

<< STORE REVIEW RUNAH SALON & FUSION BEATS

ROCKY ROAD

For a salon where you're constantly battling good and bad service, the velvet spa at Runah Salon was a pleasant surprise, says Rhea Dhanbhora

I've struggled with my views about Runah Salon for years — it sometimes surprises me with impeccable service and at other times, I've had to put up with snooty receptionists and downright snarky therapists. But, in the spirit of second chances, I decided to take a chance with what sounded like a luxurious afternoon at the spa, revelling in a treatment that would last 1½ hours. The cheery response I when I arrived was a good first sign, so I got in to wait my turn, while they prepared the room for the organic treatment that I was trying out.

NOT SO ROOMY

Once you walk past the plush manicure chairs and across the marbled tiles, you'll find yourself unceremoniously shoved through a little back door, into what looks like a rundown waxing chamber belonging to old salons that we used to visit before spas and salons began to spruce themselves up for high flying customers. As I hitched myself up on the plain, white bed and surveyed my surroundings, I was glad that most of my treatment would be administered with the lights dimmed and my head facing the floor. With walls that were crying out for a paint job and a big plastic tube hanging over from the ceiling to let a little air into the room, everything was cramped, badly maintained and too shoddy to soothe or relax you. There's also the same music playing inside the room as in the rest of the salon and while the old '90s hits suited me just fine, most

people would prefer silence or something more soothing while they're getting their treatment. The musty smell doesn't help matters, but it was quickly replaced by the sweet aroma of the products used for my treatment, which got my mind off the décor and ambiance.

THERE'S THE TREAT!

Already a little disappointed, I settled in for a treatment that I was sure would under-awe me. The velvet spa treatment includes body exfoliation with a coffee scrub, followed by a lemon grass body serum and then a vanilla coco body wrap. The icing on the cake (or quite literally, on your body) is flavoured with rose and lavender.

My therapist was incredibly sweet, almost making up for the ghastly décor I had spent so long looking at. My muscles were loosened up for a while, and plastic sheets were laid over the bed as I prepared myself for the delicious smelling scrub. While it's a pleasant experience, it's administered in a little bit of a hurry — possibly because there's just so much to do in so little time. I think there could have been a little more time



>> The décor in the spa rooms wasn't pleasing at all but the service to impressed me

spent on scrubbing and rubbing, so that my muscles felt a little more relaxed and my skin was a little more pampered.

However, the treatment itself deserves no criticism. It does leave your skin feeling velvety smooth as promised and the heady organic smells linger for hours on end. If you've got a city tan or haven't had a pedicure in a while, this is going to be even better for you, because it smooths over any imperfections — leaving your skin brighter, lighter and more evenly toned, which is something that I appreciated. It's also a great way to get rid of weather worn, dead skin and the little bumps and lumps that the sultry sun seems to leave on my skin.

The short head and face massage that's administered while you're encased in the body wrap is indulgent — I only wish it had lasted longer. The pressure was perfect and I

found myself sinking slowly into the pillows, truly relaxed.

CONCLUSIVELY SPEAKING

The décor in the spa rooms is horrendous — there's no way I can sugar coat that. They probably face the same space constraints and maintenance issues that the rest of the city does, but because of the brilliant treatment that I was privy to, I'm inclined to forgive them. With a little sprucing up and a new lick of paint, even the tiny rooms can be made to look more presentable. As for the treatment, I may think twice about it because of its hefty price tag, but if money isn't an issue for you, it's definitely worth the indulgence.

Price ₹4,000 for 1½ hours

Where Runah Salon, Opposite Phoenix Mills, Lower Parel **Contact** 24941111/9833921960

<< NEW LAUNCHES V RENAISSANCE LEATHER APPARELS

Luxury brand, The V Renaissance, has launched a new line of leather jackets called The V Renaissance Leather Apparels. The range features trench coats and jackets made from 100% leather hides, produced in Italy and England, with the option of adding a personalised silk lining. The quilted, detachable linings are available as per your custom requirements. You can also get a special pocket attached in the sleeves to store knick knacks.

WHERE www.thevenaissance.com

PRICE ₹85,000 onwards



PLEASANTLY FUSED

Fusion Beats, which used to be a part of 109° F, recently launched its own outlet in Bandra.

Shirley Mistry takes a look around the store and tells you if the fusion clothing line is worth the hype

If you mention the word fusion to me, I'd usually wrinkle my nose in distaste, even before I know what you're talking about. Whether it's food or fashion, fusion is something that just doesn't appeal to my sensibilities, simply because most brands end up making a mess of it. Instead of blending two cuisines or styles seamlessly, the result usually resembles several uncomplimentary elements thrown together. So, when I was asked to pay Fusion Beats a visit, it's safe to say that I wasn't thrilled to bits.

Located near the shopping stalls at Linking Road, Fusion Beats has a prime location. It's smack in the middle of the popular shopping lane, but boasts of a quieter, more peaceful spot. The store itself is minimally done up in shades of cream and gold, awash with yellow light that truly lets the pieces shine. The store also has a few arches, the only Indian touch to the décor. Jumping straight to the merchandise on offer, I have to say, I was pleasantly surprised. From dresses, tunics, tops, kurtis and jackets, to beautiful, printed pants, Fusion Beats covers the whole spectrum. They also have a few shrugs, skirts and Nehru jackets for the festive season, which are more ethnic than the rest of the clothes.

I especially loved their printed pants; they



look like denims, but are available in a variety of colours, including rust, indigo and cream, with beautiful paisley and ikat-inspired prints. Another item that caught my fancy was their bomber jacket. In a cream and blue print, it was fashionable and made out of a material that would keep you warm and toasty. Unfortunately, Mumbai's hot weather doesn't warrant buying a jacket, even during the colder months. However, if you think that the weather is getting nippy and can't stand even a slight chill, this one is worth investing in. Their dresses are pretty as well, made in comfortable, breathable fabrics. However, some design elements did seem too overdone for my taste.

In terms of pricing, Fusion Beats is right on the money. With basic bottoms priced at around ₹1,099 and printed pants available for an affordable ₹999, their pricing is competitive. You can pick up the delightful bomber jacket at a heftier price of ₹2,899, while their dresses will set you back a pretty ₹1,500 on an average.

Personally, fusion clothing is not my style. However, if there ever arises a situation where I want to incorporate traditional, ethnic designs into my ensemble, without going all out and dolling up, Fusion Beats is where I am going to head to!

Where Fusion Beats, A1 & A2, New Kamal Chs Ltd., Linking Road, Bandra (w)
Contact 26518153