

FALL IS BEACH TIME  
*in Galveston*

PUMPKINS, SQUASH & GOURDS:  
*Oh My!*

NEED AN EXCUSE  
*to Spruce?*

# bayou city

*Experience it!*

## *Taking a Bow*

From the audience to the stage, find your place in H-Town's performing arts.

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## *The Little BLACK Dress*

Celebrate the LBD and find one to love. > PAGE 46



# Moving on Up(town)

*Visitors come from around the world to shop—and dine—in these swank spots, but plenty of Houstonians call the area home, too.*

BY BETSY DENSON

When you see the stainless steel rings above each intersection, you know you're in the right place. A shopper's nirvana, the Uptown/Galleria area boasts more than 700 retailers, restaurants and hotels in two square miles, roughly bordered by 610 on the east and Chimney Rock to the west, with Uptown Park and Richmond to the north and south.

Did we mention the shopping? \$3.5 billion was spent there in 2013. But 180,000 residents, in large part under 40, also call the area home. And it's one of the largest business districts in the country, too, with 2,000 companies who've settled in.

"Uptown has something for everyone. If you're headed to a meeting or want to grab a glass of wine, walk your dog or shop for prom dresses, Uptown is the place to celebrate life's ordinary and extraordinary moments," said John R. Breeding, president of Uptown Houston District.

## SHOP

You can't talk shopping in this area without giving homage to the grand dame of them all—the Houston Galleria, which attracts more than 26 million visitors each year. While many Galleria stores have their devotees, one of the best loved is **Nordstrom** (5192 Hidalgo St.), where the customer service, and the shoe department, are legendary. The service is no slouch at **Brucette's Shoes** (1725 Post Oak Blvd.) either, where their stock of hard-to-find sizes can make anyone a Cinderella.

Uptown Park is another destination with a bevy of options for shoppers, including **University Co-op** (1131 Uptown Park Blvd.), where you can bleed burnt orange in style. At **Top Drawer Lingerie** (1101 Uptown Park Blvd.), the offerings are a little more delicate, and luxurious. Ladies, stop in for a fitting.

**High Gloss** (1131-06 Uptown Park Blvd.), owned by identical twins Lisa and Kim Glosserman, is your stop for handmade jewelry, sure to be one of a kind.

Luxury stores abound in the area, but for a top-notch experience—even if you don't have the bank account to match—try **Hermes of Paris** (1800 Post Oak Blvd, Ste. 156), where the sales associates won't have you pulling a Julia Roberts a la "Pretty Woman."

**Tenenbaum & Co** (1801 Post Oak Blvd.) offers both new and estate jewelry from the most prestigious lines, including Tiffany & Co., Van Cleef & Arpels and Harry Winston. Luxury shopping, but the pieces are also truly museum-worthy.

Two of the many furniture showrooms worth a look are **Meredith O'Donnell Fine Furniture** (1751 Post Oak Blvd.) and **Mody & Mody** (5801 Westheimer). The first does traditional and contemporary, while the second is decidedly modern.



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spots on our interactive map.



## DINE

You'd better come hungry to **Chama Gaúcha Brazilian Steakhouse** [5865 Westheimer], where even the salad bar is a carnivore's delight. The protein keeps coming until you cry uncle.

If you have a hankering for seafood instead, make a stop at Hugo Ortega and Tracy Vaught's **Caracol** [2200 Post Oak Blvd., Ste 160] for the Ostones en su Concha, which are Gulf oysters on the half shell, with salsa bruja and lime.

At **RDG Bar Annie** [1800 Post Oak Blvd, Ste. 6170], James Beard Award winner Robert Del Grande has taken Café Annie to its next, equally mouthwatering, iteration. And the terrace in good weather can't be beat. Voulez-vous escargot? Head over to **Etoile Cuisine et Bar** [1101-11 Uptown Park Blvd.], where the cozy, yet glam, farmhouse feel adds to the French dining experience.

For a nightcap, consider the **Tasting Room** [1101-18 Uptown Park Blvd.] and its 150-bottle wine list. Spend \$15 a bottle up to \$1,000 and kick back with some live music while you're at it. When you go to the **French Riviera Bakery & Café** [3100 Chimney Rock Road, Ste B], don't leave without sampling their croissants, which get a lot of online love. If your sweet tooth isn't sated yet, grab a stool at **Crave Cupcakes** [1151 Uptown Park Blvd. #06], where they bake throughout the day to ensure maximum yumminess.

## DO

Staycation anyone? The Italian-inspired **Hotel Granduca** [1080 Uptown Park Blvd.] is right across the street from all the shopping, but if you're just looking to cocoon or sneak in a staycation, that's OK, too. If you crave even more pampering, the nearby **Serente Spa** [1180 Uptown Park Blvd., Ste 4] does all the things you would expect, and maybe a few things you don't, like an oxygen inhalation treatment in a zero-gravity chair.

Once rejuvenated, head over to the Galleria for a little retail therapy or maybe to indulge your inner Dorothy Hamill at the indoor ice skating rink, **Ice at The Galleria** [5015 Westheimer], where talent is not a pre-requisite for participation. If you're there Nov. 15, stay for the **26th Annual Ice Spectacular** at The Galleria, which also marks the lighting of its 55-foot Christmas tree. The big red guy will also be at the Uptown Houston Holiday Lighting Thanksgiving evening. Revel in the music and fireworks at this free event and take in the Christmas bling of more than a half million lights on 80 trees. To work off that turkey, or just to do something active with your family, TXU's Turkey Trot, featuring a 5K, 10K and kids run, is Nov. 27, starting at Dillard's by The Galleria. Gobble, gobble.

Ready to be a karaoke king or queen? At **Spotlight Karaoke** [5901 Westheimer], the drinks just make everyone extra talented.

## SEE

The perfect spot to have a picnic or take your wedding or quinceañera photos, the **Gerald D. Hines Waterwall Park** [2800 Post Oak Blvd.] features more than 2 acres of green space and almost 200 oak trees. The showstopper of this public park, though is the 64-foot fountain that cycles through 11,000 gallons of water per minute. The nearby **Williams Tower** was named Skyscraper of the Century a while back by *Texas Monthly*. The 901-foot tall tower also sends out a 7,000 watt beacon across the night sky.

Another building worth a visit is **St. Martin's Episcopal Church** [717 Sage], which offers free tours to the public. The church's exterior was modeled on St. Elisabeth's Church in Marburg, Germany—the country's oldest Gothic church. St. Martin's bells have a story, too. They were cast by the same company that produced the Liberty Bell.

Although landscape photographer Peter Lik's work is in the Smithsonian, you can enjoy it inside The Galleria, too, at Peter Lik Fine Art Gallery [50825 Westheimer, Ste B2896]. Some of Lik's one-of-a-kind pieces go for as much as \$5 million, but there are also plenty at price points well below that. At **Off the Wall Gallery** [5015 Westheimer], you can look and buy from a gallery whose featured artists include big names like Andy Warhol and Joan Miro. Look for a John Lennon exhibit there in mid-November. ❖