



Though she now lives in LA, Emmanuelle Vaugier still refers to Vancouver as home.

A self-confessed “warm-weather gal” — for her the best part about relocating was leaving the rain behind — she loves the California sunshine but misses friends and family here in BC. Fortunately, she sees them several times a year, while in town filming projects such as *Smallville*, *Human Target*, *The Haunting Hour*, *40 Days and 40 Nights* and *Blonde and Blonder*. Vaugier also misses “summers up at Whistler,” listing hiking, golfing, horseback riding, great restaurants and fabulous hotels as just a few of the reasons.

The acting bug bit Vaugier about 25 years ago, when she was cast in an elementary-school play. “I didn’t have any lines. I was the understudy for someone who did have lines, and one day she was sick, so I got to step in and do her role. And that’s where it all began,” she says, adding with a laugh, “much to my parents’ disappointment!” Not that there’s any reason for disappointment these days. Vaugier has been working steadily in Hollywood for years, scoring plum roles such as a recurring character on *Two and a Half Men*, and she keeps attracting attention for her beauty, landing on “*Maxim*’s Top 100” list several times and gracing magazine covers ranging from *Maxim* to *Flare* to *Modern Dog*.

Besides acting, Vaugier’s other passion is animals. Her two pampered toy poodles, Isabel and Lily, travel with her everywhere. She took up horseback riding in 2010 and competed at a horse show in Burbank recently, placing third. Actively involved with the Best Friends Animal Society, which rescues and rehabilitates animals, she also hosts an annual Winter Fluffball Charity event that attracts the Hollywood elite.

It may come as a surprise that this elegant beauty with the big heart also loves sports cars, gadgets, spy novels and action movies. “I’ve got a lot of ‘guy’ qualities,” Vaugier confesses with a laugh. She shares with us a few more of her favourite things.

RESTAURANT Don Francesco

COFFEE SHOP Caffè Artigiano

NIGHTSPOTS Bacchus Restaurant & Lounge, Gerard Lounge

STORE Holt Renfrew

THING TO DO ON A RAINY DAY Rent a cabin at Whistler for the weekend to stay in, eat and watch comedies or action movies

PLACE TO WALK HER DOGS The seawall

LEADING MEN TO WORK WITH Michael Rosenbaum (*Smallville*), Gary Sinise (*CSI: NY*), Michael Caine (*Secondhand Lions*)

TV SHOWS *Game of Thrones*, *True Blood*

MOVIES *Zoolander*, *Bridget Jones’s Diary*, *Elf*

BOOKS Spy novels, anything by Robert Ludlum or John Grisham

MUSIC Jazz, classical or Lady Gaga, depending on her mood ■

Silver Screen

Hollywood actress and avid animal rescuer Emmanuelle Vaugier chats about hometown Vancouver **BY SHERI RADFORD**