

# allure

THE BEAUTY EXPERT

APRIL 2007

**SPECIAL SECTION**

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RIGHT NOW!**

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HAIRSTYLES**

With Speedy How-tos

*Jennifer  
Garner*

**Real Woman, Has Curves**







Joanna Vargas paints on an organic antioxidant mask at her salon in New York City.

clean pores, we'd consider returning—if we are promised a more spacious room next time. European Facial with Glycolic Peel, \$110.

**Sava Spa**

**Joanna Czech**  
211 Pinehurst Ave.  
212-543-0008

Getting to this spare salon in one of Manhattan's northernmost neighborhoods requires a \$25 cab fare from our Times Square office, but we'd heard that Czech's facials are worth the trek. (After all, downtown luminaries such as Uma Thurman and Christy Turlington are fans of her work.) Our sensitive, dehydrated skin hardly flinched at her deft and almost painless extractions, and when she used an ultrasound wand to plump up our skin, we marveled at how relaxed we felt.

Best of all: Czech didn't try to sell us a single product, instead recommending that our boyfriend administer regular massages to maintain a healthy flush. This is one journey uptown we'll soon be making again. The Hydroptimale Facial, \$250.

**BALA CYNWYD, PA**  
**Brandow Clinic and Medical Day Spa**

**Svetlana Taggart**  
100 Presidential Blvd., N.  
610-617-7949

We've always considered ourselves thick-skinned, but as Taggart raked a microdermabrasion wand over our face, neck, and chest, we winced—and reevaluated. "Your skin will absorb much more

product after this," she promised, and brushed on a stinging pore cleanser before a few quick extractions. Relief came in the form of a hydrating mask, a vitamin B<sub>6</sub> mist, and long strokes over our face and shoulders. One hour and one look in the mirror later, we'd forgotten the discomfort and saw only an incredible glow. The gain was real, but next time we'll ask for a bit less pain. Facial with microdermabrasion, \$125.

**VIENNA, VA**  
**Pilar's Organic Facial Studio**

**Pilar DiVittorio**  
311 Maple Ave., W.  
571-214-8689

We don't mind paprika on our chicken, but we've never had it served up in a facial. DiVittorio, however, swears by the skin-stimulating properties of the Hungarian spice and slathered on a thick layer of the red-flecked mask (also rich in vitamin C and antioxidants) before cocooning us in a comforter. She then drummed her fingers from our forehead down to our neck, arms, and the palms of our hands in a lymphatic massage designed to encourage clearer skin. She didn't skimp on time either—in fact, our session went nearly a half-hour over without an

additional charge. As the zesty facial proved, variety really is the spice of life. Signature Organic Facial, \$130.

**MIAMI**  
**Dr. Fredric Brandt Cosmetic and Skin Care Associates**

**Wendy Hartway-Demarais**  
4425 Ponce de Leon Blvd.  
305-443-6606

It's fitting that dermatologist Fredric Brandt's skin-care practice is on Ponce de Leon Boulevard—after all, it was the Spanish explorer's quest for the fountain of youth that led him to Florida. The all-white offices also have aestheticians on staff to help turn back the hands of time, and ours knew just how to handle our sensitive skin and patches of rosacea. The grainy scrub and mask were as gentle and skin-smoothing as the thorough extractions. Brandt may be just down the hall wielding Botox needles, but this youth medicine is nearly as powerful. Sensitive Skin Facial, \$100.

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At her studio in Vienna, Virginia, Pilar DiVittorio favors Éminence Organic Skin Care Creams (shown here in Stone Crop, Black Perlette Grape, and Naseberry).

DSP: JEREMY NELSON (STILL LIFE)