

# THE SARAH FILE

# **BASIC INSTINCT**

We love fashion concepts that are well thought through, and what better example than this new capsule collection of technical cashmere basics (a perfect tee, a simple crew-neck sweater) from West Coast fashion royalty J.J. Wilson (son of Lululemon founder Chip) and Chip's wife Shannon, a fashion designer in her own right. Watch for **Kit and Ace** stores to roll out across the continent, just like, well, you know. *151 Water St.*, *Vancouver. Kitandace.com* 

# **SKIN SAVER**

I met Kim and Zoe, the Australian twins who run their family company, **Dr. Roebucks**, just as they were testing the market in Canada. Their products were so well received (in my house especially) that they moved up the launch date of their entire line. I especially love the skin Polish with peppermint and grapefruit, and think you will, too. \$39.95 at Murale and Shoppers Drug Mart. Drroebucks.com



### **HOW WE ROLL**

For my birthday this year my husband finally broke down and got me a **Rimowa** aluminum suitcase from the German luxury brand. After years of self-destructing cases and exploding dop kits that add up to far more than this suitcase cost, it's a sound investment. Rolling through the airport with this baby makes it feel like you've arrived—in more ways than one. At Artino, 1033 Alberni St., Vancouver, 604-428-8686. Rimowa.com







### **JEAN GENIUS**

I've been waiting for my Jimi jeans since I first tried them at **Fidelity**'s showroom in Toronto last spring. My pal, designer Jason Trotsuk, started this label in Vancouver (he's now based in L.A.) and he's continually several steps ahead of the denim pack. The perfect combo of boyfriend and cropped skinny, these will be a weekend staple this winter. *\$198 at fidelitydenim.com* 



# LEATHER LOVE

It's no secret that I love leather, from shorts to leggings to my ubiquitous black leather Moto jacket. So when the lookbook for LiuJo landed on my desk (complete with the gorgeous and talented Dree Hemingway as its face) I definitely perked up. Launching in Canada, you'll find beautiful textured knit dresses alongside leather trimmed tops, blazers with leather lapels and smatterings of black sequins and lace, just to keep it interesting. At Zig Zag, 3065 Edgemont Blvd., North Vancouver, 604-986-4893, and 15033 32 Ave., South Surrey, 604-535-1565. Zigzagfashions.com





ecitor's lette

Welcome to the inaugural edition of VITA, the ink-and-paper sister publication to our digital magazine, VitaminDaily.com. Aside from being the first four letters of our website's name, VITA also means "life," so we thought it fitting for a publication covering the best of fashion, food, beauty and culture right where you live.

We had a lot of fun putting together this issue's cover story on *The Kooples*—high-resolution images are not something that has concerned me in the digital world, so the full-colour, full bleed photographs were a joy to edit. I was lucky enough to do a house exchange in Paris this summer, where *The Kooples* stores were everywhere from the Champs Elysée to Les Halles. So when I learned that it was debuting at Holt Renfrew, I knew we had our cover.

Throughout our pages, expect to see our best local finds and great new stores and spas alongside the most exciting new restaurants and tried-and-true travel stories. I must credit our talented art director Adrian Cunningham, with his deft eye and typography skills, for bringing this image-forward publication to life.

I hope you enjoy this tactile, colourful, life-filled sister to our website, and look for it monthly on your doorstep.

Sarah Bancroft EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Got a story idea for us? Have a question? Drop me a line at sarah@vitamindaily.com Twitter @thesarahfile Instagram @sarahbancroft

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# COVER STORY

Better together

Consider, for a moment, couples that dress alike.

Banish bad prom associations (all those ill-advised co-ordinated sateen accessories) and tourists who synchronize for easy recognition, and you're left with images of Serge Gainsbourg and Jane Birkin complementary in overcoats and flares, or Kate Moss and Pete Dougherty scowling outside London nightclubs at 2 a.m., a snarlingchic wolf pack of two.

