

THE BEAUTY EXPERT

allure

JUNE 2012

Your Sexiest Summer EVER

Bronze Skin, Shimmery Makeup, Fun Nails
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ELIZABETH BANKS
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Perfect Tans

We stripped down and tested top spray tanners from New York City to Los Angeles. Get more salon and spa recommendations nationwide at allure.com/salon-spa-reviews.

The airbrush mist at Suvara at the Salon & Spa at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York City soothes skin with antioxidants and hyaluronic acid.

New York City

Suvara at the Salon & Spa at Saks Fifth Avenue
Valeria Santana, 611 Fifth Ave., 212-940-4000

If Santana ever tires of administering spray tans, there's always Formula 1 racing. This speed demon whisked us back to our treatment room, where she instructed us to strip, exfoliate ourselves with nubby wipes, apply barrier cream, and put on a shower cap and foot pads—in less than five minutes. She then got to work applying a light coat of color, moving so nimbly that we didn't have to perform any awkward contortions. We were out the door in exactly 12 minutes, but we appreciated Santana's handiwork even more the next day, when an impeccable medium-deep glow developed. A spray tanner who's fast and fastidious? Way to get our heart racing. \$79. ★★★★★

DAVID STESNER

OUR STAR RATINGS: Poor ★☆☆☆☆ Fair ★★☆☆☆ Good ★★★☆☆ Great ★★★★☆ Practically Perfect ★★★★★ Blew Us Away ★★★★★★

Miami

Miami Glow Tanning

Nicole Struelens

By appointment only,

888-913-3686

Although her business is primarily mobile, we met Struelens at her spotless and comfortable studio, where she applied two faultless coats of bronzer. After dabbing at tricky spots like our ankles, feet, and fingers, she positioned us in front of a fan to dry. The next morning, our deep golden tan smoldered like the real thing. \$50 and up. ★★★★★

Chicago

Golden Girl Chicago

Jenn Dieas

160 N. Halstead St.,

813-784-4906

Any spray tanner who can warm—not overwhelm—our paper-white skin is worth her weight in gold. Salon co-owner Dieas is just such a find. Her precise application transformed our pasty limbs and left us positively gleaming for a week. \$45 and up. ★★★★★

Houston

Throwing Copper

Samantha Buchanan

8 Chelsea Blvd.,

713-859-1085

Apparently, not everything's bigger in Texas. Located

above a bustling hair salon, this pocket-size spray-tanning studio can accommodate only one guest at a time. Buchanan airbrushed us front and back with a toffee-hued formula that made our legs look longer and our thighs slimmer. Guess we'll be trading in our one-piece bathing suit for something teeny-tiny as well. \$55. ★★★★★

San Francisco

Couture Glow

2325 Polk St., 415-658-5040

This tanning spot's bronzing formula is propylene glycol-, paraben-, and sulfate-free. All well and good, though truthfully, we're less concerned about going green than turning orange. But our technician airbrushed us with a rich caramel shade that developed on contact, leaving us with the novelty of a spotless tan—and conscience. \$50. ★★★★★

Los Angeles

Fiona Locke Studio

Fiona Locke

By appointment only,

561-371-4356

We're actually pleased with our pale skin (thanks, Mom, Dad, and SPF 30). But we yearn for firmer biceps. So we booked a session with Locke, who has a reputation for delivering natural-looking tans with discreet contouring (clients have included sculpted beauty Olivia Wilde). After one 20-minute session, our color looked so authentic, and our figure so toned, any stranger would have thought we'd won the genetic jackpot. \$150 and up. ★★★★★

