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SARAH'S PICKS

EDITOR'S LETTER



Welcome to June, our shopping issue. We've been looking forward to the unprecedented number of new international brands opening doors here this summer—not least of course, the much-anticipated **Christian Dior** store in the **Fairmont Hotel Vancouver** lobby, which inspired our cover story (page 3).

We were also pleased to partner with the **Vancouver International Film Festival** as a media sponsor for the documentary, *Dior and I* (which we loved), where we learned that the designer launched his very first collection at the age of 41 (there's hope for those of us in search of a creative second coming).

Getting back to the (shopping) issue at hand, we've expanded the size of our Hot Shops section this month and, of course, we couldn't omit a story about the renaissance of the wristwatch for dads of all ages. Also, get a glimpse into the places I visited during spring break; from yoga in San Diego to clubbing in Bangkok, the two destinations could not have been more different, or more inspiring.

We hope you find things in this issue to inspire you, too.

Sarah Bancroft Editor-in-Chief



MAKE A DATE

The depth and breadth of talent we have in this city always astounds me, and **Vancouver Creatives 2** is an annual talent competition that I was honoured to be on the jury for this year. Pictured (above) is Isabelle Dunlop, who not only won in the fashion design category but fronts her own rock band, **Combine the Victorious**. The accompanying photo exhibit runs June 4th to July 5th at **Make Gallery**. 257 E Seventh Ave. Vnbphoto.com

WELL COACHED

Thanks to all of you who came out to attend the launch of the spring/summer runway collection with us at **Coach's** Burrard Street location last month. From Navajo prints to silver studs and pink faux fur, there was much for me (and co-host Susie Wall, pictured) to celebrate. Though the party is over, the goods are still in store. 755 Burrard St., 604-694-1772. Coach.com



IN THE BAG

To mark the launch of the **Whitney Museum of American Art** in New York, **Max Mara** collaborated with architect **Renzo Piano** to create the **Whitney Bag**, with cues taken directly from the stunning glass-and-steel building. Now, we may not live in the Big Apple, but one lucky local will surely own this gorgeous structured light-blue leather tote when it's auctioned off, thanks to a generous donation by Max Mara, at the **Vancouver Art Gallery's Of Heaven & Earth Gala**, June 12th at the **Four Seasons Hotel**. Going, going, gone! 791 W Georgia St., 604-662-4747. Vanartgallerygala.com
—Noa Nichol



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Dior in Store

THE WORLD'S MOST DISTINGUISHED LUXURY BRAND IS SET TO STEAL VANCOUVER'S RETAIL SCENE. WORDS ADRIENNE MATEI



L

Last month, Christian Dior's Cruise 2016 runway show looped through an ebullient cluster of terracotta bubbles on the coastal edge of the French Riviera. The dramatic venue, Le Palais Bulles—the 1989 residence of now-92-year-old design icon Pierre Cardin (thank him for the bubble dress and 1960s sartorial futurism)—harmonized perfectly with Dior designer Raf Simons' vision for the collection.

"I wanted to see how I could bring landscape, seascape and sky-scape into my work," says Simons in an interview, sitting before a backdrop of sparkling blue ocean and rising hills. "Nature has always been so inspiring and important in the work of Christian Dior and myself."

It's similarly fitting that Cruise '16 coincides with the opening of Vancouver's first standalone Dior boutique—and Canada's only Dior Homme, known for designer Kris Van Assche's slim silhouettes and perfect denim—in a multi-level space within the Fairmont Hotel Vancouver on Georgia Street. Replace the coastal cliff-sides of Cannes with our own Pacific Northwestern incarnation, and you've got a compelling facsimile to the "jet-set environment" with "playful lightness" that Simons relates to the intrinsic character of the House of Dior.

In short, we know Dior in Vancouver will be right at home.

Since securing his role at the creative helm of perhaps the world's most distinguished luxury brand in 2012, Belgium-born Simons, 47, has aimed to imbue the line's iconic shapes (the wasp-waisted New Look, hip-flared Bar jacket and starkly sensuous H-line) with fresh emotion and playful femininity. It's an ambition captured in director Frederic Tcheng's 2014 film on Simons' inaugural collection,



Dior and I, which was premiered by VIFF in May.

For Cruise '16 (set, as it was, in the muse-land of Picasso and Matisse) that means channelling the irreverent worldliness of artists. The new Dior girl sees strength in softness and transparency, pulling craft-like net dresses over soft-pleated skirts and reaching for summer-y gingham and knit rompers with an accessible country-quality gone luxe. Prints take cues from mineral formations; copper- and malachite-coloured stratas of Lurex glitter over skin exposed by short-lopped hems fluttering in the venue's sea breezes.