It's that particular nuance—the confident swagger born from a mix of style and love—that spurred French brothers Alexandre, Laurent and Raphael Elicha to launch *The Kooples* in 2008.

Six years later, the fashion label continues to create collections with casual share-ability in mind, its name is a riff on the phonaesthetics of French slang for "couples."

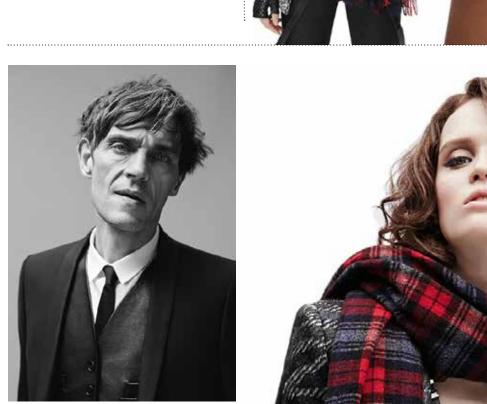
But it's not unisex, per se. The Elichas create mens- and womenswear inspired by the visual cues partners use to signify belonging and support though *The Kooples* couple may not be singing the same song in Disney unison, you can bet both parties are contributing to a shared mixtape.

The notion of honing in on the emotional appeal of dressing to demonstrate affiliation seems a longstanding tradition within the Elicha family.

In 1995, patriarch and matriarch Tony and Georgette Elicha launched Comptoir des Cotonniers—a clothing brand that remains famous for its use FRENCH ROCK-LUXE LABEL THE KOOPLES DEALS IN SARTORIAL HARMONY.

WORDS ADRIENNE MATEI





of mom-and-daughter duos in lieu of models in its advertisements.

*The Kooples* similarly forgoes the traditional runway-ready route in favour of improbably gorgeous but 100 per cent authentic lovers in its marketing efforts—real-life couples snapped party-photographer style in appealingly well-paired ensembles. In fact, real couples embody the brand's image every season, and the brothers consider the

true stories behind their campaigns to be key among their developmental strengths.

As for their style, the brothers describe *The Kooples* collection as "neo-dandy"—an Oscar Wilde by way of Keith Richards esthetic where threepiece suits fit slim, ankles are exposed and everything looks good slung over recording equipment.

Their latest F/W collection reveals an influx of punk styling conveying an elusive, androgynous charm that goes heavy on the sex appeal with close-fitting cuts, ripped knees, studded leather jackets and thick cashmere pea coats that work as well pulled over his Savile Row style tailored suit as they do atop her black leather mini.

Though the pieces lend themselves to sharing, the collection does factor in a gender divide: this season, he takes his punk with a splash of military medals and epaulettes while she opts for a Sex Pistols-meets-grunge sensibility. Union Jack-inspired sweaters layer over shredded denim, a red cardigan is spotted with oversize leopard print and thick belts and straps evoke Sid-and-Nancy ferocity.

Weighty plaid-knit scarves, combat boots and fingerless gloves give the womens' collection a pleasing utilitarianism. And, when it comes to stealing from your boyfriend, there could hardly be a better coup than the men's fur-like baseball jacket, which somehow marries three trendy elements leather, leopard and sportswear—and still comes off looking effortless and classic as a V-neck tee).

*The Kooples* gracefully navigates juxtapositions: trendy becomes classic, rock becomes elegant, what's mine becomes what's yours.

After all, couples who dress together, stay together. *At Holt Renfrew*, 737 Dunsmuir St., Vancouver, 604-681-3121. *Holtrenfrew.com* 

VITAMIN Daily.com

# TRAVEL & LEISURE



What's new this season, from food to winter outdoor fun. WORDS SARAH BANCROFT

### APRÈS

Looking for that cute liftie from the Peak to Peak? Chances are he's après'ing with the rest of the local talent at Stonesedge Kitchen, new this season near the Whistler Convention Centre. Bright and cosy, it's got a retro camping theme (think vintage enamel coffee pots hanging on the wall). At its bustling brunch, try the Caesar that comes with a bacon straw. Yes, a bacon straw. #13 - 4122 Village Green,





