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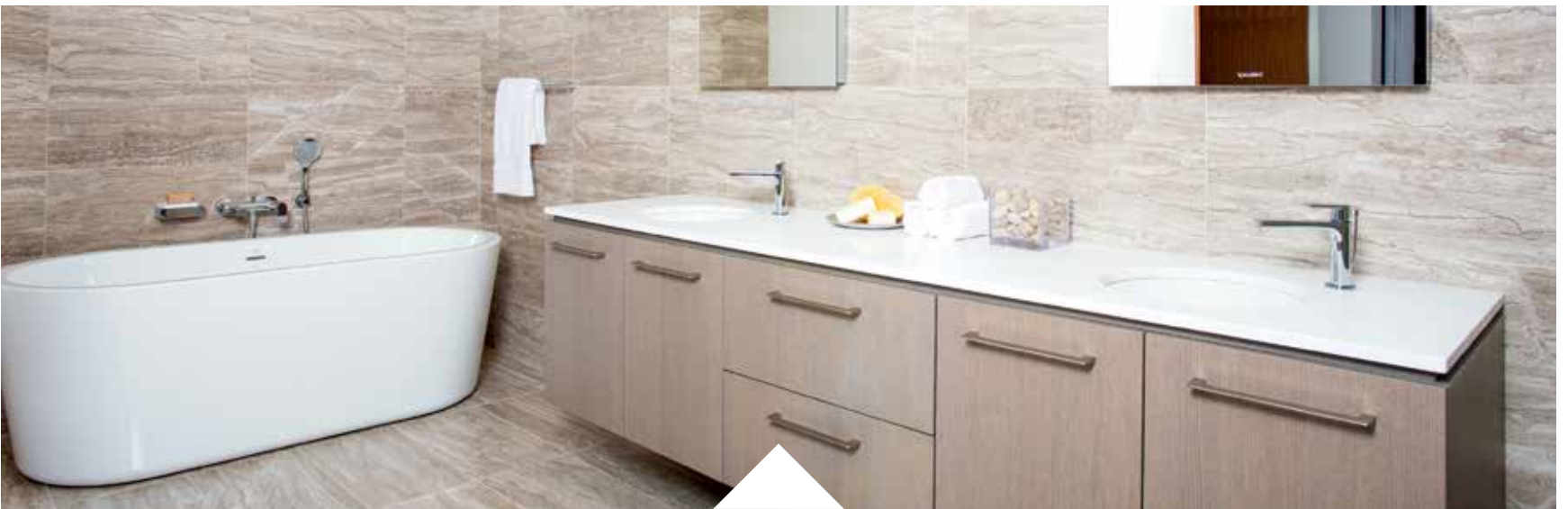


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# SARAH'S PICKS

## EDITOR'S LETTER



I couldn't be more thrilled about this month's cover story: the great Canadian brand **Simons** is opening at West Vancouver's **Park Royal**. Three-plus years ago the company reached out to me, and several long discussions about Vancouver's retail environment ensued: what makes us different, how we shop and why. They were also interested in our contemporary art scene. Now, we're finally welcoming a beautiful new store, with accessible, fashion-forward clothes and some extraordinary local art. The piece by Douglas Coupland especially caught my eye, as he and I collaborated on one of my first-ever magazine pieces, and we became friends. See our managing editor Noa Nichol's feature story on page 4.

One of the founding principles of *Vita*, when we launched last February, was that it should be about shopping locally, and should be for people who do so. I hope you will prove us right. Please enjoy the issue.

*Sarah Bancroft* Editor-in-Chief

### What would you like to see featured in VITA?

Contact me: [info@vitamindaily.com](mailto:info@vitamindaily.com)  
Twitter [@thesarahfile](https://twitter.com/thesarahfile)  
Instagram [@thesarahfile](https://www.instagram.com/thesarahfile)



### CANDY CRUSH

Sometimes we crave the viscous stretch and sugar-gritty texture of gummy candy so bad, our molars ache. Apparently we'd have made great Swedish children, for whom, according to **Karameller** proprietor Louise Schönberg, a weekly sugar feast called *lördagsgodis* ("Saturday sweets") is an allowance-blowing tradition—and one she's now brought to Vancouver. Her all-white Yaletown shop is walled with perspex cubes filled with every imagin-

able candy treat, all soft and freshly imported, plus GMO and corn-syrup free. There are strawberry jelly drops, chocolate-dipped banana mallows, peach lips, chewy lime frogs, fudge cubes, sour-patch skulls and looong gummy snakes you can do the *Lady and the Tramp* thing with, partner willing. Just how tempting is this place? On opening day, Schönberg said one surprising customer was her dentist. **30-1020 Mainland St., 604-639-8325. [Karameller.com](http://Karameller.com)** —*Adrienne Matei*



