

My Vancouver



The Personal Stylist

For three years, Diane Gagne has been working as a personal stylist at Holt Renfrew, which means she gets to help shoppers on their treasure hunt for anything from a stunning gown to a whole new wardrobe. She's also worked in just about every job in the fashion industry, including model, runway coach, make-up artist, merchandiser, photographic stylist and fashion-show producer. Her impeccable personal style landed her on *Vancouver Magazine's* best-dressed list for 2016.

Favourite store

Holt Renfrew, of course!

Favourite clothing designers

Alexander McQueen. Céline. Maison Margiela. Balenciaga. Acne Studios.

Favourite shoe designers

Céline. Balenciaga. Currently I'm coveting a pair of cut-out ankle boots by Alaïa. They're an easy-to-wear comfortable style. Filigree cut-out is a brand signature and gives the bootie a feminine touch, and, well, they're black—my favourite fashion colour.

Style mantra

You have to *love* it.

Favourite restaurants for out-of-town guests

With access to such great seafood here in Vancouver, Blue Water Cafe or Miku are top suggestions, but Sandbar is a fave stop during a Granville Island tour, too.

Favourite special-occasion restaurants

Savio Volpe or Cinara—cozy rooms with amazing food and service, such a treat.

Favourite brunch spot

Colette at Holt Renfrew, of course.

Favourite restaurant with a view

The Boathouse at Kits Beach is always great (another out-of-town guest spot, too), but I'm also a big fan of loading up on goodies from the market and heading to the many seaside parks around the city for a little alfresco picnic—weather permitting.

Favourite places for a drink

For weekday get-togethers, Yew at the Four Seasons, the bar in Hawksworth, or Reflections. On weekends, I also love all the great local breweries, like Parallel 49, R&B (homemade chips!), Powell Street and Steamworks Taproom in Burnaby, for a great beer and a shuffleboard challenge.

Essential tour of Vancouver

Grouse Mountain, VanDusen Botanical Garden, Stanley Park, UBC, and if you have the time, Whistler.

Best view of Vancouver

When you're coming back from Whistler and you're in West Vancouver, and you see Vancouver again.



The Chef

After succumbing to the lure of cooking in New York, Montreal and London, Angus An returned to Vancouver to open his own restaurant. These days, he's the very definition of a busy chef/entrepreneur. The mastermind behind Maenam, Longtail Kitchen, Fat Mao Noodles, Freebird Chicken Shack and Sen Pad Thai is also working on a cookbook and prepping to open Popina Canteen, along with three other celebrated local chefs, on Granville Island in summer 2018.

Personal style

I don't pay attention to any kind of style trends. I think I'm a bit old-fashioned. I'll buy suits instead of trendy weird t-shirts. I'll buy nice dress shoes over ugly runners with gold wings. In New York, I wore a tux with torn jeans and a t-shirt to go out for dinner. But in New York you can get away with that. Here people might look at you funny, because everyone's in yoga pants.

Favourite restaurants

My favourite has to be in line with my wife's favourite and my son's favourite. That's just the way it goes. We love Cioppino's. We go there all the time. We really like going to Cinara, for Italian food. For Japanese food, hands down, we go to Masayoshi the most. My son, who's 10, can eat the 19-piece nigiri omakase there. It's unbelievable. We love simple meals, too: Au Petit, for some easy brunch. And Linh Café. My son loves Marutama for ramen. We go to Fayuca, and Kissa Tanto, and also Monarch Burger and Campagnolo. At Fayuca, they use a lot of modern techniques and local ingredients to try to represent what is their culture. Kissa Tanto is like a big melting pot of flavour. We eat at our own restaurants a fair bit. I also enjoy cooking at home for the family.

Favourite restaurants for out-of-town guests

I take visitors to Richmond for the dim sum. The Chinese food in Richmond, it's second to none, anywhere in the world.

Favourite places for a drink

We love Sabine Dhaliwal at Uva. She makes a really good drink. We tend to follow bartenders. Also West, and Prohibition.

Essential tour of Vancouver

Stanley Park, CRAB Park near Gastown, Chinatown, Granville Island, Jericho, Vancouver Art Gallery, Museum of Anthropology, Quarry Rock in Deep Cove, Cleveland Dam. And skiing at Cypress and in Whistler.

Best view of Vancouver

It's hard to pinpoint, but I think the signature moment for most people is Stanley Park. That's the view everybody has on their postcards. And if you ever get a chance to walk or ride a bike along the seawall, any of that view is gorgeous.

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The Actor

For years, Diana Bang has been appearing in filmed-in-Vancouver movies and TV shows such as *Bates Motel* and *Fringe*. Her big break came when she landed a lead role in *The Interview*, alongside another funny local actor, Seth Rogen. Not content to just wait around for her next big role, Bang is also writing her own scripts, hoping one day to produce and direct. Look for her in upcoming performances with sketch-comedy troupe The Lady Show (theladyshow.com).

Favourite clothing stores

I like TopShop, H&M, The Salvation Army. I buy clothes in Korea, and that's what I'll wear for a long chunk of time.

Favourite stores for shoes and accessories

I like deals. I go to Winners sometimes, or Nordstrom Rack. I wear a lot of Converse flats. I like pretty much all the shoes at Gravitypop—if I could buy them all, I would.

Personal style

Super casual, pretty and colourful. Sometimes tomboy-ish. I really like wearing a pantsuit. It's easy, and it can be chic, depending on how you dress it up. I need to feel comfortable, because if I'm comfortable then I'll feel confident.

Favourite restaurants

Congee Noodle House. Gallery Café at the Vancouver Art Gallery. I work out of The Birds and the Beets a lot. I really love New Town Bakery in Chinatown—the steamed pork-and-vegetable bun, and the coconut bun.

Favourite restaurants for out-of-town guests

I recommend getting dim sum of some kind. There's great dim sum on Victoria Drive, and in Richmond.

Favourite special-occasion restaurants

My jam is cheap and cheerful. I usually try new restaurants if I'm going somewhere nicer.

Favourite places for a drink

Pourhouse, R&B Brewing, Martini's, Grapes & Soda, The Cascade, The Diamond. It depends on what neighbourhood I'm in.

Essential tour of Vancouver

I would do all the outdoor stuff for sure, because that's unique to the Lower Mainland: Stanley Park, Queen Elizabeth Park, Capilano Suspension Bridge, Grouse Mountain. And the SkyTrain, and Aquabus or False Creek Ferries, and the SeaBus to North Van. You can't beat the Chinese food here—we would just be eating non-stop.

Best view of Vancouver

From Quarry Rock in Deep Cove. The hike is reasonable—it's 45 minutes, so it's not crazy, and the view that you get at the top is super beautiful. You feel like you've earned the view. **E**