PHOTO MICHAEL CRANE/TOURISM WHISTLER

Whistler. Stonesedgewhistler.com

### LUNCH

La Cantina (a more casual Mexican Corner) may be small, but its streetstyle tacos are both authentic and wallet friendly. Hammered tin tiles, a star piñata and cold Dos Equis bring to mind a Mexico City taco bar. 129 – 4340 Lorimer Rd., Whistler, 604-962-9950. Tacoslacantina.ca



# GIFTS

The artisan chocolatier from Whistler's Chocolate General Store makes lovely lavender caramels dipped in chocolate from Belgium (her homeland). Packaged in pretty paper cones, they make a perfect hostess gift over the holidays. The chocolategeneral store.com

### DINNER

It being the Fairmont Chateau Whistler's 25th anniversary, expect lots of holiday cheer. Case in point: the golf clubhouse has been transformed into "The Chalet," home to twinkling lights and heartwarming fondue. Fairmont.com/whistler

# **ON YOUR WAY**

The Sea to Sky Gondola celebrates its first winter season with lots to do when you dismount at the top. Rent some snowshoes and try one of the five free snowshoeing trails, then reward yourself with hot toddies at the Summit Lodge. Seatoskygondola.com





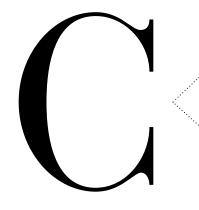
**1.** STONESEDGE KITCHEN

- THE CHALET" AT FAIRMONT CHATEAU WHISTLER
  FAIRMONT CHATEAU WHISTLER
- 4. CHOCOLATE GENERAL STORE

# FOOD & DINING

# The hunger games

# SAMPLING THE CITY'S BEST NEW BITES



### **CAFE MEDINA**

Newly relocated, Café Medina maintains an old-world Parisian charm through rustic touches: worn wroughtiron balusters, burnished mirrors and a retro electric cupboard temptingly stocked with golden Liège waffles (now available to go). These soft, crispyshelled gems are best enjoyed lasciviously drizzled with pistachio-rosewater white chocolate or a fig-orange jam that evokes Christmas and summer simultaneously. 780 Richards St., Vancouver, 604-879-3114. Medinacafe.com

### CHAMBAR

Chambar has moved—two doors down. into a new, expansive space with a doubled kitchen, leather banquettes, Omer Arbel chandeliers and a suave, sunny patio perfect for a casually sophisticated downtown lunch (Chambar's dinner-only days are past). For said lunch, start with Medzes: bright bites of beet with spry mint dressing, sweet raisin-carrot slaw, eggplant and toothsome halloumi scooped onto crunchy fried pita. Next are thin, rare, lemon grass-roasted slices of Bouf Oriental topped with a balanced riot of Thai basil, mint, cucumber and green papaya. Try the Mini Mechoui-grilled, sumac-spiced kafta that's butter-tender and amazing atop a spot of tahini vogurt. Chocolate mousse for dessert is a modern take; a light pot de crème is layered with foamy dark chocolate and a tasty white crumble. Since patio-



lounging sans cocktail is a scepterless reign, the bar provides epically regal drinks (the Ploughman's Old Fashioned sees Flor de Cana 5yr rum and spiced wild honey poured over a coconut ice sphere—all hail). 568 Beatty St., Vancouver, 604-879-7119. Chambar.com

### BOULEVARD KITCHEN & OYSTER BAR

Zink-y, and delicious, the plate of fresh shucked Kushi and Kumamoto oysters at Boulevard Kitchen came with a delicious frozen mignonette and paired perfectly with a glass of rosé the excellent wine director Lisa Haley chose from Tyler Harlton, a little-known Summerland winery. 845 Burrard St., Vancouver, 604-642-2900. Boulevardvancouver.ca