### WINTER WORKS OF ART

Toronto illustrator Donald Robertson's partnered with **Canada Goose** to create gallery-worthy winter wear. The collection will consist of 10 one-of-a-kind pieces, available online from October 1st. Think snow-white vests and puffy hooded coats adorned with Robertson's drawings, many re-imagined to celebrate our Canadian heritage. The perfect mix of warmth and style, you'll be a walking work of art all winter long. **[Canada-goose.com](http://Canada-goose.com)** —*Megan Bourassa*



### BABY IT'S COLD OUTSIDE

I have a six-year old daughter named Charlotte, who has gone by the name Charlie since she was born. New princesses aside, I was intrigued about the children's store **Sweet Charlie**, just opened in Dunbar. This shop's namesake is a one-year-old Charlotte, whose mother Lily has done a remarkable job of merchandising the bright, white space. Especially appreciated this time of year are the racks of stylish Swedish recycled rainwear by **Mini Rodini**, as well as local brands like **Little Citizens**, whose "Hug Dealer" tee was first to sell out. Also find **Domestic Objects** kids teepees in fun fabrics (made by a Vancouver mom now based in Singapore), the brilliant **Numpher** bibs and gorgeous blankets by **Mitanni**. **3590 W Fourth Ave., 604-428-2484. [Shopsweetcharlie.com](http://Shopsweetcharlie.com)**

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# The Art of Shopping

SIMONS SAYS ITS NEW PARK ROYAL STORE IS CERTAIN TO STAND OUT. WORDS NOA NICHOL

T

Two retail-savvy brothers from Quebec are betting their move to the West Coast will be a big hit with shoppers.

Peter and Richard Simons, representing the fifth generation behind their family's 175-year-old self-titled department store, believe a thoughtfully curated mix of fashion and home merchandise combined with striking installations by local artists—including a massive striped "bow tie" by West Van's own Douglas Coupland—will set their brand-new, two-storey, 100,000-square-foot **Park Royal** location, opening October 15th, apart.

"We really want people to be curious about who **Simons** is and see that we're a Canadian company trying to do something different," says CEO Peter Simons. "Vancouver is a great city, with its own style, and I think our unique assortment and exclusive stock—a portion of which comes directly from local designers—will really speak to the creativity of the market."

Among the merch hailing from right here at home: chunky knit sweaters by Richmond-headquartered **Granted Clothing**, made-in-Mount Pleasant menswear by **wings+horns** and bags and accessories by Railtown-based **Herschel Supply Co.** Simons will round out its offerings with selections from **Vivienne Westwood**, **Missoni**, **Nina Ricci** and **Love Moschino**, among other high-end designers and brands.

"I often hear that our selection is right on," says Richard Simons, who plays principal buyer. "We don't play it safe; we want our selection to inspire and even challenge our customers."



Douglas Coupland's "Bow Tie" installation  
Below left West Vancouver artist Bobbie Burgers  
Below right Vero Moda Piped Folked Poncho, \$125



There are too many stores that are boring to shop; it doesn't always have to be about the biggest, best-known name. Our approach to fashion is free-thinking—we let the customer decide."

In addition to high merchandising standards, the brothers are counting on drawing in crowds with their esthetically inclined approach to retail. As such, Vancouver painter-slash-sculptor **Bobbie Burgers** and Coast Salish artist **Jody Broomfield** will join Coupland in contributing one-of-a-kind, permanent works to the **Park Royal** store.

"It's as if they're artists themselves," says Burgers of teaming up with the Simons on her floral wall sculpture, which will serve as centerpiece to the women's department. "They're so open-minded, with huge imaginations when it comes to beauty and art."

Broomfield, whose granite relief of a pair of annually returning **Ambleside** bald eagles will welcome shoppers at the store's south entrance, adds that "working with the staff has really let my creative juices flow."

The reason for the attention and devotion to artistic detail is simple.

"For me, looking at a beautiful dress from **Mary Katrantzou** or looking at a beautiful painting on the wall is pretty much the same in eliciting an emotion or feeling," says Richard. "Art plays a major role in inspiring and educating us to make better esthetic choices—even when it comes to our wardrobes."

