

# PLANET FLARE

A bracelet by  
Faint Jewelry



A top by  
Tonic Lifestyle  
Apparel

## West Coast 411 with Susie Wall

■ When Kristin Balter landed in Kitsilano by way of West Hollywood two years ago, she was only designing her trademark brand of cutie-pie Lite-Brite-type jewelry for gal pals and awestruck passersby. Fast-forward to 2004 and just the sight of Balter's **Faint Jewelry**, which incorporates Swarovski crystals, Czech glass, jade, suede and hand-blown glass, has "it" girls and style addicts feeling woozy for more. Each piece of her Girls Night Out collection (think shimmering bonbon-like gem clusters) is named for a glam chum. And then, from the Candy collection, there is the Daze earring—a teardrop of interlocking pressed glass in blue, green, yellow and pinky-white. Feeling woozy? Thought so. [www.faintjewelry.com](http://www.faintjewelry.com)

■ No, it is not hot-yoga-induced double vision. Your entire class is wearing the exact same outfit as you. Take a long, deep breath, exhale and say **Tonic Lifestyle Apparel**. Designed to counter the myth that activewear has become, well, a little hard-core, founders Marzena Kiernicka and Cathy Leong aim to bottle the West Coast's sexy, chilled-out glow one pair of cotton-candy-coloured Capris at a time. And while Tonic is a technical line, there is a feisty, fashion-savvy edge (love the off-centre drawstrings, the twisty-strap tanks and the naughty plunging halter), so you can look just as fly at Bikram as you can in the queue at Burger King. Gotcha. [www.mytonic.ca](http://www.mytonic.ca)

■ What happens when a pair of once-rival sisters reconnect over a mutual obsession with all things beauty? **Kiss and Makeup**. The glossy brainchild of siblings Julie Blanchard and Heather Huntingford, this days-old cosmetics haven, perched in the new Village at Park Royal shopping centre in West Vancouver, stocks deluxe treats from Bug & Pickle, Face Atelier, MOP, Maxwell's Apothecary, Ren, Sue Devitt Studio and Principessa Beauty. H2-925 Main St., (604) 922-6292.



Skin care  
from Kiss  
and Makeup

CLEAN SKINCARE

JIRUGULAN CELL  
ENERGISING  
FACIAL MASK

Natural Actives  
Aspenosides from Chinese Jirugulan  
Tarte Elements from Egyptian Mahabib  
Ginsengosides from Chinese Ginseng

50ml e / 1.7 fl.oz



Jennifer Scott Décor

## Montreal 411

with Shauna Hardy

● Ditch your Ikea furniture and up the ante with **Jennifer Scott Décor**—a standout collection that turns any house into an envy-inducing castle. Design duo Jennifer Kakon and Scott Richler have mixed sumptuous fabrics, including faux-croc, butter-soft calfskin, rich velvet and Scandinavian mink, with sturdy steel to create pieces that are at the height of urban elegance. Adjacent to their flagship store in Old Montreal, the loft-styled showroom features fully customizable pieces, including bed frames, coffee tables, consoles and sofas that mix traditional design with modern flair. 440 rue St-Pierre, (514) 844-2255. ● **Three Monkeys** is shaking up the fashion jungle with Montreal-style creativity. This pristine space is devoted almost entirely to showcasing the talents of local clothing designers. Sashay down retro lane in BettyBlush's saucy vintage-inspired creations or add sophisticated structure with Air\_D's modern jersey separates. The private label T-shirt collection, featuring photographs of beloved Montreal landmarks, is flying off the shelves. Les Cours Mont-Royal, 1455 rue Peel, (514) 284-1333. ● No one can say that chef Alexandre Loiseau isn't dedicated to making his clients happy. The 28-year-old's first restaurant is called **Bistro Cocagne**—"an abundance of pleasure." The French-inspired cuisine draws upon local ingredients and dishes up highly addictive results. Guests keep coming back for the venison ravioli and the cardamom-braised lamb shoulder. The warm Art Deco décor is the perfect atmosphere to enjoy a glass of wine and a scrumptious cheese platter that includes a claret-infused pink-veined cheddar imported from England. 3842 rue St-Denis, (514) 286-0700.



Bistro Cocagne