# AU COMPTOIR

The hottest seat in town right now is surely at Au Comptoir, a new French café open for breakfast, lunch, dinner and everything in between (a glass of wine from the Loire and a tin plate of Reed Island oysters, perhaps?). Opened by a pair of young Frenchmen (Maxime and Julien) who met in hospitality school in Paris, it's the service and authenticity that set this charming place apart, from classic bistro sides like Pommes Dauphines, to the ubiquitously Parisian "Saumon unilateral," and even Oranginas for the kids. The house ground beef burger with onion jam and raclette on brioche-style bun was among the best we've ever had, and our pint-sized dining companion devoured her duck confit before we could steal a bite. Wrap that all into a package with a custom made tin bar from France, distressed mosaic floors, Kronenbourg sold by the "demi" and 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. opening hours, you know you've got to go. But get there with time to spare-in a bid for democracy there are no reservations. 2278 W. Fourth Ave., Vancouver, 604-569-2278. Aucomptoir.ca



# MASERATI

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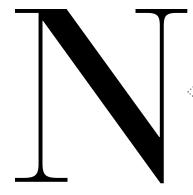
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# Downtown dazzle

SARAH BANCROFT UNCOVERS NEW SHOPPING GEMS AT THE CITY'S CORE



New York's done, it, Paris has done it and now Vancouver has done it, too. What, you ask? The art of making downtown holiday shopping an interactive and exciting experience that you actually look forward to, and maybe even make a night out of with family and friends.

In recent years (and even in recent months) the heart of downtown has become a top destination for luxury shopping, and whether you stroll its lengths to admire the holiday windows (my favourite are the tiny dioramas of shoppers and ice skaters at **Tiffany**) or are there to do some serious wallet thinning for your holiday wardrobe at the new **Tory Burch** store, there's much to see and do that's new.

We'll have to wait until this time next year for **Prada** to officially open its second Canadian location on Alberni, but we already have North America's second-largest (after New York) **Victoria's Secret**: a two-storey tribute to all things little and lacey, plus exclusive fashion from its London runway shows (check out the full-length tulle skirts for New Year's).

No less than three flagship stores have opened recently on Burrard at Robson: Vancouver's own Lululemon Athletica for his-and-hers activewear, L'Occitane for natural French skincare (and complimentary shaves for the gentlemen) and, most recently, Australia's UGG, for those coveted sheepskin boots that call out to you après ski.

CONTINUED OVER  $\rightarrow$ 













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# Downtown dazzle...

Speaking of warming up, you can pause for a spot of tea with a global twist at the Urban Tea Merchant (news flash: it will be rebranded as Canada's first TWG tea store and tasting room in January). Drop the shopping bags and stop for a cuppa paired with tea-infused canapés and fruit jellies. On your way out, be sure to clap enthusiastically under the lit-up trees: the sound-sensitive lights will dance and twinkle.

Speaking of lights, a major installation will be strung right across Alberni Street and made to look like floating, glowing rings (a perfect metaphor for the high-end jewelers on the strip, such as the year-old DeBeer's and Canada's busiest Tiffany location). Plans are also in the works to widen the sidewalks on Alberni, even better to stroll what the executives at Trump International Hotel & Tower Vancouver have coined "The Golden Mile," slated to open in Spring 2016. We're waiting with bated breath for Vancouver's first champagne bar, and Ivanka Trump's first Canadian The Trump Spa by Ivanka, both to be housed in the hotel.

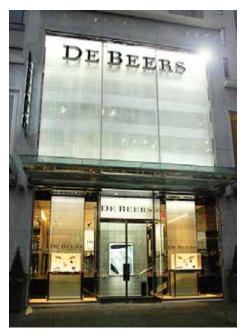
With Canada's first Christian Dior store poised to join the esteemed company of luxury watch boutique Omega, St. John, Gucci and Louis Vuitton (check out the Frank Gehry-designed windows) at the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, there's even more reason to stretch your legs with a stroll all the way to Burrard Street. There you will also find a brand new Shopper's Drug Mart Beauty Boutique (a Chanel lip gloss has got to be the best girlfriendgift ever) and an impressive



fragrance bar. Hermes is always a good place to mark a significant milestone with an heirloom gift such as a wallet, and passing the bar merits a pen from the new Mont Blanc.

