



Brick and Mortar

BY LESLIE SINCLAIR

1 THE CHEF UPSTAIRS

Like the rest of us, the 2008 market crash took Greg Heller by surprise—he'd just purchased The Chef Upstairs two weeks prior. By 2010, he faced a tough decision. "We had to start thinking about everything we could do to keep the business alive," he says. Greg added a kid's program—cooking classes for both kids and teens, as well as cooking camps during all of the major school breaks—to the existing roster of classes and private events. Next came Chef at Home, which is perfect for a romantic evening or anyone who wants to entertain guests in their own home but avoid the stress of cooking for them. The Chef Upstairs also hosts intimate gatherings for 10 to 25 people, which features a semi-circular bar surrounding the kitchen so chef and guests can interact. The Chef Upstairs is proud to be nut and peanut free.

516 Mount Pleasant Road, 416-544-9221 thechefupstairs.com

2 STUDIO 1098

With the help of her team, Tamara Kronis makes and designs all of the jewellery at Studio 1098. Tamara takes her inspiration from travel, architecture, geometry, nature, vintage jewellery (especially Art Deco and Art Nouveau), but most importantly from her clients. She strives to turn her client's ideas into meaningful pieces that will last a lifetime. And since she is both a goldsmith and a gemmologist, clients can rest easy about putting their confidence in her. In addition to custom jewellery design, Studio1098 can source gems and diamonds, restyle, resize or repair your old jewellery, and offers appraisal and estate services. "People always want to know how Studio1098 is different than the other big jewellery stores," writes Tamara on her website, "Studio1098 is a small boutique—I don't use (or like) high-pressure sales tactics." Studio 1098 was voted one of Toronto's best jewellery stores in BlogTO's poll in February, 2015.

1098 Yonge Street, 416-944-1098 studio1098customjewellery.com

3 DO MY HAIR & ESTHETICS

Do My Hair & Esthetics started out as a blow-dry bar back in 2009 but in response to customer demand soon transformed into a full-service beauty boutique offering cuts, full colour treatments, makeup applications and a wide range of esthetics. Whether you're in the market for something simple like waxing or something a little more luxe—mink eyelash extensions, anyone? Do My Hair & Esthetics has you covered. Is your big day approaching? Weddings are a speciality at Do My Hair & Esthetics. You choose if in-salon or on-site bridal services is the best bet for you. Either way, your experience starts with a complimentary consultation to meet your hair stylist and makeup artist and discuss your vision. The salon caters to both individuals and wedding parties. Do My Hair & Esthetics has been under new management since August 2014: Haircuts for women start at \$65, and men at \$35.

583 Mount Pleasant Road, 416-544-0505 domyhair.ca

LESLIE SINCLAIR is a freelance writer in the St. Clair West Village. Leslie loves to write about people and subculture.