

# VITA

YOUR LIFESTYLE SUPPLEMENT FROM VITA DAILY - APRIL 2017

## the GREEN ISSUE

Mother Nature-Minded Picks

**GABRIELLE  
by CHANEL**  
*Our Exclusive  
Behind-the-Scenes  
With a Brand-New Bag*

**VERSACE** on the Porch  
Furniture Follows Fashion  
into the Great Outdoors

**MARC of GREATNESS**  
German Womenswear  
Comes to Vancouver

**BOTANY 101**  
Plating the Pacific Northwest  
at the Pac Rim



# ROLEX

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ROLEX BOUTIQUE

# BEST IN CLASS

KELSEY KLASSEN'S PICKS OF THE MONTH



As I write this from Palm Springs, surrounded by bursts of bougainvillea and blankets of purple mat, a part of me pines for Vancouver's delicate layers of springtime green.

Being green has never been easier, and in this issue we celebrate brands that are caring for the earth in style: **H&M**, **Tesla** and more (page 4). Also, we're teaming up with German womenswear sensation **Marc Cain** ahead of its Vancouver launch (page 5) and, in a Canadian exclusive, go behind the scenes with **Chanel** on its latest campaign (page 6). Plus, we speak with the team behind the Pac Rim's budding **Botanist** restaurant (page 9) and check out the sustainable side of Victoria (page 10).

In us news, this will be my last edition at the helm of **VITA**. I'll be transitioning to more of an ambassador role as I focus on my other editorships within Glacier Media. The incredible Noa Nichol will pick up where she left off last year—before she brought a beautiful daughter into the world. Thanks for an amazing year. Enjoy!

*Kelsey Klassen*  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

@KELSEYKLASSEN @KELSEY.KLASSEN

What would you like to see featured in **VITA**?  
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Twitter [@vitadailyvan](https://twitter.com/vitadailyvan) | Instagram [@vitadaily.ca](https://www.instagram.com/vitadaily.ca)

## MANE EVENT

The world's most powerful hair dryer is now in hand, and the **Dyson Supersonic** truly lives up to the hype. With \$100 million dollars, 16 pending patents and 1,000 miles of human hair put into the R&D, the results are revolutionary: lighter, quieter and more intuitive, it's the iPhone of beauty appliances, complete with stylish magnetic attachments and great hand-feel. Plus, personally, my drying time was reduced by half. That's not only good for my hair, but good for the environment, as well. **\$499 at Hudson's Bay or [Dysoncanada.ca](http://Dysoncanada.ca)**



## MASTER OF YOUR DOMAIN

**Ikea** won my heart in my student days and continues to woo into my 30s with classics like the Stockholm series and punchy limited-edition collections like the recent Spridd collab with U.K. designer Kit Neale. This month I'm obsessing over the hyper-adaptable PS 2017 line, offering versatile accent pieces, like self-watering pots and boho nesting rockers (pictured, \$349), that do double duty. Small-space living with big ideas. **3320 Jacombs Rd., Richmond & 1000 Lougheed Hwy., Coquitlam, 866-866-4532 [Ikea.com](http://Ikea.com)**



## AIR APPARANT

**Hong Kong Airlines** has announced that Vancouver will be its first North American destination, ahead of even New York and Los Angeles. The growing, full-service airline boasts in-flight family assistance, any-time snacks and "lucky" flight numbers, not to mention our favourite feature: James Bond-sounding Sky Bars in both first class and economy. Flights begin departing daily on June 30 at noon, which means every time you eat lunch you can picture happy travellers en route to the City of Life. **[Hongkongairlines.com](http://Hongkongairlines.com)**



**VITA**

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# GREEN goodies

WHO SAYS HIGH STYLE CAN'T BE ECO FRIENDLY?  
OUR EDITORS REVEAL THEIR FAVOURITE GREEN  
GOODS JUST IN TIME FOR EARTH DAY

#### EARTH WATCH

Canada's own Berg & Betts crafts sustainable timepieces using local designers' leftover scrap leather—like shrunken lambskin—that would otherwise go to waste. Even our iPhones can't tell time this stylishly. \$129 at Holt Renfrew, 737 Dunsmuir St., 604-681-3121. [Holtrenfrew.com](http://Holtrenfrew.com)



#### BRIGHT IDEA

If anyone could create an LED lamp to last 144,000 hours, it had to be Dyson. The company's CSYS task light (from \$849 in clamp, desk and floor models) uses innovative cooling tech to prevent bulb brightness and colour from fading—and looks good doing it. [Dysoncanada.ca](http://Dysoncanada.ca)



