

TORONTO LIFE

801 Editor Picks
Where to Get Good Stuff Cheap
Secrets of the City's Top Tastemakers

Maps of the Best Retail Strips

2011 EDITION

SHOPPING GUIDE

NEW

\$7.95

THE BEST STORES FOR EVERYTHING



prepared to spend. At TNT Woman, the pieces are straight out of *Vogue*. Pre-fall favourites include a Rag and Bone riding blazer (\$550) and a beaded halter dress from Haute Hippie (\$895). Other lines include 3.1 Phillip Lim and Sandro. TNT Blu has a more casual vibe: the eclectic mix of Los Angeles-inspired separates includes jeans from Current Elliott (\$275) and FreeCity sweatpants and tanks from \$155. TNT Man (inside Hazelton Lanes' Blu store) features lines from Comme des Garçons and Wings and Horns. TNT Woman, Hazelton Lanes, 87 Avenue Rd. (at Yorkville Ave.), 416-975-1810; 388 Eglinton Ave. W. (at Avenue Rd.), 416-488-8210. TNT Blu and TNT Man, Hazelton Lanes, 87 Avenue Rd. (at Yorkville Ave.), 416-972-1593; 392 Eglinton Ave. W. (at Avenue Rd.), 416-544-8544. M-W 10-6, Th 10-7, F-Sa 10-6, Su noon-5.

UNITED COLORS OF BENETTON

This store feels like a uniform shop for slim-bodied Euro men and women, their hair pulled back in chignons, scarves chicly draped around elegant necks. Classic sweaters come in V-neck, crewneck and cardi styles in monochromes and bright summer colours. In outerwear, double-breasted coats in an array of colours and tweeds (from \$159) have timeless appeal. 102 Bloor St. W. (at Bay), 416-968-1611; plus two other GTA locations. M-W 10-8, Th-F 10-9, Sa 10-7, Su 11-6.

UP TO YOU

Up to You—one of the new generation of “lifestyle” stores that make you feel as though you’re shopping in someone’s reno’d apartment—sells everything from clothes to furniture to household gadgets. Menswear, including T-shirts by Sons of Sparta from the U.K., is creatively—if somewhat oddly—displayed on a bed. Women’s fashions, such as luxurious T-shirts by France’s Rachel Pflieger (\$50), follow suit. Unique shoes from United Nude (\$175–\$275) are inspired by modern furniture and not to be missed. 1483 Queen St. E. (at Woodfield Rd.), 2nd flr., 416-778-6487. M-Tu by appt., W-Sa 11-6, Su noon-5.

URBAN OUTFITTERS

This U.S. college-town retail institution stocks equal shares to appeal to all: well-priced shoe line Dolce Vita (\$90–\$130) offers Italian *Vogue* style at Yonge Street prices; Lux and BDG jeans quickly shape-shift to reflect whatever denim silhouette is favoured by Rihanna or the Jonas Brothers this month; artfully faded graphic tees (\$28–\$48) establish street cred with oh-so-hip slogans. Urban Outfitters is slightly overpriced for the hit-and-miss quality, but shoppers can still find deals on the well-stocked sales rack. 235 Yonge St. (at Spadina), 416-214-1466; 481 Queen St. W. (at Spadina), 416-203-8633. Yonge, M-F 10-9, Sa 10-8, Su noon-6; Queen, M-Sa 10-8, Su noon-6.

WINNERS

Shopping here requires a free afternoon and diligence, as the sheer volume of goods demands a hefty amount of rifling. Prices aren’t always bargain basement—items such as leather coats can soar well into the triple-digit range—but considering the department-store quality and savings of up to 60 per cent off retail, it’s worth the patience. Fresh merch, from basic gym shorts to such gems as a merino wool coat (\$130), is added every day. 444 Yonge St. (at College), 416-598-8800; plus 19 other GTA locations. M-F 9-9, Sa 9:30-7, Su 11-6.

ZARA

A notch up from H&M, Zara churns out runway-inspired looks at the same speed, but with a greater emphasis on quality and longevity. The Zara style draws on trends set by such fashion heavyweights as Versace, Prada, Gucci and YSL. There are racks of suits, as well as printed silk shirts (from \$49) and cool cotton blazers (\$49–\$149). An impressive shoe collection touches on big trends: pointed stiletto,

peep-toes, glossy patents and lots of metallics. Menswear is a metrosexual’s take on J. Crew, with a range of clean-cut suits, sweaters and weekend wear. Yorkdale Shopping Centre, 3401 Dufferin St. (at Hwy. 401), 416-640-0471; plus four other GTA locations. M-F 10-9, Sa 9:30-9, Su 11-7.

WOMENSWEAR



WORK

ALEXIA VON BECK

The signature look of German-Chilean designer Alexia Von Beck conjures a kind of urban safari. Central to this tableau is a statuesque woman confidently striding in flat sandals, wearing neutral-toned wool pants (\$169) or a long skirt (\$189–\$289), and a wool shawl (\$89–\$160) wrapped over chunky silver Indian or Moroccan jewellery. The most alluring pieces are the floor-length coats (\$450–\$750), with high, cape-like collars done in silk embroidery. 1228 Yonge St. (at Summerhill), 416-975-8615. M-Sa 10:30-6.

