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## Sun-Kissed



**By Mark Peikert**

### Rejuvenate your sun-damaged skin

Every year, we forget just how bad the dog days of summer can be. With all the sweat and sun (not to mention cocktails) wreaking havoc on your skin, is it any wonder that bouncers have stopped carding you? But as always, we here at HX are looking out for your best interests, and we went on a grueling search for the best skin care this city has to offer, finding a handful of places that made us feel like Dorothy getting her makeover before meeting the Wizard of Oz—and just in time to celebrate National Men's Grooming Day on August 17!

Gay-owned and gay-operated, Face to Face NYC is tucked away on 20th Street. They're so thorough that one could spend an entire day there, and still never run out of little improvements to make. Dedicated to treating men's skin, they offer the Y-Chromosome Facial that specifically oversees guy concerns such as ingrown hairs and razor burn. At 80 minutes, it's a very, very thorough cleaning that will leave you feeling as fresh as a daisy.

For those who like the feeling of a larger, more industrial space, Nickel Spa might be your best bet. Offering up massages and a variety of facials (not to mention a salon), Nickel is a men's only spa that is focused on keeping you looking your best. Their complete facial even ends with your aesthetician recommending a skin care regimen to keep your face looking as clean and clear as it does when you leave them all behind.

Of course, sometimes the best part of a spa day is

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storing up some hot gossip and going with your best girlfriend—not your best girlfriend. At Randee Elaine Salon, she'll fit right in as you're both plucked, prodded and buffed to a healthy sheen. Plus, they feature a 75-minute acne facial to treat those sudden breakouts that plague most New Yorkers during the unforgiving summer months.

Over at Beauty and Youth Spa, meanwhile, they bill themselves as a home away from home for weary New Yorkers who are looking for fresh, smoother skin that doesn't retain all the earmarks of a harried New York minute existence. And even if you keep up a rigorous routine, pampering your epidermis, we all have that patch of hair that we can't stand. At Phoenix Rising Laser, they offer the most up-to-date laser techniques, to make keeping trim and smooth as easy as ordering that fifth cocktail on a weeknight. With the amount of options available to men in NYC these days, there's no reason to go through life looking like the Cryptkeeper. Do yourself—and the people who have to see you every day a favor and make an appointment. Your face will thank you.

*Face to Face NYC, 20 W 20th St Ste 603, 212-633-0404, [facetofaceny.com](http://facetofaceny.com). Nickel Spa, 77 8th Av/14th St, 212-242-3203, [nickelspanyc.com](http://nickelspanyc.com). Randee Elaine Salon, 180 7th Av/Perry St, 212-229,0399, [randeeelainesalon.com](http://randeeelainesalon.com). Beauty and Youth Spa, 472 6th Av/12th St, 212-463-0246, [beautyandyouthshop.com](http://beautyandyouthshop.com). Phoenix Rising Laser, 636 Bway/ Bleecker, 800-881-9309, [phoenixrisinglaser.com](http://phoenixrisinglaser.com).*

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