

VILLAGES OF VANCOUVER

YALETOWN



Living the Good Life

BY SHERI RADFORD

Old-school Vancouverites define Yaletown as the area bounded by the waterfront and Drake, Homer and Nelson streets. But condominium developers like to push the boundaries farther, hoping to cash in on a desirable moniker.

The area has transformed repeatedly over the years, from a rail yard to a garment district to the site of a world's fair to, in the '90s, a hive of dot-com activity by day and rocking nightclubs by night. Then the dot-com boom went bust, and condo-dwellers in the ubiquitous sleek glass towers decided they wanted parks more than nightspots.

Now Yaletown is reinventing itself again, trying to cope while construction of SkyTrain's new Canada Line wreaks havoc on traffic. The area brims with places to primp and preen: salons, spas, cosmetic-dentistry offices and chic clothing boutiques—not just for humans, either. Barking Babies, The Dog & Hydrant, Pawsh Dog Spa & Boutique and Luv My Dog cater to discriminating canines. For humans, Eden Fashion Boutique, Fine Finds, Basquiat, Atomic Model and Mantique offer fine fashions, while Beauty Mark carries luxury cosmetics and Open Sundaes has pampering products for bed and bath. The pampering extends to homes, too, with Entre Nous Interiors, The Cross Decor & Design, Bernstein & Gold and Italinteriors all geared to transforming condos

into castles. Finnish brand Marimekko brings hip clothing, fabric, dishware and bedding.

To cap a luxurious day of shopping and spa visits, or after a session at Westcoast Hot Yoga, there's nothing like relaxing in a restaurant where celebrity-spotting is almost as popular as fresh local fare. Blue Water Cafe + Raw Bar, Glowbal Grill & Satay Bar and Cioppino's Mediterranean Grill feature Hollywood stars almost as often as fresh salmon. Other high-end hotspots include Brix Restaurant & Wine Bar, Goldfish Pacific Kitchen, Coast Restaurant, Yaletown Brewing Co. and Section (3). And yes, the person dining at the next table who looks like Jennifer Aniston really is Jennifer Aniston.

After dinner, Yaletown's vibrant nightspots come to life. Opus Bar, Afterglow Lounge and George Ultra Lounge attract the beautiful people, both the famous and the not-yet-famous, while Bar None and Capones Restaurant & Live Jazz Club pack 'em in for cocktail-fuelled fun. Those with slightly more refined tastes head to the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre for an art show, symphony or dance performance. The centre is across the street from über-grocery store Urban Fare, where you can pick up \$50 extra virgin olive oil or \$98 bread flown in fresh from France.

Ahhh, the good life. That's what this incarnation of Yaletown is all about.



Patio restaurants and chic boutiques are a feast for the senses