Peter agrees: "Absolutely art's got a place in retail—there's the appreciation for esthetics, the quality and craftsmanship and the pleasure of being surrounded by beautiful things. It also adds a quality to the environment we're building in Vancouver; it's part of the Simons story, about doing something different and meaningful in the communities in which we do business." ❖

1060-2002 Park Royal South, West Vancouver, 604-925-1840. [Simons.ca](http://Simons.ca)  
On the cover (and available at **Simons**): **Icone Faux Leather Dress** (\$78) and **Fun & Funky Glam Coat** (\$325); **Felt Floppy Hat** (\$45)

## Hot Shops

MEET VANCOUVER'S NEWEST RETAILERS.

### EQ3

Though this Canadian-born co. makes furniture that looks like **Ikea** from afar, step closer and you'll understand the difference. Each piece in **EQ3's** new, oak-floored, 10,000-square-foot **South Granville** expansion is made to last—and look good doing it. Aimed at urbanites with phenomenal cosmic design aspirations and itty-bitty living spaces, sofas and seats here are fully customizable, with hundreds of fabrics and more shapes than a game of **Tetris** to choose from (and, since they're built in-country, you can make your couch order as specific as your **Starbucks** one and still nab it at a deal). Stop by the new **Marimekko** shop-in-shop, too, stocked with the Finnish brand's signature poppy prints on fabric, accessories and ceramics. 2526 Granville St., 604-681-5155. [Eq3.com](http://Eq3.com)

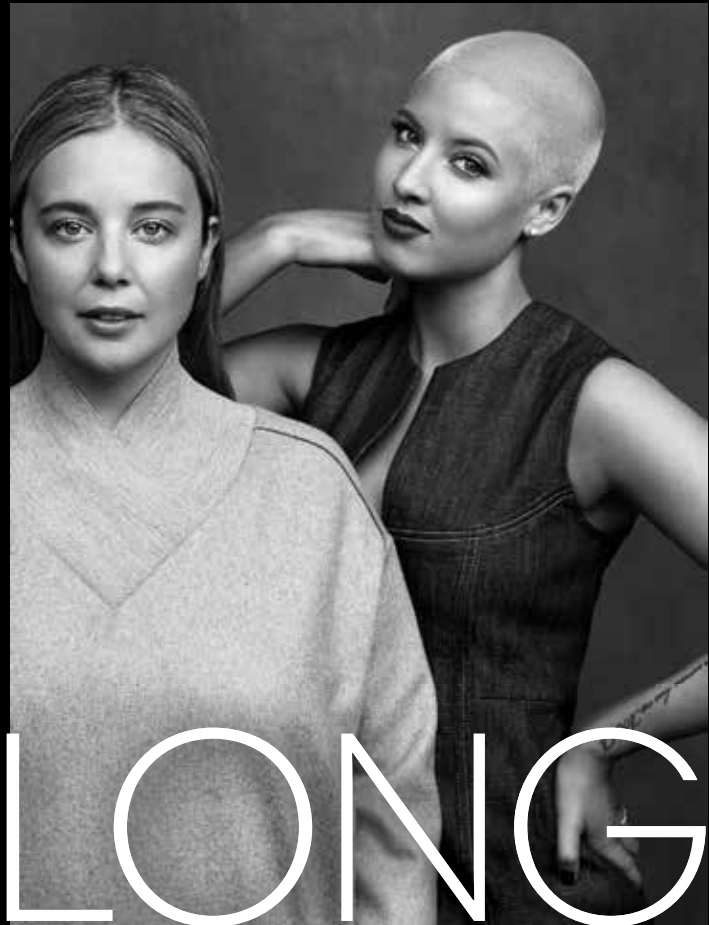


### WARDROBE APPAREL

Tired of rifling through racks of tame separates? Every item in **Gastown** boutique **Wardrobe Apparel** looks to have been pumped with a sartorial defibrillator. Indeed, proprietress **Alex Thompson** seeks to bring Vancouverites a one-of-a-kind shopping experience, with bold, predominantly English brands that shirk the local status quo of conservative style: **Fyodor Golan's** kaleidoscope-print, sportswear-inspired pieces; ethereal **Athena Procopiou** graphic kimonos; and (originally Canadian) **Greta Constantine** couture in a rainbow of hues. Shoes, by **Chelsea Paris Ada**, are stunners (the designer's on the brink of exploding, so get yours now) and jewelry by **Imogen Belfield**, with chunky geological elements, is unique and covetable. Call ahead to book an exclusive shopping appointment. 67 Cordova St., 778-379-8860. [Wdrobeapparel.com](http://Wdrobeapparel.com)