#### APRIL SHOWERS

Kohler's Toobi showerhead minimizes wasteful overspray, offers green, white or black ring-trim options and increases cleaning and hair-rinsing performance. Water efficiency, colour co-ordination and bad-hair-day reduction—are there any more direct routes to a girl's heart? \$168 at the new Kohler Signature Store (see story, page 8), 1606 W. Broadway, 877-301-9976. [Kohlersignaturestorevancouver.com](http://Kohlersignaturestorevancouver.com)



#### CHOP SHOP

In Vancouver, ChopValue recycles discarded chopsticks into designer lifestyle products: coasters, tiles, shelving. We're confident the company's brand-new yoga blocks (\$75 in three dimensions, with custom engraving available) will bring better balance to our practice—not to mention the environment. [Chopvalue.ca](http://Chopvalue.ca)



#### ELECTRIC RIDE

With Tesla set to open soon in Park Royal, we figured no green roundup would be complete without mention of the eco-conscious car co.'s luxe range. Our pick: the earth-friendly-slash-sexy Model X, falcon wings and all. [Tesla.com](http://Tesla.com)

#### SUSTAINABLE STYLE

H&M's Conscious Exclusive collection utilizes a pioneering sustainable material made from plastic shoreline waste. The fluid fabric from which this intricate pleated gown (\$249) is made shows just how natural it is for fashion to be gentle on the earth (check it out on our glowing editor-in-chief, page 2). 609 Granville St., 855-272-7007. [Hm.com](http://Hm.com)



#### WELL SUITED

According to Vancouver-based Londrë, "swimming naked is the only more sustainable option" than wearing its sleek and multifunctional bodysuit (\$120 in matte black or flat white). Made primarily from discarded plastic bottles, these water babies are sure winners. [Londrëbodywear.com](http://Londrëbodywear.com)



#### SOLE MATES

We're looking forward to wearing our wine bottles (well, their stoppers, anyway) on our feet. Designed in Vancouver and launching this summer, District Open by SOLE is a collection of women's sandals made from natural recycled cork (plus premium leather straps in seasonal colours). [Yoursole.com](http://Yoursole.com)



#### SUPER SKIN CARE

Toronto-based green-beauty brand Graydon places key ingredients like chlorophyll, food-grade Manuka honey and broccoli and berry seed oil in its cleansers, serums and more. The result: products that work like smoothies for the skin. At Kiss and Makeup, 1791 Manitoba St., 778-379-7928. [Kissandmakeupstore.com](http://Kissandmakeupstore.com)

# FASHION & SHOPPING

## Marc of Greatness

GERMAN WOMENSWEAR MAKER MARC CAIN IS COMING TO VANCOUVER IN JUNE, AND WE CAN'T HARDLY WAIT

BY NOA NICHOL

You know you've made it as a company, fashion or otherwise, when the street your business is headquartered on is renamed for you. So it is for Marc Cain, based in Bodelshausen, south of Stuttgart, on the newly minted Marc-Cain-Allee. Founded in 1973, the clothing brand isn't just a hit in Germany, but is beloved by women throughout Europe, Russia and Asia. And, come June, Vancouverites will be getting their very own boutique in Oakridge Centre (a clean white space boasting huge fitting rooms, flattering lighting and shimmering metallic walls in champagne tones, if the company's other retail locations worldwide are any indication).

"We really felt Vancouver was the perfect spot for us in terms of what we're all about," says Natalie Pare, who's been managing the Marc Cain brand and running its wholesale division in Canada for several years. "Women in Vancouver are also very outdoorsy and not afraid to keep things casual. In terms of our stylish sportswear, we feel we have a lot to offer. The city really is the perfect fit."

While the company does design an outstanding collection of athleisure (including rhinestone-embellished leggings—want), Marc Cain's designs span the spectrum of style from comfy and casual to work appropriate to social and sophisticated, offering thousands of items, from dresses to denim, sneakers to scarves, blazers to bags, power suits and pumps.

"Our collection is broad, with pieces designed to take our clients from Monday to Friday and into the weekend," Pare says. "We can take a lawyer from the office to dinner and a night out—and we can take her to the gym, too. Not only that, our clothes, shoes and accessories are designed to be easily mix and matched, and we offer many great tools, including look-



books, catalogues and, in our stores, very experienced salespeople to help people pull all these things together."

