

NEIGHBOURHOODS



Sipping a cocktail on a Yaletown patio is an ideal way to spend the afternoon

YALETOWN

Living the Good Life

BY SHERI RADFORD

Yaletown has transformed repeatedly over the years; rail yard, garment district, site of a world's fair. In the 1990s, it was a hive of dot-com activity by day and rocking clubs by night. Then the boom went bust, and denizens of the ubiquitous sleek glass condo towers decided they wanted parks and an elementary school, too.

The neighbourhood now brims with places to primp and preen: salons, spas, nail bars, cosmetic-dentistry offices and chic clothing boutiques. Fine Finds, Basquiat, Eden Fashion Boutique, Enve Clothing, Atomic Model and Mantique offer fashions for humans, while Barking Babies outfits discerning dogs. The pampering extends to homes, with Entre Nous Interiors, The Cross Decor & Design, Lola Home & Apparel,

Bernstein & Gold, Inhabit and ItaInteriors all helping transform condos into castles. For the ultimate accessory, visit Coastal Peoples Fine Arts Gallery or Jennifer Kostuik Gallery.

To cap a luxurious day of shopping, or after a session at Westcoast Hot Yoga, indulge in a sweet treat at Chocoatl or Ganache. For more substantial fare, there's nothing like relaxing in a restaurant where celebrity spotting is as popular as the local seafood. The person dining at the next table who looks like Halle Berry probably is Halle Berry. Elixir, Blue Water Cafe + Raw Bar, Glowbal Grill & Satay Bar and Cioppino's Mediterranean Grill feature celebrities at the table almost as often as fresh scallops on it. Yaletown bristles with trendy eateries: Goldfish Pacific Kitchen, Brix Restaurant & Wine Bar, Yaletown Brewing Co., Section (3), Hamilton Street Grill and Rodney's Oyster House.

After dinner, Yaletown really comes to life. Opus Bar, Afterglow Lounge and George Ultra Lounge attract both the famous and the yearning-to-be-famous, while V at Earls 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 or symphony. The centre is across the street from über-grocery store Urban Fare, where you can buy Poilane bread flown in fresh from France.

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



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