mud packs." He returned home to Somerset, England, and began selling small quantities of super-fresh beauty products (some with a shelf life of just two days), a venue that eventually grew into Arcania Apothecary. Today he uses a palette of more than 300 oils to make dozens of small-batched products. Arcania's client list includes upper-echelon hotels around the world, but Twin Farms is the only one in the U.S. to make use of Howard's talents. First he created a ten-product line of woody in-room amenities; then he developed all the treatments and products for the hotel's Out of the Woods Spa, which opened in 2001. He continues to assist the product range, oversee therapist training, and even choose the dried flowers used as spa decorations. But for all his aromatherapy expertise, Howard still talks like a chef, especially on the subject of quality ingredients, and he actually employs two chefs to hand-make the products, as well as prep workers and bottlers. "It's just like a kitchen production line." \$1,050-\$2,700. 800-894-6327 or www.twinfarms.com



PHOTOGRAPH, LEFT, BY TIM CLINCH