

# GEM CITY GUIDE

## VANCOUVER 2015/2016



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# WELCOME TO GEM CITY GUIDE VANCOUVER



Like all the world's great centres, Vancouver is full of diamonds—those standout places that make a city shine in its own unique way. Some are hidden, some are trusted favourites, some are on the tip of everyone's tongue, but each is a precious addition, and to experience even one is to better understand this spectacular West Coast mosaic.

Gem City Guide is a map to these places—it's your way to uncover the truly local, whether you're a lifelong resident or visiting for the first time. As former residents of France turned passionate Vancouverites, we've launched this series to help others fall in love with this city by revealing its ultimate spots, from its hottest fashion and home design to its ultra-luxurious salons to its most incredible flavours.

With secret tips from local city editors, and gorgeous inside looks by Vancouver-based photographers, all beautifully laid out by Pulp & Pixel Creative, you'll feel right at home in each of these one-of-a-kind and very Vancouver boutiques as soon as you walk in the door. So turn the page, see the possibilities, and discover the best of this city.

Wishing you happy discoveries,

*Arnaud Jolivet and Mathieu Koebel*



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BLUE WATER CAFE + RAW BAR

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# food & hospitality



## BLUE WATER CAFE + RAW BAR



If you want fresh seafood prepared to its finest, this Yaletown mainstay is a must-visit. With its innovative dishes and focus on local and sustainable food, Blue Water Cafe is consistently voted the best seafood in Vancouver.

Within one of Yaletown's finest brick-and-beam heritage warehouse conversions, two open kitchens face off to create a theatrical East meets West atmosphere that puts Blue Water Cafe's world-class chefs in the spotlight. Sit right up at the dynamic raw bar, or take a table to indulge in one of Executive Chef Pabst's applauded plates, from the impressive seafood tower to his signature sablefish dish.

If you like to try new tastes, visit in February for Blue Water Cafe's annual "Unsung Heroes" sustainable seafood festival. And whenever you go, don't forget to sample from a wine program that has won both the Award of Excellence from *Wine Spectator* and the platinum medal from the National Wine Awards.

*Blue Water Cafe : un décor sans pareil avec ses cuisines ouvertes, ses produits locaux et équitables, les meilleurs fruits de mer à Vancouver, et une excellente carte des vins.*









## HAWKSWORTH RESTAURANT



Each year since it opened, one restaurant has consistently brought home some of the city's most prestigious awards: Best Upscale Restaurant, Best Chef, Best Wine List, Best Service, Cocktail of the Year. The accolades are a side product of Chef David Hawksworth's larger vision: to create an experience for diners that is fresh, satisfying and top-of-class every time they visit.

Sitting in one of the four elegant rooms and looking out on the bustling street and Vancouver Art Gallery beyond, you feel like you could be in Boston, or London, or Paris. But Hawksworth's dishes are all about the defining

cultural diversity of British Columbia, and about locally sourced and seasonal seafood, meats, forage and harvest. The menu is ever-evolving, but consistent with Hawksworth's signature style: an emphasis on colour, texture—and, always, flavour over flash.

*Ce restaurant offrant une expérience dînatoire unique a reçu des prix prestigieux et propose un menu en constante évolution reflétant la diversité culturelle de la province.*







## OPUS BAR

One of the city's most cosmopolitan hotels has a cocktail bar and lounge to match. Opus Bar is like nothing else in Yaletown: it's a place where you can join up with friends, try a tasty and creative cocktail (or two), and enjoy the feeling of being in an exciting, sexy, and sophisticated space—yet never have to feel like you're yelling over the room.

Live music and guest DJ events make Opus Bar a popular place to be seen for after-work drinks, industry networking parties, and late-night weekends. But the cozy, intimate room is a great spot for daytime meet-ups too—from 7 a.m. to Happy Hour, the lounge transforms into

a coffee house, with hot brews from Matchstick Coffee Roasters, fresh-pressed juices, menu items from La Pentola, baked goods by Cadeaux, and crave-worthy pastries from Cartems Donuterie.

*Incomparable, conjuguant cocktails savoureux et créatifs, lieux envoûtants et sophistiqués, musique live, salon privé et le lounge avec ses pâtisseries.*





## THE KEEFER BAR



Intriguingly tucked away off Main Street—and at the forefront of the Chinatown renaissance—The Keefer Bar draws on ancient arts to elevate the modern cocktail. Within a cozy and eclectic room glittering with curios, glassware and hanging lamps, the talented trio of Danielle Tatarin, Keenan Hood and Gez McAlpine create their distinctive, apothecary-style drinks, using fruits, herbs and medicinal roots they source from the traditional shops around them.

Housemade tinctures and syrups crafted from spicy ginger, sweetly sour tamarind, healthful magnolia bark, or ingredients like rosemary, dragonfruit or poppyseed, are combined with

bourbon, sake or infused spirits to create bright, delicious and beautiful cocktails, all served alongside perfect pairings of rich tapas like Peking duck sliders or shiitake mushroom tacos. An evening at The Keefer Bar feels transporting, like you could be anywhere—but it also feels pure Vancouver.

*Une atmosphère éclatée, des cocktails style apothicaire créés par la barmaid en chef qui se fournit (fruits, herbes, racines médicinales) dans les boutiques traditionnelles autour.*



## SWEET BAKE SHOP



A shot of delicious, playful girlyness has landed in the middle of style-serious Yaletown. The instantly popular Sweet Bake Shop is the new home of everything pretty, dainty and pink: ruffled cakes, pastel clouds of meringue, moist and fluffy cupcakes, scrumptious macarons in flavours like neapolitan, apple pie and toasted coconut, and—their specialty—squee-worthy sugar cookies in clever shapes like bunnies, buttons, teacups, moustaches and love letters.

The boutique bakery's team of creative pastry chefs uses the highest-quality ingredients to make sure each treat is perfection: tidy, tasty and Instagram-ready. For an immediate hit

of Sweet's polka-dot charm, check out the website to see founder Tessa Sam share the joy of beautiful baking with video tutorials on mastering icing technique or creating the ideal red velvet cupcake at home.

*Délicieux, enjoué et féminin, voilà qui décrit bien le Sweet Bake Shop où tout est beau, délicat et... rose. Leur spécialité : les adorables biscuits au sucre aux formes amusantes.*







## BIBO PIZZERIA CON CUCINA



To be called Neapolitan, pizza must follow strict standards set in Italy: a wood-fired oven is law, only four ingredients are permitted in the crust, and the artisan must shape the dough by hand. BiBo was founded to bring the real experience of Italy to Vancouver, and the ideals and guidelines of Verace Pizza Napoletana are a part of its culinary DNA.

The entire staff at BiBo is immersed in Italian culture, and the foundations of each traditional dish are imported for full authenticity: burrata and mozzarella, cured meats, artichokes, olives—and, of course, Italian wines. Local seasonal produce assures peak freshness, and

gluten-free pasta options allow everyone to enjoy the true Italian tastes. You can even pick up a few items from the mini delicatessen after your meal, and recreate a hint of BiBo's pure cucina flavours at home.

*BiBo recrée l'expérience italienne avec des plats traditionnels authentiques accompagnés de vins italiens, des produits locaux de saison et des pâtes sans gluten.*



## LE CROCODILE



In a city of hottest-and-latest, a classic French restaurant has held its place as a pillar of satisfying, delicious fine dining for generations of Vancouver families. Since opening Le Crocodile more than 30 ago, Chef Michel Jacob has upheld the principles of quality and tradition he learned as a young man in Strasbourg, France—adding in, of course, the innovation and regional elements that are the hallmarks of West Coast cuisine.

Le Crocodile wins accolades year after year for phenomenal service and a menu of progressive “French Classic” dishes balanced with perfected rare treats, like lobster bisque,

seared foie gras, or rare white truffles in season. Make sure to leave room at the end for the classic Grand Marnier soufflé and, of course, the little chocolate crocodile that makes an ideal end note to a *soirée parfaite*.

