

DEPARTURES

SEPTEMBER 2009

A HIDDEN HONOLULU

THE TRATTORIA NOBODY KNOWS

A HIGH/LOW GUIDE
DRINKING
WINE IN PARIS

BORNEO WILD

SHANGHAI'S
SECRET TAILOR

METRO MAN
WATCHES, CUFF LINKS
& A CLOSE SHAVE

WHAT \$500 BUYS NOW
SAN FRANCISCO, CAPE TOWN, SYDNEY

THE ART OF STYLE
REAL PEOPLE, REAL FASHION



Beauty
by Deborah Frank

4 Top Razors

Between the worlds of hard-core, straight-edge blades and convenient electric shavers lies the day-to-day drama of multiblade razors. Yearning for more than the plastic variety, we looked at four upscale models with varying price points. Three use Gillette's Mach3 blade, while a fourth uses a Gillette five-blade for a debatably closer shave. The difference comes down to balance, grip, design, materials, and maybe the badger-hair brush.

Tried & Tested



**HOMMAGE
MONACO**

The flat, curved handle is rubberized on the inside for a firm grip. Its weight is solid, and the blade-ejector button is discreetly integrated into the design. A travel version, called Verona, is just as sleek and comes with a leather pouch. \$250 (\$500 with badger-hair brush and magnetic stand), \$225 for travel model; hommage.com



**THE ART OF SHAVING
POWER RAZOR**

Developed in conjunction with Gillette, it looks like a manual model, but the five blades pulse gently at the touch of a button while a tiny searchlight illuminates the area being shaved. An additional single blade on the rear is for trimming. Nice grip. \$150 (\$325 with badger-hair brush and stand); artofshaving.com



**MOLTON BROWN
CUTTING EDGE**

Hand-polished, nickel-plated brass fittings make this a handsome razor. But looks aren't everything. The handle tends to get slippery when wet and feels too light. We prefer Molton Brown's skincare products, like the new Re-charge Black Pepper Shave Oil (\$30) that minimizes razor burn and ingrown hairs. \$150 (stand included); moltonbrown.com



**ACQUA DI PARMA
DE LUXE**

Its asymmetrical design concentrates weight near the bottom of the handle, so this Italian-made razor feels heavier than the rest. But the slight arc of the wenge wood provides a wonderful grip. The Collezione Barbieri shave cream, balm, and cologne set (\$120) is a nice complement. \$310 (\$675 with badger-hair brush and stand); acquadiparma.com



The barbershop at Paul Labrecque's gentlemen's salon in the Core Club

The Metro Man

Cut, Shave, Ahhhh

NEW YORK—For those among you, myself *not* included, who've never seen the point of spending "that kind of money" on a haircut and shave, not to mention—God forbid—anything as radical as a 30-minute "recharge" facial, may I suggest the new **Paul Labrecque Gentlemen's Salon and Barbershop** at the Core Club in Midtown. Not that any of us needs yet newer ways to fritter away our fortunes, but would I promise if I weren't a true believer? The Core Club is usually a closed-membership place, but Labrecque, who has two other Manhattan salons, opened an enclave in the stylish private club last year. As for me, I've loathed the barber since my dad forced me into buzz cuts as a kid. There's no forcing here: The Core outpost is, besides being *intime* and elegant as hell with its Warhols and Basquiats hung about the minimalist setting, as comfy as home. It's one client at a time here, and in addition to all the luxe pampering and a scalp massage by Reesa, there's the best, hands down, steam and sauna in New York. From \$70 for a haircut to \$75 for the Men's Recharge facial. At 66 E. 55th St.; paullabrecque.com.

Amenity We Love

At the PARK HYATT MILAN, an intoxicating amber- and vanilla-scented body milk.

—From a line of bath products created exclusively for the hotel by perfumer Laura Tonatto; milan.park.hyatt.com

Comfort Zone

Waxing Poetic

For those willing to endure the pain, waxing has always been a no-stubble alternative to shaving—especially for areas like the back, brow, and bikini. Hair takes longer to grow in and gets thinner each time. But traditional chemical formulas are sticky and pull the skin along with the hair, making it feel like a layer of raw dermis has just been exposed. Argentine Noemi Grupenmager has changed all that. After about two years of research and development, she created a natural green wax made from pine sap, beeswax, and aloe vera. The unique formula has an elasticity to it that allows the wax to grab the hair without hardening on the skin, making removal almost painless. Grupenmager's **Uni.K.Wax** centers are sleek, spa-like salons outfitted with on-site laboratories where aestheticians prepare personalized canisters for each treatment. Go to unikwax.com for locations.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY HOMMAGE; COURTESY THE ART OF SHAVING & GILLETTE; COURTESY MOLTON BROWN; COURTESY ACQUA DI PARMA; ADRIEL REBOH; COURTESY UKW FRANCHISING CO.