Parisian Style sans Airfare

THAT SEXY LOOK, THAT EURO STYLE...

Want a glamorous French hairstyle without all the work of, you know, actually crossing the Atlantic Ocean? Dessange Paris has more than 850 salons across the globe, including its latest in Tower's Crescent, Tyson Corner, the 10th Dessange Paris salon in the United States. Company officials say that it offers the same standards of sophistication that the Dessange brand has come to represent. The salon is a one-stop shop for hair care, massages, manicures, pedicures, waxing and make-up consultations. Artistic director Claude Courret, 39, runs the business. Born in Geneva, Courret began an apprenticeship at age 16 with the Jacques Dessange company in Neuchatel, Switzerland. By the time he was 28, Votre Bouté magazine had named him among the top 10 best hairstylists in France. By then, Courret was working under the direction of Jacques Dessange himself at the Paris flagship salon. “The salon in Tyson Corner is a copy of the salon in Paris,” says Courret of the 5,000-square-foot space. “I worked there three years, and I wanted to bring an exact copy of the French flavor and style here.”

Courret made the move to Tyson Corner from Chevy Chase, where he worked at a Dessange Paris salon, because there was a need for an upscale salon in northern Virginia. “Many of my clients were already coming from this very upscale area and driving to us in Maryland,” he explains, so the time was right for a more convenient salon location. For Courret, it’s all about his clients. “When you go to other salons, they treat you like you’re lucky to be there,” he says. “Here, you are the star—this is the French style.”

Dessange/tysors.com or (703) 761-3135 for more information.

That Old (Dominion) Sparkle

FRUITY, EASY TO DRINK

Quelle chance! In 2003, France's Claude Thibaut made Virginia his home, and, lucky for us, he brought along his native Champagne region's expertise in sparkling wines. After working at Kugo Estates Winery from 2003 to 2005, Thibaut struck out on his own with business partner Manuel Janisson. The two men created the Thibaut-Janisson label, which specializes in sparkling wine. Thibaut leases space from Veritas Vineyard to produce his Brut sparkling wine—made completely from chardonnay grapes that he buys from the local Ivy Creek Vineyard. The business is managed separately.

The first production of Thibaut-Janisson Virginia Brut Sparkling Wine came out in November 2007—6,000 bottles. In September of this year, Thibaut plans to release a new blend, although still from 100 percent chardonnay grapes. “It’s very fruity and easy to drink,” says Thibaut of his Virginia sparkling wine. The brut category ranges from almost no residual sugar to 1.5 percent residual sugar; the Virginia sparkling has one percent, which Thibaut says shows off the taste of the chardonnay grape. For maximum taste, he recommends drinking sparkling wine within a year of purchasing it. In addition to its crisp chardonnay flavor, the wine is also garnering attention for the unique shape of its bottle. He and Janisson bought the rights to use it from a producer in Champagne. “You won’t see this bottle shape anywhere else, says Thibaut.”

Thibaut, 50, has been around wine his entire life—he grew up on his family’s small vineyard. “It’s something I always wanted to do.” Since he began working with wine in the mid-1970s, Thibaut has helped develop sparkling wines in vineyards in France, Australia, California and now Virginia. “The purpose is not to imitate French champagne,” Thibaut explains. “I wanted to show the fruits of Virginia. It’s very good-quality fruit, and the sparkling really shows the flavor of the char- donnay.” For that, we raise a glass and say, “sante!”