

Hail Yaletown

Where the hip happens
in Vancouver's style centre.



Opus Hotel lobby;
Vancouver with Coast Mountains
backdrop; Shiru-Bay Chopstick Cafe;
Raven Chief totem at Coastal Peoples
Fine Arts Gallery (left, from top)

Vancouver



The Cross (left); Vancouver skyline; The Cross; Shiru-Bay Chopstick Cafe (below, from top)



Yaletown is tucked neatly away from Vancouver's sea-kayaking spots and hiking paths. It's a little slice of SoHo in Canada's most scenic and temperate city. In a town famous for its love of fleece and all things outdoorsy, Yaletown offers a stylish urban haven from all those laid-back west coast vibes. Just south of the downtown core and perched above the inner harbour, the former industrial zone and garment district is now home to an ever-increasing number of cool warehouse conversions, where ultra-chic loft apartments and furniture shops jostle for space with some of the best restaurants in town. Hamilton and Mainland are the key streets for shopping, eating and people watching.

SHOP

THE CROSS

1198 Homer Street.
(604) 689 2900.

www.thecrossdesign.com

With its European blend of vintage and contemporary home furnishings, fabrics, accessories and original art by local painters, The Cross is a veritable treasure trove of home decor finds. It screams boho chic, from the antique chandeliers and imposing armoires to the pretty jewellery boxes and scented soaps.

TAYLORWOOD WINES

1185 Mainland Street.

(604) 408 9463. www.taylorwoodwines.com

Selling only wines from British Columbia, the staff at Taylorwood Wines know their stuff. Head here for a lesson in pairing the gourmet foods and fine wines of British Columbia, including

a fantastic selection of ice wines. Complimentary tasting sessions are held on Thursdays and Sundays.

EAT & DRINK

DINER

1269 Hamilton Street.

(604) 444 4855.

Sick of truffle oil and minuscule portions? Go back in time at Diner, where glammed-up versions of North American comfort foods such as meatloaf, macaroni and cheese and tuna melts are served in this newly revamped warehouse. And don't go past the decadent desserts; owner Heather Clark used to be the pastry chef at four-star Jean Georges in New York.

BLUE WATER CAFE

1095 Hamilton Street.

(604) 688 8078.

www.bluewatercafe.net

Top-quality seafood, >





Skoah;
Opus Hotel; Opus penthouse;
Diner (left, from top)



especially salmon, abounds in Vancouver and Blue Water Cafe has quickly taken its place among the best purveyors of all things fishy. Sample oysters from the east and west coasts of North America, try some seriously delectable sashimi and sushi, or splurge on a decadent tower of seafood on ice. Wash it down with a top-notch Pacific Northwest white or chilled sake.

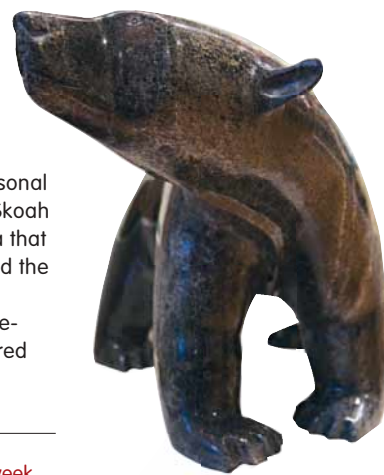
**SHIRU-BAY
CHOPSTICK CAFE**
1193 Hamilton Street.
(604) 408 9315.

In Japan *izakaya* pub-restaurants are crammed with businessmen eating after-work snacks and playing drinking games. Here the *izakaya* trend is just taking off. At this stellar example you'll find some very imaginative Japanese tapas-like dishes made with theatrical flair in the open kitchen. Be warned: volume levels soar when it's busy.

SEE
**COASTAL PEOPLES FINE
ARTS GALLERY**
1024 Mainland Street.
(604) 685 9298.
www.coastalpeoples.com
Authentic Native and Inuit sculptures made by acclaimed contemporary artists. The gallery exhibits everything from metal and glass works to jewellery and wooden totem poles. The emphasis is on the carving techniques of coastal communities throughout British Columbia.

INDULGE
SKOAH
1011 Hamilton Street.
(604) 642 0200
or 1877 642 0200.
www.skoah.com
Calling its services "personal training for your skin", Scoah is a frill-free, unisex spa that deals with skin only. And the Scoah line of products, packaged in simple pale-blue bottles, has garnered quite a following.

STAY
OPUS HOTEL
322 Davie Street.
(604) 642 6787
or 1866 642 6787.
www.opushotel.com
Voted one of *Condé Nast Traveler's* 100 Best Hotels in the world for 2005, the sleek, modern Opus epitomises Yaletown chic, with its crisp decor and five separate room colour schemes. The superbly outfitted bar combines classic and contemporary design, attracting an in-the-know, yet unpretentious crowd. 🌐



Walking bear at
Coastal Peoples Fine
Arts Gallery

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