

Full works

BEST FOR FEELING SWISH **Daniel Galvin**

As if Daniel Galvin wasn't already flying high (Europe's largest salon is still going strong over on George Street), there's a new space for west Londoners: an 18-chair salon in a former upholstery shop on Abingdon Road. Headed up by son James (daughter Louise pops in to do colour when she's not in Ibiza), it's smart as a pin – all Italian brown marble, high ceilings and swivelling mirrors. Thrillingly, your cut, colour and blowdry all take place on the same floor, so there's no running around with a soggy towel on your head either. A whopping 3,000-square-foot space is scheduled to open in Selfridges too, with a private room and a Hemsley + Hemsley menu. Get in line. *Cut and blowdry with James, £250. At 67 Abingdon Road, W8 (danielgalvin.com; 020 3544 6535).*

BEST FOR REFUELLING **Four**

These ladies (four colourists) have thought of everything. There's a friendly text reminder (friendly is a theme – coming here is like hanging out with your friends). Charlie finds the right hair colour for your skin tone (and gets your brows to match), swishy hair emerges from Sonia's scissors and green juices and sandwiches appear on cue. There's a Braid Bar, a Wave Bar, and you can get a facial or a wax. Clear an afternoon. *Tint with Charlie, from £120. At 62 Conduit Street, W1 (fourlondon.com; 020 7297 9600).*

BEST FOR TOP TO TOE **Nyumba**

Nyumba looks like a safari on acid (jungle-like plants, seashells swinging in the window). But there's nothing this salon can't do. Brow tattooing with Liana, manis and pedis with Sanita, threading with Deepa, facials with Nel in the private basement... You could probably get an emergency bypass if you tipped enough. Silliness aside, they take hair seriously. Balayage? Yep. Extensions? Of course. Hairpiece for a do? They'll track one down. And you can order a strong cappuccino on the side. Because it's the little things that count. *Cut, from £65. At 1 Sloane Square, SW3 (nyumba salon.com; 020 7408 1489).*

BEST FOR LOCALS **Belli Fuori**

Belli Fuori is as Italian as they come: Italian products, Italian staff and rails of vintage Italian fashion to browse at the front of the salon. Owner Giovanna studied make-up at Central Saint Martins, but prefers a chinwag to fashion shoots. Regulars are welcomed with two kisses on each cheek; threads of former conversations are resumed as hair is sliced into at speed. There's a beauty room out back for facials, waxing, even lymphatic drainage – with the comfiest bed you've ever laid on. *Cut and blowdry, £35. At 44 Chatsworth Road, E5 (bellifuori.co; 020 3417 0600).*

BEST FOR TRANSFORMING **Urban Retreat**

Urban Retreat is VAST, with rooms for Crème de la Mer facials, medical-grade body treatments, piercing... there's even a hammam. Before you get sidetracked, ask for directions to the Salon Privé: here, stylists will listen to your hair woes and then, with nifty cutting or freehand highlights (without foils), will have you looking like a Victoria's Secret model (colourist Josh Rees Hole's words, not ours) in a jiffy. *Freehand highlights, from £100. At Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1 (urbanretreat.co.uk; 020 7893 8333).*



BEST FOR ZONING OUT **Daniel Hersheson**

This place might be the size of a spaceship (two floors and then some, with strokeably smooth stone walls), and it might be home to some of the best names in the business (like colour director Sibi Bolan and creative director Luke Hersheson), but don't be fooled. Because the dimly lit backwash room (like a first-class cabin, with its near-horizontal massaging beds) is the most zen place in all of London, and the pedi station (with its iPads and super-wide chairs) makes doing your emails less of a chore. And because stylists (like Grace and Louis) not only do blowdries at breakneck speed, but – if you're feeling quiet – they do them in silence. The only downside? You have to go home, eventually. *Blowdry with Grace, £45. At 45 Conduit Street, W1 (hershesons.com; 020 7434 1747).*

BEST FOR BEING SOCIABLE **Neville Hair & Beauty**

This Pont Street institution runs like clockwork: downstairs there is balayage and the new 'sombre' with colour guru Suniz (because, really, no one wants to be spotted in public with a load of foils on their head); one floor up, it's all big, bouffy blowdries a-go-go (see Reece for a do that lasts *five whole days*); at the very top you'll find a team of girls administering plenty of glossy manicures and pedicures, as well as rooms for waxing treatments and age-defying facials. But the reason that the salon is heaving right from the moment the doors swing open is that it feels like one big party. Owners Neville and Elena are genuinely pleased to see you; you'll probably spot several people you know under the dryers. Whiling away the day has never been so easy. *Five-day blowdry with Reece, £45. At 5 Pont Street, SW1 (nevillehairandbeauty.net; 020 7235 3654).*