

Antwerp cuts

Antwerp is teeming with hair salons serving up trendy, avant-garde and downright bizarre cuts. **Karishma Bhansali Mehta** gives us a guide to the best

Trendy

"There's no such thing as bad hair – only bad hairdressers," says Glenn Gemeiner, owner of **De Client**, Antwerp's hottest hair salon.

If you get your hair cut here, expect to find yourself sitting next to Miss Belgium or another local celebrity. The salon – which was renovated last month in a style Gemeiner calls 'London meets Berlin in Antwerp' – specialises in the deconstructed, unfinished look and is popular for its hassle-free 'cut and go' concept. While you're waiting in its swanky interior you can enjoy free internet access. Ask for Glenn or his right-hand man George for cuts and Selda for colour.

Cut and blow dry (short): from €33.50.

Cut and go: from €24.

Colour and highlights: from €20 to €56.

60 Nationalestraat, Antwerp, tel

03.233.37.23, www.declient.be.

Mostly walk-ins, but appointments can be made after 17.00 on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.



Cut and go: De Client is a celebrity favourite for its edgy cuts and sleek interior

Patrick's International is a nonconformist and fashion-obsessed salon on Leopoldstraat. The two main stylists, owners Patrick Perry (French) and Patrick De Leener (Belgian), specialise in short, trendy hair and the glamorous catwalk look respectively.

The salon handles cuts, hair extensions and contrast multiple hair colouring. Colourist Benjamin is usually fully booked so make your appointment at least two weeks in advance.

Cut and blow dry: from €50.

Colour and highlights: from €55.

31 Leopoldstraat, Antwerp. Tel

03.231.28.28,

www.patrickinternational.be.

Appointments preferred.

For an outrageous walk on the wild side, try **Wakko**, run by Peter Platel. Its

signature dry hair cutting technique is not just popular with punks – it also caters for adventurous pensioners. Platel used to organise drag shows and has now progressed to become the chief hair and makeup stylist for the Belgian version of the TV show *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*. Ask for Katherine, Steven or Kelly. There's also a branch in Brussels.

Dry cuts: from €24.30.

Highlights: from €38.40.

Colour: from €19.10.

3 Sint Rochusstraat, Antwerp, tel

03.233.46.04; and 69 Rue du Marché au

Charbon, Brussels (centre), tel

02.503.05.97. By appointment only.

Many Antwerp stylists attribute their expertise to the vivacious 60-year-old Philip Harlow, who still runs one of Antwerp's most famous salons. His

Harlow on Hopland is a landmark. It's a charming and intimate salon with theatrical décor and an amusing window showcasing a larger-than-life bust of Marge Simpson. There's a 15-percent discount on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Cut and blow dry: from €42.

Colour: from €35.

Highlights: from €57.

9 Hopland, Antwerp, tel 03.226.11.77.

Appointments preferred.

Classic

Ferro is a favourite among successful, well-travelled businesswomen. The typical style here is a creative London twist on the classic Parisian cut. Ask for Ferry Lossez, the owner, for cuts, or Rob for colour.

Cut and blow dry: from €55.