Simons brings to Dior a change of setting, a creative shake up that turns the design house's eye West, to a place where extravagance is embraced all the more for being fresh, wearable and functional—and where, as Simons puts it, "an aspect of utility" contextualizes high-end shopping.

In a city where reverence for luxury and appreciation for nature have seamlessly melded, his predilection for style inspired by environmental beauty will be welcome every season. ♡

Above Scenes from "Dior and I"
Left Director Frederic Tcheng
Right Looks from Dior Cruise 2016



GIFT GUIDE

Father Time

DADS CAN BE TRICKY TO SHOP FOR. LUCKILY, OUR FATHER'S DAY WATCH GUIDE FIXES THAT PROBLEM (JUST LIKE HE WOULD). WORDS **NOA NICHOL**



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1 GO DADDY What rhymes with watch? Even dad knows this—it's Swatch, of course. The tried-and-true brand's Irony XLite Feel Strong timepiece is perfect for any dapper daddy-o, thanks to feather-light bi-material construction and a punchy design. *Watch It!* 2169 W Fourth Ave., 604-733-0009. Watchit.ca

2 COLOUR CODE Give your pop a pop of colour with this nifty little number from Ted Baker London. Offered among the brand's "men's smart casual" collection, the stainless-steel case and smooth leather strap will impress your papa—and gain him compliments on his excellent sense of accessories style. *At Pacific Centre from June 17th.* 701 W Georgia St., 604-661-4544. Tedbaker.com

3 TECH TIME Any gadget-obsessed dad has likely been ogling the Apple Watch since its debut in April. We can't really blame him—this futuristic timepiece receives calls and texts, tracks fitness, runs all sorts of apps, doubles as a walkie-talkie, acts as a viewfinder for an iPhone camera and even gives its wearer directions. Go on, let the guy who gave you life geek out this Father's Day. *Apple Store, Pacific Centre.* 701 W Georgia St., 778-373-1800. Apple.com/ca

4 OFF TO THE RACES Longines' Conquest Classic Moonphase timepiece is meant to reflect the elegance of equestrian sports—but we think dad will be keen to wear it to any sporting event. Seconds subdial and black alligator strap aside, our favourite feature on this watch is its transparent case back, through which its scintillating movements can be observed. *GWC.* 105-925 W Georgia St., 604-684-6515. Globakwatchco.com

5 WORTH THE WAIT Timepieces in Omega's new Globemaster collection have passed eight tests to earn the title of "master chronometer" (translation: a clock that will tick off every box on your pater's checklist). The only shortcoming: you'll have to give him an IOU—this 18-karat rose-gold beauty will only be available in stores as of November 2015. *Omega Boutique.* 900 W Georgia St., 604-681-8266. Omegawatches.com

6 COMPANY MAN Not just for the ladies in your life (including, let's face it, yourself), Tiffany & Co.'s new CT60 collection—inspired by founder Charles Lewis Tiffany, inventor of the "New York minute"—includes timepieces that'd make dad glow. Choose the vintage feel of the calendar watch in 18-karat rose gold, or go for the more modern chronograph, with blue soleil dial and either a blue alligator or stainless steel strap. *723 Burrard St.* 604-630-1300. Tiffany.ca

7 TOP OF THE POPS From Swiss watchmaker Patek Philippe, the Grand Complications watch boasts a myriad of luxe features for discerning dads. Think perpetual calendar, moon phases, tachymeter scale and more, all handsomely contained in an 18-karat rose-gold case (with a hand-stitched alligator clasp, to boot). *Brinkhaus Jewellers.* 1018 W Georgia St., 604-689-7055. Brinkhaus.com

8 OLD SALT We can't help but feel nautical, looking at this watch—and we think dad will agree. Courtesy of Switzerland-based Tissot, the uncluttered dial and striped strap (which can be swapped out for a solid-blue version, too) can be worn for any occasion—but seems specially suited to the high seas). *Lugaro Jewellers, various locations.* Lugaro.com

Hot Shops

MEET VANCOUVER'S NEWEST RETAILERS.

