

W

BEAUTY
BONANZA
THE LATE
ON ANTI-AGING
SUN PROTECTION
& L.A.'S HIPPER
NEW FITNESS
CRAZE

Forever Imelda:
Inside Her Strange,
Strange World

Al Taubman on
the Sotheby's
scandal, Betrayal
and Prison Blues

As: Christian
Croix, David de
 Rothschild, and
Society Moms
Talk About
Their Nannies

KIRSTEN

Ms. Dunst on Fame, Flops and Finding Herself

On the Verge

pros are about to hit wait-list status.

Photographs by KATHRYN HURNI

multidimensional blonds as well as her talent for fixing dye-job disasters. "I get a lot of those really orangey brunettes, where they tried to get Beyoncé's color," says the 24-year-old. "I'm pretty good at fixing that."

Isela Medrano,
VALERY JOSEPH SALON,
NEW YORK, 212.517.2333

Medrano's approach to color is refreshingly down-to-earth. "The most important thing I consider before I work on a client's hair is her lifestyle. How much time can she devote to maintenance?" says the 27-year-old. Medrano, who has been doing color for seven years, found inspiration in childhood memories when making her career choice. "I remember seeing my mother's face when she walked out of a salon. She looked more beautiful but also happier, more confident." Though she sends more than a few happy blonds out the doors of Joseph's salon, she considers brunettes her specialty, employing the French hair-painting technique of *balayage* to create rich, beautiful highlights.

FACIALISTS

Kirsty McLeod
LONDON, 44.20.7834.0101

McLeod, 36, teams extractions and deep-pore cleansing with muscle-melting massage. "I always have a goal I want to achieve at the end of a facial, but I like to make it extremely relaxing as well," she says. After overseeing the launch of the London outpost of Bliss Spa in 2001, McLeod opened her own pint-size salon in the tony Pimlico neighborhood the following year and debuted a signature product line in 2006. She's worked on Madonna and Eva Herzigova and counts Cornelia Guest and swimwear designer Melissa Odabash as regulars.

Tammy Fender
PALM BEACH, 561.659.2229

Fender, 38, has been coddling complexions for 17 years. And in all that time, she says, "I've never had a client not come back." Fender uses her own essential oil-infused products (available at tammyfender.com) and also incorporates LED light therapy, medical-grade oxygen and massage into her menu of treatments. Socialite Marjorie Raein, one of Fender's many devotees, is unequivocal in her praise: "Her facial is the best thing you will ever have in your life."

Aida Bicaj
NEW YORK, 212.879.5257

Bicaj, 42, worked for a plastic surgeon, tending to patients' pre- and post-op skincare needs, before becoming training director for skincare company Biologique Recherche. Last July she set up her own shop in a discreet duplex just off Park Avenue, where she uses Biologique's skin-smoothing P50 Lotion on every client—including Julianna Margulies and Jennifer Connolly. To firm faces, she also employs a microcurrent machine. "When my clients come to me on a regular basis, they see how their faces become lifted," says Bicaj. "But in a natural-looking way."

Nina Curtis
THE NILE INSTITUTE
LOS ANGELES, 310.275.6453

Curtis constantly trolls the Web for hard-to-find organic products. Among her recent discoveries: French brand Phyt's paraben-free, botanically rich skincare line and Madini Perfume Essences, a line of all-natural fragrant oils blended by a Moroccan family who've been perfumers for 14

generations. Curtis incorporates her finds into custom facials, which she performs in three cozy treatment rooms inside a West Hollywood tige. For a true out-of-experience, top off a session with a reflexology treatment with reflexology of Curtis's specialties.

DERMATOLOGIST
Gervaise Gerstner M.D.
WEXLER DERMATOLOGY
NEW YORK, 212.684.26

Gerstner joined über dermatologist Pat Wexler's team in 2008. "Pat's coached me in everything from dating to injectables like Restylane," says the 36-year-old, whose patients tend to be younger than those of her mentor. "I do a lot of lip lifts, peels and Botox, but I'm doing more full-face work now." Keeping her doctorly priorities intact—"I won't do Botox until they let me get their moles!"—she's also democratic when it comes to products. "I love Pat's Definity Foam is amazing."