On its website, Marc Cain does shoppers the favour of grouping its



seasonal new arrivals under trend-setting themes, like, currently, Cuban Soul, Tech Attack and, our personal favourite, Stripes & Cats (think jaguar key rings and tiger-patterned tops).

Plus, nearly every item online offers "complete this look" suggestions—we can only assume the experience will be similar in store.

Pare chalks this incredible variety up, in a big way, to longtime creative director Karen Veit, who "continually pushes the envelope on fashion and can dress a woman who's more basic and likes classic pieces to someone who is very funky and avant-garde." She also points to the company's commitment to innovation; Marc Cain uses, for example, pioneering 3-D printing technology to create its own gorgeous knitwear.

"Beautiful prints and fabrics may actually be the foundation of our brand," she adds. "I have customers who just melt over our fabrics. They say, 'I just want to wrap myself in this.' We can actually call them our 'fans' because whenever a new collection hits stores, every three weeks or so, they want first dibs. They're texting our associates asking them to 'please, please, reserve this for me.' We love forming these relationships, and we love building looks and even entire wardrobes for our clients that they can wear season after season, year after year. It's extremely gratifying."

As for Pare's personal picks from the Marc Cain collection? "I'm a big jean-and-suit-jacket girl and I always buy two to three of our blazers every season—they come in fun colours and I love the fit," she says. "I will admit that I wore my Marc Cain fitwear all weekend long but, if there's one piece I absolutely could not live without, it would have to be our pleather pants. They're extremely comfortable and they keep their shape no matter what. In them you feel like you're wearing pajamas but you look like a million bucks." **Pieces on our cover, plus those pictured on this page, are available at Marc Cain stores. For brand info, visit Marc-cain.com.**



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# CHANNELLING GABRIELLE

*A new handbag has joined Chanel's iconic range—the brand's first major bag debut since 2011—with a star-studded campaign to match*

WRITTEN BY NOA NICHOL



In February 1955 Gabrielle Chanel created a handbag that freed up women's movements, forever revolutionizing the world of fashion and accessories. Now the brand's creative director, Karl Lagerfeld, has launched a novel iteration, named in honour of the lady who started it all and staying true to her founding vision: freedom of style.

Several sizes and versions of Chanel's Gabrielle bag have been produced, with the classic handbag (from \$3,950) front and centre. Crafted from aged calfskin with a classically quilted body and smooth base, each bag features an adjustable strap that lets one wear it seven ways, including over the shoulder, across the body or both simultaneously (the focus on versatility and ease of wear is clear). A look inside reveals a lining in the same garnet hue Mlle. Chanel chose for her own bag debut—a direct nod if we ever saw one.

**IN 1955 GABRIELLE**

**CHANEL CREATED A**

**HANDBAG ...**



# FASHION & SHOPPING



But, when it comes to the buzz around the new bag, Coco is clearly not Lagerfeld's sole muse. For the launch, the master designer has conceived a campaign in four parts, based around a quartet of celebs he calls "people who are totally of today." Figuring in four short films are Kristen Stewart, Cara Delevingne, Pharrell Williams (the first man in a Chanel ad carrying a bag) and French model Caroline de Maigret. Though the

style and setting of each production varies—Cara skateboards through a cartoon-like world while Pharrell has fun in an empty concert hall—according to Lagerfeld, the magical, mysterious aura of Gabrielle Chanel is present in every film.

Please enjoy these exclusive-to-VITA photos shot during the making of the campaign. The full-length films can be viewed on social networks @chanelofficial. [Chanel.ca](http://Chanel.ca)



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# Versace on the Porch

DESIGNER PATIO PROVISIONS MAKE THE OUTDOORS EVEN GREATER  
BY KELSEY KLASSEN



If you want furniture that follows fashion, plates that serve up runway prints and mirrors that mirror the mind of Donatella herself, Versace Home is an oasis of opulence for any abode.

Until now, however, amidst the emblematic glassware, cotton sateen sheets and nubuck leather sectionals, something was missing: the Mesedia chair marks the first time you can have a piece of Versace on the patio.

Launched at Salon del Mobile last spring and now on display at Versace's Gastown boutique, the chair is a lightweight, climate-proof aluminum marvel, shaped in the image of the brand's iconic Medusa and designed for indoor or outdoor living.

