

SHOPPING Continued from p 34**BEST DENIM STORE****MADEWELL** | 329 Newbury Street, Boston | 617.424.0904 | madewell.com

Ah, the singular wardrobe pleasure of a great pair of jeans — the ones you can wear on errands on a Tuesday afternoon and slide into on a Friday night, as sleek and cool and comfortable as ever. At **MADEWELL**, the slightly edgier child of parent company J.Crew, you'll find the best fit for you in a variety of colors, from indigo to white. The salespeople there are eager to help put you into the best possible pair, and the T-shirts, scarves, sweaters, skirts, and accessories are worth a browse as well.

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BEST EROTIC-GIFTS STORE**GOOD VIBRATIONS** | 308A Harvard Street, Brookline | 617.264.4400 | goodvibes.com

Continuing its firm but gentle grip on the category, **GOOD VIBRATIONS** dominates Boston's purveyors of erotic gifts for the fifth year running. Its spacious Brookline storefront, friendly (but not too friendly) and knowledgeable staff, and products ranging from silly to sensual all contribute to GV's long-lasting success. Offering everything from vibrators to videos and books to ball gags, not to mention hosting classes on erotic arts ranging from dirty talk to tantric sex, GV has got everything you need to get off.

_Lyette Mercier

BEST HEALTH CLUB**CROSSFIT FENWAY** | 1345 Boylston Street, Boston | 617.266.7700 | crossfitfenway.com

Health club memberships typically mean members can drop in at their leisure, grab a towel, hop on the elliptical, peruse the weights, then pop in the shower and sauna. But **CROSSFIT FENWAY** knows that directionless workouts are not always so effective. (Who maintains that kind of motivation?) So at their workout space, every trip to the gym is like a personal training session. Members only show up for pre-scheduled, hour-long workouts with small groups, where trainers watch you every move. Word on the street is it's impossible to not feel sore afterwards — some even call the place "life-changing."

_Liz Pelly

BEST HAIR-COLOR SERVICES**TREPHIN SALON** | 25 Temple Place, Boston | 857.233.2363 | trephin.com

Starting in the Neolithic Age, and even through the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, humans have used trephination — the drilling or scraping of a hole into the human skull — to treat health problems, relieve pressure, or induce euphoria. The latter might be achieved less painfully with a trip to **TREPHIN SALON**, named after this weird, primordial practice. Steps away from the Park Street T stop, the second-floor salon was opened in 2010 by Moe Smith and Brian Rand — both former stylists at South Boston's Shag — and has quickly gained a dedicated fan base. With dark wood floors under



KELLY DAVIDSON

Shag

a huge skylight, slick black chairs and custom furniture, plus four experienced stylists, this light, intimate space could fix a pounding headache as quickly as a hair problem.

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BEST HAIRCUT, MEN'S**MICHAEL LABRECQUE SALON** | 292 Newbury Street, Boston | 617.267.8800 | michaellabrecque.com

The stylists at **MICHAEL LABRECQUE SALON** on Newbury have some serious cred: years of experience as master stylists and master colorists, plus extensive traveling for styling classes with top industry names. One of their stylists, Melissa Medeiros, is certified by the American Board of Haircolorists and a graduate of the Menswork Academy, where she learned the Menswork Method for "logically and practically cutting men's hair." Combined with the expertise of Labrecque himself, it's pretty obvious why they're the best men's haircut in town.

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BEST HAIRCUT, WOMEN'S**SHAG** | 840 Summer Street, 3rd Floor | South Boston | 617.268.2500 | shagboston.com

So they bring you coffee or tea or a glass of wine. So they spend a few extra minutes pressing their fingers over your skull while washing your locks. So they use and suggest the highest quality products. It's all part of the show. What matters most at **SHAG** is that you come away with the hottest haircut possible. The clientele have a rock-and-roll vibe — you're not going to find your auntie getting her roots touched up and a new perm. There's a creative edge to the place, and a creative edge to the cuts.

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BEST FACIAL**BELLA SANTÉ** | 38 Newbury Street, Boston | 617.424.9930 | bellasante.com

City skin is bound to need a tune-up eventually, what with Boston's temperamental weather and grimy urban pollution. Pop into **BELLA SANTÉ** and choose from over ten deluxe facials for every skin type. Detailed regimens use cleansers, scrubs, masks, serums, and moisturizers from top-notch brands like Carita, Decléor, and Phytomer. Whether you crave a revitalizing marine boost with a 50-minute Urban Energizing Facial (\$98) or an 80-minute Carita Lift and Firming Facial (\$240), you'll leave this Newbury Street spa with glowing skin. Top off your tranquil treatment with a complimentary hand, foot, or scalp massage.

_Renee Trilivas

OASIS will treat it like a temple. Tucked away behind a bakery in Inman Square, this calming "wellness center" offers 13 different kinds of massage, from the standard Swedish and Deep Tissue effleurage to more exotic fare, like a Japanese Shiatsu "finger pressure" technique and Cranio-Sacral brain and spinal fluid therapy. With private and communal hot tub rooms available for continued post-massage indulgence or a relaxing dip after work, this is one oasis you may never want to leave.

_Micah Hauser

BEST MANICURE/PEDICURE**MINILUXE** | 296 Newbury Street, Boston | 857.362.7444 | miniluxe.com

Some people jet off to the tropics to revive their stressed-out selves, but some just head over to **MINILUXE** for a bit of indulgence. Pamper yourself with a 25-minute basic manicure for \$18 or splurge on a \$50 Minx mani. Try unwinding with scrubs and massages in their \$35 basic pedicure to renew and nourish fatigued feet. For a toasty treat, upgrade to a warm oil mani/pedi with melting, soy Jimmyjane candles (\$45). Pick from their rainbow assortment of Essie and OPI polishes at this clean, modern salon for long-lasting, chip-free nails.

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BEST MASSAGE**INMAN OASIS** | 243 Hampshire Street, Cambridge | 617.491.0176 | inmanoasis.com

If your body feels bruised, banded up, or beaten down, the folks over at **INMAN**

BEST JEWELRY STORE**SHREVE, CRUMP & LOW** | 440 Boylston Street, Boston | 617.267.9100 | shrevecrumpandlow.com

How old is **SHREVE, CRUMP & LOW**? Just about as old as you can get. Back in 1796 John McFarlane, a watchmaker and silversmith, set up shop across the street from Paul Revere. Since then, the high-end jewelry store has been providing the Cabots and Kennedys with diamonds, pearls, and gurgling codfish decanters. The store glitters — glass cases filled with engagement rings, pearl necklaces, watches, earrings, cufflinks, ranging from the understated and lovely to the holy-moly-I-can't-believe-people-can-spend-that-much-on-a-ring (the Riviera necklace — 30 inches of diamonds — costs \$120,000).

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BEST NERD STORE**PANDEMONIUM BOOKS AND GAMES** | 4 Pleasant St, Cambridge | 617.547.3721 | pandemoniumbooks.com

Nerds stereotypically obsess about new technology, but that's not so at **PANDEMONIUM BOOKS & GAMES**, where nerds sing the praises of the most old-school media of all: books. Pandemonium specializes

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