D

DURRANT SESSIONS

Eric Dickstein, who is the force behind Gastown's newest optical wear boutique, wants to open his customers' eyes, literally. "We really want to expose the process of how eyeglasses are made," he explains of the store, which features an in-house workshop complete with a sandblaster (to give frames a matte finish), lensometers and a tint pot, plus a stainless-steel contraption with compartments Dickstein plans to fill with custom shades of lens-dye in such hues as "Stanley Park green" and "English Bay blue" (though entirely custom colours in any gradient combination are possible). Design elements



DURRANT SESSIONS PHOTOGRAPHY TRIER BRADY



like reclaimed wood beams angled in mimicry of the arms on a pair of glasses and a workshop table for clients to arch over their lenses alongside the passionate staff, are extensions of Dickstein's detail orientation. In-stock frames are heart-stopping and high-end, such as Japanese line Eyevan 7285, Oliver Peoples collabs with style luminaries like Isabel Marant and Amanda Hearst and limited-edition models by Jacques Marie Mage, with hefty acetate frames that'd make Buddy Holly balk. Extra-cool are Anni wood-frame glasses—handcrafted, customizable and sophisticated. Prices range from \$200 to \$1,200 throughout the store; these aren't cheap glasses, but rest assured you'll see what you're paying for. 315 W Cordova St., 604-974-8008.

Durrantsessions.com



NICOLE BRIDGER

Vancouver's design golden girl has relocated her Vancouver flagship to Gastown, where her high-quality, ethically and locally made clothing is a welcome addition. The 2.0 location is spacious and bright, and the new summer collection's a stunner. Floral prints are highly localized—those big, plum-hued tulip-tree blooms that harken Vancouver spring bedeck tank tops and silky sheaths. Bridger has you (lightly) covered for hot weather, too; her pretty but casual pale-blue-and-white-striped Beachy and Breezy dresses, of organic cotton and hemp, are made to be worn seaside. Add in timeless, beautiful clutches and Emmy Trinh Jewelry (we love the thin gold chains hung with stalactites of black and glacier-blue tourmaline), and the new Nicole Bridger is your one-stop shop for a seasonal wardrobe refresher. 14 Water St., 604-730-1129. Nicolebridger.com



NEIGHBOUR WOMAN

For four years Gastown's Neighbour boutique has been outfitting the city's most fashion-savvy men. Now, with the opening of Neighbour Woman, the shop's keen curate of hard-to-find labels is accessible to ladies, too. Liquidy Christophe Lemaire separates, artfully minimal Stephan Schneider dresses and "Gah it's so cool!" stylings by Thakoon Addition are draws, but don't overlook the elegantly whimsical jewelry by Saskia Diez, awesome cantaloupe-shaped bowls, apothecary vials of lavender essence and Italian Meo Fuscini perfumes (the latter of which draw olfactory inspiration from poetry and mysticism). 45 Powell St., 778-379-1409. Shopneighbour.com



FASHION & SHOPPING



ECCO SHOES

Representing the first of its “new concept” North American stores, Danish shoemaker ECCO’s opened a slim little flagship on Robson Street from which to sell its high-comfort range. The shop, boasting light-and-airy Scandinavian design, features slate-stone walls, landscape photos from the company’s home country and yak-leather seating to reflect the material used in some of its shoes (the fact that ECCO owns its European leather factory means it can keep prices down, while Alexander Wang, Louis Vuitton, Apple Watch and Canada’s own M0851 all use its leather). Among the goods you’ll find in store this season: retro high-top kicks, stylish work flats and gorgeous heels that won’t hurt your tootsies (we promise). 1006 Robson St., 604-669-3322. Ca.shop.ecco.com

TED BAKER LONDON

U.K.-founded design house Ted Baker is opening its first store at Vancouver’s Pacific Centre on June 17th, bringing with it a distinctively across-the-pond quirk and attention to quality. The clothing brand, upon conception, was a menswear line specializing in contemporary shirting—no stranger to brights, paisleys and stand-out prints. We recall shopping at Ted Baker on a trip to London in our teens, choosing a menswear-inspired suit vest that added a certain upscale touch to the tomboyish look we championed. Today Ted Baker London is a favourite among the red carpet’s most adventurous and admired: Olivia Palermo, Emma Stone and Sarah Hyland have all donned the line’s prim-with-a-twist frocks). Lady-like structure in dresses and pencil skirts are tempered by bold prints and hues; this summer, expect big-time rosy botanicals and pops of vivid cerise. For elegant office wear that could do double duty at an Alice in Wonderland-esque tea party, be sure to check out this store. Pacific Centre, 701 W Georgia St., 604-661-4544. Tedbaker.com



