



HUNTERS & COLLECTORS



HARRY'S



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Capital gains

WELLINGTON'S GOT STYLE. FROM VINTAGE FINDS TO COOL STREET CHIC IT'S ALL THERE BY THE BOUTIQUE LOAD, DISCOVERS MEGAN BEDFORD

Its role as the home of government, Weta Workshop's HQ and blustery weather top the list of things Wellington is known for, but the shopping tends to be a little more below the radar. Many of the best spots have been in town for years, but with the bolstering of a handful of new boutiques, the city makes an excellent weekend escape. Especially if, like me, you're cloaking a visit under the guise of investigating the city's cultural aspects, to your partner. That's because the best options are neither clustered nor suburbs apart, allowing an easy stroll around the inner city, taking in arty aspects like Te Papa and the excellent City Gallery, tourist traps like the cable car and lush Botanic Gardens and the city's incredible bars and restaurants, all the way popping into shops which catch your eye. This is our edit.

GOOD AS GOLD 120 Victoria Street Freshly unpacked in a new location a couple of doors down from where it started seven years ago, Good As Gold's increased space allows even more of the store's masterful selection of street-influenced fashion for both sexes. The racks are lightly grouped by style and colour with shoe options below, making it easy to see several things that appeal all at once.

HUNTERS & COLLECTORS 134 Cuba Street You'll hear the words "Wellington institution" regarding plenty of places around town, but for fashion

fans the claim fits none better than here. A legend in the industry, owner Christina O still works behind the counter of the best vintage store in town, packed – as you'd expect – with cases of decades-old gold jewellery, racks of leather-frame purses, real and faux furs, leather boots and a mezzanine you can pick a new retro lounge suite from.

ZIGGURAT 144 Cuba Street The famed Cuba Street is dotted with secondhand stores, but shop here and you'll have seen the cream of the crop. When we went, the wool coats and evening dresses were particularly good, but stock changes daily. My favourite, a long-sleeved, floor-length black crepe dress with shoulder beading cost well over \$200 – an indication this is not the cheap-as-chips Sallie Army where you can fill a supermarket bag for twenty bucks. Along with the old stuff they also do designer recycle. I spied Chloé and Sigerson Morrison shoes.

STABLE 32 Cuba Street Don't miss the doorway next to Kate Sylvester that leads upstairs to a boutique ridiculously well-stocked with Marc by Marc Jacobs clothing, bags and trinkets, as well as designer denim options and fashionable but not flashy menswear.

ARTIKEL 126 Wakefield St For more than 10 years Artikel has stocked intriguing local and international design in various forms: furniture,

clothing, accessories like simple leather satchels from new New Zealand label Browngraham, stylish ceramics with just enough quirk to make you look twice and little extras like stationery, books and prints. A store we wish existed in our hometown, although they will ship things if you ask nicely.

THE SERVICE DEPOT 2 Lombard Street Like a sort of 2011 Aladdin's cave, a roller door in an alley behind Victoria Street is pulled up to reveal a concrete bunker where the clothes and accessories from some of our most exciting young designers lie. Sylph-like slip dresses from Jimmy D dangle on hooks from the ceiling next to unique knit and leather garments from rising Wellington talent Lela Jacobs.

WORLD BEAUTY 85 Victoria Street A Noah's Ark-worth of taxidermy watches over a collection of beauty treasures. There are rare imported fragrances, Aesop and Darphin skincare, luxury candles displayed in bell jars that are also available to purchase, although good luck getting them in your carry-on.

SUPERETTE 106 Victoria St A recent transplant from the popular Auckland boutique, the store boasts an excellent range of Australian brands like Sass & Bide, Camilla and Marc and Shakuachi.

SWONDERFUL 95 Victoria Street The cutesy, the crafty and the kitsch reside side by side in perfect, pretty harmony

PHOTOGRAPHY: Megan Bedford.



SUPERETTE



MUSEUM HOTEL



GOOD AS GOLD



Face and body oil, \$120, and cleansing oil, \$110, from Margaret Hema.



ALEXANDRA OWEN

WORLD BEAUTY



here. Pick from saccharine-sweet frocks made from retro fabric, cute printed tea towels, cameo rings, gift cards and fabric-covered journals.

ZAMBESI 107 Customhouse Quay

It has some stiff competition, but we think that this might be our favourite of all Zambesi's seven stores for the edgy decor and excellent service. Particularly well-stocked and with great selections from its European imports, there's also plenty of menswear.

MARGARET HEMA Fifth Floor, Harbour City Centre, 29 Brandon Street

In recent times oils have been heralded by big-budget beauty companies as a breakthrough discovery for cleansing and skin treatments, but facialist Margaret Hema has known their amazing powers all along. Well, for the almost 20 years she's been treating the skin of in-the-know Wellingtonians, that is. The humble pink room in a CBD office building belies the luxury nature of titian-haired wonderwoman Hema's treatments. During her signature facial a blend of certified organic avocado and fragrant essential oils like rose and lavender is gently massaged into the face, neck and décolletage leaving

skin hydrated, velvet-smooth and glowing.

If you can't make time for a treatment, the divine hand-blended Hema range of skincare oils is sold through selected stockists and Zambesi stores.

KIRKALDIE & STAINS 165-177 Lambton Quay

A grand old lady in a sea of tween upstarts, the prestigious department store's cosmetics floor holds all the luxury brands your heart (and face) desires, including a Mecca Cosmetica area, while the fashion section proffers both New Zealand and luxury European brands.

ALEXANDRA OWEN 253 Wakefield Street

Set slightly apart from the rest of the downtown shopping area, Owen's sleek upscale boutique stocks a full range of her exquisite couture-like tailored trousers, dresses and shirts. She also offers a personal tailoring service.

BODYHAVEN SPA 147 The Terrace

It sounds a bit strange to visit a spa to have a bath, but a candlelit soak in the copper tub here is the perfect relaxing finish to one of the many treatments on offer.

HARRY'S 31 Dundas Street, Seatoun

It's worth taking the time to drive out past the airport to visit this upscale boutique in the pretty seaside suburb of Seatoun.

Do make a pit-stop at Gipsy Kitchen in Strathmore (4 Glamis Ave) for melt-in-the-mouth scones, baking and salads made by Peter Jackson's former personal chef. The rails at Harry's sport intelligent, elegant design from European labels Day Birger et Mikkelsen and By Malene Birger but it's the combination of classic coats in trend colours from house label When Harry Ran Away and pieces from a huge knitwear selection that are the perfect solution to the biting winter wind.

EAT You'll find plenty of reputable bars and eateries just walking down the street but we loved martinis and popcorn at Motel, delicious and fresh local fare at old fave Matterhorn, Spanish inspired tapas at moody Havana, the world-famous-in-New-Zealand kedgeriee at Nikau, eggs six ways at Floriditas and milkshakes and curly fries at Sweet Mother's Kitchen.

STAY The Museum Hotel is located (unsurprisingly) across the road from Te Papa and within easy walking distance to everything. The luxury feel of the hotel (its golden hallways could be a portal to a Louis Vuitton boutique) retains a uniquely Kiwi feel with the local art and sculpture dotted about.

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