



## Unlock your locks

The Prettly girls talk to Michael Charalambous and his African-inspired beauty sanctuary, Nyumba, in the middle of Sloane Square

Sometimes looking effortlessly beautiful is as simple as having a killer haircut. We don't have to look too far to pin down the ultimate haircut guru, Michael Charalambous. With a long list of famous clients from Olivia Palermo to Kristin Scott Thomas, Claudia Winkleman to Jade Jagger, we want to see what he has that others don't.

### *What inspired you to start this business?*

My perfectionism. I have a love and a crazy passion for hair and strongly felt that there was a gap in the market for high quality hair cutting and styling. Don't get me wrong, there are lots of places out there that offer a great cut or blowout, but we go a step further. We put a lot of thought into the particular needs of each client to create bespoke cuts that really work for their individual routines.

### *Tell us a bit more about Nyumba.*

Nyumba means 'home' in Swahili and, for me, the salon is my African-inspired home. It is a place where I am able to immerse my clients in a bespoke and highly hospitable end-to-end experience of beauty services. I was born and raised in Africa, which is evident as soon as you walk in; the salon is filled with ornaments and artefacts from my childhood memories that match our ethos as a beauty salon. It feels like you have walked into a home, a home where you can get the most amazing haircuts.



### *What are some of the best services you offer?*

First off, the speciality haircut by me – that's one of the things that Nyumba is best known for. However, we offer a range of other amazing beauty services. My top few would include hair colouring by my incredible Italian wife, Giulia Zuccaroli; bespoke facials by the unbeatable Nel Eksteen; eyebrow threading with Deepa Vakharia; manicures and pedicures by Sanita Martinkena and killer blow-dries by Adnan Al and Younes Ellouah.

### *What is it about London women in particular that make you believe that they will love your haircuts?*

Precision! Precisely understanding the needs of each client and being able to tailor the haircut accordingly. It's all about tactic and keeping it fresh and wearable. Once you have one, it's indispensable really. Our haircuts take all the hard work away from you.

### *What beauty products do you love?*

I like anything by Matis and Leonor Greyl. I use their products at home and also offer them to our clients at the salon.

### *What's the best part about living in London and Belgravia?*

It's such a beautiful centrepiece – I love everything about it! If you ask my five year old son, Cristiano, it's the third floor at Peter Jones and the sausages and chips at the Jumeirah. If you ask me, it's Moyses' flowers just off of Sloane Square, the Botanist – whose menu we also serve at the salon – Basia Zarzycka and Partridges. **B**

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