*Ce restaurant classique français offre une cuisine raffinée depuis 30 ans et reçoit des distinctions chaque année. Sa marque de commerce : le crocodile en chocolat.*



## PINK ELEPHANT THAI



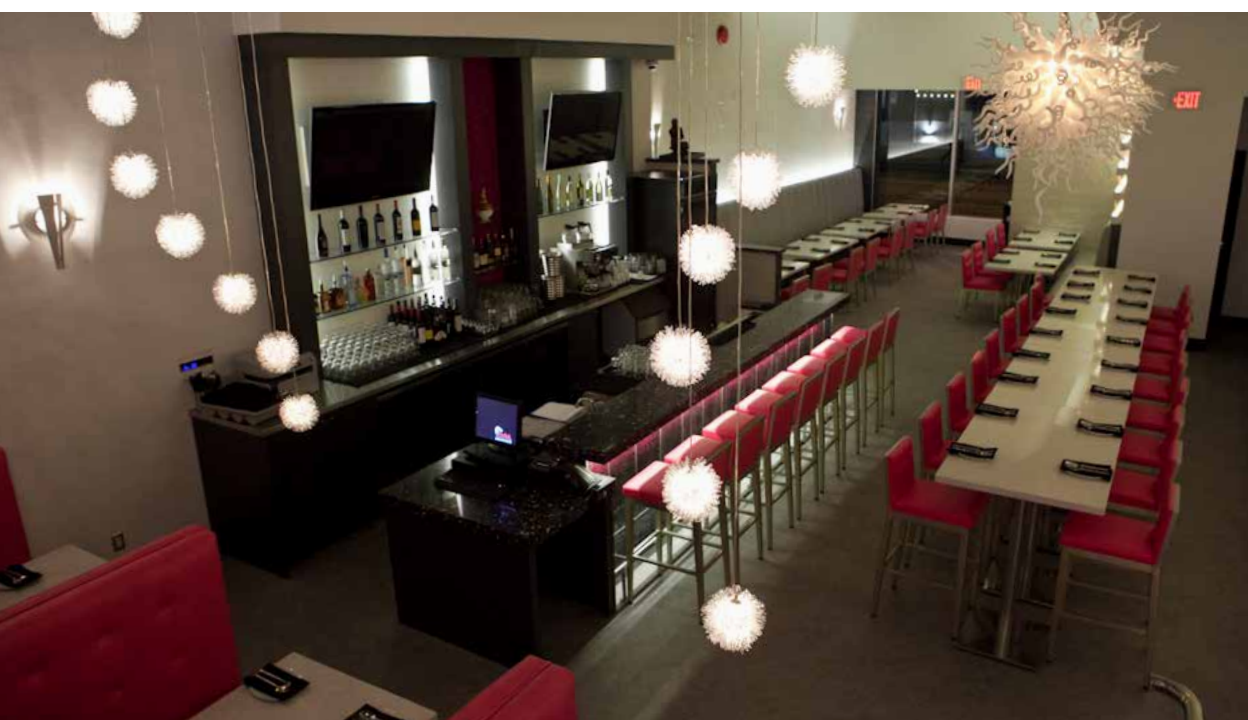
There's a concept in Thailand called *sanook*: it means vibrant, energetic and bursting with the fun of living. Pink Elephant, an 88-seat Thai lounge on Alberni Street close to the thriving action of the Robson strip, is everything *sanook*—it's pink, it's bright, it's buzzing with energy, and, of course, it has that most crucial of ingredients for any good time: delicious, amazing food.

It's not the same old green curry here—the dishes at Pink Elephant reflect a modern Thailand, still rich with flavour but also ready to surprise and delight. There's a great wine list, too, but, sitting at the sleek white tables,

you might find it difficult not to opt for an Asian-inspired martini to sip while you see-and-be-seen at this hot-pink hotspot.

*Ce lounge thaï rose et lumineux, grouille d'énergie et offre des plats exceptionnels, modernes et délicieux, riches en saveurs et en surprises.*







## URBAN THAI BISTRO



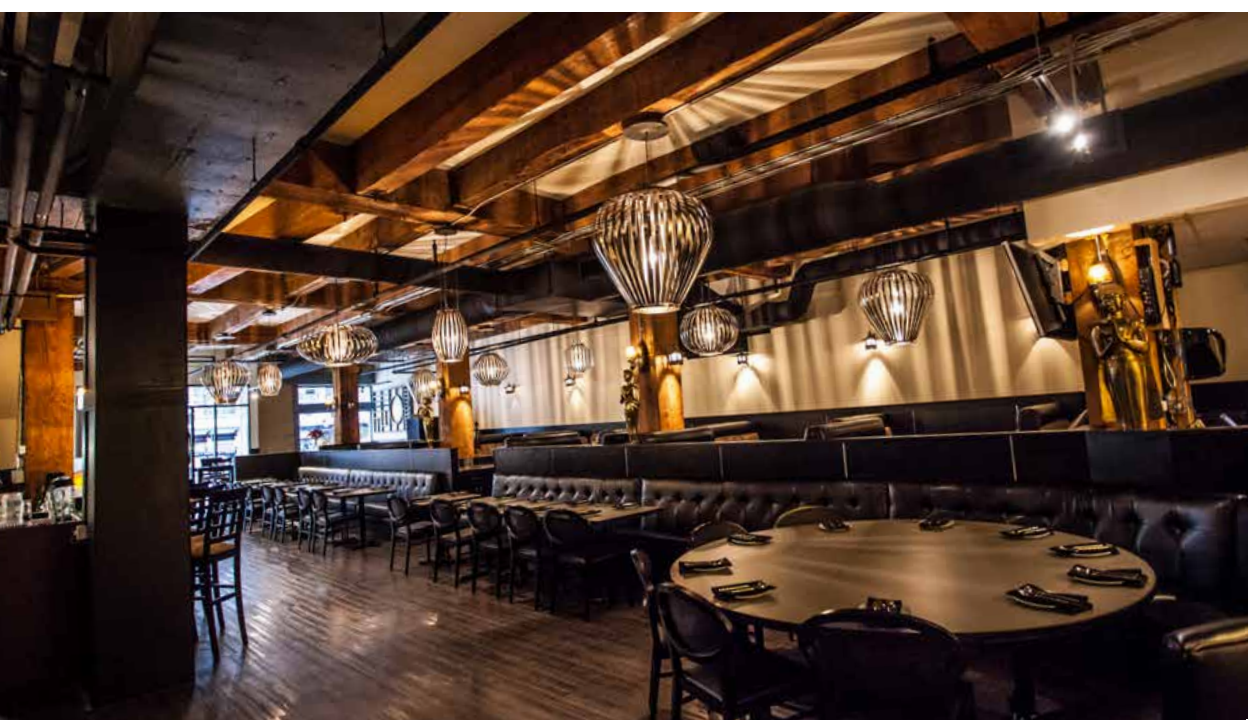
Where Pink Elephant is *sanook*, its sister bistro is the epitome of *sabai sabai*—relaxed, smooth, and easy-going. Gone is the kitsch of the traditional Thai restaurant; the scene at Urban Thai is a slice of today's future-forward Southeast Asia: sexy and stylish in black and gold, with soft burnished-metal chandeliers and massive wood beams to add that classic Yaletown touch.

Catch a hockey game at the illuminated onyx bar, take a seat on one of Yaletown's best heated patios, or join your friends in the lounge to savour the delicious, authentic Thai flavours and soak up the elegant and decidedly chill

atmosphere. If you've got a group, go for the big chef's round table—it's perfect for a great night of family-style sharing.

*Avec une ambiance agréable, détendue, facile, le Urban Thai Bistro vous offre une cuisine aux saveurs authentiques du nord de la Thaïlande.*









## MAENAM



Balance may be the reason Maenam wins Best Thai year after year: tradition with modernism; comfort with polish; colour with calm; and, of course, sweet with salt, sour, and spice—the four cardinal flavours that are fundamental to South Asian cuisine. With Maenam, one of Vancouver's foremost chefs has racked up accolades for his focus on authentic Thai flavour, modern technique, and dishes and cocktails driven by fresh, local ingredients.

Angus An's evolving menu is packed with hits, but to fully experience his award-winning artistry, go for the Chef's Menu: your table of family and friends can share in a series of

courses selected for the ideal combination of tastes and the best ingredients of the season. The famously playful feast is different every night, but you can always count on it being delicious, surprising and thoroughly satisfying.

*Angus An, un des plus grands chefs de Vancouver, offre un menu évolutif avec les quatre saveurs fondamentales de la cuisine sud-asiatique : sucré, salé, aigre, épicé.*







## FORAGE



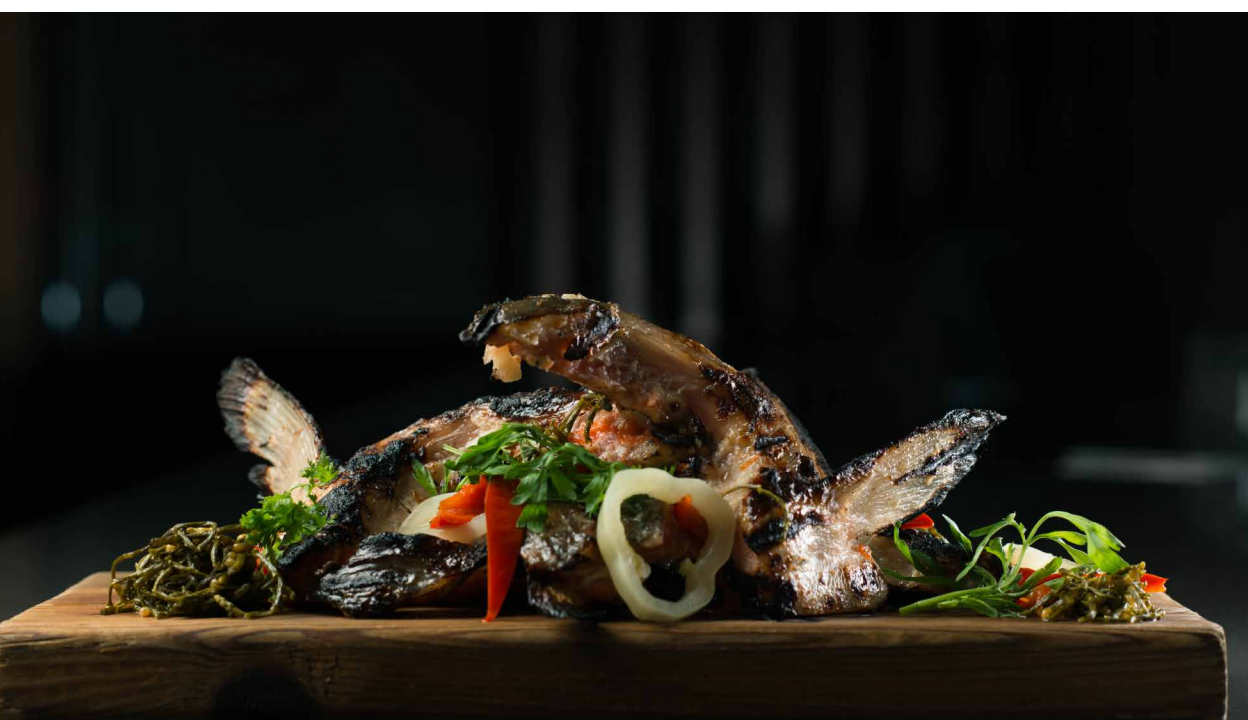
The busy West End may not bring lush pastures to mind, but Forage will have you thinking of the fields as you savour each tasty small plate. Every detail at this farm-to-table restaurant is a sustainable story, from the leather on the seats to the power for the blender, and each ingredient begins with a local farmer, fisher, or forager. The meats are wild game, the mustards are in-house, the beer and wines are Cascadia-crafted—even the whiskey and gin is locally distilled.