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S

STAY

When in WeHo, why not live like a celeb? The legendary **Sunset Marquis** hotel has hosted a red-carpet roster of stars in its five-decade span, including George Clooney, Owen Wilson, Jennifer Aniston and Billy Bob Thornton. Our luxe suite, which recently underwent a fab-50 facelift, included its own private candy bar, sumptuous bath products by **Molton Brown** and one of the dreamiest pillow-top mattresses we have ever had the pleasure of sleeping on. (Insider tip: thumb through the hotel's special anniversary anthology, *If These Walls Could Rock* (\$63), for a plethora of paparazzi-worthy pix of past patrons.) [Sunsetmarquis.com](http://Sunsetmarquis.com)



SUNSET MARQUIS

SPA

Because feeling like a Hollywood a-lister often begins with looking the part, head to **Kinara Skin Care Clinic & Spa** on North Robertson Boulevard for a Red Carpet Facial (\$180) that will literally steam-clean your pores and leave your skin clear and glowing for days (no joke—not even a moisture-draining flight back to Canada could dull our newfound luminescence). If a quick prep session by a pro is needed prior to, say, a night on the town, book a blowout at the **Sunset Strip Drybar** (where a menu of services that mimics a cocktail list is adorable) before hopping next door for flawless makeup application by the beauty experts at **Blushington**.



SUNSET MARQUIS



CAVATINA



DRYBAR



BOOK SOUP



SUNSET STRIP

SEE

For esthetics lovers, nothing beats a trip to the **Los Angeles County Museum of Art** (acronymically known as LACMA). This veritable cultural institute is sprawling, holding more than 150,000 works spanning the history of art from ancient times to present (in other words, something to suit every taste). Feeling peckish during your visit? Nosh at the museum's on-site café—or dart across Wilshire and choose from among a dozen-plus food trucks that line the boulevard (and represent virtually every world cuisine) at any given time of day. [Lacma.org](http://Lacma.org)



KINARA SPA



MOSCHINO

SHOP

Between the eclectic mix of boutiques (including **Book Soup**—one of the funkier li'l lit joints we've seen) lining the infamous Sunset Strip and a world-renowned design district boasting more than 200 interior-minded merchants, our bags were bursting by trip's end. Whatever you do, don't miss **Moschino's** American flagship, chock-full of avant-garde designs as delicious to look at as they'd be to wear. [Moschino.com](http://Moschino.com)

SAVOUR

Start with **Cavatina** at the Sunset Marquis, where a "meaty" cauliflower steak satisfied the vegetarian on our trip. Or check out the **Church Key**, with dim-sum-style food carts rolling through the resto, offering small bites to diners. At **Eveleigh**, the scene is as mouthwatering as the menu; nab a seat on the patio and gaze at the Hollywood Hills as you tuck into house-made country bread and cultured butter, heirloom tomatoes topped with rich burrata and beer-battered Monterey anchovies with lemon aioli, chili Morita and lime. [Visitwesthollywood.com](http://Visitwesthollywood.com)





# All That Glitters



SPARKLING HILL RESORT

## SPA

The definition of sublime serenity: Sparkling Hill's outdoor infinity pool, with sweeping views of Lake Okanagan and the surrounding peaks. Post-dip, try a pampering treatment at the resort's own KurSpa, where, at -110 C, North America's only cryotherapy cold sauna is more than 20 degrees below Antarctic temps and promises to ease joint pain, treat athletic injuries and give your immune and circulatory systems a boost. 250-541-2155. [Sparklinghill.com/kurspa](http://Sparklinghill.com/kurspa)

THE REASONS FOR VISITING SPARKLING HILL RESORT IN B.C.'S BEAUTIFUL OKANAGAN ARE CRYSTAL CLEAR. WORDS MICHELLE HOPKINS

## STAY

As you head up the winding driveway to the luxe, 152-room Sparkling Hill Resort in Vernon, British Columbia, we're betting that your first impression will likely be one of total, jaw-dropping awe. The structure itself is a breathtaking mix of wood, glass and interesting angles; enter the resort's expansive foyer, and you're instantly struck by the beauty of a massive, multi-layered Swarovski crystal chandelier, which, on a sunny Okanagan day, causes infinite beams of light to skip and dance across the ceiling in a shimmering rainbow of colours. (Psst: your ultra-modern, über-comfortable room is similarly dripping with crystals.) A warm welcome, indeed! 888 Sparkling Pl., Vernon, 250-275-1556. [Sparklinghill.com](http://Sparklinghill.com)