Deceptively deep and comfortable, it comes in five striking colours—haze, storm, cloud, sunset (purple) and sunrise (orange)—which are complemented beautifully by the new line of jungle-print throw pillows. If the patio is your palace, these chairs are fit for a king. 310 W Cordova St., 604-336-7390. [Versacehome.it](http://Versacehome.it)

# Royal Flush

VANCOUVER'S NEW KOHLER SIGNATURE STORE  
HAD US AT "INTELLIGENT TOILET"  
BY NOA NICHOL



Forget how gorgeous and thoughtfully planned the just-opened space at Broadway and Fir is—Vancouver's new Kohler Signature Store (the first in Canada, in fact) had us at "intelligent toilet."

Among the displays (many interactive, with chess-like mix-and-match stations so you can get truly hands-on in creating the bathroom or kitchen of your dreams) of gleaming fixtures and faucets, designer cabinetry and bathtubs that can be custom painted (check out local artist Katherine Gordon's masterpiece, pictured above, in store), a row of white loos caught our eye. Our guide, Kohler Canada manager of marketing and communications Donna

Church, was equally excited, pointing to features like ambient coloured lighting, wireless music sync capability, heated seats and foot warmers (the Numi toilet, pictured right, \$9,229, even remembers to put the seat down).

Moving on, we salivated over copper, glass and stone sinks and handles inset with crystal, pearl and onyx in Kohler's aspirational Kallista collection, plus innovative sinks that actually take consumer feedback to heart (a low barrier between the two compartments in the brand's Smart Divide models makes it much easier to wash and rinse large items). Also, smart showers boasting digital interfaces that

allow each user to permanently set his or her ideal temperature and flow (from a gentle rain to a downpour, or a tumbling waterfall to a relaxing mist), and tubs with BubbleMassage technology that, says Church, envelops your body in champagne-like effervescence.

The idea behind the signature store, she adds, is to "offer a unique and comprehensive shopping experience distinguished by a modern, innovative space and a merchandise mix that completely indulges you as you experience the Kohler brand."

Mission accomplished. 1606 W. Broadway, 877-301-9976. [Kohlersignaturestorevancouver.com](http://Kohlersignaturestorevancouver.com)



# DÉCOR & DINING

## Botany 101

BOTANIST, NEWLY OPENED AT THE FAIRMONT PACIFIC RIM, AIMS TO PUT THE CULINARY BOUNTY OF OUR REGION—AND, INDEED, MOTHER NATURE HERSELF—ON THE PLATE. HERE, THE RESTAURANT'S KEY PLAYERS REVEAL HOW THEY WILL ACCOMPLISH THAT GOAL  
BY NOA NICHOL



### the FOOD

Asked about his approach, executive chef Hector Laguna, whose culinary range spans from Mexican to Vietnamese, French to Chinese, says his food will “celebrate harmony with nature by respecting the ingredients, treating them in a way that lets them be their own best version.” By choosing the appropriate cooking method (roasting, steaming, braising) for each ingredient (vegetable, fish, meat), he’s sure to “showcase the best that the Pacific Northwest has to offer.” Regarding the “local” aspect of his menu, Laguna explains, “We will source all of our ingredients in B.C. and, only when we exhaust our options locally in terms of availability and quality, will we extend to the rest of Canada.”

### the DRINKS

While head bartender David Wolowidnyk is staying mum on the details surrounding the undoubtedly delicious concoctions he’ll be serving up from Botanist’s “cocktail bar and lab,” creative beverage director Grant Sceney reveals the aim, libation-wise, is to “take guests on a journey from the ocean to the forest floor and into the air.” Regarding the drink list, wine director Jill Spoor confirms all bottles, whether produced in B.C. or beyond, are sustainable, organic or biodynamic farmed and “terroir driven [in that they] represent a distinct sense of place.” We’re personally looking forward to sampling the boutique collection of exclusive vintage bubbly and traditional-method sparkling wines in the restaurant’s champagne lounge.

