

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 is filling up 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 and Luv My Dog all cater to discriminating canines. For humans, stores such as Eden Fashion Boutique, Atomic Model, Mantique and Vasanji offer the latest fashions, while Beauty Mark carries hard-to-find 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 your condo into a castle.

To cap a luxurious day of shopping and spa visits, 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 Cactus Club Cafe feature Hollywood stars almost as often as fresh salmon. Other high-end hotspots include Brix Restaurant & Wine Bar, Hamilton Street Grill, Coast Restaurant, Yaletown Brewing Co. and Section (3). And yes, the person dining at the next table who looks like Catherine Zeta-Jones really is Catherine Zeta-Jones.

After dinner, Yaletown's vibrant nightspots come to life. Newcomers 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 continue to



pack 'em in for cocktail-fuelled fun. Those looking for an art show, symphony or dance performance head to the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre. 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.



Yaletown's former rail yard identity makes it a history-filled hot spot