ANDY THÉ-ANH

Ladies who lunch are drawn to Andy Thé-Anh’s boutiques for the Montreal-based designer’s combination of class and professionalism. Fancier frippery includes ball gowns (from \$1,000) and cocktail dresses (from \$750). In everyday looks, glazed jersey tops, slim-cut blouses and tailored jackets teeter around \$550. The interior of the new Bayview location mirrors its Yorkville companion, which opened earlier in 2010. Both boutiques consciously veer from the design of the original Toronto location, now closed, tossing aside the delicate gallery feel for a California Closet vibe, complete with compact inventory cupboards hidden in the walls, to be rolled out majestically by a doting salesperson. 27 Bellair St. (at Yorkville Ave.) 416-922-9553. Bayview Village, 2901 Bayview Ave. (at Sheppard Ave. E.), 416-590-0167. Bellair, M-W 10-6, Th-F 11-7, Sa 10-6, Su noon-5. Bayview, M-Fri 10-9, Sa 9:30-6, Su noon-5.

BERGSTRÖM ORIGINALS

Creative professionals and moms with a penchant for chic, colourful clothing flock to this Leslieville shop. “I’m a print fanatic,” says Scandinavian owner and designer Christina Bergström, who cites ‘60s fashion and Marimekko as chief inspirations. Eye-popping floral-patterned kimono-style jersey tops (\$132) mix with classic black A-line trenches (\$286) and demure skirt-and-blazer combos. An Annie Hall cotton vest (\$169) works surprisingly with slim-fitting Sabrina pants (\$168). 781 Queen St. E. (at Saulters St.), 416-595-7320. Tu 11-7, Su noon-6.

CHANEL

No couturier can dress the Parisian mademoiselle more chicly than Chanel, and any self-respecting femme fatale should have at least one piece (or

perfume) in her wardrobe. Each season, Chanel offers myriad variations on the tailored, tweedy classics. This fall, velvet Camelia ankle boots go well with an updated little black dress. For that break in Monaco, be sure to take along stretch lambskin skinny trousers with the Camelia cutouts (\$900); for a last-minute invitation to La Scala, there are always the brand’s classic cocktail dresses in jersey viscose. 131 Bloor St. W. (at Bay), 416-925-2577. M-Sa 10-6.

COMRAGS

A clean, serene space in the heart of West Queen West’s art and design district invites young professionals to browse through the perfect, 100 per cent Canadian designs of Joyce Gunhouse and Judy Cornish. Like Prada for the financially modest, Comrags has always had the right combination of impeccably cut jackets, skirts and dresses, with the perfect balance of elegance and edge. In cold weather, expect a reliable collection of dresses, suits and separates in dark tones; for fall, look for hunting themes in earthy colours, with quilting on the shoulders and deep pockets, as well as effortless ‘60s shift dresses. 654 Queen St. W. (at Palmerston Ave.), 416-360-7249. M-W 11-6, Th-F 11-7, Sa 10-6, Su noon-5; open until 9 p.m. on first Thursday of every month.

CORBÒ STUDIO

This reliably stylish 15-year-old boutique showcases its shoes and boots at the back, thereby allowing the apparel to hold its own up front. A full collection of separates and dresses from Filippa K, form-flattering designs from Robert Rodriguez, and Barbara Bui’s power pieces (\$175–\$800) add instant sex appeal to the tamest wardrobe. Acne jeans (\$225–\$295) are hard to find elsewhere. Footwear lines are decidedly fashion-forward: Luxury Rebel, Kors and Donald J. Pliner. 162 Cumberland St. (at Avenue Rd.), 416-966-8784. M-W 10-6, Th-F 10-7, Sa 10-6, Su 1-5.

ELEVEN

Ready-to-wear collections from nine Canadian labels (including Basch, Lucian Matis, David Dixon and Lovas) fill this posh one-year-old Yorkville store. The entire Lundström line is available, including tie blouses and classic camel coats. Joëffer Caoc’s matte jersey dresses await toned PYTs. Looks flow easily from day into evening. Sexy lace dresses from Nada start at \$469. Jewellery comes from around the globe, including Kendra Scott’s earrings and necklaces. 116 Cumberland St. (at Bellair St.), 416-966-3935. Tu-W 10-6, Th-F 10-8, Sa 10-6, Su noon-5.

EWANIKA

Young professionals clamour for Trish Ewanika’s line of flawlessly designed clothing for women—perfect investment pieces that fit well in any wardrobe. While the majority of the clothing stays close to a neutral palette of black, off-white and grey, the designer always adds a few key accent colours each season (such as camel and khaki green for this fall). Such pieces as tapered pleated pants and wool double-knit dresses (from \$385) favour understated elegance over showiness. A recent move from College Street to this bright, open space has inspired innovation; Ewanika now complements her collection with hard-to-find necklaces such as the Aesa line from Brooklyn’s Randi Mates, and also a selection of water-based scents from CB I Hate Perfume. 1083 Bathurst St. (at Dupont), 416-927-9699. Tu-F 12-7, Sa 11-6.

FREDA’S

The wares at this venerable Bathurst fashion institution range from the classic to the uniquely funky. Freda’s private collection specializes in solid, pinstriped and patterned suits (\$350–\$600). Imperial pants from Paris (\$145) infatuate the young at heart. Such fashionistas-about-town as