### the SPACE

The bounty of nature is, too, reflected in Botanist’s design, conceived as a series of micro ecologies rooted in the terra firma of British Columbia. Included is a unique garden space enclosed in a minimal glass room that, says GM Shon Jones-Parry, “brims over with plant species [in] the most intense expression of botany.” The dining room, he adds, includes “subtle-but-rich natural tones of limestone, granite and wood ... stacked, blocked, layered and deposited into service stations that evoke compositions almost mineral in nature.” The result: a restaurant that, he says, “reflects a Pacific Northwest that has always been there, just waiting to be discovered.” 1038 Canada Place Way, 604-695-5300. [Botanistrestaurant.com](http://Botanistrestaurant.com)



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# TRAVEL & LEISURE

## Queen of Green

BLENDING EUROPEAN OLD-WORLD CHARM WITH A MODERN-DAY FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY, B.C.'S CAPITAL MAKES FOR A TRULY SUPERNATURAL WEEKEND AWAY

BY MICHELLE HOPKINS



### STAY

Victoria's **Fairmont Empress Hotel** epitomizes elegance (we can just picture those turn-of-the-century ladies, dressed in their finest, strolling the halls). It also places a major modern-day focus on sustainability. Opened in 1908, Canada's own "Castle on the Coast" has been undergoing a facelift in the past year; dignified as ever, she now sports a more youthful look, with extra "eco-chic" aspects to boot—from a culinary team that incorporates sustainable ingredients from the abundance of farms on Vancouver Island in all its menus to a "stay green" package featuring a rainforest zipline adventure. Be sure to check out the 400,000 resident honeybees in the gardens (and look for their fresh honey in your drinks) and don't miss out on meeting Roger, the hotel's resident yellow-bellied marmot, who ensures proceeds are donated to the local marmot association. And, if going green also means staying gold to you, go for the Fairmont's renewed gold-level offerings, featuring luxe rooms (ours overlooked the city's spectacular harbour) and flawless service that will make you feel like royalty. **721 Government St., Victoria. 250-384-8111. [Fairmont.com/empress-victoria](http://Fairmont.com/empress-victoria)**



### SAVOUR

Gastronomy neither the Queen nor Mother Nature would snub her nose at? Find it first at **Fishhook**, where former *Top Chef Canada* contender Kunal Ghose concocts Indian fare served Mexican style, with menu items ranging from handcrafted spiced wild seafood koftas to a "red shred" salad that will make your palate sing (maintaining Ocean Wise,

local and organic standards, natch). And don't you dare leave Victoria without a dinner at **10 Acres Kitchen**, where most of the ingredients hail from proprietor Mike Murphy's own organic farm. Finally, give culinary kudos to **Q at the Empress**; order the sustainably sourced seafood cioppino and you just might want to lick your plate clean. **[Fishhookvic.com](http://Fishhookvic.com) | [10acreskitchen.ca](http://10acreskitchen.ca) | [Qattheempress.com](http://Qattheempress.com)**

### SIP

Lift your sustainable spirits with a tour of **Sea Cider Farm & Ciderhouse**, located on the city's outskirts. Indulge in a flight of crisp made-on-site ciders while overlooking endless rows of organic orchards and the shimmering blue ocean. Next, head to one of Canada's oldest small-batch spirits companies, **Victoria Distillers**, for a tasting tour; be sure to ask about the Empress 1908 gin, launching in May. Last but not least, the Empress' own **Q Cocktail Bar** serves a signature cocktail, the Empress Sour—a delightful mix of pisco, ginger syrup and grapefruit—that's not to be missed. **[Seacider.ca](http://Seacider.ca) | [Victoriadistillers.com](http://Victoriadistillers.com) | [Qattheempress.com](http://Qattheempress.com)**



### STEP OUT

No green visit to Victoria would be complete without at least one "supernatural" encounter. Starting from the entrance of **East Sooke Regional Park**, we wove our way through the West Coast wilderness with hiking guide and owner of **The Natural Connection**, Ryan LeBlanc. Trekking for two hours through lush rainforest, we emerged high on a crest overlooking the windswept rocky coastline of the Strait of Juan de Fuca. A Kodak moment, for sure. **250-588-0963. [Thenaturalconnections victoria.com](http://Thenaturalconnections victoria.com)**



### SAY "CHEESE"

If you aim to feel like an A-lister, hire **Flytographer** (this unique vacation photography service, offered in 200 cities around the world, was actually launched by Victoria's own Nicole Smith back in 2013) to capture your travel memories. As we went from the Parliament buildings to the waterfront and back to the Empress, people stared at us—some even stopped to get a better look. What fun our 30 minutes of fame were (and no blurry selfies, to boot)! **[Flytographer.com](http://Flytographer.com)**