Chef Chris Whittaker has accomplished a lifelong vision of dining green, but the resulting flavours are gold. Pair his plates with Forage's fun, informal atmosphere, backyard patio, and

cheeky events like the Hair of the Dog Happy Hour or weekly Meat Draws, and this is a spot no forward-thinking foodie will want to miss.

*Produits locaux (agriculture, pêche, fourrage), gibier, moutarde maison, bière et vins de Cascadie, dans une atmosphère décontractée avec patio et événements insolents.*







## BOULEVARD KITCHEN & OYSTER BAR



Blending exceptional hospitality, true European ambiance and casual West Coast flair, Boulevard Kitchen & Oyster Bar has made an impressive arrival on Vancouver's fine dining scene.

Located at The Sutton Place Hotel and driven by the culinary vision of Executive Chef Alex Chen—who led Canada to a top-10 finish at the 2013 *Bocuse d'Or*—Boulevard's seafood-focused menu offers concise flavours, exceptional textures and simple presentation for an impeccable balance of approachability and panache.

Boulevard has also built an award-winning team that ensures the craft cocktails, wide-ranging wine list, sumptuous desserts and

unparalleled service match Chen's same high standards.

The oysters, of course, demand their own spotlight: whether it's Kaipara, Kumamoto or Malpeque, each of the dozen varieties on the daily sheet are exactly selected for freshness and taste and shucked by two-time world champion Robert "Oyster Bob" Skinner.

*Son menu, accessible et flamboyant, alliant saveurs justes et notes d'umami, où les huîtres sont en vedette, marque une arrivée impressionnante dans la gastronomie vancouveroise.*









## THE SUTTON PLACE HOTEL & LA GRANDE RÉSIDENCE

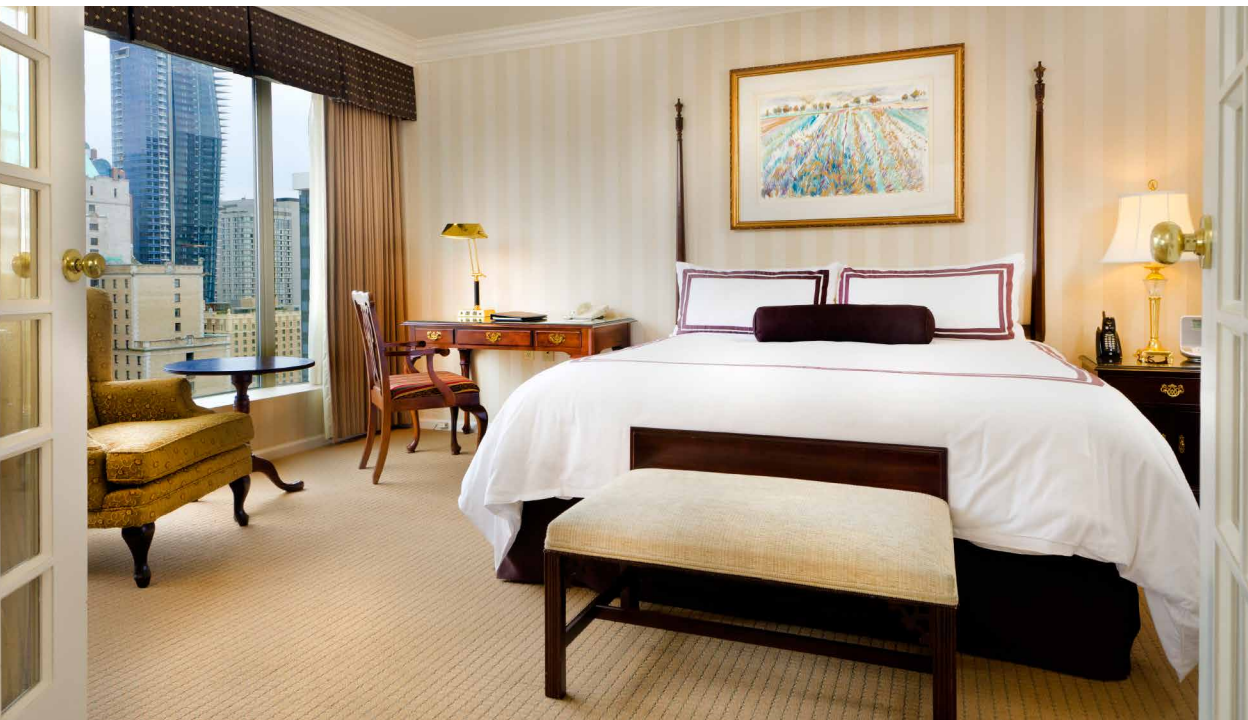


At the corner of Robson and Burrard, in the very heart of the city, The Sutton Place Hotel combines the feel of a boutique inn with the scale and amenities of a premier business destination. The service is unpretentious and personal, but the opulent Louis XI-style furnishings, mountain views, elite spa, in-house wine shop, and impressively grand design work together to make each moment of your stay feel exceptional.

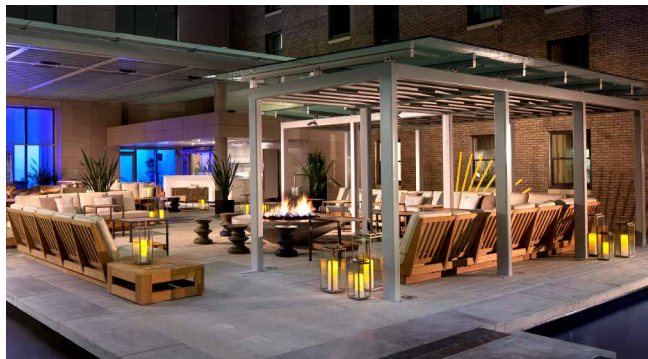
The 397 guest rooms and 164 accompanying one- and two-bedroom suites at La Grande Résidence are family- and pet-friendly and well suited to long stays, making The Sutton Place a popular choice for the film industry and those

who consider Vancouver a second home. If you plan to check out the Robson Street scene—and you absolutely should—sign up for the Sutton Shopper Program for special bonus offers at chic select shops and restaurants.

*Au coeur de la ville, service personnalisé, vue sur les montagnes, spa élite, boutique de vins sur place. Parfait pour les longs séjours, les familles et leurs animaux.*







## ROSEWOOD HOTEL GEORGIA

The jewel of Vancouver's Roaring Twenties has been brought back to full shine at last. Rosewood prizes each hotel's Sense of Place—evident in the Rosewood Hotel Georgia's walls of local art and epicurean adventures to nearby Stanley Park and Granville Island—but, here, it also honours a sense of history: walking into the perfectly restored lobby, you can imagine past guests like Marlene Dietrich gliding down the grand staircase or waiting at the elevator with her famous 40 suitcases.

That Jazz Age opulence continues downstairs in Prohibition, the hotel's buzzed-about new cocktail bar, while in the ethereal 4th floor

outdoor Reflections lounge and the acclaimed Hawksworth restaurant the feeling is timeless modern. The rooms, too, are modern and expanded—1920s standards were deco-cool but decidedly snug, so the hotel has thankfully embraced the more plush and spacious 21st-century demands of luxury.

*Découvrez le hall d'entrée parfaitement restauré, le nouveau bar-salon, le bar sur le toit, le réputé restaurant Hawksworth et les chambres, actualisées et agrandies.*







## STAR LIMOUSINE



It can be hard to improve on any stay in the beautiful West Coast—unless, that is, you can smooth your way in elegance and style with an impeccably professional car service. Whether it is a transfer from A to B or a customized sightseeing tour, wherever you need to go in the Pacific Northwest, Vancouver's chauffeur of choice will make getting there as delightful as being there.