KURSPA



MISSION HILL WINERY

## SAVOUR

The resort's PeakFine Restaurant, perched atop a granite hill, offers a farm-to-table menu that changes with the seasons and celebrates the Okanagan Valley's bounty. Add to delectable dishes a glass of vino from the resort's thoughtfully curated selection. 250-275-1556. [Sparklinghill.com](http://Sparklinghill.com)



PEAKFINE



SPARKLING HILL RESORT

## SIP

With its grand courtyard and 12-storey bell tower, Mission Hill Family Estate Winery is visually stunning. Still, no tour is complete without a taste of its world-renowned wines. Among our favourite sips: selections from the Legacy Collection. 1730 Mission Hill Rd., West Kelowna, 250-768-7611. [Missionhillwinery.com](http://Missionhillwinery.com)

**enda b**  
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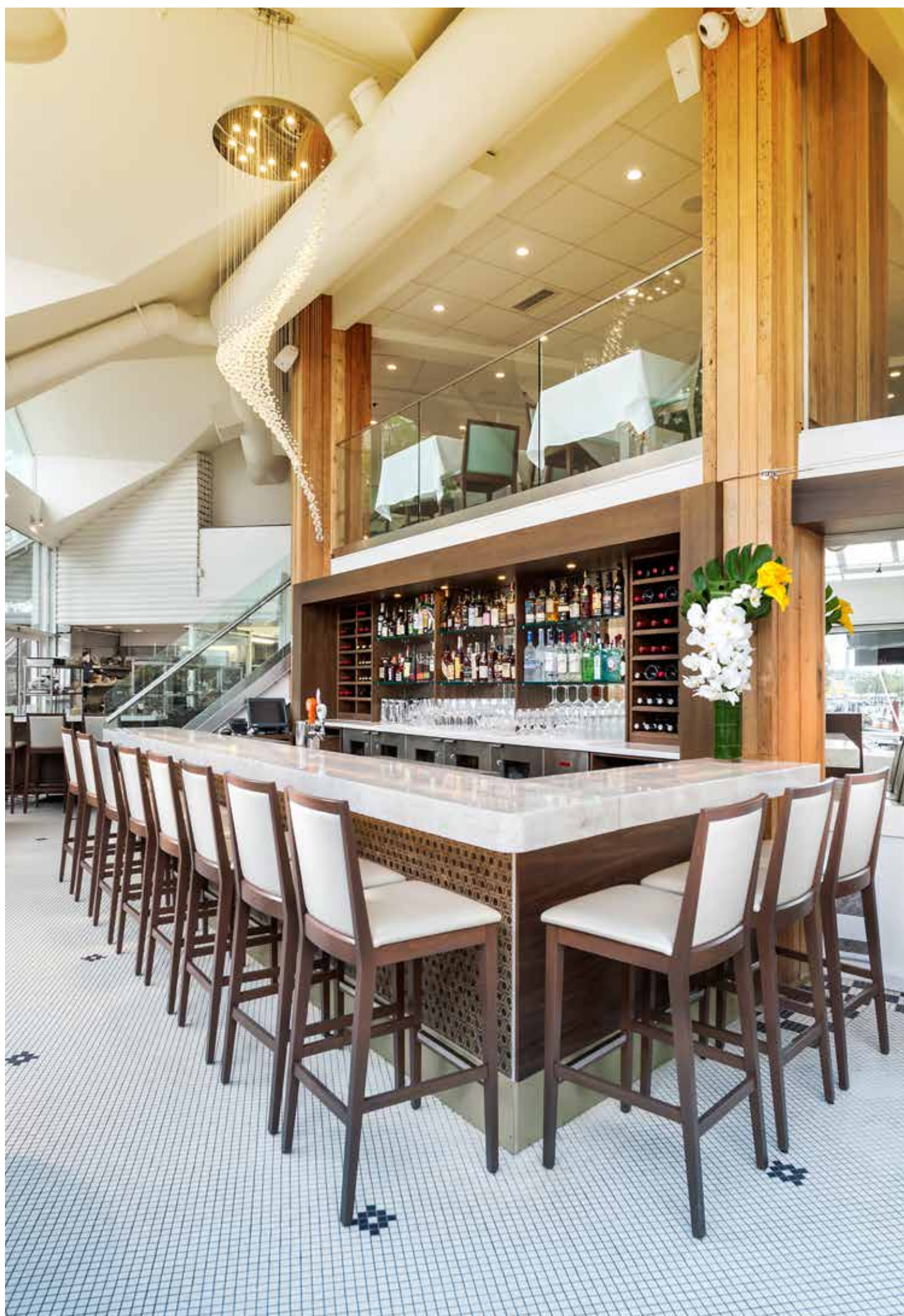
# Food for Thought

