

Designers
of the week

Nature's own beauty serum

Olive oil is not only a healthful alternative to dress a salad, it also has made its way into bath and body products, proving that what you put on your skin is as important as what you put in your body.

Brenda and Perry Rea, co-owners of Queen Creek Olive Mill in Queen Creek, are aware of the benefits of olive oil.

For the past two years, the couple have developed a line of flavored olive oils, including their signature blend, Tuscan Estate Blend Extra Virgin Olive Oil.

Realizing the benefits of olive oil, Brenda was inspired to create a line of bath and body products.

"My sister sent me a newspaper article when we first started our olive oil business," Brenda says. "It was about an Italian immigrant woman in Canada who

credited her good health in her old age to eating olive oil every day. She then added that not only did she eat it every day of her life but also used it on her skin."

Armed with this inspiration and a grove full of ripe olives, Brenda decided to put olive oil to the test, applying it as a body oil. Disenchanted by the scent, she began to experiment with essential oils that were not only pleasantly fragrant but had beneficial qualities as well.

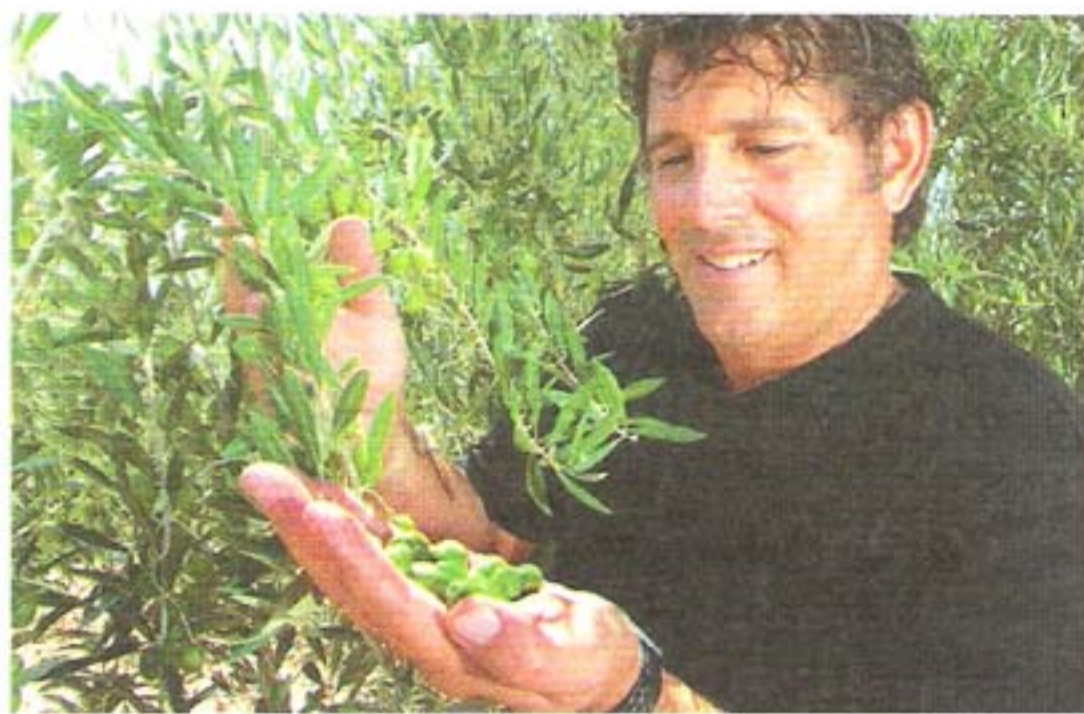
After creating her own recipes, Brenda launched a line of bath and body products. Her philosophy is to use only high-quality natural ingredients with no artificial fragrances or preservatives and to use only extra-virgin olive oil.

Soon this new endeavor would be a family affair: Brenda enlisted her three ▶▶▶



Lavender Hand Salve, \$5.99.
Peppermint Foot Balm, \$8.99.

WRITTEN BY MIGNON A. GOULD • PHOTOS BY MARK W. LIPCZYNSKI, TOM TINGLE AND FROM COMPANY



Dad Perry Rea, owner of the Queen Creek Olive Mill, looks over a Mission olive tree in his grove.



Springtime Bath and Body Oil, \$4.99-\$8.99.

Right: Flavored Lip Balm tins or sticks (spearmint, pink grapefruit and tangerine), \$2.99 each.



daughters to assist in creating the products.

Amid their busy schedules as students at Corona del Sol High School in Tempe and as members of the school's championship soccer team, each is responsible for creating a product for the line.

Sydney Rea, 18, who plans to attend Arizona State University in the fall, makes the Springtime Bath and Body Oil, a floral blend of jasmine, lavender and geranium; Este Rea, 16, makes the Lavender Hand Salve and Peppermint Foot Balm; and Joey Rea, 15, makes the spearmint-, pink grapefruit- and tangerine-flavored lip balms.

Other ingredients used in the product line are beeswax, aloe butter, mango oil and olive butter.

Queen Creek Olive Mill offers tours of the olive farm and mill, where you can learn more about their products, the varieties of olive trees, how extra-virgin olive oil is made and its health benefits. You can also have a picnic in the olive grove, visit the mill store (where the bath and beauty products are for sale) and sample some of the delectable flavored olive oils, stuffed olives and tapenades.

Details: 25062 S. Meridian Road, Queen Creek. (480) 888-9290. queencreekolivemill.com. Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays-Saturdays and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays. Walk-in tours are 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, \$5 per person.