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That San Diego Sizzle

OYSTERS, YOGA, BEACHES AND TENNIS REPRESENT A FINE, CALIFORNIA-STYLE KICK-START TO SUMMER.
WORDS SARAH BANCROFT

D

DO
Coronado Island just off downtown is home to one of the country's most famous beaches and the historic **Hotel Del Coronado**, featured in the 1958 film *Some Like it Hot* with Marilyn Monroe and Jack Lemmon. On the vast swath of white sand, rent a cabinette with a pair of luxury lounge chairs for the day (\$71) and watch the waves roll in. Later, grab a retro cocktail (if you can score a seat) on the hotel's plein-air "sun deck," or a wood-fired pizza at its **Eno Wine Bar**. **1500 Orange Ave., Coronado, 800-468-3533. Hoteldel.com**

EAT
India Street has a fun nighttime vibe with many restaurants spilling out into the street. We loved the open-air storefront with five steel flip doors and industrial-chic vibe of **Ironside Fish & Oyster**, in a 1920s-era warehouse. Helmed by B.C.-born, British-trained chef Jason McLeod, the goal was to bring oyster culture to the famed seaport. The "simple fish" (yellowtail, corvina or Opah) with sauce vierge was perfection on a plank. **1654 India St., San Diego, 619-269-3303. Ironsidefishandoyster.com**



HOTEL DEL CORONADO



HOTEL DEL CORONADO



HOTEL DEL CORONADO



SOME LIKE IT HOT



IRONSIDE FISH & OYSTER



RANCHO VALENCIA



RANCHO VALENCIA

STAY
A 30-minute drive inland gets you to the exclusive **Rancho Valencia**, famous for its beautiful grounds, tennis program and serene floating yoga pavilion. The huge casitas have their own luggage room (brilliant), a complimentary mini-bar with health-conscious snacks and daily fresh orange juice delivered to the door. People travel far and wide for the challenging yoga and Pilates classes (with a green juice shot at the end) and, after an excellent lesson from a tennis pro, our backspin has never been better. Topped off with the healthy and delicious menu at **The Pony Room**, we'd recommend it for a long weekend of healthy battery recharging in the sun. **5921 Valencia Circle, Rancho Santa Fe, 858-756-1123. Ranchovalencia.com**

Bangkok the Beautiful

FROM THE HIGHEST OPEN-AIR BAR IN THE WORLD TO THE COOLEST WAREHOUSE RESTAURANT, WE SHOW YOU THIS THAI CITY IN A WHOLE NEW LIGHT. WORDS SARAH BANCROFT

S

STAY

The **Tower Club at lebua** has stunning views of the Chao Phraya River and suites so large they have a massage room. Poolside breakfast is included in your stay (with everything from high-grade sushi to Indian roti) as well as cocktails and snacks at the club lounge. A traditional Thai in-room massage by the Lebua spa staff is the perfect way to start your day—you'll be stretched in yoga-like poses for 90 minutes, emerging renewed and ready to tackle all those temples. *1055/42 Silom Rd. Lebua.com*

DINE

The **Jam Factory** is a compound of converted warehouses on the river envisioned by a local architect and comprising an über-cool microcosm of international style. A coffee shop, a bookstore, an architecture firm and a concept store encircle a grassy courtyard. But the pièce de résistance is the restaurant, **The Never Ending Summer**, serving traditional Thai food in gorgeous presentations. Easy on the wallet, you'll be impressed by the distressed walls, great music, lighting, furniture—the whole highly curated package. (To get there, take the **Hyatt's** boat to its dock, walk all the way to the right end and through the massive unmarked steel doors). *41/5 Charoen Nakhon Rd.*



DO

There are so many markets to choose from, but the main **Chatuchak** 10,000-stall weekend market has wholesale prices—and you're expected to barter. Labyrinthine and spread over 30 acres, it's a great place to stock up on kids' birthday novelties and beautiful textiles. Be sure to stop for a cold beer and snacks at one of the street-food stalls, to recharge the shopping batteries. *Kamphaeng Phet 2 Rd. Chatuchak.org*

PLAY

One of the most famous rooftop bars in the world, **Sky Bar**, became even more notorious when the gang from *The Hangover Part II* shot there. Now you can sip the signature Hangoverini among a Euro-chic crowd of young couples while marveling over the Bangkok skyline views, glowing bars and warm breezes. *63rd Floor, 1055/42 Silom Rd. Lebua.com*

