

## Style :: Grooming

### Barbershop Lounge :: One of Boston's Best

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Any self-respecting homosexual in Boston knows that there's no shortage of salons on Newbury Street. In recent years, some (largely poor excuses for) day spas have also been popping up nearly as often as famous moms have adopted African children. Luckily, while the newest Boston beauty bastion (for men only, thank you) offers elements of both, it's in a league of its own- and beautifully so.

**Barbershop Lounge** is different from Newbury Street spas and salons, namely because it's neither of those things. True, they offer haircuts, shaves, waxing, massage, and skin- and nail-care services, but that's where the similarities end. For starters, you won't find a Gucci tote-sized load of attitude there. Everyone in the lounge is friendly, down-to-earth, and professional. There's a refreshing lack of snootiness and inappropriate intimacy. (If I have to give my bf's stylist one more air kiss I swear I'm going to beat him down... with my Gucci murse.) The staff is clearly well-trained (some of them came from said Newbury Street haunts, leaving for obvious reasons), but more importantly, they're genuine, personable, friendly, and seem like they actually want to make you feel good because they enjoy it, not just to make a buck.

The tone of the lounge is set in equal parts by the physical décor (masculine, sophisticated, and understated) and the people working there. And while it hasn't been working so well in our economy, the trickle-down-effect is in full force here: GM Judy Fogarty wins the award for most friendly, helpful, and genuine manager on the street, hands down. It was clear from the minute I walked in that she was there to help me- not the other way around, which I found to be a refreshing change from the feeling you get when you walk in to some of their neighbors. And my

therapist for the day? Loved her! In fact, I left wanting to take Stephanie shopping at the Pru, to dinner at *Petit Robert*, and out for a night at Club Café. (Unfortunately she had other clients after me and I couldn't convince her to give them the boot.)

Service-wise, Barbershop Lounge has everything that a good gay or metrosexual man could need without the flouncy crap I can live without. From head to toe they've got you covered, and in as little as half an hour they'll have you looking- and feeling- so good that you're more likely to book future appointments for half a day. For simpler guys, start with a haircut, color, and shave. From there, add-in the hand treatment, scalp massage, and facial, and you'll be on your way to glowing radiantly. For a final treat, add in hair removal and massage- and plan on coming back soon because you're going to get addicted!

When you go, I implore you to get the *Ultimate Foot Treatment*, because this baby's so good it defies the laws of nature. They also happen to have what I consider to be one of the best grooming treatments of the 21st century: *Maintenance*.

As most men have noticed at some point since they started caring about their looks (which for me began around the time I turned four), there's a period of time between one haircut and the next when you look a bit 'unkempt.' Not quite a hot mess requiring a full haircut, but clearly in need of a touch-up. That's where *Maintenance* comes in. "The in-between clean up," Maintenance (a steal at only \$15) provides you with a trim of the neck, brow, sideburns and around the ears, allowing you to 'stretch' your haircut, save money, and look fabulous in one quick swoop. Brilliant!

Barbershop Lounge also offers a few "extras" worth noting. For just a few bucks they'll shine your shoes while you're getting your services, or you can drop them off when you're in the area and pick them up the next day. They've got a pool table to entertain you in case you're finished before your bf (or BFF), parking available in the rear, and even valet service on request and with memberships and packages.

Speaking of memberships, here's how you can feel like a prince while saving some cash at the same time. Barbershop Lounge offers Silver, Gold and Platinum Memberships, which provide you with a year of services at a discounted rate. All include 13 haircuts, shaves, hand treatments, and shoe shines, with more deluxe offerings for the Gold and Platinum packages. (I hope I don't need remind you that Father's Day is quickly approaching... and I'm guessing that dad could use some help in the grooming department. "BL" Memberships make the perfect gift.)

For the businessmen reading this, Barbershop Lounge's corporate packages are perfection, whether for employee incentives, client gifts, or as a token of gratitude to a colleague who helped you get ahead- or saved your ass. And because the lounge is a modern barbershop (and not a frilly salon), the easy, no-fuss style makes their memberships, packages, and treatments fabulous gifts for (straight) brothers, coworkers, friends, and office mates.

As EDGE's Style Editor, I've been to hundreds of spas, salons, barbershops and other grooming and relaxation establishments; Barbershop Lounge stands out. When you're there, look for me in one of the big custom leather club chairs. I'll be the one who doesn't want to leave.

Although I'm guessing you will be too.

### **Barbershop Lounge**

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[www.BarbershopLounge.com](http://www.BarbershopLounge.com)