

BEAUTIFUL YOU

For clients on the go, these boutique services are ready to rev up a tired look **BY LOUISE PHILLIPS + SHERI RADFORD**

QUICK AS A BLINK

From the age of nine, Kiran Darred knew she wanted to thread eyebrows. Not your average ambition for a “respectable little Indian girl,” but one that has taken her into her own tiny, perfect downtown salon. Eyebrow threading is the traditional Indian method of shaping brows. Darred or one of her fellow estheticians assesses your ideal brow shape based on your facial structure and pencils it on for your approval. She expertly removes the stray hairs with cotton thread and applies soothing gel. Instead of the eye-watering pinch of tweezers ripping each hair from the brow, or the reddening sting of waxing, threading gently lifts hair from the skin with a sensation akin to being brushed with light sandpaper. Tinting is optional, and every appointment includes a light brow-makeup application to go. Blink, and it’s all over. Ideal for any modern maharani. — LP

BLINK BROW BAR

577 Bute St. 604-428-BROW
blinkbrowbar.ca

INSTANT GLAM

Caught between daylight meetings and a cocktail soirée? Grab a cab to MAC and request the Go for Glamour free demo. In 15 minutes, you’ll be back on the sidewalk looking like a movie star and feeling refreshed. Of course you’re welcome to buy any of the MAC products from the all-Canadian cosmetics line, but there’s no guilt-inducing hard sell and the highly trained staff seem happy just to exercise their artistry. As the client, you specify the kind of look you want and they choose colours from the versatile products on offer. For a quick glam look to go, makeup artist Caitlin Callahan starts with under-eye concealer and BB cream, a sheer foundation-moisturizer-concealer in a compact case. She curls the eyelashes, pencils on a little eyeliner and shadow within the same subtle colour palette as the lips, chooses a mascara, applies eyebrow makeup, then finishes the look with lipstick, gloss in the centre of the mouth only, and a cream blush. The result is a soft, elegant effect to last all evening and offset that little black dress. — LP

MAC PRO ROBSON

908 Robson St. 604-682-6588
maccosmetics.com



SCENT-SATION

Walk into an Escents boutique and breathe deeply. Welcome to bliss. For the converted, aromatherapy is as natural as, well, breathing — essential plant oils such as lavender, grapefruit, eucalyptus and peppermint are distilled or expressed and sometimes blended together to create a feeling of contented wellness. It's not new-age claptrap, either. The science behind aromatherapy is based on the atavistic response of the "primitive" brain to scent. Staff know their stuff and will blend for your needs. Insomnia? Headache? Try peppermint and lavender oil. Sprinkle a few drops on a handkerchief tucked inside the pillowcase. Congested? Inhale eucalyptus with rosemary. Stressed? Add blended heliotrope-and-jasmine bath oil to the tub. Rev up a tired libido with rose-and-jasmine massage oil. Therapy never felt so good. And it's cheaper than a shrink. — LP

ESCENTS AROMATHERAPY

Downtown: 948 Robson St. 604-568-3045
Kitsilano: 2202 W. 4th Ave. 604-730-9910
South Main: 4385 Main St. 604-872-5109
Park Royal Mall: 937-2002 Marine Dr.,
West Vancouver. 604-926-7720
escent SAROMATHERAPY.COM

DERMA-DOC

The line between medical procedure, beauty treatment and pampering indulgence is blurred at Project Skin MD, but in the best way possible. The in-house SkinCeuticals Advanced Clinical Spa offers clinical peels, dermaplaning and medical facials, which are an ideal way to test the waters at this non-surgical esthetic centre. Each medical facial begins with a skin assessment, in which products are chosen to deal with specific challenges: fine lines, enlarged pores, acne breakouts, dull complexion. A deep cleansing follows, then exfoliation, then the best part: a calming masque and a soothing massage. Patients leave with glowing skin, feeling relaxed and refreshed, perhaps ready to try a more adventurous treatment with even longer-lasting benefits the next time, such as the Fraxel resurfacing laser, which improves skin texture while repairing sun damage and irregular pigmentation. Who'd have guessed science and beauty could make such perfect partners? — SR

PROJECT SKIN MD

1495 W. 11th Ave. 604-732-7546
projectSKINMD.COM

NEW NAILS

A mani-pedi can make or break an outfit, especially in the summertime, when sleeves get shorter and toes start peeking out of sandals after months spent hiding in socks and shoes. Pure Nail Bar offers manicures and pedicures using all the popular brands of nail polish, including VINYLUX Weekly Polish, which lives up to the promise in its name: it doesn't chip, doesn't deteriorate over time and doesn't even require a base coat. The esthetician applies two layers of the colour coat first, then the innovative top coat, which becomes more durable with exposure to natural light. In other words, it's the holy grail of nail polish — and it leaves fingernails and toenails looking red-carpet-ready for a week. — SR

PURE NAIL BAR

Downtown: 202-1030 W. Georgia St. 604-569-1799
Yaletown: 1282 Pacific Blvd. 604-605-1282
Kitsilano: 2137 W. 4th Ave. 604-738-8990
Olympic Village: 1780 Manitoba St. 604-559-7488
South Main: 2836 Main St. 604-874-9222
pureNAILBAR.COM

BLOW-OUT

Scissors and hair dye? Not at Blo. The world's largest chain of blow-dry bars started right here in Vancouver, when the Yaletown spot opened in 2007, and locations have since popped up in places as far-flung as England, Russia and the Philippines. There's just one thing on the menu at Blo: a runway-ready blow-out in 45 minutes or less. Customers have seven styles to choose from, ranging from the razor-straight Executive Sweet and the smooth Red Carpet to the tousled Pillow Talk and the curly Holly Would, with the Hunt Club (perfect ponytail), High Society (ballerina-worthy bun) and Go Fish (braid) thrown in for good measure. All styles work on all types of hair, whether straight or curly, long or short, with extensions or without. There's even something for the men — or Blo Bros, as they're known — and shorter hair means more time for a relaxing scalp massage. No cuts, no colours, no problems. — SR

BLO

Yaletown: 1150 Hamilton St. 604-909-9495
Four Seasons Hotel: 791 W. Georgia St.
604-609-5460
South Granville: 1529 W. 14th Ave. 604-734-7599
blomedry.COM



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