

Chicago

Salon 2109

BETSY STOVER

2109 W. Division St.,

773-278-2109

A friend tipped us off to Stover, who operates a tiny studio that's easy to overlook. Stover suggested a cut that would sit well whether straight or curly. She created a few long layers, then worked in some midlevel ones to blend the whole together. Our smooth, defined curls were impossible to miss. \$85. ★★★★★

Dallas

Dear Clark

MARTIN PENA

3317 McKinney Ave.,

214-397-0700

We'd heard Pena's carefully choreographed cutting method described as "ballet for the hair," but when we asked for something casual, Pena understood. He divided our hair into several large clumps, then meticulously whittled away at each section, creating subtle layers all around. Our shoulder-length hair swung gracefully and raised the barre for every future cut. \$90. ★★★★★

Seattle

Dame Salon

LEANNE MERKEL

1735 Westlake Ave. N.,

206-284-2569

We expected a hippie vibe from this salon perched on the edge

At Ricardo Rojas Salon in New York City, Josh Perez snips frayed ends.



of a wooded area and drenched in sunlight. But Merkel isn't a fan of roughing it. She recommended a less choppy shape for our wavy hair and evened our layers for a cleaner, more uniform look. \$65. ★★★★★

San Francisco

Di Pietro Todd Salons

DANIEL COKER

2239 Fillmore St.,

415-674-4366

A haircut with Coker requires up to three weeks to book.

Once we finally scored an appointment, Coker suggested the impossible: longer and fuller-looking hair. He sculpted a few face-framing pieces to make our cheekbones stand out, then expertly snipped layers around our crown, creating height and volume up top without sacrificing any length. \$115. ★★★★★

Los Angeles

Serge Normant at John Frieda Salon

CAILE NOBLE

8440 Melrose Pl., 323-653-4040

A demanding new work schedule had resulted in near-criminal negligence of our hair: nine months without a salon visit and a dark incident involving a pair of purple desk scissors. We bowed our head in shame as we confessed to Noble, who prescribed a wash-and-go cut that would suit our bone structure as well as our hectic

lifestyle. He dispatched three inches off the bottom and reenergized our droopy waves with a handful of long layers. We emerged with a swingy cut that air-dried to perfection the next day. \$185.

★★★★★

Byron & Tracey

SUE SEO

9294 Civic Center Dr.,

310-276-4470

This Beverly Hills hot spot is packed with celebrities—a high-end place for such a laid-back stylist. Seo welcomed us like an old friend as we asked her to make our fine hair appear fuller without turning it blunt and boring. She dry-cut nearly imperceptible layers to add substantial lift and finished by curling our hair, creating the rosy, surfer-girl waves of our dreams. Our healthier, more voluminous-looking strands can finally hang loose. \$200.

★★★★★

Andy LeCompte Salon

MARA ROSZAK

616 N. Almont Dr.,

310-273-4100

With a client list that includes Mila Kunis and Emma Stone, Roszak isn't easy to book. But once we finally landed in her chair, she made up for lost time. With a pair of thinning shears, she expertly removed bulk, then gave us a crash course on how to blow-dry our long, thick strands efficiently. Good things truly do come to those who wait. \$250. ★★★★★

Reported by: *Allure* staff, New York; Nicole Boudreau, Boston; Adrienne Wichard, Washington, D.C.; Nikki Novo, Miami; Katherine Richard, Detroit; Nicole Pearl Kaplan, Chicago; Stephanie Quadri, Dallas; Rachel Sturtz, Seattle; Maria Sullivan, San Francisco; Tania Strauss, Natalie Toren, and Beth Whiffen, Los Angeles.



Serge Normant at John Frieda Salon in Los Angeles