Want to whisker up to Whistler in a Tesla or 4x4 SUV? Tour to Victoria or Seattle in a luxury Mercedes S-Class or Sprinter Van? Or maybe you just want to start and end your visit with the nicest airport transfer you can experience. With

each booking, corporate or private, you'll be assured a skilled and knowledgeable chauffeur, the newest and best vehicles, and all those little extra details that turn a good experience into a great one.

*Impeccable, professionnel, ce service de voiture vous assure un chauffeur qualifié et expérimenté, les plus récents et les meilleurs véhicules, détails qui font la différence.*







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# beauty & health





## CARAMEL: A MICHAEL LEVINE SALON



While they sit on opposite sides of the city, caramel's two locations are united by two things: rich, airy and deliciously warm golden interiors and famed celebrity stylist Michael Levine's passionate service ideology: no pretense, no attitude—just friendly, professional stylists and fantastic hair, from your first visit to your 400th.

That principle has made Michael Levine's company the most award-winning salon group in B.C., including six Canadian Hairdresser of the Year awards. A team of trained stylists at every seniority level means caramel's South Granville and Surrey locations can always give you a great experience and a look you love, whether your

budget is media mogul or starving student. They also happen to be the place to get Product—the innovative hair-care line that is exclusive to Michael Levine salons.

*L'équipe des salons les plus primés de la province sert l'idéologie du service de Michael Levine : professionnel, amical, sans prétention ni arrogance et des cheveux magnifiques.*





## SPACE: A MICHAEL LEVINE SALON



One of Michael Levine's newest salons, located a block from the Canada Line in the thriving Crossroads district, Space combines the vibrancy of an active, bright white cutting space with quiet, zen-like relaxation zones—like the candle-lit shampoo room, where clients enjoy a lengthy scalp and neck massage, or the “vault,” where they chill and relax on comfy sofas while their colour processes.

The 30-foot-long colour bar that's at the heart of Space was designed by Levine himself. It's a social experience, where clients can watch their technician prepare their colour right in front of them like skilled mixologists. It's all part of the

Michael Levine imperative: offer each client an absolutely enjoyable and non-threatening salon experience that leaves them completely happy with their hair.

*L'un des plus récents salons de Michael Levine, il allie dynamisme et design de haut niveau avec un espace de coupe noir et blanc moderne et des zones de relaxation zen.*



## VOLUTION SALON



A little piece of street art on the awning above Volution Salon captures the spirit of the hair studio in four words: “*I love it here.*” The bright, friendly salon is a perfect fit with its sociable neighbourhood of Kitsilano—it sits just one block from the beach on a corner that is equal parts close-knit village and bustling vacationland.

The philosophy at Volution is to elevate the everyday—by giving clients beautiful hair, naturally, but also by helping to build a stronger, happier community. Colourful works by local artists hang on the gallery-white walls, and neighbours stop to chat in the sunny window-side seating area. The stylists take part in benefits

like Brilliant, Hope International and Hair2Help.

This combination of style and service draws a cheerful mix of long-time locals, young beachgoers, and far-travelled visitors. They may come in for beachy waves (a local favourite) or just a quick hello, but the team at Volution always lets them leave a little bit uplifted.

*Dans le quartier Kitsilano, Volution Salon venez rafraîchir votre style dans un décor coloré et accueillant. Admirez les œuvres d'artistes et discutez près des fenêtres.*







## PINK LIME SALON & SPA

When the pressures of work, travel and city living have you longing to replenish yourself, and soon, it's definitely time for a little Pink Lime. Head straight to this premier Yaletown retreat to recharge yourself with a great new look in the high-energy salon, or to wind down in the serene spa with luxury treatments like rejuvenating massages, full nail and skin services, or personalized exfoliating facials that are custom-designed to provide immediate results.

While Pink Lime has long been a not-so-secret favourite for celebrities and sports stars staying in Vancouver, the atmosphere is anything but intimidating. The whole team have a family feeling

that they happily extend to include everyone who enters. We would say it feels like home... but not even home can offer this kind of pampering, primping—and feeling like a million.

*Pink Lime Salon & Spa c'est : des traitements de luxe (massages régénérants, soins complets pour la peau et les ongles ou des soins du visage exfoliants personnalisés).*







## SUKI'S



In 1972, when Suki Takagi opened her first Vancouver salon, her focus on technical skill, easy-care cuts—and, most of all, empowering the client—was seen as a game-changer. From that first South Granville location—now housed in a beautiful Arthur Erickson building originally commissioned by Takagi herself—she soon expanded to locations in Kits, Downtown and Richmond.

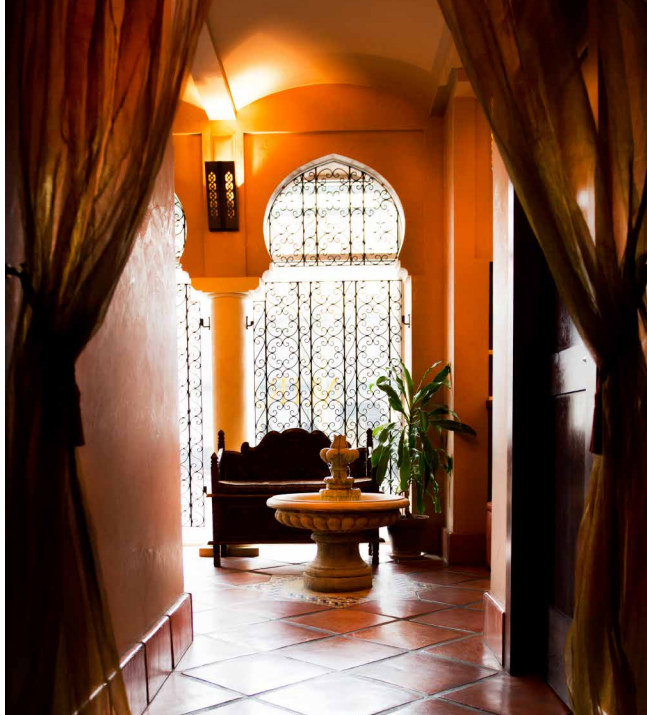
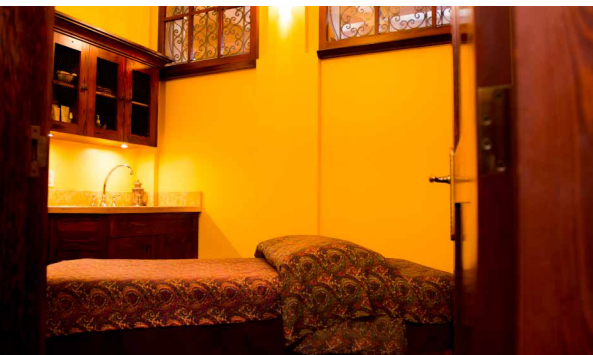
Today, Suki's salons, spa and hair academy are still family-run, still fiercely committed to groundbreaking service, and still demanding of staff: stylists at Suki's must complete more hours of advanced education than most

undertake in their career. That knowledge allows Suki's stylists to develop their unique craft, and to understand the individuality of each client's bone structure, colouring and personality. It's an international-award-winning approach that is still setting the pace for salons across North America.

*Suki's, une entreprise familiale de plusieurs succursales (salons, spas, école de coiffure), s'engage fermement depuis ses débuts à offrir un service novateur et à exiger plus de ses stylistes.*







## MIRAJ HAMMAM SPA



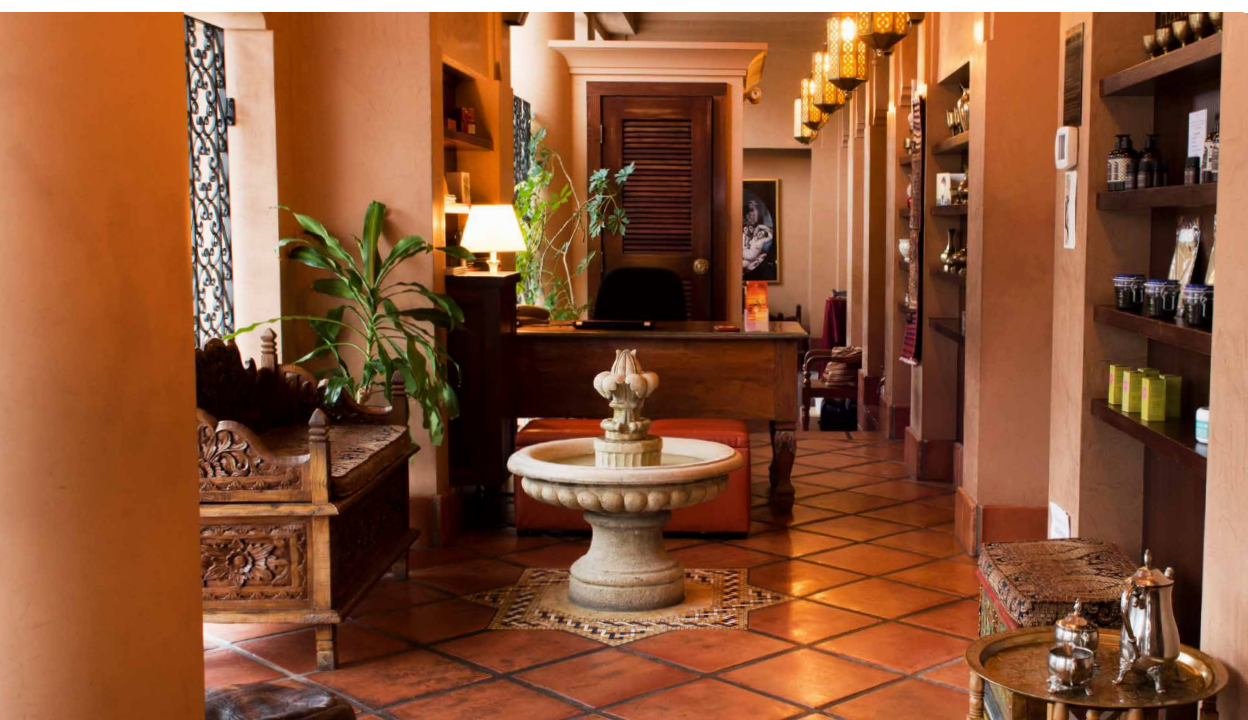
The practice of *hammam* was once called “the silent doctor”—an essential ritual that cleansed the skin and revived the soul. In an unassuming spot on Granville Street, Miraj Hammam Spa has brought an eastern art to the West by merging this sublime cultural experience with the best elements of the luxury spa.