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

A

## ANCORA

What happens when you take a waterfront restaurant, make it white and bright and beach-y, add a famous sushi master and an Peruvian chef and drop in a crudo bar, cocktails and a Peruvian-Asian take on fish? Answer: **Ancora**, Vancouver's newest seafood joint, where dishes read like the passport of an international dignitary. Case in point: Haida Gwaii halibut on a bed of "Forbidden"—i.e., Chinese black—rice paella with Peruvian corn and baby squid. Enjoy your meal al fresco on the large patio or on the romantic second-floor juliet balcony that may just be the city's best new date perch. The calming, sand-coloured décor and sky-blue flourishes are in perfect contrast to the weathered mosaic floor left over from predecessor C, but we think you'll agree this spot is in a class all its own. 1600 Howe St., 604-681-1164. [Ancoradining.com](http://Ancoradining.com)



## TORAFUKU

Food truck **Le Tigre**'s long been a favourite for satisfying all manner of umami cravings, so we're pleased chefs Celment Chan and Steve Kuan have opted to open a brick-and-mortar extension of their business: **Torafuku**. The menu reads like a fan-fic fantasy crossover episode of all our favourite Asian flavours. Korean gochujang pepper paste and mango-glazed chicken wings are topped with ramen crumble, brown fried rice is kicked up with prawns, chilli and rich chicken livers, and the "vegetarians only" crispy puff of deep-fried mochi meets its soul mate of fried mozzarella cheese beneath a blanket of smoked mayo sauce (yeah, it's Triple X). Cocktails from Max Borrowman, formerly of the **Fairmont Pacific Rim**, will frequently include his DIY kombucha, while décor by **Scott and Scott** architects (**Kim Kao**) adds a Scandi-industrial atmosphere that functionally backdrops some seriously good eating. 958 Main St., 778-903-2006. [Torafuku.ca](http://Torafuku.ca)





# HOME & TECH

# C



## CB2 X LENNY KRAVITZ

Whether he's racking up quadruple consecutive Grammys, posing on the red carpet in an ultra-deep V or schooling us on the gold-eyeliner front as Cinna in the *Hunger Games* films, Lenny Kravitz is the embodiment of style on fleek. So it made sense when, in 2003, Kravitz, who can already play every instrument, diversified his creative medium and founded **Kravitz Design**—a décor co responsible for some amazingly luxe interiors. Now he's collaborating with Chicago-based CB2 to bring a little beauty to us all. CB2 x Kravitz Design seeks to capture the “sleek glam of the 1970s New York club culture and the natural ease of the California music scene of the 1970s” via some amazing mid-century-modern-inspired pieces. Think gold, geometric sidetables, contrasting chevron rugs and a “foxy” sheepskin shag-topped table that makes us want to go back to 1986, be Lisa Bonet and lounge hard. [CB2.com](http://CB2.com)



NOVA TABLE



MACK COUNTER



GROOVE WOOL

## OnHub

Technology may be shaping our future, but it isn't always advancing our home décor game. Case in point: we can't count the number of times we've stuffed electronic devices under a desk or into a closet in an effort to hide their tangle of ugly cords. Enter OnHub (\$270)—a recent collab between Google and TP-Link to create a more stylish and effective Internet router.



The device's simple and sleek exterior, boasting hidden antennae and minimal wires, practically begs to be displayed out in the open ... where, ironically, your connection to the web is likely to be stronger. Best of all, OnHub is entirely controlled through a mobile app, making it simple to manage your settings from wherever you happen to be. You can even monitor exactly how your bandwidth is being used, and by whom. Smart and stylish, we're proudly calling it our brand-new tech centerpiece. [Bestbuy.ca](http://Bestbuy.ca)

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