

Directory | Happy Face

Shibui Spa at the Greenwich Hotel

377 Greenwich St.,
212-941-8900

Like a beautiful woman, the Shibui Spa wants to be respected for its mind, too. We did, but first we couldn't stop gawking at the indoor pool—a stunning lantern-lit grotto—which we soaked in until we pruned. When we were ready for our facial, our aesthetician led us to a treatment room, where she coddled our skin with biopeptide creams, an antioxidant-rich mask, and mild extractions. By the end, our glowing complexion had never looked more beautiful—or more brilliant. \$175 and up. ★★★★★

Boston

Pyara Spa and Salon

104 Mount Auburn St.,
Cambridge, MA,
781-270-9200

Our skin felt so tight and dry, we flinched at the very thought of extractions. But our aesthetician promised to tread lightly. She washed our face with a milky cleanser and gently loosened flakes with a fine scrub. Our skin looked so refreshed, it was hard to believe it had ever hit a rough patch. Elemental Nature Facial, \$95 and up. ★★★★★



Andrea DeSimone applies cooling bulbs to tired eyes in New York City.

Washington, D.C.

Mali Amini

421A Church St., Vienna, VA,
703-539-8300

Amini first won us over with compliments (“Your skin is so lovely!”), then made us cringe after microdermabrasion, showing us the gunk collected in the machine's filter—not a pretty sight. But things took a more appealing turn when she cocooned our hands in paraffin-lined mitts and kneaded our arms and shoulders. After a graceful progression of cleansers, creams, and a peel, we left with pores so spotless and tight, we couldn't see them even if we wanted to. \$70 and up. ★★★★★

Miami

La Fenice Salon & Spa

Lillian Samardzic
3333 Rice St., Coconut
Grove, FL, 305-460-0800

Samardzic's traditional methods struck just the right chord. She made our skin pliable and soft with a few puffs of steam, then dislodged the blackheads from problem areas, such as our chin. To temper redness, she applied a cooling mask, then treated us to a massage, moving seamlessly from our temples to our chin. But the real high note? No postfacial breakouts. \$135 and up. ★★★★★

Detroit

Deyo Studio for Face and Body

Karen Edwards
576 N. Old Woodward
Ave., Birmingham, MI,
248-203-1222

When aestheticians flit off to another client—leaving us supine and stiff in a clay mask—we can't help but feel neglected. During our 75-minute session with Edwards, she re-



Mild electrical currents tighten and brighten at Tracie Martyn Skin Care Salon in New York City.

Tracie Martyn Skin Care Salon

Tracie Martyn

101 Fifth Ave., New York City, 212-206-9333

Martyn likes the color purple. Hints of it decorate every inch of her plush studio. But the new Purple Ray facial here is anything but frilly. Designed specifically for clients and celebrities (such as Kate Winslet and Julianna Margulies) who want to tackle signs of aging as well as the occasional breakout, this treatment gets its name from the simultaneous use of red and blue LED lights, which speed cell turnover and kill bacteria. After we spent 20 minutes under the rays, Martyn applied a hydrating mask, then ran noninvasive electrical currents over our face to boost circulation. To finish, she spritzed on a refreshing, peptide-rich oxygen mist. The result of all the effort: an immediate improvement in our skin's tone and texture. \$300 and up. ★★★★★

mained by our side. After exfoliating, she moved on to extractions, using a touch so light that we floated right through them. She depuffed our eyes with a cucumber balm, then unfurled every knot in our shoulders. In the end, the only things that pulled a vanishing act were dullness and blackheads. Custom Organic Facial, \$120 and up. ★★★★★

Chicago

Soulistic Studio & Spa

805 N. Milwaukee Ave.,
312-226-7685

We arrived 15 minutes late for our appointment, flushed, sweaty, and full of excuses. Our aesthetician thawed our tension with a rhythmic face

massage. To soothe our sensitive skin, she rubbed on a slippery blueberry cleanser and two hydrating masks (rose and pumpkin), then swaddled our feet in a warm towel. By extraction time, we were too comatose to feel so much as a pinch. An hour later, we left with inner peace and an outer glow. \$90 and up. ★★★★★

Houston

Life Time MediSpa

815 Town & Country Ln.,
713-630-8424

When we heard that this spa had acquired a HydraFacial machine—a gadget that deep-cleans, exfoliates, unclogs pores, and hydrates skin in a matter of minutes—we eagerly booked the next available ap-

THE BEAUTY EXPERT

allure

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