Entering from the busy street is a full sensory immersion into the inner sanctums of Marrakesh. Within the marble walls of the *hammam*, under the cover of medicinal steam, pores open, limbs relax, the mind awakens. Next, a full-body scrub using traditional Moroccan black soap is followed by an expert

massage, leaving you glowing and energized. Take time afterward for tea and sweet cakes in the lush, tapestry-covered sultan’s lounge to make sure your voyage to the east is complete.

*Avec le rituel du hammam, il permet une incursion dans l’art oriental combinant une sublime expérience culturelle et les meilleurs éléments d’un spa deluxe.*







## BLACK2BLOND



Two years ago, a popular Kitsilano hair salon found a like-minded vision of whole-body beauty in a family-run European company that makes some of the world's most progressive and diverse hair, skin, and cosmetics lines. They partnered, they renovated, and Black2Blond re-opened as a vibrant modern flagship salon and North American academy for La Bioesthetique Paris.

The professional synergy, academy training, and award-winning staff of stylists and colourists means each visit to Black2Blond is like a holistic ritual. On arrival, clients are presented with a cup of aromatic licorice-lemongrass tea, an infused hot towel, and soothing hand cream.

Each hair appointment includes expert skin diagnosis, head massage, scalp conditioning, and makeup re-touch, and every spa service involves in-depth consultation to ensure a customized treatment. Throw in an express mani/pedi, and you'll have a complete head-to-toe experience.

*Un salon populaire de Kitsilano s'associe à une entreprise familiale européenne. Naît ce salon phare, vibrant, moderne, académie nord-américaine de La Bioesthetique Paris.*







## OPUS SALON



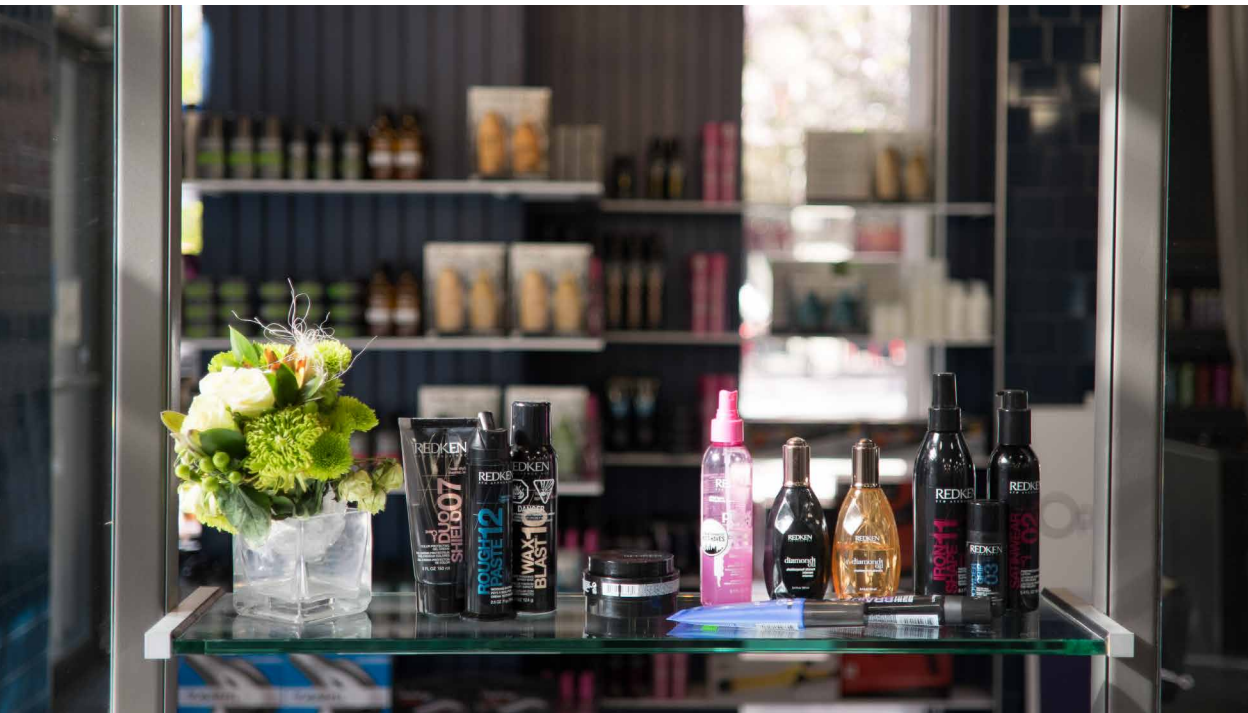
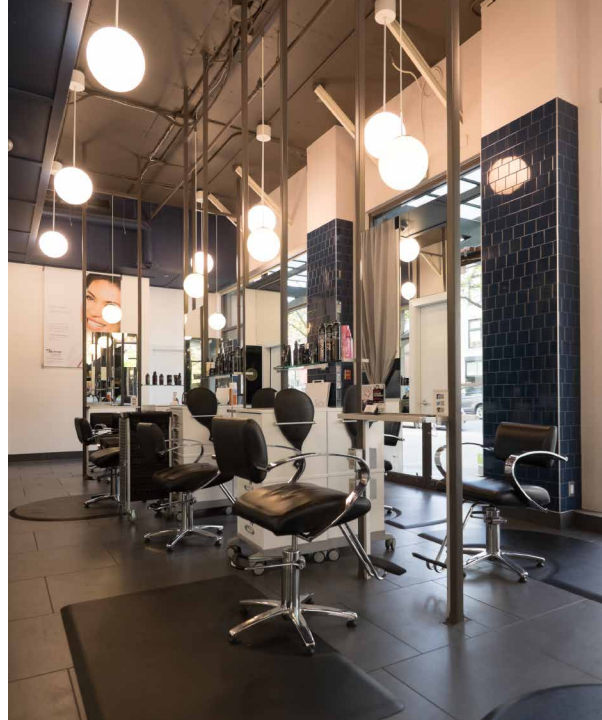
There's a progressive French flair to Opus Salon that extends far past the chic chandelier in the foyer. The owners, Jessica and Ludo, were trained in Europe, and they run their salon under Parisian principles, with an emphasis on fashion-forward styling and perfection in the finished look. (This continental thinking extends to the environment: Opus is 100-percent ammonia-free and participates in the international Green Circle salon recycling program.)

Jessica, a certified colourist, is an expert in the latest methods of free-hand highlighting, while Ludo—certified in design and finishing—is a member of Canada's exclusive Redken

Artistic Team. Together, they train their team in a personalized, current approach that keeps each client both on-trend and uniquely their best self. Aesthetic services are also available—call or check the website for the spa menu and schedule.

*Formés en Europe, les propriétaires de ce salon de coiffure et de beauté aux principes parisiens et aux pratiques environnementales, misent sur un fini au style moderne.*







## ALLFIT TRAINING & FITNESS

Fitness is about progress: from the couch to kinetic motion, from fatigue to fire, from sapped to strength—and onward from there. The key to maintaining that progression is finding a pathway that fits you: one that's fun, not a chore, and that has the right milestones to keep you motivated. The network of certified trainers, coaches, and physical therapists at Allfit represent every form of functional movement for every level of fitness, from yoga to CrossFit, lifting to martial arts, flexibility to nutrition. Their access to superior gyms across the city—including two gorgeous locations on the north and south sides of the Vancouver seawall—

combined with versatile training programs that are both interesting and energizing makes it a no-brainer to get started on bringing more movement, more engagement, more joy, more progress, and more living to your life.

