

Fresh Scents of Bel-Air



Halcyon Blue

Longtime guests of the Hotel Bel-Air may have noticed something new this fall in their rooms, well bathrooms, to be exact. In August, the hotel officially began carrying Halcyon Blue bath and body products, an exclusive, U.S.-only line from Australian businesswoman Val Harding.

Harding is no stranger to the hotel toiletries business: Her company, the Val Harding Collection, distributes Molton Brown and Gilchrist & Soames hotel amenities and is also responsible for its own bath and body line, Serendipity, which can be found in some of Australia's most exclusive hotels and spas. The Halcyon Blue collection was Harding's first entry

into the U.S. market and a welcome addition to the storied Hotel Bel-Air, the first hotel in the States to carry the line.

While I don't usually feel compelled to write about hotel amenities such as lotions or shampoos, the Halcyon Blue line was unique and different. Each product in the line uses essential oils and fresh, appealing scents such as bergamot, mandarin, peppermint, orange and grapefruit; nothing was overly heady or feminine — a welcome change from the usual hotel room offerings — and the products leave you feeling refreshed and relaxed.

Harding herself described the line as "clam, peaceful, tranquil and blissful."

Even better, all of the products came in a generous 100-milliliter-sized tube, so I didn't feel guilty indulging in a second lather of shampoo or another application of the creamy body balm. Each tube also featured a different logo variation, so I could easily spot the difference between my shampoo and conditioner. In all, there were five different Halcyon Blue bath products to be found in my room: shampoo, conditioner, body wash, body balm and boxed shea butter soap that didn't dry out my hands like most hand soaps do. And, for clients with sensitive skin, the line is especially well-suited since it is free of artificial colors and sodium lauryl sulfate, a common foaming detergent that can cause skin problems in some people.

Harding hopes to have Halcyon Blue in more hotels and resorts in the coming year, but until then, your clients can experience it exclusively at the Hotel Bel-Air.

Val Harding Collection

www.valhardingcollection.com