



# Best Boutiques

Eight unique-to-Vancouver shops satisfy fashion fixations, home decor hankerings, and more **BY JILL VON SPRECKEN**

**+ ILLUSTRATION BY MANDY LAU**

## Runway Ready

At elegant Boboli, racks lined with everything from t-shirts to tuxedos set trendsetters' hearts aflutter. Since 1985, this airy high-ceilinged boutique has been a destination for men and women on the hunt for talented new and established designers. Here, up-and-comers like local jeweller Poppy Finch complement heavy hitters like Erdem, Valentino and Stella McCartney. From time to time, vintage Rolexes and cufflinks make an, albeit brief, appearance.

2776 Granville St. 604-257-2300.  
boboli.ca

## Luxury Goods

Concrete-and-wood trimmed Litchfield is *the* place to find everything you didn't know you wanted. Much of the thoughtful decor, housewares and personal accessories are by emerging or unheard-of classic designers, while others are inspired by owner Jonathon Litchfield's childhood in Japan. Peruse local designs, WANT Les Essentiels bags, Hasami Japanese porcelain, Vancouver-inspired candles, and hard-to-find pieces by Carl Auböck.

38 Water St. 604-428-5880.  
litchfieldtheshop.com

## One-of-a-Kind Style

Mysterious-sounding moniker aside, Secret Location didn't remain hush-hush for long—and for good reason. Studded with bold and beautiful limited-run fashions, this jewel-box store is impossible to keep under wraps. Find whimsical bags by French designer Olympia Le-Tan, edgy jewellery by celebrity favourite Pamela Love Fine, and quirky housewares by Ligne Blanche Paris.

1 Water St. 604-685-0090.  
secretlocation.ca

## Scandi-centric

At espace d., the curated collection of home decor adheres to classically Nordic design principles: maximum style, minimum fuss. This swish boutique features an international assortment of housewares, with an emphasis on Danish-sourced designs. The treasure trove includes origami-esque vases from Scandinavian brand Menu, hand-spun throws by Argentinian label Animana, and Cousu de Fil Blanc soaps from Paris. Rounding out the collection are eye-catching abstracts by local artists.

215-332 Water St. 604-662-3008.  
espacedonline.com



### All Things Cool

When Blubird opened, it answered an important question: where do the daughters of the fashionable set shop? For the last decade, the chic boutique has been a destination for on-trend, high-fashion pieces. Now the daughters have grown, and the shop has too—collections highlight sophisticated and elegant designs, including those by Red Valentino, A.L.C. and Zimmermann. Only a few pieces are available in each style, so you won't see your outfit walking around downtown.

1108 Alberni St. 604-257-0700.  
blubird.ca

### Mod Menswear

Dapper gents on fashion's forefront keep their closets up-to-the-minute with the fine-tuned selection at Roden Gray. This warm wood-and-brick boutique stocks a globe-trotting selection of brands like Jil Sander, Thome Browne, Moncler and Dries van Noten. The curated collection also includes covetable accessories, footwear, grooming essentials, fragrances, books and even stationery—essentially, it's a lifestyle.

8 Water St. 604-689-7302.  
rodengray.com

### Vintage Vibe

It's fitting that Old Faithful Shop's shelves are stocked with heirloom-quality goods, because this brick-walled space feels a like it's been around for generations. Owner Walter Manning was inspired by his own grandparents' general stores—on both sides of his family, no less—but stocks his spare, beautiful shelves with updated treasures: Moroccan woven bags, Turkish throws, design-forward books, small-batch syrups, and apothecary items, just to name a few.

320 W. Cordova. 778-327-9376.  
oldfaithfulshop.com

### Designer Digs

Those well-versed in the ABC's of fashion—Alexander McQueen, Brunello Cucinelli and Carolina Herrera—flock to luxury boutique Leone. The spacious, vault-ceilinged shop houses a fine-tuned collection of up-to-the-minute apparel for both ladies and gents, plus a smattering of handbags, shoes and accessories, too. Insider tip: the shop offers complimentary hotel delivery, so savvy shoppers aren't burdened by bags.

757 W. Hastings St. 604-683-1133.  
leone.ca