### SHOP

Spending green takes on new meaning in Victoria, where many retailers make ethical shopping the norm. At **Hemp & Company**, clothing, edible seeds and even eyewear are made from (you guessed it) hemp and other sustainable materials, while the **Good Planet Company** is a hub for green bedding, bath and baby products, plus. At **Not Just Pretty**, founder Pam Skelton procures well-designed clothing, accessories, shoes, bags and beauty products using as many eco-friendly criteria as possible, while family-run **Nezza Naturals** creates all-natural body, bath and home-care products (grab a bottle of broccoli seed hair serum for shiny locks, and say hello to Aloe, official French bulldog mascot for the brand's pet-care line). **[Hempandcompany.com](http://Hempandcompany.com) | [Goodplanet.com](http://Goodplanet.com) | [Notjustpretty.com](http://Notjustpretty.com) | [Nessanaturals.com](http://Nessanaturals.com)**



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MOVING FORWARD

# Greeting a Geisha

A RARE ENCOUNTER WITH A MAIKO  
IN KYOTO, JAPAN  
BY JENNIFER FODEN

“Why did you decide to become a maiko?” my new Aussie friend James asked the young girl. At 15, maybe 16 years old, the porcelain white that painted her face did not mask any emotion. She responded with pride and confidence, in her mother tongue, and our Japanese guide translated: “It’s something I’ve wanted to be since I was a little girl.”

We were sitting in a tiny teahouse in Kyoto, in Western Japan—the birthplace of geikos (geishas) and maikos (apprentice geikos). The space was intimate, the size of a small living room. The décor, modest. Bamboo mats on the floor, a gold dressing screen at the back of the room. This simplicity was in stark contrast to the focus of the room—the maiko—who wore a bright, embellished kimono, her hair and makeup highly crafted.

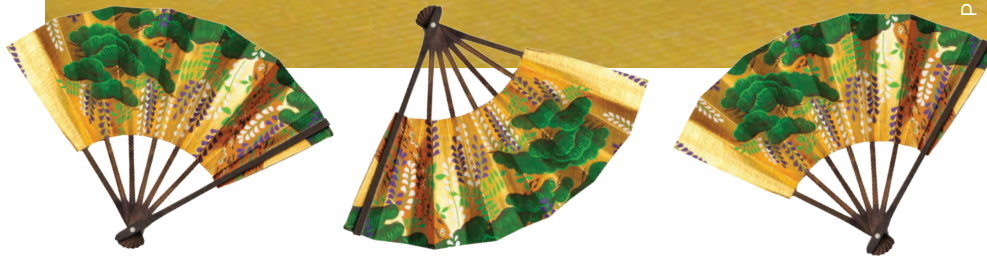
Not many people have seen or met one of these Japanese cultural icons in person—there are less than 250 of them left in Kyoto and teahouses generally do not accept guests without references from other clients (however, if you do your research, there are a few hotels that will arrange the experience for you). In our case, the local Japanese guide we were travelling with knew the right people and was able to work his magic—even though “greeting a geisha” was not an activity listed on the official **G Adventures**’ tour itinerary.

Our maiko performed cultural song and dance, served tea and played instruments for and games with the group. Maikos are also known to be masters of the art of storytelling and can hold conversations about everything from politics and art to the rules of a drinking game. She shared stories about her family, her dreams, the camaraderie between herself and the other maikos. She answered every question and told every story with sureness. We were impressed with her confidence and talent.

Maikos are typically 15 to 20 years



PHOTO BY JAMES RAMIREZ



“JAPAN takes PRIDE in its *geiko culture* & *celebrates* these WOMEN—a far cry from North America”

old, and “graduate” to full geiko status after completing their apprenticeship. They are completely committed to their profession; similar to Catholic nuns, maikos agree to remain single, and to live, study and work alongside their female peers. Many westerners assume that geikos and maikos are prostitutes but, though their job is to serve and entertain mostly male clients, whose attention and money defines these girls’ profession, this is not normally the case. In fact, Japan takes pride in its geiko culture and celebrates these women—a far cry from North America, where careers that exist to entertain men are often shamed.

This pride showed, very obviously, in our maiko’s impeccable appearance. Weekly visits to the hairdresser result in different types of elaborate Japanese hairdos using her own natural hair (once graduated to geiko, wigs are introduced). So intricate are these styles that a maiko must sleep on a wooden block with a pillow in order to maintain the shape.

Our time together was short, just shy of an hour. For the most part she was all business, playing the koto (a Japanese string instrument) and serving tea. These traditional acts, however, were punctuated by moments when she was engaged in conversation or posing for photos with our group. Our maiko giggled and made silly faces, reminding us that sure, she’s a Japanese cultural icon, but she’s also just a teenage girl. [Gadventures.com](http://Gadventures.com)



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