

VICTORIA'S LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

# y.a.m.

YOU AND ME :: LIVING SMART

MAR/APR 2014

# HOME ISSUE

City Contemporary + Country Eclectic

BUILD YOUR  
DREAM DECK

REINVENT  
YOUR CLOSET

WAKE UP  
YOUR PALATE

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HOME + GARDEN | FOOD + WINE | FASHION | HEALTH + FITNESS | TRAVEL | ART + CULTURE



The pleasure of a relaxing bath takes on hints of the heavenly in modern tubs designed to soothe your body and stimulate your spirit.

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## BATHING BEAUTIES

Through the centuries, the tub has gone through a curious evolution, from the bathtubs of public Roman bathing houses to the (blessedly private) standard bath/shower combo of today. On the way, the tub has evolved from a functional afterthought to a serious lifestyle consideration. Today, there's a world of luxurious options that will inspire you to transform your bathroom into a spa-like sanctuary.

### MAKING A SPLASH

For those with design in mind, there are many options for achieving bathroom bliss. Drop-in tubs have a rim and can be installed into the floor or built into a custom surround. Under-mount tubs are similar to the drop-in, but are installed under the rim of another material, such as sleek stone or tile. With the ability to tailor custom surrounds using materials from tile to wood to mirror, both these options transform your tub into a furnishing that reflects your sense of style.

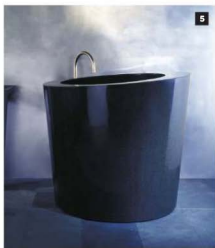
Perhaps most eye-catching, however, are freestanding tubs, which offer both freedom of placement and a multitude of design and colour options. The cast iron claw-foot tub is always a classic, while contemporary options include an array of shapes from oval to rectangular, with colours ranging from serenely soothing white to sassy hot pink. Up the style quotient



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1 Victoria and Albert Roxburgh classic European claw foot bath (Victoria Speciality Hardware, \$2,770-\$3,210); 2 Aciri-tec Drop-in Tub keeps bath water warmer, longer (Bartle and Gibson, \$2,145); 3 MAAX Ella Freestanding Tub is deep, elegant and available in five colours (Bartle and Gibson, \$2,149); 4 Duravit Sundeck tub can also be used outdoors. Cover the tub to transform it into a lounger with headrest (Kitchen and Bath Classics, \$4,095); 5 Stone Forest Oval Soaking Tub in a solid piece of black granite (Victoria Speciality Hardware, \$35,000); 6 Victoria and Albert Tomolo Contemporary Bath Rack holds a towel and keeps your wine safe (Victoria Speciality Hardware, \$492)

with design elements such as resin cradles or sculptural wrought iron bases.

Of course, size matters when it comes to a quality soak. Your options are determined by your available space — many high-end tubs offer room to stretch out, as well as space for two (or even three!) bathing buddies. And say goodbye to that stiff neck; look for gently angled sloping ends that allow for a more natural reclining pose.

#### BAIN LUXE

Modern tub materials offer a range of high-tech composites of synthetic and natural materials, such as Victoria and Albert's composition of volcanic limestone and resin. Want to go *au naturel*? Stone Forest's prestigious line boasts white onyx and Carrara marble behemoths so weighty their installation requires consultation with an architect and structural engineer.

For the ultimate in relaxation, look for a bath with built-in massage jets to soothe your muscles. MTI's Metro, for example, has options from six-point massage jets to 30 air jets. Some soakers even set the mood for you. Technology such as MTI's Stereo H2O "transforms your tub into a huge sounding board that reproduces rich audio through the water."

MTI and Bain Ultra both offer chromotherapy and aromatherapy options which engage the therapeutic use of coloured LED lights and scent diffusion to promote wellness.

Just picture yourself padding across heated tiles to a deep, freestanding soaker tub spanned by a sleek rack (with wine glass holder, naturally), heated towel at the ready — it might sound like a spa retreat, but it can be had in your own home. ::

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