

allure

THE BEAUTY EXPERT

SEPTEMBER 2009

73 SECRETS TO GREAT STYLE

THE BEST DRESSES, JEANS, SUITS, BAGS, BOOTS, JEWELRY
PLUS: How to Order Wine, Flirt Successfully, Walk in Platforms & More

Delicious Fall Makeup

Chocolate Eyes, Cherry Lips, Peach Cheeks

Mom Was Right

Her Spot-On Beauty Advice (Now, Don't Slouch!)

MICHAEL JACKSON

The Real Story Behind His Changing Face

Amanda Seyfried

"I am surrounded by beautiful actresses! They're everywhere!"

4 Easy Hairstyles For Everyone

Sexy, Simple, Fast



Directory | The Real Deals

or so we thought. Gregory cleaned up our bulky pixie, snipping away unruliness and reshaping every strand so they would grow in neatly, she explained. We left with a sprightly cut that promised to stay tidy between appointments. Evidently, we *can* have it both ways. \$65.

Chicago Massage

Chicago Touch
Paula Amos
1121 N. Ashland Ave.
773-342-3650

We can live without lavender-scented oils and cucumber slices in our water, but a lack of doors on the treatment rooms is another thing altogether. Just a curtain separated the bustling lobby from the massage rooms, barely muffling the commotion outside. But Amos soon put our fears (and tension) to rest. Her rhythmic kneading unfurled our knots while we drifted in and out of consciousness. The next time we need to shoo away stress, we'll be sure to knock on her, um, curtain. \$55 for 50 minutes.

★ Renton, WA Facial

Euro Institute of Skin Care
10904 SE 176th St.
425-336-1558

We always avoid student drivers on the road—so we weren't exactly thrilled with the idea of a student aesthetician going to town

on our face. But after our friends raved about the treatments at this holistic beauty school, we booked an appointment. Our aesthetician instantly calmed us with a blissful face massage. She coaxed the grime from our pores and polished our skin with an organic scrub, then smoothed on a hydrating rose-and-honey mask before doing acupressure massage on our shoulders, arms, and hands. Our skin was soft, glowing, and vibrant—but the real joyride? No blemishes for weeks. Ayurvedic Facial, \$45.

San Francisco Blowout

Blow Salon
Julia Howell
224 Kearny St.
415-989-2569

To save time (and, yes, money), we showed up for our appointment with hair that was already clean and dry (and, yes, frizzy). Howell applied a few drops of shine serum to our ends to control the ballooning effect, then blow-dried using a round brush to create volume at the roots. In just 20 minutes, we left with a perfect blow-out that had tons of polish, bounce, and staying power—it lasted three full days. Dry blowout, \$20; shampoo and blowout, \$35 and up.

Bright, punchy shades are popular at Tootsie's Full Service Nail Salon in Miami Beach.



Sierra English uses a round brush to add volume at Ohm Salon in Los Angeles.

Los Angeles Haircut

Ohm Salon
Sierra English
1605 Abbot Kinney Blvd.
310-399-9973

When it comes to cutting hair, English is all ears. She nodded thoughtfully as we explained that we wanted to add more volume and shape to our blunt bob, then suggested an A-line cut to pump up our fine strands. She sliced short layers in back, then angled the pieces in front until they curved right below our chin. To finish, she gave us side-swept bangs that made our eyes seem bigger. But the real payoff? Basking in the compliments from our friends. \$85.

Massage

The Massage Garage
Joyce Gerber
3812 Main St.
310-202-0082

We were sorely in need of fine-tuning, so we headed over to the Massage Garage for a thorough rubdown. Gerber kneaded. She probed. She stretched. At one point, she even climbed onto the table to apply more pressure to our most obstinate knots. But in terms of luxury, our service was more like a Buick than a Benz. We could hear hallway racket all through our session and weren't shown any place to freshen up our oil-slicked face by the end of it. Our

muscles were in prime condition—but we left feeling as greasy as an old carburetor. Swedish massage, \$45.

Manicure-Pedicure

The Golden Nail Salon
Christine Ngo; Sarah Tseveg
9893 S. Santa Monica Blvd.
310-788-9027

Beverly Hills is the first place we'd look for a top-notch nail salon—and the last place we'd expect to find a bargain. But that was before we visited this family-operated gem. Ngo neatened up our cuticles and filed away every ridge while Tseveg simultaneously got to work on our feet, scrubbing away our calluses and treating us to a generous toe-to-knee massage. Both applied polish without a smudge and sent us on our way with pristine nails that remained chip-free for two weeks, exceeding our expectations—but not our budget. Manicure-pedicure, \$40.

Reported by: *Allure* staff, New York; Elizabeth Deveney-Frazier, Boston; Meredith Lindemon, Philadelphia; Brooke Siegel, Miami; Ronit Pinto, Ferndale, MI; Paige Bowers, Atlanta; Nicole Pearl, Chicago; Jennifer Worick, Renton, WA; Michaela Caughlan, San Francisco; *Allure* staff, Victoria Land, and Beth Whiffen, Los Angeles.

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Manicures remain chip-free for over a week at the Golden Nail in Beverly Hills.