

allure

THE BEAUTY EXPERT

MAY 2010

SPECIAL ISSUE

**GET A
BETTER
BODY**

22 Easy Ways to Lose Bloat,
Flatten Abs & Crank
Up Your Confidence

Big, Sexy Hair
In 5 Minutes

JUICY LIPS
Fun, Bright, Lip-Plumping Shades

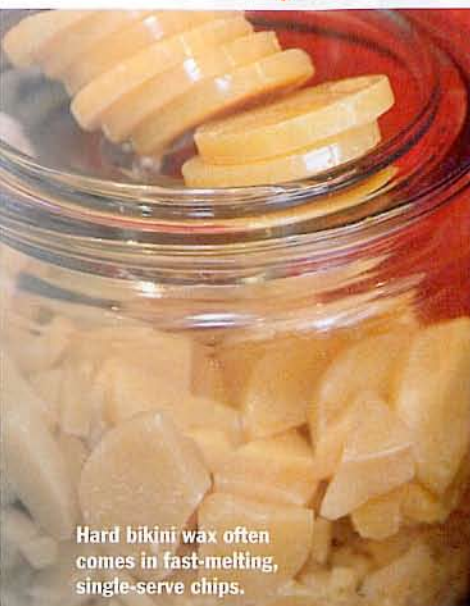
Defuzz!
Our Hair-Removal Guide

Catherine
Zeta-Jones

Gets Entirely and Completely Naked
(No, Seriously, Not a Stitch!)

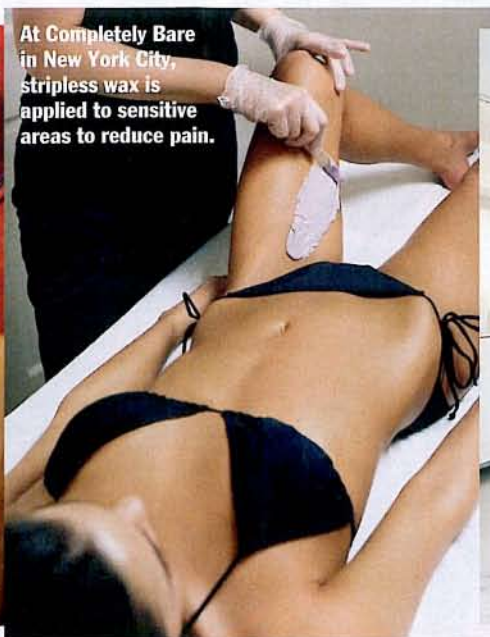
Hair & Makeup Preview
The Best New Beauty Trends





Hard bikini wax often comes in fast-melting, single-serve chips.

At Completely Bare in New York City, stripless wax is applied to sensitive areas to reduce pain.



The airy lounge at Wax in Atlanta



off a few direct but polite questions about exactly how Brazilian we wanted to go, then instructed us to lie back and focus on *There's Something About Mary* on the ceiling-mounted television. Using stripless hard wax for the sensitive inner areas and traditional strips for the outer ones, she zipped through the service, waxing so thoroughly that there wasn't a single stray or a need for tweezers. Such attention to detail did involve some pain—especially when she insisted on nabbing every last little hair around the most sensitive region—but we were on our way barely ten minutes after we'd arrived. Considering that we didn't have any ingrown hairs three weeks later, apparently you really can have it all. Bikini wax, \$42 and up. Brazilian wax, \$74.

Rita Hazan Salon

Viorica Dragoi
720 Fifth Ave.
212-586-4343

Dragoi comes off more like an overprotective mother than a dispassionate technician—but in a good way. She spent the first few minutes of our appointment, oddly, kneading

our upper thighs, explaining that when the muscles are relaxed, the waxing hurts less. Sure enough, we barely felt a pinch as she went about yanking up patches of stripless wax. After she'd removed all but a landing strip of hair, she spent a good five minutes checking the area for strays while cheerfully chatting with us. We were thrilled with the flawless results—and taken with Dragoi's attentiveness. Bikini wax, \$65. Brazilian wax, \$75.

Boston Bella Skin

Trina Holland
846 Walnut St.
Newton, MA
617-796-7900

We're not usually one for cutesy names, but we decided to overlook the fact that this small suburban salon calls its Brazilian "The Martini Delight." That said, we also chickened out at the salon and switched to a regular wax, fearing that pregnancy had left our skin too sensitive for a marathon session. Holland, a six-year waxing veteran, didn't mind the switch and got to work with a hard wax she promised would be as

gentle as possible. She applied the strips and whisked the hairs away so quickly that we steeled ourself for the worst—but it hardly hurt. No damage to our skin, no redness, and no ingrown hairs? If we weren't about to have a baby, we'd certainly drink to that. Bikini wax, \$25. French wax, \$40. The Martini Delight, \$60.

Washington, D.C.

Natural Body Spa and Shoppe

Massy Bagherzadeh
4100 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA
703-243-4015

The fact that Bagherzadeh seems to be perpetually booked made us all the more eager to try her services, so we jumped at a last-minute Friday cancellation. Once she had us in the room, she dispensed with the pretense of flimsy paper underwear and instructed us to just strip from the waist down, adding, "Don't worry, I've been doing this for 20 years. Back at home in Iran, we're all very hairy." We were just about to brag that we are waxing veterans ourselves—until we caught sight of Bagherzadeh's

Atlanta Wax

Whitney Edenfield
280 Elizabeth St.
404-525-8344

After several months of shaving, we decided that a visit to this specialty wax-only salon was probably in order. Edenfield confirmed that our hiatus from regular waxing would indeed lead to the equivalent of first-timer pain and commended our decision to begin with a bikini rather than a Brazilian. Fortunately, the peaceful waxing room put us right at ease, as did Edenfield's expertise and breezy chatter. She efficiently applied hot wax in long, thin strokes and quickly yanked the strips off. The highlight of the service was the signature postwax oil made from skin-calming grape-seed, tea-tree, and lavender oils—Edenfield applied it liberally, and we were impressed by how little redness or swelling was evident afterward. The silky results were so thorough, they've converted us back to waxing for good. Bikini wax, \$35. Brazilian wax, \$55.