Further down, luxury stalwarts Burberry and Escada flank Thurlow Street, where you'll also find Market by Jean-Georges, a great spot for a holiday cocktail and their famous truffle pizza. Next stop: Urban Fare, stocking perfect hostess gifts such as Thomas Haas chocolates. And just up the way, there is Thierry French patisserie where pastel coloured sleeves of chocolate-dipped madeleines and hazelnut financiers are my go-to for an elegant finish to a dinner party. High-end raincoats for him are what Montreal-based M0851 has become known for (every Vancouver male needs one in his outerwear arsenal) and BluBird boutique is the destination for women looking for statement pieces (think a patchwork fur coat from Elizabeth and James, or the red dress in my editor's portrait) and the coveted natural lipsticks by Vancouver's Ilia.

If all that shopping has piqued your hunger, The Roof at Black and Blue is a year-round oasis in the sky (known as the "winter garden") with roaring fireplaces, comfy couches, and a great weekend brunch (the steak salad will melt in your mouth). Try the local Northern Divine Caviar sold by the \$90 tin, or keep it weekend casual and sidle up for "Burger Fridays." With all that holiday shopping out of the way, it's time to relax.









**LUNCH LADYLIKE** We love the way this cute, playful Marie Turnor Lunch Clutch evokes a rolled-up paper bag (bonus points if you gift it with a love note tucked inside. Or a sandwich). \$295 at Rebecca Bree, 3680 W. Fourth Ave., Vancouver, 604-714-0085. Rebeccabree.com

# Sparkle Style

WORDS ADRIENNE MATEI

# **ACCESSORIES ON ACCESSORIES**

For the woman who has everything, and also likes Dr. Suess, Fendi Timepieces has introduced the My Way special edition watch, a diamond-laced face and calf-leather band with a detachable plume (very Cher Horowitz). The bright fur pouf comes in black, white and red, and has the award for "best conversation piece" on lockdown. \$1,095 at Holt Renfrew, 737 Dunsmuir St., Vancouver, 604-681-3121. Holtrenfrew.com

### **TWINKLE TOES**

A sharp pump gets an ice-queen worthy makeover at Kate Spade, where a refractive dark glitter dusting lends the classic look festivity and fun. \$389 at Kate Spade, 130-731 Main St., West Vancouver, 604-921-1234. Katespade.com

### GLITTERBALL

Designed in Saskatchewan, these Hillberg & Berk red-crystal stud earrings are the perfect sparkly cranberry discoballs to elevate your LBD from standardissue to holiday-festive. Catching light and eyes alike, they suit the season like mulled wine and snowflakes. \$65 at Hillbergandberk.com







# Sporkle is the New BLACK

Add a little (or a lot) this holiday.



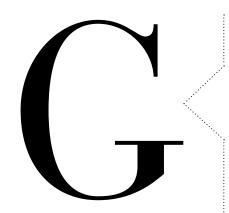
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# Four hot shops



# **GOODGE PLACE**

Y'know Monty Python's "and now for something completely different" line? New Vancouver boutique and cafe Goodge Place takes that wacky British whimsicality and applies it to gloriously eccentric aristocratic style. Run by Emilv McLean (back home in B.C. post a 15-year stint in London), the boutique, with its can't-miss-it, black-and-white barcode awning, gets its name from the London square where her great-grandfather once kept shop. Expect House of Hackney mugs and Travis Sandoval canary cake domes along with fun curiosities (cicada rings and perfumes that go on scentless and bloom in response to your skin). Front-of-store sees a charming cafe with Milano coffee and Cadeaux Bakery treats (gemlike pate du fruit while you shop?). This is imported European style at its finest. 1523 W. Eighth Ave., Vancouver, 604-714-1133. Goodgeplace.com



