

“I love looking a little disheveled”

Actress, singer, and new Nars collaborator Charlotte Gainsbourg explains the French-girl way.



French Connection
Gainsbourg, 45, masters the undone vibe.



Smith's Rosebud Salve (\$6, sephora.com)

Charlotte Gainsbourg for Nars Velvet Matte Lip Pencil in Blindfold (\$27, narscosmetics.com)

Charlotte Gainsbourg for Nars Au Poil Brush Roll (\$175 for set of five, narscosmetics.com)

Charlotte Gainsbourg for Nars Multiple Tint in Jo (\$39, narscosmetics.com)

Charlotte Gainsbourg for Nars Zinc Kohlener (\$26, narscosmetics.com)

Nivea Creme (\$8, at drugstores)

My favorite look on a woman: I would love to say waking up in the morning, but that only works until you're 30. Then it's a little more difficult. But my favorite thing is to feel emotions, so a look that translates what's going on inside—maybe something a little disheveled, a little flushed. **My dream products:** The first thing I asked Nars for was something to camouflage red spots and dark circles, but in a very, very light, nonobvious way. They came up with the Hydrating Glow Tint [\$36, narscosmetics.com]. But I think flushing is very real and linked to emotion; I like it. Redness makes your skin alive. The Multiple Tint [at left] highlights your cheeks and other areas, but it's also very transparent and you can make mistakes with it. **My take on French-girl beauty:** It *tries* less; there's always this idea of being natural. My mother [actress Jane Birkin] talked about the sixties as a stupid experience, putting too much on and trying to all look the same. I'm not sure I agree, but the principle makes sense—and I always look much older with a lot of makeup on; it never suits me! On so many early photo shoots, I had to take everything off—the transformation was never me. My father [singer Serge Gainsbourg] taught me gestures. He had poses he liked. I would imitate him! **My morning routine:** I keep it very, very minimal. I mist on Evian or Avène water spray, tissue it off, and add moisturizer. That's it. And I brush my teeth. **My French pharmacy favorites:** I always come back to pharmacy products. My mother used Embryolisse cream all the time, and it has a smell that I love. I love the smell of the original Nivea cream [bottom left] too. It's one of the oldest products we have and extremely French. **My barely there lip tint:** I found this Rosebud lip balm [top left] in America. I love that it's not sticky or too shiny. **My must-do beauty treatment:** My shower can transform into a steam room—it becomes this wonderful hammam. I do that maybe once a week. **My going-out makeup look:** Eyes are really the only thing I can do, so a smoky eye with slate gray or moss green liner. Lipstick doesn't suit me, so I leave my mouth bare. **My beauty icon:** It's difficult not to say my mother. For me, it's so obvious. She's on a pedestal to me. As an adolescent, I felt the need to destroy all I came from. But now that I'm a little freer, I'm even more conscious of who she is. She objectively deserves that pedestal. —as told to Megan Deem