

# THE BEAUTY EXPERT allure

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## Saint-Germain by Molécule

TERI KU

Cut, \$95 and up

439 7th St., N.W.

202-824-0444

Maybe it's our superfine texture. Or maybe it's our frizz-prone waves. But whatever the reason, stylists always want to chop our below-the-shoulder strands into a joyless bob. Not Ku. She delicately snipped away our frayed ends, and evened out our layers to combat fuzz ("Layers in fine hair get straggly," she explained). Our newly healthy, bouncy cut still brushed against our shoulder blades—no maybes about it.

## Salon L'Eau

MICKI CHEUNG

Cut, \$85

3240 P St., NW

202-625-2220

Cheung greeted us with a warm smile, treated us to a long consultation, nodded sympathetically as we bemoaned our lank texture, and proposed we lop off six inches. Wait, *what?* His drastic suggestion took us by surprise, but Cheung, who trained at the Frédéric Fekkai Salon in New York City and works with top news anchors in town, has a confident approach that ultimately won us over. He assured us that a shorter cut would suit our fine texture, and boy, was he right. We left with a long, shoulder-grazing bob that flattered our natural waves and even revealed sharper-looking cheekbones—something we truly never saw coming.

## Smitten Boutique Salon

LYNSEY PARRY

Cut, \$65

3000 Washington Blvd.

Arlington, VA

571-527-0200

A quote from Marilyn Monroe adorns the walls of this salon: "It's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring." Luckily, Parry offered us neither option. She prescribed a few midlevel waves and nearly uniform ends to give our fine hair "the illusion of fullness." She created slight layers that added lift, endowing us with the bombshell volume of our dreams.

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## Soleil 21 Salon Spa

DOAN LUONG

Cut, \$40 and up

737½ 8th St., SE

202-546-2121

**The place:** The full-service spa caters to families—they offer clipper cuts for men and race-car chairs for kids.

**What we were after:** With three months to our wedding, we needed a cut that could still be styled in an updo.

**What we got:** Beautiful long layers with shorter pieces in front and asymmetric bangs that framed our eyes just so.

**Bottom line:** Luong succeeded in giving us exactly what we asked for. Our only grievance? Being passed off to an assistant for a half-hearted blowout.

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## Strands Hair Studio

SHIRLEY GORDON

Cut, \$95 and up

11306 Grandview Ave., Wheaton, MD.

301-942-1780

Venus and Serena Williams swing by when they're in town.

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## Sugar House Day Spa & Salon

DANIELLE SCILLIA-CONKLIN

Blowout, \$35 and up

111 N. Alfred St.

Alexandria, VA

703-549-9940

Wrestling with our short, unpredictable waves every morning had taken us to the breaking point. We asked Scillia-Conklin for a dependable style that we could recreate, and she patiently talked us through her technique while she worked. First, she reached for a small, round boar-bristle brush (which she said boosts volume) and used it to pull our hair up and out as she dried it straight. Scillia-Conklin said we could emulate Farrah Fawcett by turning our front layers away from our face, but she also showed us how to produce a more youthful chopiness by flipping up random ends with the brush—a trick we were able to perform easily on our own. Finally! A manageable look, and more peaceful mornings.

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## Toka Salon & Day Spa

NURI YURT

\*UNDER \$100

Single-process color, \$90

3251 Prospect St., NW

202-333-5133

Considering Yurt is colorist to several former First Ladies as well as the Bush twins, we assumed he'd have a presidential-size ego. But he sympathized with our fear of color commitment, kindly suggesting a semipermanent rinse. The reddish dye added flickers of auburn throughout our medium brown shade that made our hair shinier and our skin tone seem rosier.

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## Urban Halo Salon

**NASH NOUFAL**

Cut, \$75 and up

2900-B Clarendon Blvd.

703-527-4256

We got a good look at Noufal's handiwork even before we sat in his chair: His station, against a giant window, faces one of Arlington's busiest street corners. Although we hardly enjoyed being on display, Noufal won us over by promising to beef up our limp hair. He dispatched two inches off the bottom, leaving our ends blunt for a sleeker effect. Our shoulder-skimming cut looked so lush, we'd better get used to having all eyes on us.



## Urban Style Lab

**CLAUDIA TORRICO**

Color, \$100 and up

1341 Connecticut Ave., NW

202-223-2066

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She can repair any botched dye job.



## Violet Salon & Spa

**MICHAEL CANALE**

Color, \$150 and up

1513 Wisconsin Ave., NW

310-273-8080

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The celebrity colorist leaves Beverly Hills for the Beltway each month.