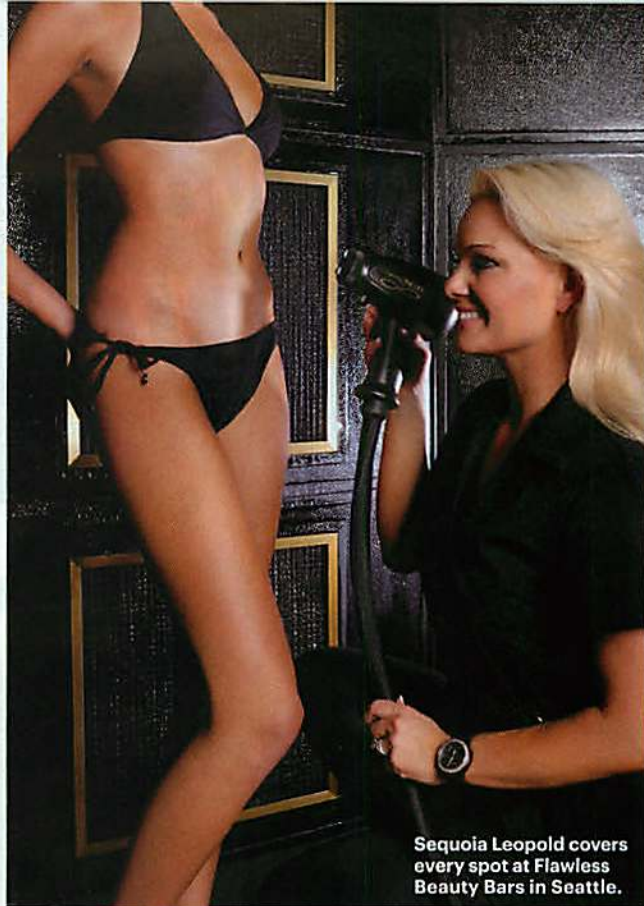
Queen Bee Salon & Spa

Liz Pino

2530-A San Vicente Blvd.,

310-570-2282

The day after our spray-tan



Sequoia Leopold covers every spot at Flawless Beauty Bars in Seattle.

Flawless Beauty Bars

Sequoia Leopold, 123 Lake St. S., Seattle,

425-208-2284

A former NFL cheerleader, Leopold has an eye—and an arm—for bronzing. Wielding a spray gun in one hand and a pink hair-dryer in the other, she rhythmically airbrushed us limb by limb, following each application of color with a warm blast of air. Next, she cleaned our hands with a makeup brush to prevent the tanning solution from pooling between our knuckles ("a dead giveaway," she explained). We left with a uniform beachy hue that lingered for a week, which is definitely something to cheer about. \$40. ★★★★★

appointment, someone asked us if we'd been on vacation. Seriously, Pino is that good. She misted every millimeter, leaving a slightly heavier concentration of formula on our shoulders and collarbones for a plausible sun-kissed effect. \$40 and up. ★★★★★

LA Organic Tanning

House calls only,

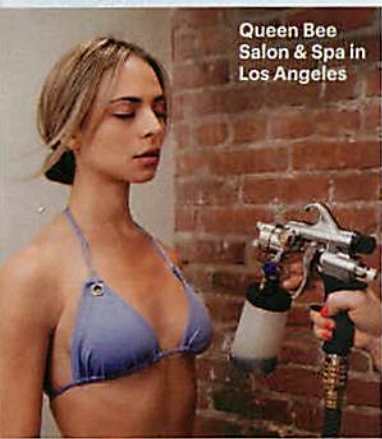
310-367-2948

After setting up a tent in our bedroom, our technician gave us two straightforward color options to choose from: light and dark. Having fair skin, we decid-

ed to go with the former. She delivered our request, spraying on a single coat of organic formula that barely left any tacky residue. Our pretty glow, though subtle, lasted for eight days. \$55. ★★★★★

Reported by: Allure staff, New

York City; Nicole Boudreau, Boston; Jolene Hart, Philadelphia; Nikki Novo, Miami; Jennifer Wehunt, Chicago; Holly Crawford, Houston; Lisa Stasiulewicz, Seattle; Rachel Petersen, San Francisco; and Amelia Fleetwood, Natalie Toren, and Beth Whiffen, Los Angeles.



Queen Bee Salon & Spa in Los Angeles