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Melanie Grant, Victoria Beckham's skincare guru, has landed in London

The super-facialist is opening a salon in Mayfair. We get the first look



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Alice Cavanagh. Photography by Peter Flude
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There is a frame in David Beckham's Netflix documentary *Beckham* that has become a meme. In it, Victoria Beckham pretends to her husband that she's heading off to work, when in fact she is off for a facial. "The joke became that a facial can be work," says Sydney-born **Melanie Grant** – whose long relationship as Beckham's go-to aesthetician did, as it happens, result in actual business: in 2024, they launched [The Daily Cleansing Protocol](#), a twin-product line.

Grant, a glamorous porcelain-skinned fortysomething, moved to London from Sydney in 2022 and has since become the city's best-kept secret. With studios in Sydney, Melbourne, LA and New York, she's spent more than two decades as the world's go-to aesthetician. Clients come for her bespoke treatments – a combination of clinically proven products, the latest technology and a protocol that improves tone and texture to achieve luminous, healthy-looking skin. "I still cleanse in exactly the same way, and many of my massage techniques are from 25 years ago," she says of how some things haven't changed, adding that she doesn't jump on trends. She grimaces when recounting a face-slapping technique she saw on TikTok or the skincare formulas promoting bee venom as a legitimate ingredient. "There's a lot of fluff. My advice is don't believe everything you see on social media and when in doubt, seek professional advice."



View of Mount Street from the studio © Peter Flude



The waiting area in Grant's new Mayfair studio, with a Rose Uniacke drawing room sofa and chairs and oak console table. The antique wood and glass coffee table is by Jose Cabdes, c1980; the round side table is by Axel Eimer Hjorth for Nordiska Kompaniet, c1950 © Peter Flude

Grant's vocation came to her through misfortune. As a baby and toddler, she had multiple skin grafts following third-degree burns suffered in a house fire. "I had to understand from a really young age how to take care of my skin," she says. She recalls that, as a teenager, she was one of the first of her peers to embrace Clinique's three-step system, a straightforward approach that preceded her own philosophy: "You only need a few good products; you'd be surprised at what can be achieved simply by keeping skin clean, hydrated and protected from the sun."

After school, she went on to study aesthetics, working first in a luxury spa and then a clinical practice before deciding to go it alone. She opened in Sydney's Double Bay without a single client. "I didn't think it through," she admits. "But if you start with one and do a really good job, there is nothing better than old-fashioned word of mouth."



A CELEBRATION OF CONTEMPORARY CRAFTSMANSHIP

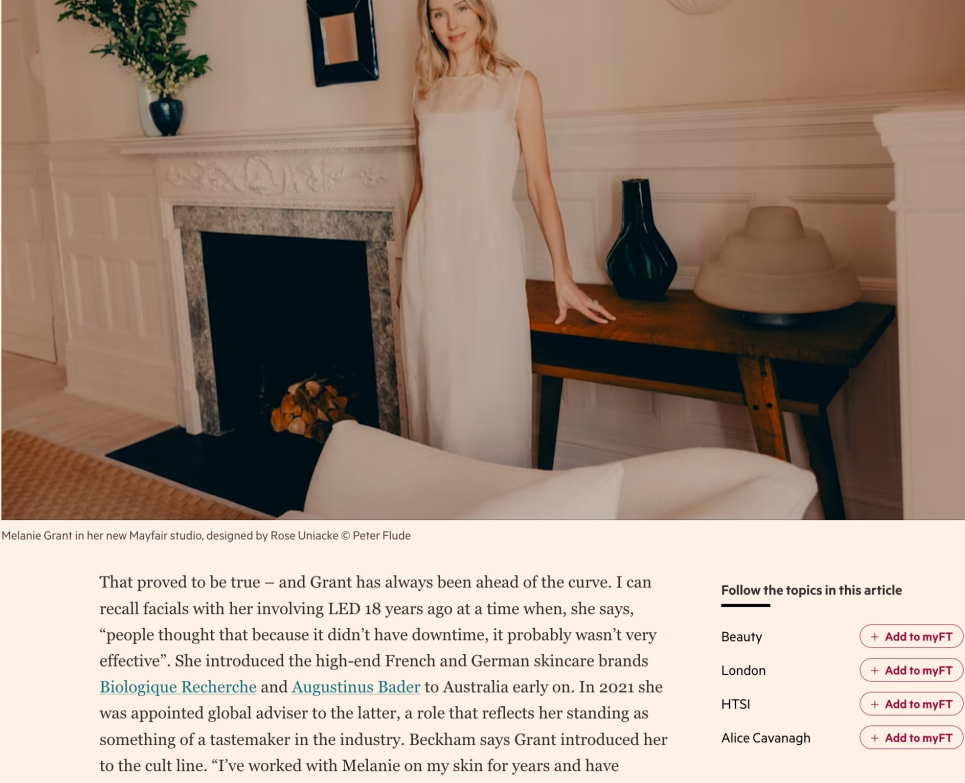
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Melanie Grant in her new Mayfair studio, designed by Rose Uniacke © Peter Flude

That proved to be true – and Grant has always been ahead of the curve. I can recall facials with her involving LED 18 years ago at a time when, she says, "people thought that because it didn't have downtime, it probably wasn't very effective". She introduced the high-end French and German skincare brands [Biologique Recherche](#) and [Augustinus Bader](#) to Australia early on. In 2021 she was appointed global adviser to the latter, a role that reflects her standing as something of a tastemaker in the industry. Beckham says Grant introduced her to the cult line. "I've worked with Melanie on my skin for years and have learned so much from her," she adds. Grant has also persuaded her to submerge her face in ice-cold water each morning. "I absolutely swear by it," says Beckham, "particularly after a glass or two of red wine the night before."

