

Vegas is becoming a mane attraction

BY JEANNIE BORBE
Vegas.com

Who says you have to go to Hollywood to get celebrity hair treatment? In Las Vegas, you can actually feel like a superstar while enjoying your vacation. With three iconic celebrity stylists in town – Kim Vo, Michael Boychuck and Cristophe – you can walk out with the haircut of your favorite celebrity – with a good chance that it was done by the same stylist.

Cristophe Salon of Beverly Hills

Considered an icon by many, Cristophe has been in the hair business for more than two decades. While his career began as a stylist in Paris, he wanted to pursue a career in Hollywood to do hair for celebrities. He opened his first salon in Beverly Hills, Calif. in 1985. Today, he owns a total of five salons across the country. His Las Vegas location opened inside the MGM Grand in 2004.

Tucked away at the back of the MGM Grand overlooking the resort's pool, Cristophe Salon offers the ultimate intimate setting. Here, it's easy to feel at home. The natural lighting and clean, geometric lines give the salon a warm, yet modern feel. Guests can enjoy the view of the swimming pool and lush foliage while getting either a pedicure or sitting under the drying station. The 12 hair stations are spaced apart nicely so guests don't feel squeezed together.

Most importantly, Cristophe's stylists truly cater to the customer's needs. Cristophe said there's a trust customers have that stylists are going to do a good job.

Cristophe's list of clients includes Liv Tyler, Mariah Carey, Pamela Anderson, former President Bill Clinton and Senator Hillary Clinton. And while his celebrity clientele list continues to



Cristophe Salon

Hair expert Jean Marc Levy styles a client's hair at Cristophe Salon inside MGM.

grow, in all his years he hasn't set aside a private room in his salon.

"Our clientele is pretty sophisticated," he said. "I believe if somebody is going to get a haircut, they're pretty much a VIP as the person next to them."

If you want a haircut with Cristophe in Las Vegas, he flies into town once a month. But when he's not there, he said clients can still expect the best.

"We bring people from Paris," Cristophe said. "All my top colorists fly into Vegas."

In addition, his stylists have an amazing talent to transform any hair type with only two items: a round brush and a blow dryer. Unlike most stylists, Cristophe's staff rarely depends on straightening or curling irons to achieve the perfect hairstyle.

For his own haircut, he said he sits with anybody who's still in the salon when he's finished. One may wonder if he experiments with crazy haircuts and colors. "With the little, tiny hair I have, I'm happy what's left on my head!" he said.

Despite several years in the hair industry, for Cristophe it only gets more exciting.

"You have the ability to make someone feel fabulous and really great about themselves," he said "It's such a great gift, and that alone is enough to keep you going."

His expert hair advice? "Don't try too hard."

Kim Vo

Before owning a salon here in Las Vegas, master colorist Kim Vo actually used to be a stylist at Cristophe's salon in Beverly Hills. After nearly two decades in the hair business, an exclusive salon in Beverly Hills, as well as salon "bungalows" in Los Angeles, Vo opened up a location at the Mirage last December.

"We wanted to bring something to Vegas that was unique and different," said Vo. "I always say Vegas is L.A. on steroids. It's fabulous, my kind of caliber."

While the salons in California differ from the one in Las Vegas, Vo said, "It's a hair sisterhood – best friends with different personalities."

The salon's clean, geometric lines, upbeat music, as well as the classy black, charcoal and white color scheme immediately deliver an ultra-trendy vibe. Guests can also try on wigs in the latest hair colors at the salon's beauty bar.

Vo said in Las Vegas, hair coloring is currently the most popular service.

"We are so incredibly swamped with color right now," Vo said. "I'm glad people are responding to it."



Harrah's

Vanity section inside Michael Boychuck's salon – Color – at Caesars Palace.

One of Kim Vo's specialty treatments includes the "hair painting" technique, Balayage. In this process, guests can actually witness the coloring process of their tresses, without the foil bunches scrunched on top of the head. It treats hair like a soufflé by baking and fluffing the hair on the outside, all while the inside of the cuticle stays moisturized.

"It mimics nature and what you see is what you get," he said.

His celebrity list includes mother-daughter duo Goldie Hawn and Kate Hudson, Jennifer Aniston, Sylvester Stallone, to name a few. He's even working on a new hair color for Britney Spears. When he's not taking care of clients, he's giving fun beauty tips on E! Network's "The Daily 10."

According to Vo, his most important hair tip is to keep hair moisturized.

"You have to deep condition if you want hair that's gorgeous," Vo said.

For a rich conditioning treatment, guests treat their hair to Happy Hour with a Hairtini.

"Rum really smoothes out hair," Vo said. "We will definitely shake you up."

When it's time to touch up his own hair, he's not picky.

"I try to pick someone else every time – share the wealth," he said.

Michael Boychuck

Known as the "Colorist to the Stars," celebrity hair stylist Michael Boychuck definitely knows his way around this town.

"It is a great feeling to have a salon in Vegas," said Boychuck. "I have three, so I feel three times as lucky."

Before opening his 5,000-square-

foot salon, Color at Caesars Palace this past January, Boychuck started his career in Beverly Hills. He later became salon and color director at Canyon Ranch Spa at the Venetian and business partner for Amp Salon at Palms Las Vegas.

"I [love] being at them," he said. "I am truly inspired to have salons that have a great atmosphere and make every client walk through the door happy."

The posh interior at Color is simply breathtaking. Faye Resnick, a famous Hollywood designer, delivered the perfect amount of sleek and chic sophistication. The salon features sparkling crystal chandeliers, vintage Fendi fixtures, beautifully carved mirrors and gray, white and metallic silver colors throughout.

"The salon has been designed to have a minimal amount of color pigment in it," explained Boychuck. "This allows the stylist to see the real skin, eye and hair tone for max results. It is the most beautiful salon in the world in the greatest city in the world."

And while the salon recently opened, Boychuck has already had quite a few celebrity clients.

"Color has had Mandy Moore, Paris Hilton, Bette Midler, to name a few," he said.

Guests can also check out the wall full of autographed celebrity photos.

After working with numerous VIP clients, many may wonder just how demanding they can be.

"My clients definitely have specific requests but after there is trust built up, I am given a lot of freedom to create," said Boychuck. "All hair must have

thought put into it to be successful."

And Boychuck has definitely had his share of colors.

"My most unusual hair request was to color a rock star's son's hair purple!" Boychuck said. "Paris Hilton's hair is the easiest since she is ultra blonde and that is my forte."

In addition to fun treatments like a personalized shopping service, creative hair designs, exotic pedicures and a live DJ on the weekends, guests can also receive airbrush makeup as well as extensions. "They can change a person's look dramatically in a few hours," Boychuck noted.

Whether you decide to dye your hair platinum blonde or add in a few subtle highlights, it's always important to take care of your mane.

"My biggest hair tip for anyone is condition your hair," he advised. "Any color, cut, highlight will not look good if it is not healthy with a great shine."

Vegas goes glam

With Las Vegas' growing culture, it's no wonder why celebrity hairstylists are all the rage.

"I think Las Vegas is a fabulous market," said Cristophe. "[With] the biggest restaurants, the best chefs, the best designers, it's natural for hairstylists to follow."

"I think it's an artistic renaissance, a playground for celebrities," Vo added.

If you feel like getting celebrity hair treatment while partying the night away all on the same weekend, then it's definitely worth the trip.

"We're not going to change the world," said Vo. "We're just going to embrace it."