



The Best Spas

Relaxation is imminent: Pamper yourself with these services for your whole body—and every mood. Plus, find out how *Man on a Ledge* star Elizabeth Banks likes to bliss out. Edited by Sarah Bruning Photographs by Dale May

Treatments by body part

Face



Wink Eco Beauty Bar: Green Glama Facial TONY DEAL
 602 Vanderbilt Ave at St. Marks Ave, Prospect Heights, Brooklyn (718-230-3443, winkbeautybar.com). 60-minute facial regularly \$80. Mention TONY when booking for 15 percent off any 60-minute facial or 20 percent off any facial-and-body-treatment combination through Mar 31.

For one serene hour, skin care specialist Marlene Melendez worked on restoring my winter-ravaged face with a lavender-infused moisturizer and all-natural products, including a rosewater tonic. After exfoliating my face and neck with a mixture of dry milk and cornmeal, Melendez removed the mixture with a warm towel and painlessly extracted the blackheads.

Best part: Melendez massaged my scalp and kneaded my shoulders, while a customized mask of white clay and honey purified my face.

Why it's worth it: My skin felt velvety well beyond the 24-hour mark.—Molly Gallagher

The Blind Barber: Men's shave

339 E 10th St between Aves A and B (212-228-2123, blindbarber.com). \$30.

Since this Tompkins Square Park storefront doubles as a popular nightspot for bewhiskered (possibly intoxicated) hipsters, I was wary of stopping by in the evening and booked a Saturday-afternoon appointment instead. After

prepping my face with hot and cold towels, Nick, a barber with a decade of experience, applied soothing preshave oil, then confidently scraped my face clean with a straight razor, finishing with a proprietary aftershave smoother.

Best part: The price includes a free signature cocktail or well drink, and quaffing a bourbon before or after adds an air of manliness to the whole thing.

Why it's worth it: It's hard to say what I enjoyed more: the slanting light coming in off the southern exposure or the turntable skipping at the end of side one of *Born in the U.S.A.*—Joshua Rothkopf

Back



Greenhouse Holistic Spa: Hot-stone massage TONY DEAL
 88 Roebling St at North 7th St, Williamsburg, Brooklyn (718-599-3113, greenhouseholistic.com). 60-minute massage regularly \$80. Mention TONY when booking for 10 percent off a 60- or 90-minute hot-stone massage through Feb 15.

After discussing my various aches, lead massage therapist and founder David Greenhouse rubbed me down from head to toe, using heated massage stones to relax my muscles. Though his firm kneading caused me to grit my teeth at times, I could feel the deep-seated knots in my shoulders and upper back giving way.

Best part: My keyboard-based day job leads to pent-up stress in my shoulders, while my

waitressing gig causes tightness in my legs. Greenhouse eased the stiffness in my upper body and still had time to soothe my sore calves.

Why it's worth it: The therapists do their best to help you decompress even after you leave: Greenhouse showed me stretches I could do at home to relieve my tension.—Marley Lynch

Face to Face: Back or chest treatment

20 W 20th St between Fifth and Sixth Aves, suite 603 (212-633-0404, facetofaceny.com). 60-minute massage regularly \$140. Mention TONY when booking for 20 percent off through Mar 31.

I knew I was in for a high-end pampering session as soon as I walked into the spa and was offered a glass of wine. Once I decided which body part to focus on—my back, in this case—owner Enrique Ramirez examined my neglected dorsal pores, and set about remedying them. Using soothing strokes, he applied a Decléor cleanser and exfoliator, followed by an Aura Research hydrogen-peroxide mask (meant to disinfect and open pores), before performing thorough extractions. While the mask was working, he expertly massaged my feet, lower legs and grape-aded head.

Best part: The final step of the treatment is dictated by what your skin needs most—it might be a moisturizing paraffin mask to combat winter dryness or a fruit-acid peel to treat breakouts.

Why it's worth it: Unless you're as bendy as Mrs. Incredible, chances are your oft-neglected reverse could use the hour of close attention that this clarifying experience provides.—Sarah Theebom

PHOTOGRAPH BY DALE MAY; STYLING: JOSE CAMILO; HAIR: MATTHEW MCKONN; MAKEUP: GEORGE ESSELE; ILLUSTRATIONS: BRYAN HAYES