*Deux centres offrent un réseau d'entraîneurs, de physiothérapeutes certifiés : yoga, CrossFit, poids, arts martiaux, étirements, nutrition et programmes d'entraînement.*





## TACTIX GYM



Just off the serene False Creek seawall lies 6,700 square feet of empowerment. Tactix Gym, Vancouver's "one-stop-shop for fighting and fitness," combines certified coaches with military and MMA backgrounds with one of the most comprehensive sets of modern equipment in the city: rings and bars, power cages, vaults, plyometric boxes, slacklines and TRX straps, professional sandbags, battling ropes, racks of kettlebells and dumbbells, and more than 3,000 pounds of bumper plates.

Amazingly, there's still plenty of open space, which Tactix fills with individual and group classes in CrossFit, Thai kickboxing, Krav Maga,

Tabata, Olympic lifting, yoga, Kali, and martial arts for teens or adults. Stop in to check out the sweet location and chat with the friendly, approachable trainers, and pick your path to fighting shape—and don't forget to ask about their special one-week free trial.

*Équipement moderne, gym de 6,700 pieds carrés, entraîneurs certifiés (expérience militaire ou en arts martiaux mixtes), cours individuels, de groupe, pour adolescents/adultes.*



BOCONCEPT  
COUNTRY FURNITURE  
MÉLANGE  
WOW INTERIORS  
18KARAT  
ESPACE D.  
GOODGE PLACE  
BAY FRESH FLOWERS

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# home & gifts





## BOCONCEPT



In 1952, two Danish cabinetmakers, inspired by a wave of design innovation, launched a unique furniture company driven by modern functionality. Sixty years later, the BoConcept model of beautiful, usable Danish design has spread across the globe—including Vancouver's own store just outside the Armoury District.

The genius to BoConcept is customization: take each elegant piece as it is, or work with a consultant to make it your own with hundreds of choices for fabric and detail. You'll even be shown how the lighting in your home affects its appearance, so you can be confident in your choices. Every item in the store—from furniture

and lamps to rugs and accessories—is exclusive to BoConcept and designed to work together, so you could outfit an entire contemporary home, and still be utterly unique.

*BoConcept est un fabricant de meubles unique axé sur la fonctionnalité, offrant un design autant utile que beau. Le génie de BoConcept réside dans la personnalisation.*







## COUNTRY FURNITURE



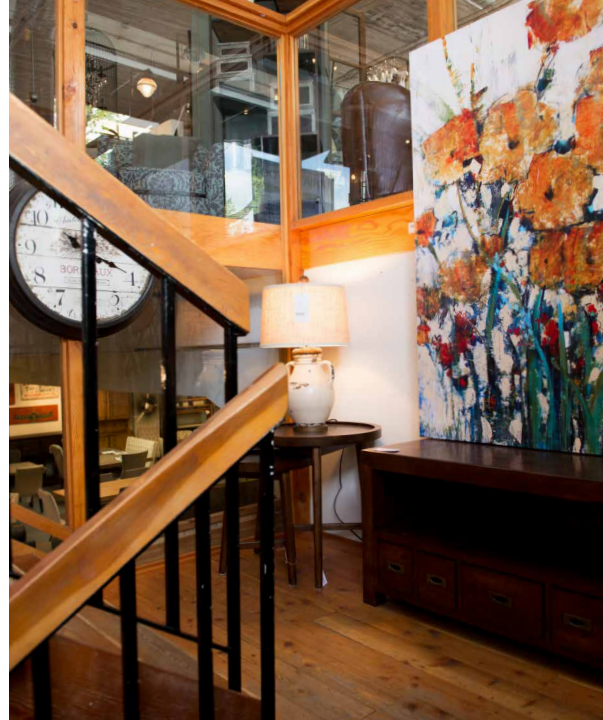
If you've never looked inside Country Furniture, you're in for a surprise. "Country" won't come to mind as you explore the bright contemporary section, try out luxe sofas from lines like Denmark's Eilersen or North Carolina's Lee Industries, and discover comfortably modern furniture and accessories sourced from New York, Las Vegas and beyond.

The family-owned business keeps the folksy name to honour the father who founded its first shop, but today its style philosophy reaches much further. Look for pops of on-trend colours, and iconic gifts and accessories from Vancouver and Canadian designers—or venture downstairs

to see the ultimate man-cave. And of course you'll still find plenty of the antiques and organic rustic influences that have built the brand for almost four decades. The connecting theme is quality: hand-chosen design that makes a statement, and that lasts.

*La qualité : fil directeur des éléments de style contemporain ou rustique de Country Furniture, une entreprise familiale où vous trouverez ce qui manque à votre décor.*







## MÉLANGE

On a leafy stretch of Burrard Street, just south of Davie, a tiny new home decor shop is bringing big personality to small-space West End living. Each gorgeous item is hand-selected—accessories in gold and black; vintage-style accent pieces; works by local artists—and trim, condo-friendly custom furniture can be made to order in any size or fabric.

The shop's personality shines in chic picks like exquisite candles from Mine Design and Bella J (yes, the famous ones with the hidden charms inside); ceramics from Jonathan Adler and MacKenzie-Childs; and adorable, pet-themed pillows and ornaments. Add a full range

of clothing-care products from New York line The Laundress and Mélange becomes the ideal neighbourhood go-to, whether for that perfect gift, or that little find that makes a space your own.

*Mélange : nouvelle petite boutique de décoration intérieure du West End avec beaucoup de caractère, la référence où trouver le cadeau parfait, l'article pour personnaliser son espace.*







## WOW INTERIORS



WOW Interiors is Vancouver's best-kept secret for authentic mid-century furnishings. The new gallery space, located in the heart of Kitsilano, has become *the* place for top decorators and collectors to frequent.

Hand-picked modernism, industrial, Danish teak and art deco pieces can be found at WOW. With annual buying trips and purchases from Vancouver's film industry, new developer suites, top decorators and private residences, WOW earns its name and much more.

Open Wednesday through Sunday and by appointment.

*Wow Interiors, se spécialise dans le modernisme du milieu du siècle et offre des articles uniques, beaux et chics. Surveillez les nouveaux arrivages!*





## 18KARAT



West Coast design is simple, minimalist, with restfulness and balance in its lines. Vancouver-based 18Karat embraces those principles, creating decor and furnishings that are deeply elemental: earthy textures and colours; burnished metals, wood, and glass; textiles in shades inspired by rain, sky, and sea. The company selects its items with a focus on responsible production, using skilled and experienced artisans and manufacturers with ethical practices. Many of 18Karat's products are also designed locally—from the beautiful handmade bowls and vases to the stools, sofas, chairs, and tables.

The newest line from 18Karat, Lavandula, celebrates French lavender, combining its soothing colour and textures with glossy gold enamels, rough woven baskets, and matte ceramics in coral white. It honours, rather than covers, the original imperfections of natural materials, for a look that is beautiful and sensual, but without ostentation.

*Conçu localement et fabriqué de façon responsable, chaque item aux lignes simples, minimalistes, équilibrées est profondément élémentaire, appelant à célébrer la nature.*



## ESPACE D.



The Danish word *hygge* contains the ideal for a home: it means cozy, happy, warm, and bright—the perfect place to gather with friends on a winter evening. The concept is the soul and genius behind Nordic design, and it is the binding theme at espace d., the eclectic and ever-changing home decor boutique curated by French interior designer Pierre Derreumaux.

Pronounced “ess-pass-day,” this minimalist, airy Gastown space is both a rotating gallery for original art and a showroom for the best imported design from Scandinavia: furnishings from Muuto, Normann Copenhagen, and Hay; tableware from Iitala and Ferm Living; unique

candlesticks from Finnsdottir; select mid-century rarities and more. Local accessories feature, too—look for them in the mix of exclusive, colourful, and functional pieces hand-chosen by Derreumaux for their craft, beauty, sustainability, and *hygge*-driven style.

*L'éclectique boutique du designer d'intérieur Pierre Derreumaux est à la fois vitrine évolutive pour des oeuvres originales et salle d'exposition pour les meilleures importations du design scandinave.*





## GOODGE PLACE



Just off Granville Street, Emily McLean and her mother Patricia have created a (not so little) slice of London. More than a decor shop, Goodge Place begins with fresh-cut flowers and a bright storefront cafe, then continues on into rooms of delights—think English textiles from House of Hackney, fine illustrated tableware from Chicago's Mitchell Black, Florentine home fragrances by Dr. Vranjes, locally crafted accessories, sweet preserves and biscuits, and even gorgeous designer bicycles from New York's Martone Cycling Co.

Upstairs it gets even cooler, with a creative space for designers and a gallery of gorgeous

hand-painted tiles from exclusive purveyor World Mosaic. The McLean team has put together a one-of-a-kind store that's full of surprises, so leave lots of time for your visit: it's easy to lose hours in this cheery and charming house of treasures.