Grant opened her third site on Melrose Place in Los Angeles in 2019 before settling her sights on London. Around 20 months ago she signed the lease on her new place on Mount Street – a former office on the third floor of a red-brick building typical of Mayfair's late-19th-century streets. She was seduced by the fashionable neighbours: [The Row](#) (on regular rotation in her wardrobe), jeweller [Jessica McCormack](#) and, rumoured to be joining them, [Phoebe Philo](#). "I want this to be a destination," she says. "You can have lunch at Mount Street Restaurant or The Connaught, do some shopping and then come to me." The studio – where she will be in residence for most of the year – has just two treatment rooms, a lounge room with its original marble fireplace and a kitchen. "It really has a residential feel in the same spirit as Melrose Place. It's cosseted from the outside world."

Her friend [Rose Uniacke](#) designed the space and the furniture: the palest of blush walls; warmth underfoot from Douglas fir Dineen flooring. Grant, whose own interiors and daily wardrobe tend towards monochrome white, admits she had to be convinced by the pink, but not the canopy bed by Uniacke, which sits in the centre of the largest treatment room. Fit for royalty.

Most appointments (which start from £300 with one of eight senior therapists) run for a minimum of 90 minutes. All trained by Grant, they use IPL, lasers, and microneedling with exosomes, which is very popular, as are tightening non-invasive ultrasound treatments such as Sofwave. Grant's approach is to layer several modalities and never break contact with the client, offering a hand and foot massage while they drift off under the LED lamp. "The experience needs to feel as restorative as the results," she says.

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Melanie Grant's must-haves



Chanel La Solution 10 De Chanel Sensitive Skin Cream
Price: £69 for 30ml

BUY



Augustinus Bader The Rich Cream
Price: £450 for 100ml

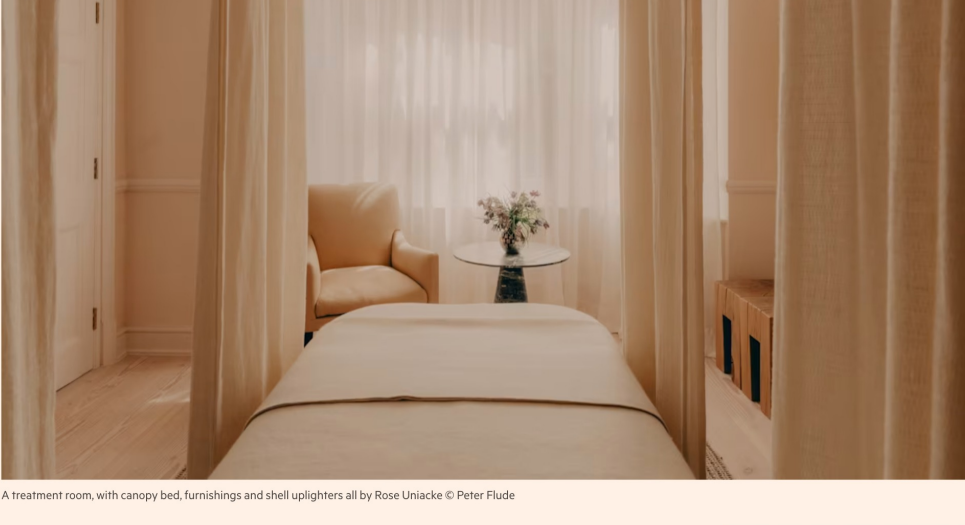
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Victoria Beckham Beauty The Daily Cleansing Protocol
Price: £100 for 200ml

BUY

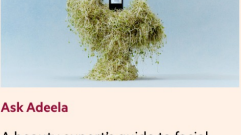
massaging while they drift off under the LED lamp. "The experience needs to feel as restorative as the results," she says.



A treatment room, with canopy bed, furnishings and shell uplighters all by Rose Uniacke © Peter Flude

That attentiveness, she admits, has made scaling difficult – but intimacy and doing things properly are what she values. She is horrified by rushed lunchtime "tweakments", at-home microneedling and the broader lack of regulation in the industry. "My expertise is in skin treatment and improvement. Not injectables, hair removal or weight-loss treatments. I'm a firm believer that a jack-of-all-trades is master of none."

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Rosie Huntington-Whiteley is a loyal client. "Over the years Melanie has become a close friend, and my skin is at its best – healthy, clear and glowing – when I've been seeing her regularly," she says.

Grant would call this "skin health", attentive to what the body is doing from the inside out. "The skin reflects our internal health, so it's not always about laser treatments or topical skincare," she says. "I love skin that is perfectly

imperfect – a flush in the cheeks, freckles, smile lines that reflect a life well-lived."



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