FLY

No matter how you look at it, Thailand's a long haul. Thankfully, **Cathay Pacific's** new business class features chairs that convert to six-foot-three-inch beds with the touch of a button so you can lie back, sip Champagne and catch up on your *Ted Talks* in style. Loads of storage space (even a shoe compartment), a fluffy duvet and cocoon-like privacy mean you'll get a good night's sleep and emerge fresh as a butterfly. *Cathaypacific.com*

DOWNLOAD

Get the **Hotel Siam's Guide to Bangkok** app for off-the-beaten-path itineraries from local insiders. *itunes.apple.com*

Counter-clockwise from top:

Tower Club at lebua; The Never Ending Summer; Sky Bar, Tower Club at lebua

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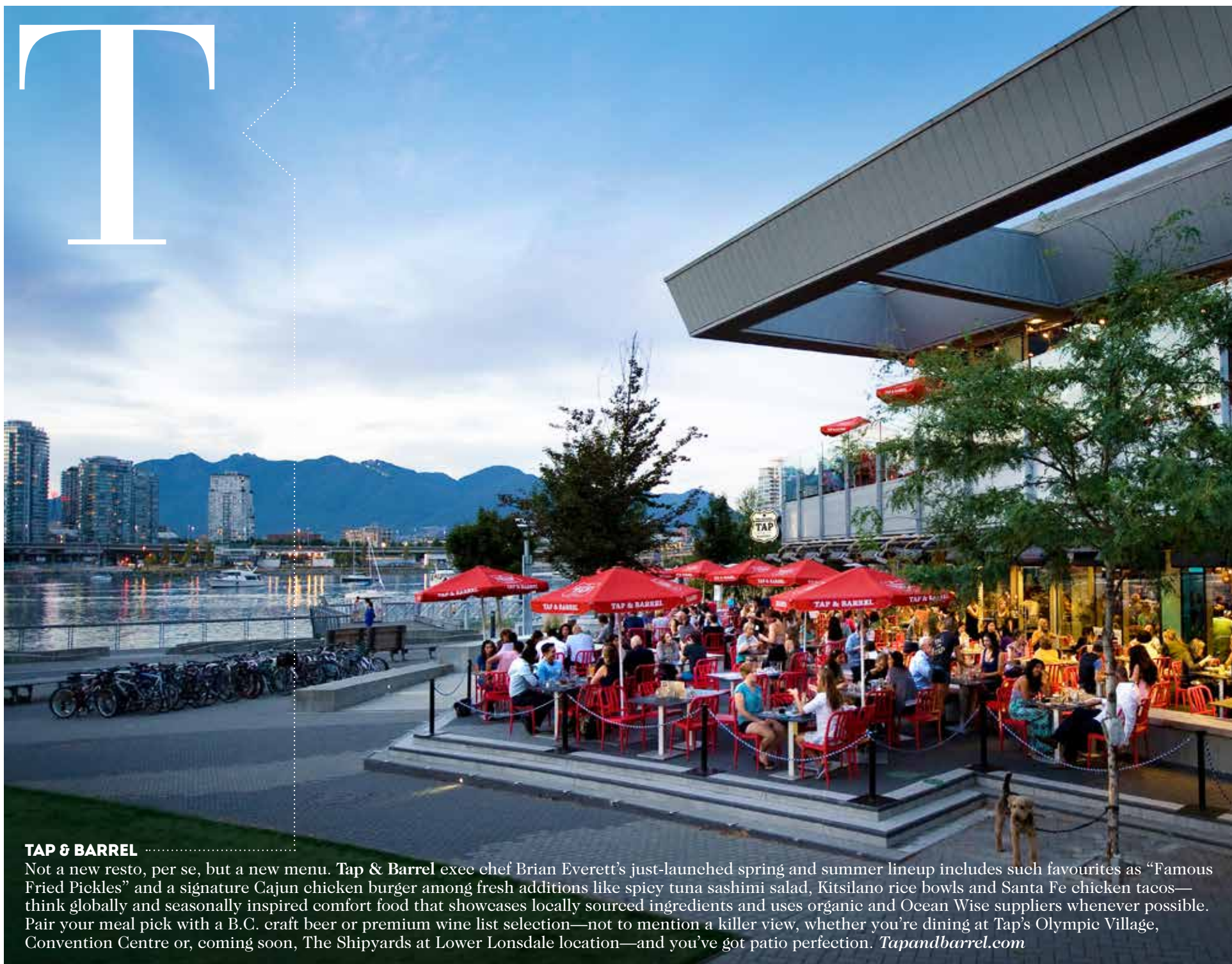


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Open Table

OUR EDITORS SAMPLE SOME OF THE CITY'S MOST RECENT CULINARY OFFERINGS.



