



COSMETICS DEPARTMENT

Sometimes the best is also the most obvious, as is the case with our main makeup source. Saks Fifth Avenue features an open layout, an expert but never pushy staff and, of course, a comprehensive selection. They carry 85 fragrance lines and 25 cosmetic and skincare brands, including favorites like Kiehl's, Chanel and Bliss. Plus, there are free facials offered regularly; check online for store events.

→ 786 Boylston St., Boston » 617-262-8500 » saksfifthavenue.com



DAY SPA

G20 Spa & Salon

The crisp, white decor punctuated with watery blues is almost enough to make your shoulders drop, and that's just the start of soothing pleasures at G2O Spa & Salon. You can indulge in facials, massages, reflexology, reiki and wraps, but our fave is the Rasul Signature Ceremony body treatment, where you're covered in exotic muds, put into a steam room and then rinsed in a tropical rain shower. Count down 'til

next summer, when the spa relocates to a two-building space across from Emerge, adding new treatments and a rooftop garden area.

→ 338 Newbury St., Boston » 617-262-2220 » g2ospasalon.com

CLASS

Core Fusion at Exhale

The phrase "hurts so good" was clearly coined by Core Fusion devotees-men and women who take this Exhale class anywhere from one to five times weekly. Based on the much-exalted Lotte Berk method, the workout focuses on the midsection, but leaves no muscle group unchallenged. Aching, er, stronger, muscles are just the beginning. After a series, you'll feel tighter, leaner and thoroughly centered.

→ 28 Arlington St., Boston » 617-532-7000 » exhalespa.com

KERCISE

Eden Kessler at Equinox and Healthworks

Eden Kessler gets paid to jump around and yell, and she loves it. "I think people take my classes because they always leave feeling better about themselves," Kessler says. Known for her Mommy & Me workouts, she teaches about four classes daily-from spinning to strengthening to boot camp-and has been doing so since college. After earning a grad-school degree in sports management, she returned to the studio. "It's not glamorous," Kessler admits. "It's sweaty. But it's much better than wearing a suit."

Equinox, 131 Dartmouth St., Boston » 617-578-8918 » 225 Franklin St., Boston » 617-426-2140 » Healthworks, 441 Stuart St., Boston » 617-859-7700 » edenkessler.com

FACIAL

Natalie Maibenko at Unique Verve

Natalie Maibenko's vitaminenriched facials at Unique Verve

Super Stylish Addition Mizu

Mizu at the Mandarin Oriental is just what you'd expect from a salon in the 21st century: all white and curvy, with service that's at once attentive but restrained. The iPods and WiFi-enabled laptops, meanwhile, make time-consuming treatments pass almost too quickly. This quietly glam new addition, created by Hollywood producer Elan Sassoon, has attracted some of Boston's beauty elite, including the former creative director of Vidal Sassoon Patrick McGinley and master of the dry cut and updo Charles Maksou.

→ 776 Boylston St., Boston » 617-585-6498 » mizuforhair.com

(a South End gem) combine pampering practices with resultsoriented techniques that not only feel good, but leave your skin vastly improved over the long term. Maibenko's touch is light and her aromatherapy potions heavenly, so you can drift off while she does her work, efficiently, quietly and always with a smile.

→ 530 Tremont St., Boston » 857-540-9465 » uniqueverve.com

GYM FOR THOSE ON THE GO

Boston Sports Club

Traveling up and down the Eastern seaboard is no reason to let your fitness routine lapse. Sign on with Boston Sports Club, and you'll have access to top-notch facilities wherever you go. The company boasts eight clubs in Boston, twice that in the 'burbs, and many more in the cities and surrounding areas of New York,

Philly and D.C. They feature the usual aerobic and conditioning classes, as well as Pilates, yoga, cycling, swim and even tennis. For \$79 a month, you're out of excuses.

→ Boston Sports Club, 505 Boylston St., Boston » 617-236-1189 » additional locations nationwide » mysportsclubs.com

SMOOTHING

Keratin Smoothing Treatment at James Joseph

Feeling wired? James Joseph Salon now offers the much-hyped keratin treatment, perfect for taming flyaway tresses. While a chemical relaxer renders hair stick-straight, the keratin protein simply smoothes, leaving just enough body to get your wave on and seriously cutting your styling time. The effect lasts about three months, with hair gradually

returning to its natural state and leaving no telltale traces.

→30 Newbury St., Boston » 617-266-7222 » jamesjosephsalon.com

HEALTH CLUB

Equino

Now even worker bees can get their fitness buzz with the opening of the newest location of Equinox Fitness in the Financial District. The 40,000-square-foot space in a former bank has all the perks of the beloved Back Bay gym, with more treatments, services and classes geared toward male clientele. Offerings include PowerNap+, Below the Belt and Iron Body Knockout. Hey, it's important to look good under those pinstripes, too.

→ 225 Franklin St., Boston » 617-426-2140 » 131 Dartmouth St., Boston » 617-578-8918 » equinoxfitness.com

LASHES/BROWS

Luvlash

Everyone's a specialist, and aestheticians are no exception. For lashes and brows, there's no better spot than LuxLash, where it's all eyes on eyes. Ensconced in a chair with a comfy duvet, you'll feel pampered and doted upon. The entire staff is trained in applying lash extensions (owner Suzanne Cats developed the method herself after trying out every alternative). And they understand that when it comes to plucking brows, restraint is the best display of enthusiasm.

→232 Newbury St., Boston » 617-587-5274 » luxlash.com

MAKEUP ARTIST

Lauren Genatossio at Sarra

Who wants to sit in the midst of department store chaos, even if an application is free? Instead, make

ETHNIC HAIR SALON Simply Erinn's

Simply Erinn's is Cambridge's answer to Cheers, minus the beer and plus the braids. Erinn Pearson, a neighborhood girl who set up shop seven years ago, runs a friendly salon specializing in treatments for customers with especially frizzy, curly or wavy hair. While chemical relaxers are on the roster, more popular services include the twist out (sections of wet hair are twisted together and then undone when dry, for a softer wave) and press 'n' curl (a type of flat ironing). For more creative styles, you can get cornrows, weaves and extensions.

→ 268 Brookline St., Cambridge » 617-547-8098 » simplyerinns.com

