

Wax



Shobha's new N.Y.C. studio also sells the brand's at-home hair-removal kit.

SHOBHA COLUMBUS CIRCLE

→ 1790 Broadway, Suite 1800
212-977-7771

Cheerful pink, orange, and yellow walls—as well as a chatty staff—help soothe pre-wax jitters, and the “Happy Baby” pose (hint: both legs up!) may elicit a giggle or two. Sugar gel leaves limbs and bikini lines fuzz-free; rogue hairs or ingrowns are coaxed out via threading. Before leaving, clients can shop the walls stocked with Shobha essentials, like exfoliating cloths and rosewater cooling gel.

Regular price: waxing, \$22 and up; sugaring, \$26 and up
InStyle deal: waxing, \$18 and up; sugaring, \$21 and up

WALNUT CREEK, CALIF.

STRIPT WAX BAR

→ 1629 Cypress St.
925-296-0912

Here's a unique way to tame the pain: Guests at this waxing boutique are greeted with complimentary mimosas and cookies while awaiting treatment. The Champagne-infused cocktails go nicely with the salon's modern and sexy boudoir vibe, accented with crystal light fixtures. Pros are also quick to offer a topical numbing agent (a bonus our reporter hadn't experienced elsewhere) before spreading large swaths of hard—but moisturizing—wax (made with beeswax, lavender, and almond oils) over skin to do away with hair.

Regular price: \$10 and up
InStyle deal: \$8 and up

Relax and Wax
No-Scream
cream, \$20;
relaxwax.com.

You can't
find this numbing
cream around the
area to help
the pain.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.

BASK BY EXHALE IN REVEL RESORTS

→ 500 Boardwalk
609-225-9855

Need a quick cleanup before hitting the beach? Visit this 32,000-square-foot labyrinth inside Revel, the hot new hotel on the boardwalk. Slip on a robe and sip cucumber water before a therapist escorts you to one of 32 treatment rooms. There, she'll rid skin of stubble with a soft, soy-based Nu Free wax, then leave you to enjoy amenities like the steam room, sauna, and whirlpool for the rest of the day.

Regular price: \$20 and up

InStyle deal: \$16 and up;

mention code InStyle20

LOS ANGELES

QUEEN BEE SALON & SPA

→ 2530-A San Vicente Blvd.
310-570-2282

British owner Jodi Shays scoured thrift stores for eclectic antiques, like jeweled chandeliers, to fill this

homey salon. But if the décor doesn't charm you, Shays will—thanks to her bubbly personality and the baked goods she's been known to make for guests. Also sweet are the (almost) ouch-free services you'll find here. The secret: a creamy Italian wax the aestheticians swear by (less sticky than other brands we've encountered, it isn't as rough on skin when yanked off). Pros even take the time to tweeze random strays to ensure a smooth finish.

Regular price: \$8 and up
InStyle deal: \$6 and up

STARK WAXING STUDIO

→ 12324 Ventura Blvd.
818-505-3665

White walls and steel accents create a cool, minimalist vibe, but when it comes to waxing, the pros here are as gentle as possible—good news for squeamish types. The skilled aestheticians make quick work (20 minutes, tops) of partial Brazilians, but not without compassion: One offered our newbie reporter a “test rip” to make sure she could stand the sting, then talked her through the

rest of the session. Nice!

Regular price: \$10 and up
InStyle deal: \$8 and up

NEW YORK CITY

CORNELIA SPA AT THE SURREY

→ 20 E. 76th St., 2nd Floor
646-358-3600

Just a few seconds after stepping inside the Cornelia Spa, now located in a swanky Upper East Side hotel, attendants sweep you off to an intimate waiting area where you can sink into one of three cushy chairs, put your feet up, and rest your neck on a warm, scented pillow until your aesthetician arrives. Getting smooth is pretty painless too. Pros use a soft, violet-hued wax, called Lycon, which hardens on skin and grips even the tiniest hairs. Our reporter was shocked at how one strip of wax removed all underarm stubble—with hardly any pain and zero redness.

Regular price: \$20 and up
InStyle deal: \$16 and up