*L'endroit abrite un café aux couleurs éclatantes et de vrais trésors : tissus anglais, vaisselle raffinée illustrée, biscuits, bijoux, foulards, un véritable clin d'oeil à Londres.*



## BAY FRESH FLOWERS

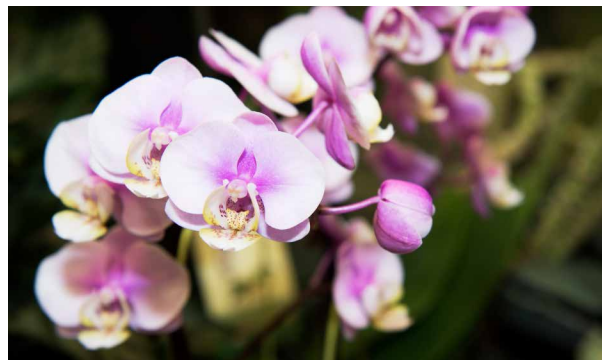


You can't see it from the street, but within the concrete heart of Downtown there's a little hidden burst of colour and fragrance. For 28 years, this independent flower shop, found just outside The Bay in Pacific Centre, has been delivering the joy and beauty of nature to urbanites across the city. Olga and Irina, the friendly owners, combine years of award-winning European design experience with a modern, organic and multicultural approach that's perfect for Vancouver. Elegant orchids—the shop's specialty—pepper the counters, which are busy with activity as their team of florists create gorgeous original bouquets or consult with

clients on their events and weddings. Call or pop in to chat about your own upcoming occasion, or just grab something fresh, green and lovely to lift up an ordinary day.

*Ce fleuriste indépendant remporte des prix depuis des années grâce à un design européen et une approche moderne, organique et multiculturelle.*







ALFIE ITALIA  
REDFISH KIDS  
FLUEVOG  
EGO CLOSET  
HACH + HART  
EL KARTEL  
BOBOLI  
REVOLUCION CIGAR & FINE GIFTS

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# fashion & accessories



## ALFIE ITALIA



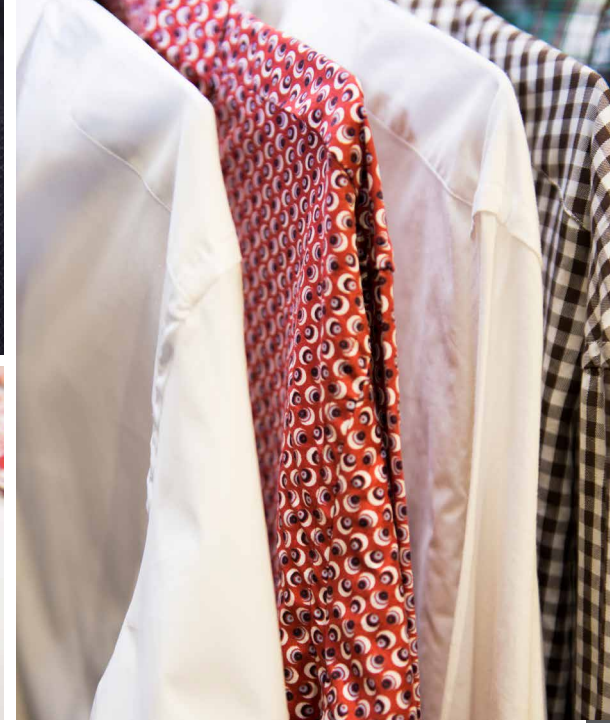
Think of the “Alfie” in Alfie Italia as the ultimate leading man: dashing, confident, a tiny bit vain (but in just the right way) and, most of all, the embodiment of *sprezzatura*—the Italian art of looking both absolutely impeccable and utterly effortless, in every detail.

In service of this hero’s style, Alfie Italia eschews the concept of disposable fashion to instead deliver timeless, long-lasting pieces for men and women that are well-cut, versatile, and consummately wearable. This is the place to find men’s suits from Takeshy Kurosawa, Jey Coleman and Officina 36, and hits of glamour and stunning, risk-taking daywear from

women’s lines like Gold Case and up-and-coming Montreal designer Travis Taddeo. Find your fit to invoke your own *sprezzatura*, and let your inner Alfie take the lead.

*Alfie Italia : le nom évoque l’art italien d’une apparence impeccable et naturelle. Des vêtements intemporels, durables, portables, bien coupés, polyvalents pour elle et lui.*







## REDFISH KIDS



While Redfish Kids' "*Clothing for the Courageous*" may be the it-items of New York boutiques, they're created right here in Vancouver. Each comfy, growable, playable piece of Redfish—*Western Living's* Fashion Designer of the Year 2014—is made to be loved by kids but with just enough edge that you'll secretly wish it came in your size. (An art that makes the clothes a celebrity go-to on and off screen—Julia Roberts famously swoons over the classic Swing Dress in *Eat Pray Love*.)

Grab your chance to pop by the home of this famous label and score a Party Dress, COURAGE tee or pair of Karate Pants that the

kids will adore and friends will covet. You'll also discover rare toys and accessories from sought after lines like Steiff, Hansa, Jellycat, Sons+Daughters, Atsuyo et Akiko and Petit Bateau.

*Créés à Vancouver, Redfish Kids propose des vêtements faits pour les enfants, confortables, extensibles, rentables. Aussi, jouets rares et accessoires de lignes recherchées.*





*Redfish Kids • Atsuyo et Akiko • Etiquette • Petit Bateau*



## FLUEVOG



A Fluevog is like nothing else. Storied, instantly recognizable, and globally beloved by the outliers and the unconventional, John Fluevog's "unique soles for unique souls" have been a Vancouver icon since the first Fox & Fluevog shop opened in 1970. Today, the Gastown store—one of two in Vancouver and 20 internationally—is a flagship mecca for die-hard Fluevogers. This architecturally astonishing space is where the designers work to create new incarnations of this famous and proudly weird brand.

Under the all-glass canopy you'll find myriad styles of heels, boots, sneakers, and brogues, from the classic Angel and the spiffy

Brandenburg to high-concept designs that approach fine art. If you spot a pair that speaks to you, grab them fast: Fluevogs often come in very limited editions, so you may not see them again.

*La myriade de styles de talons hauts, de bottes, d'espadrilles et de souliers brogues John Fluevog est une icône de Vancouver depuis l'ouverture du 1er magasin en 1970.*







## EGO CLOSET



Cordova Street is where the in-the-know go for independent, one-of-a-kind fashion—and EGO CLOSET, one of the newest style boutiques on the strip, fits right in. Stocking international street-contemporary lines that can't be found anywhere else in North America, EGO CLOSET has the full kit for those who want to stand out.

Weekly shipments include denim from Australia's One Teaspoon; coveted HarderBrush backpacks and luxury vegan bags from Matt&Nat; Korea's edgy-sweet and in-demand Rocket Lunch and 2Placebo lines; modern, sleek accessories from KOMONO; innovative Void watches created by a Danish designer-engineer;

cozy and modern knits from the contemporary Six Crisp Days brand; plus shoes, jewellery, and more, all with an eye for quality, ethical production, and affordability. It's style that's sporty and just a little bit girly—perfect for those with the best kind of ego: authentic, self-confident, and not afraid to be noticed.

*EGO CLOSET est l'endroit tout indiqué pour trouver des articles mode aux lignes contemporaines uniques convenant à ceux qui ne craignent pas d'être remarqués.*







## HACH + HART



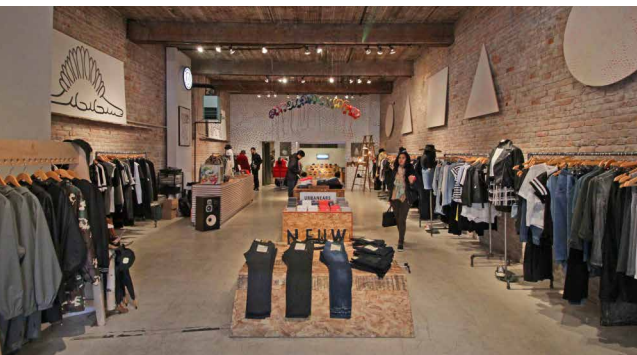
Hach + Hart clothing, once only available online, now has a home on Powell Street, right on the cusp between Gastown and Railtown—and the pretty, wearable designs are finding good company in a lifestyle boutique that also stocks charming stationery from JStory and Paperways, notebooks from Jessica Hogarth, wool blankets from Meinrad Young, and covetable bags and accessories hand-selected from the U.K., Spain, Korea, Croatia, and beyond.

But while each little discovery is utterly crush-worthy, the clothes take centre stage—designed and manufactured in Vancouver using sustainable local fabrics, the Hach + Hart label

is West Coast perfection: loose, casual, and functional; comfortable enough for a walk on the beach, and cool enough for a great night out. Visit the shop once and you'll be hooked—it'll be your new go-to when you want something truly fresh.

*Ayant maintenant pignon sur rue, Hach + Hart offre : papeterie, couvertures, sacs et accessoires d'outre-mer triés sur le volet et vêtements de design et de fabrication locale.*





## EL KARTEL



The vibe at El Kartel embodies the spirit of the new Chinatown as much as its hand-selected style reflects its young founders, Pablo Zamudio and Marie-josée Cloutier. From the local artists displayed on the walls of the impressive heritage space to the friendly, easygoing staff, everything about the shop feels genuine, and genuinely hip.

Check out El Kartel to find clothing designs from I Love Ugly, Minimum, and Zanerober; hot Rains outerwear from Denmark; denim from Neuw; locally made umbrellas from Westerly Goods; exclusive hoodies from Nine Vancouver; plus sneakers, tees, eyewear, and more. Likely as not, you'll also find Pablo spinning rare

selections from his own vinyl collection—combined with the laid-back, welcoming atmosphere, this DJing habit often morphs the shop from clothing store to impromptu open house get-together.

