



Villa Salon and Spa

A GIFT THAT IS SURE TO PLEASE

BY DEBORAH HAMILTON-LYNNE

'ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS' is a popular holiday song in which the young singer wishes for his two front teeth as he looks in the mirror. After my long-time hairdresser moved to New England, I was faced with the difficult task of finding a replacement. For me and for most women, a hairdresser is much more than some one who cuts and colors; a trip to the salon is a blend of relaxation and talk therapy. Turning your hair over to a person holding scissors requires trust, and I suppose that is why we feel comfortable telling our stylists our life stories. All I wanted for Christmas was to find a hairdresser that would boost my confidence by making me look fabulous; if a great facial and therapeutic massage happened to be part of the package, even better. A Day at the Spa is one gift that is always welcomed and never returned.

Fortunately for me, several friends recommended Ati Jbeily, owner of the newly opened salon and spa, Villa, located in the Village at Westlake next to Barnes and Noble—a perfect location for a bibliophile. Ati is well-known in Austin and Westlake and has twenty-five years of experience at Toni and Guy, Adornare and The Beauty Store. He is passionate about his work and has a devoted

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following of loyal clients. One friend told me, "He is the king of the blow dry. You should try his Brazilian Keratin treatment."

Walking into Villa you are reminded of salons in Las Vegas or New York – hip yet relaxing. With a goal of making every first time customer a regular, each haircut begins with a consultation about likes, dislikes and lifestyle. Ati customizes design, coloring and highlighting, but the most impressive service for me was the education. Ati

discussed hair care and maintenance, as well as how to blow dry and style my hair so that I could achieve the same look that I had walking out of the salon. He listened and gave me a cut that perfectly fits my busy schedule and can be styled with relative ease.

I received my Christmas wish early as my visit to Villa also included a massage and a facial. It was the royal treatment, but one I had never experienced. First up was an Ashiatsu massage by April, one of only two master practitioners of the art in Austin. This is a deep flowing massage where the therapist uses her feet to apply pressure while using bars above to maintain her balance. It is unforgettable and feels like two people rather than one are doing the massage. Do not be put off by the thoughts of a massage done with the feet; it allows ideal pressure and deep relaxation, and my eternally tight shoulders finally let go of the stress as the muscles surrendered and released.

The facial, customized by the extremely knowledgeable Heather Bird, was also a unique experience and included sugaring as a hair removal process. As opposed to waxing, sugaring achieves the same results as electrolysis and after only six months reduces hair growth by fifty percent. My facial focused on hydrating, anti-aging and firming. Heather uses an ultrasonic tool that utilizes sound to push out oil and sebum from the pores. If you always dread painful extraction, this is the way to go. A multi-vitamin peptide cocktail was massaged into my skin, followed by a retinyl treatment and finished with vitamin A to stimulate collagen. The custom treatment made a huge difference. Mission accomplished: I am a regular. Go ahead and treat yourself or make a gift of a day at the spa. It's all you or your lucky gift recipient will want for Christmas – guaranteed not to be returned.

Villa Salon is offering a Christmas Celebrity package, which includes a massage, facial, shampoo, blow dry and style, exclusively for *Austin Lifestyle* readers. Mention the magazine when booking your appointment to receive the special package price.