

COOL HUNTING IN CABBAGE-TOWN

By Nina Boccia

Located just north of the newly revitalized Regent Park, Cabbagetown's main Parliament Street drag will no doubt change dramatically in the next few years. For now, it's still got its dressed-down mix of hole-in-the-wall bars and bargain stores alongside tried-and-true dining hangouts and vintage shops that seem immune to the hipsterism that often plagues other formerly seedy strips (we mean you, Ossington!)

→ MI CASA

A great place to pick up accent pieces that can change the vibe in any room, like Jonathan Adler's vases with faces, or Marianne Abellsson's diva-red throw. Mi Casa is a must for condo dwellers looking for smaller-scale furnishings, including tufted storage ottomans and chrome consoles. 238 CARLTON ST 416 929 1913 MON-FRI 10-6, SAT 10-5, SUN 12-4



→ OMI

Wherever celeb sushi chef John Lee goes, his fans follow. Lee opened Omi just over a year ago and, under artfully exposed ceiling ducts and lights, sushi lovers sit at wooden tables and nibble on blow-torched Hokkaido scallop "pizza" (\$9) and homemade gyoza (\$8). 243 CARLTON ST 416 920 8991 MON-SAT 12-2:30, 5-10:30



↖ HOUSE ON PARLIAMENT

The quintessential local pub, HOP is frequented by a loyal crowd willing to wait an hour or more for Sunday's roast beef dinner (\$15), or is it for the micro-brews on tap? The wait time is justified: HOP's menu covers more than your usual pub fare. Excellent warm spinach salad (\$9) and succulent veggie burger (\$11) are way tastier than the prices suggest. 456 PARLIAMENT ST 416 925 4074 DAILY 11-2

↘ ECLECTISAURUS

This shop is packed to the rafters with vintage Danish and Italian home furnishings, plus art deco objects and oddball antiques from the 1970s (including a foot-operated dentist's drill). A worthy find recently spotted: Peter Hamburger's exquisite 1972 acrylic and chrome desk lamp (part of MoMA's permanent collection). 249 GERRARD ST E 416 934 9009 WED-SUN 12-7



↘ FAIR TRADE JEWELLERY CO.

This new jewellery shop/studio offers custom-made hand candy for brides-to-be wanting to wear diamonds without guilt. Ryan Taylor specializes in using certified Canadian diamonds and ethical gold and platinum from artisanal mining communities in Columbia's Choco rain forest. 523 PARLIAMENT ST 647 430 8741 MON & TUE BY APPT, WED-FRI 12:30-8, SAT & SUN 11:30-6



↓ SAMOVAR ROOM

Tucked away on the second floor of the old Winchester Hotel, the interior of this dimly lit vodka bar is defined by paintings of actual samovars and the hotel's original mahogany bar. While the Stolichnaya and Wyborowa continuously flow, fine champagnes and absinthes (Hill's, Taboo) are also on offer. 51A WINCHESTER ST 416 925 4555 THU & FRI 5-2, SAT 7-2



↙ JET FUEL

This famous and ever-popular indie latte joint seems not to have noticed that Starbucks moved in across the street a year ago. Business remains steadfast with dyed-in-the-wool lefties, career dog walkers, and bike warriors coming and going all day long. 519 PARLIAMENT ST 416 968 9882 DAILY 7-8



↓ DANIEL ET DANIEL

Headed by Daniel Megly and Daniel Clairet, this storefront gourmet grocer conceals three kitchens in the back. Up front, the take-out counter is crammed with delightful fruit tarts and flans. There are also meals-to-go in the coolers, and imported French rarities, like Poulain chocolate bars on the shelves. 248 CARLTON ST 416 968 9275 MON-FRI 7:30-6, SAT 7:30-6

↙ THE EPICURE SHOP

For 30 years, owner Patty Junior has offered fine imported cheeses, deli meats, and baked goods at this tiny shop. Favourites include Quebec's chèvre noir and Blue Benedictin cheeses and Niagara on the Lake's Greaves black currant jam. Swing by for homemade tomato sauce and a bag of Grangustosi's prosciutto and cheese tortellini. 473 PARLIAMENT ST 416 928 0291 MON-WED 7:30-6:30, THU & FRI 7:30-7, SAT 8-6, SUN 9-5



GERRARD ST E