*Une ambiance dynamique, accueillante et surtout débordante d'authenticité, un magasin de vêtements où dénicher des marques, des exclusivités et des items locaux.*



## BOBOLI



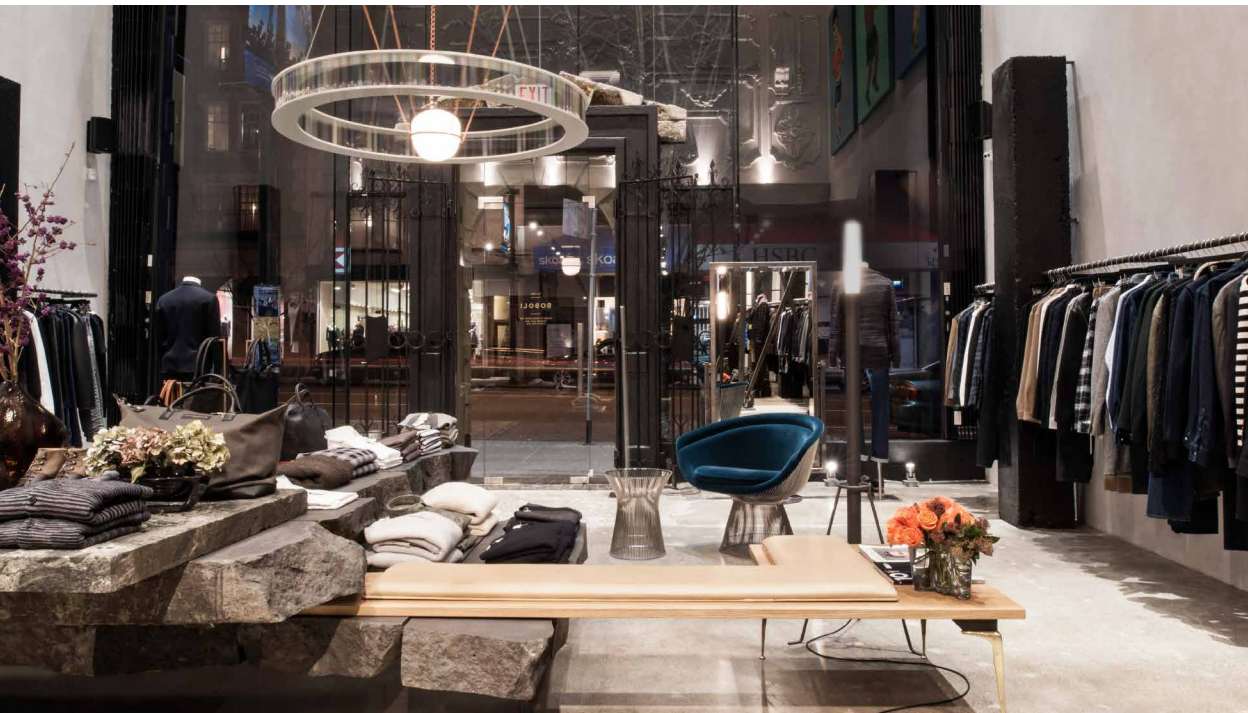
Those with discerning taste know that style begins with fit, quality and comfort. With a 30-year history of providing exceptional service to its clients both locally and globally, Boboli offers personal consultation that makes looking for a pair of jeans or a cocktail dress an experience rather than a chore.

Situated in Vancouver's South Granville Shopping District, this luxury boutique carries an exquisite collection of clothing and accessories for women and men. Lines range from the timeless, such as Valentino, Issey Miyake, Missoni, Loro Piano and Etro; to the coveted, like Stella McCartney, Giambattista

Valli, Rosetta Getty and Neil Barrett. With their 2014 re-design the shop is luxuriously bright and airy. Though the grandeur of the space is apparent, the experience of shopping in Boboli is relaxed yet intimate, with the exceptional and knowledgeable staff there to guide you in finding your next favourite piece.

*Offrant depuis 30 ans des marques de designers recherchées, des consultations personnalisées et un tailleur sur place, Boboli : une expérience unique et luxueuse.*







## REVOLUCION CIGAR & FINE GIFTS

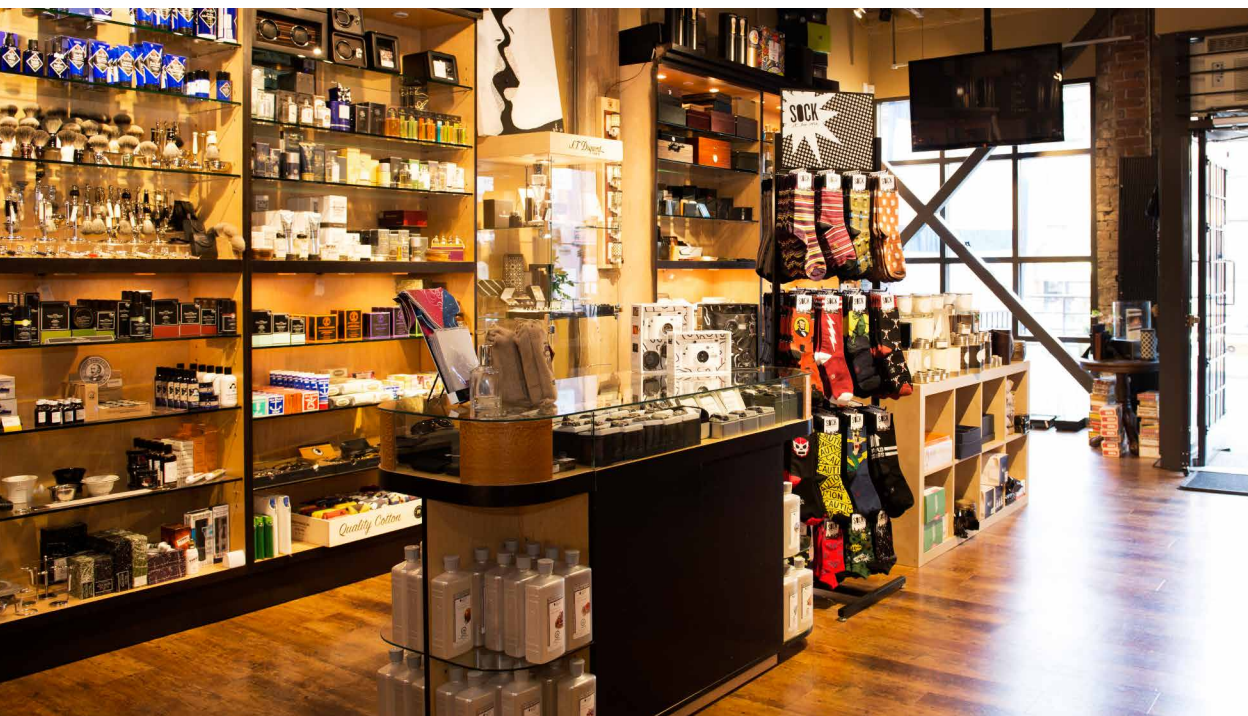
Revolucion caters to a special breed of West Coast man—one who takes genuine pleasure in well-crafted things, but who has no time for rigidity or officiousness. The shop proves it is possible to honour the charm and quality of the classics—cigars by Cohiba, H. Upmann, and Partagás; wallets from Tumi and Secrid; '60s-inspired watches from Timex Original—while turning stodginess on its head with affordable prices and a hip, gregarious atmosphere.

Imagine a friendly neighbourhood barber-shop, but without the barbers. In place of a haircut, you can pop in to Revolucion for a scotch tasting, or for one of their regular cigar-rolling

demonstrations. You'll soon be planning more visits, and stocking up on your new “needs,” like Edwin Jagger shaving sets and lotions, Penhaligon's fragrances, and all the best picks you just spotted in the latest issue of *Wallpaper* or *Monocle*.

*Entrez chez Revolucion pour une démonstration régulière de cigares roulés, une dégustation de scotch ou encore les lotions, les parfums et les meilleurs produits.*





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## ABOUT GEM CITY GUIDE

Gem City Guide is the new way of rediscovering your city. The guide is produced in Vancouver by Arnaud Jolivet and Mathieu Koebel, principals of Joko Publishing Inc. Together, they have a combined 35 years of experience in the luxury food and tourism industries around the world, including Paris, Monaco, London, Dublin, New York City, Melbourne, and, now, their new home of Vancouver.

With the help of their team of talented local designers, photographers, and city editors, Mathieu and Arnaud have brought to Canada a new model of city guide that has been embraced in Europe for its success in connecting top businesses with the visitors and locals who want to discover more. Find your copy of Gem City Guide Vancouver at select shops and hotels across Vancouver, or visit [gemcityguide.com](http://gemcityguide.com) to order a copy.



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Finally, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of the amazing businesses that are featured within these pages, and to our Gem City Guide readers for supporting local shops, restaurants, and services. By reading this guide and visiting these places, you are turning this book from a collection of pages to an active addition to the life of this wonderful city.

Merci and thank you.  
Mathieu and Arnaud



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