



Creative Cashmere

While speaking to JJ Wilson, it's impossible not to be charmed by his energy and enthusiasm. The co-creator of Kit and Ace (page 88) knows that the fledgling store's growth strategy is aggressive, borderline insane. Over the past nine months, he and his business partner Shannon Wilson (who is married to JJ's father Chip Wilson, founder of Lululemon) have opened seven stores in North America, starting with their hometown of Vancouver. In the next year, they're planning 30 more openings, in places as far flung as London, Tokyo and Sydney. "We're a bit in shock about what we've committed ourselves to," he admits with a laugh. **Each store reflects the brand's identity but with many regional touches, including fixtures by local designers and rotating art by local artists**, in order to support what JJ calls "the evolving creative class." You don't need to be creative in order to appreciate Kit and Ace clothes, which are all constructed from technical cashmere. As soft as regular cashmere, but enhanced with technical fibres for resilience, **technical cashmere doesn't shrink, pill or bag out at the knees and elbows**. The tailored styles look elegant while remaining comfortable. And the best part? All pieces are machine-washable. JJ says he can't imagine wearing anything else, and after speaking to him, we're converts, too.—*Sheri Radford*

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This directory includes editors' recommendations and regular advertisers. Stores are usually open from 9:30 or 10 am to 5:30 or 6 pm, with later hours on Friday evenings. Map coordinates refer to the maps on pages E8-E14.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

GOT CRAFT? This indie craft fair features 75 local, independent vendors selling handcrafted works: clothing, jewellery, food, home decor, art and more. Try a DIY craft workshop, and take home your creation (**May 2-3**): 10 am-5 pm. Admission \$3. Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph St. www.gotcraft.com & **Map 2: D3**

WHERE TO SHOP

ABERDEEN CENTRE The many new-to-North America retailers make this centre worth the drive to Richmond. Purchase sushi ware, snacks, stationery, household supplies, and toiletries from a variety of Asian-influenced stores. 4151 Hazelbridge Way, Richmond. 604-270-1234. www.aberdeencentre.com &

Map 3: E2



READ ON! May 2 is Authors for Indies Day. Visit www.authorsforindies.com to find out which independent bookstores (page 85) are bringing in authors as guest book sellers.