TAP & BARREL

Not a new resto, per se, but a new menu. Tap & Barrel exec chef Brian Everett's just-launched spring and summer lineup includes such favourites as "Famous Fried Pickles" and a signature Cajun chicken burger among fresh additions like spicy tuna sashimi salad, Kitsilano rice bowls and Santa Fe chicken tacos—think globally and seasonally inspired comfort food that showcases locally sourced ingredients and uses organic and Ocean Wise suppliers whenever possible. Pair your meal pick with a B.C. craft beer or premium wine list selection—not to mention a killer view, whether you're dining at Tap's Olympic Village, Convention Centre or, coming soon, The Shipyards at Lower Lonsdale location—and you've got patio perfection. Tapandbarrel.com



GRAPES & SODA

Fans of South Granville's Farmer's Apprentice may have noticed a conspicuously under-construction neighbour—a papered-up room next door to the restaurant, long anticipated to emerge as chef David Gunawan's dedicated wine bar, Grapes & Soda. Well, the bud has bloomed, revealing a sweet little café as unpretentiously enigmatic as its lauded big sister. Sit facing the bar to take in a wall of homemade curiosities, like glass jars of green apricots in vodka, rows of dried whole spices and vases of fern-y looking sweet cicely the bartenders pluck to add light anise sweetness to cocktails with crushed strawberries and ice. Order from the concise menu of small plates (FA's beloved smoked Castelvetrano olives are here), as well as innovative, beautiful dishes with impeccably fresh, seasonal ingredients, like smoked trout and strawberries or soft burrata with vivid green olive oil and spring asparagus. The prerequisite sophisticated wine list includes compelling rarities like fortified Tissot Vin Jaune 2000, with aromas of honey, apple, brown sugar, white chocolate and coffee, and a complex, musky-citric Clos Roche Blanche Pineau d'Aunis Touraine Rose. A gift to the neighbourhood, and the perfect spot to split an excellent bottle on an elegant, low-key date. 1537 W Sixth Ave., 604-336-2456. Grapesandsoda.ca

ED'S DAILY COMMISSARY

Above Ed's Daily Commissary is a dusty blue awning decorated, naturally, with the silhouette of a bird. The effect is Portlandia 101, but this new Railtown café's too sweet to snark about. Its big open kitchen features a minimalist mural (bird again, perched atop a cleaver) by local artist Steph McDonnell, floors are in diamond-pattern linoleum and the historic bricks that constitute the walls survived the great fire of 1886. Collectively, the effect is of a dream middle-school cafeteria, where meals (still served from behind glass cases) are fresh, healthy and delicious, and you can maybe pass napkin-scrawled notes with your cute neighbour. Daily lunch specialties announced via Instagram (trending) are pitch-perfect: well-spiced tomato-poached Baja chicken tacos with a Napa and red cabbage slaw, avocado and a side of kale-laced cilantro-lime rice. Previous listings reveal wok-fried Kung Pao noodles with fresh veg and shrimp, cheese steak and fries, and



thyme chicken breast with citrus-pistachio couscous and pickled cabbage. Gluten-free cornflake cookies and raspberry tarts with local-roasted Matchstick Coffee make for a sweet end note, and takeout sandwiches and salads (try the kale-soba noodle with chunks of sautéed zucchini) are great to squirrel off to your desk. Ed's breakfasts, too, are homey; try a house-baked chive biscuit with pancetta and egg or some avocado toast to start your day off encouragingly. 686 Powell St., 604-424-8708. Edsdaily.com

DOCK LUNCH

Here's the kind of enigmatic little neighbourhood haunt you'll want to have in your back pocket for days when you're craving someplace heartfelt and cosy to duck into for a bite, where the china's mismatched and the proprietor knows your name. By the end of our first visit, sprite-like owner Elizabeth Bryan knew ours. Open since 2014, Dock Lunch does little in the way of self-promotion; an Instagram feed posts the daily special—whatever the kitchen felt like making, all umbrella-ed under the soul-food genre. We had a seared cod taco, homemade ginger beer and a rosewater shortbread cookie. Perfect. A genuine warmth imbues the entire space, which served as Bryan's home for 15 years until she moved out and saw the circa-1912 building pass 10 requisite health inspections before securing a restaurant licence. Cute and character-driven, it's one of Vancouver's most idiosyncratic dining gems. 152 E 11th Ave., 604-879-3625. Instagram.com/docklunch_offmain





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