### **KATE SPADE**

Kate Spade fans rejoice! You can now get your fill at the brand-spankin'-new boutique at Park Royal South. The West Van mall's gone through some major upgrades: Anthropologie, Free People and J.Crew, with Micheal Kors to come. Among the newbies, Kate



Spade's 2,000-square-foot space houses the NYC designer's signature handbags, accessories, women's apparel, eyewear, shoes and home decor. We were particularly impressed with the On Purpose pieces, including a dot clutch and friendship bangles hand made by

artisans in Masoro, Rwanda. Clearly, everyone is welcome, down to this little squeaker heading back to his house. 731 Main St., Unit 130, West Vancouver, 604-921-1234. Shopparkroyal.com

# JAN KATH

German carpet designer Jan Kath opened the first Canadian outpost of his eponymous, gorgeously contemporary label in Vancouver's Railtown last month. "I like it here," said Kath, gesturing out his window at the cranes and railcars in the drizzly dusk. "It reminds me of home." An eye for unexpected beauty and serenely refreshed nostalgia informs his collections, handmade in Nepal from silk and wools, each unique and intense. His Erased Heritage works, for instance, are trompe l'oeils of classic Persian designs appealingly worn by time and treading, while the Heiter Bis Woking depict skylight and clouds and the stunning Spacecrafted collection spread a richly detailed universe beneath your feet. All works are available in custom iterations: a three-to-sixmonth process, in which your perfect piece in any imaginable hue can be crafted and delivered to your living room floor. Contemporary design, at your feet. 505 Railway St., Vancouver, 604-254-5284. Jan-kath.de



# PATAGONIA

Down may be what makes your pillows and puffer coats warm and dreamy, but as a byproduct of the food industry, its origins can be nightmarish. Outdoor clothing company Patagonia, which opens its first Vancouver stand-alone store December 9th in the heart of Kitsilano, has a long history of environmentalism. Now, Patagonia offers new traceable down jackets, which adhere to an uncompromising standard of humane and sustainable harvesting. So you can have your cosy coat and a clear conscience, too. 1994 W. Fourth Ave., Vancouver. Patagonia.com





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# HEALTH & BEAUTY

Holiday beauty picks

TREATS FIT FOR A WINTERY GODDESS SEPHORA

WORDS ADRIENNE MATEI

### **HIGH ART**

In creating its Glow lip gloss, Belmacz Jewelers was inspired by the luminosity Renaissance painters achieved by blending crushed minerals with oils. The gloss' vibrant, jelly-sheer lustre and flecks of 24-karat gold leaf have earned it cult status (it flies off shelves at Paris' Colette). Opulence in a jar. \$34 at Kissandmakeupstore.com

# **BRUSH HOUR**

Indulgent? Yes. 24 Karat Gold Mine makeup brushes are for true glamour girls (like, ones who have lightbulbrimmed vanities and little violet-flavoured pastilles in their purses instead of Tic-Tacs). \$106 at Sephora. Sephora.ca

# **HELLO, HYDRATION**

No spectrum of lipstick colours is relevant if you're battling winter's key beauty problem: dryness. We've found three formulas that fix-not call attention to-chapped, cracked winter lips, and add colour, too. Rodial Glamstick (\$24 at Murale) is a bullet-packaged balm that packs hyaluronic acid (the antidote to dry skin), while you could apply Clinique's Chubby Stick Intense Moisturizing Lip Colour Balm (\$19 at Clinique) in the dark onto lips peeling like an Arbutus tree and still emerge on the other side ready for a lush, kissy close-up. Finally, new Fresh Sugar Ruby Tinted Lip Treatment (\$26 at Sephora) adds a little sheen, but banish the thought of chunky sparkle. Instead, it's your holiday party look in a tube: the perfect gleaming cranberry red in a velvety formula. You'll love 'em like xo.



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