



Holding skin taut makes removal less painful at Maxwax in New York City.

hazel and a drizzle of oil. After applying the wax in two thin lines, she removed it so quickly that any pain was truly fleeting. We left a few minutes later with a beautifully groomed—if not exactly bold—bikini line. Bikini wax, \$25.

## SEATTLE

### Bee Waxed Spa

**Bren Sullivan**  
7352 Thirty-fifth Ave., SW  
206-938-5177

A bikini wax is like a vaccination: unpleasant, but necessary when traveling to exotic destinations (or in our case, Florida). We told Sullivan that we wanted to be swimsuit-ready but not surgically bare for our upcoming vacation. She assured us she would tread lightly and placed a rose-scented cloth over our eyes to soften the glare of the overhead lights. After spritzing on jojoba oil, she applied a warm wax with scientific precision and removed it with speed and total control. She finished up with some light tweezing and a dose of lotion containing salicylic acid to prevent bumps. The session with Sullivan did the trick—we were immune to ingrowns for weeks. Bikini wax, \$45.

## SAN FRANCISCO

**Skin City**  
**Brigitta Melendy**  
323 Divisadero St.  
415-255-4777

When it comes to tolerating pain, we know our limits—and made sure Melendy did as well. We requested just a hint of hair removal while she searched for ingrowns—and again for good measure while she applied a thick and creamy shea-butter wax. She nodded patiently both times and went to work spreading on wax and removing it so quickly that it made a small “zip” noise. The process wasn’t painless, but it was manageable enough that we permitted her to dispatch a little more off the sides. The result: a neat, narrow strip that proved we can cross—and even crop—the line. Bikini wax, \$30.

## LOS ANGELES

### Cocktail Wax

**Nora Charles**  
333 N. La Cienega Blvd.  
310-289-0166

There are certain things we would never do under the influence of alcohol. A bikini wax isn’t one of them. So we headed over to this cozy waxing boutique for both a Brazilian and a fortifying glass of bubbly, which we sipped in the lounge before our session. We felt completely at ease by the time Charles smoothed on a strawberry-and-cucumber-based wax, which she explained is suitable for sensitive skin. The shocking speed of each rip was a little sobering, but we were perfectly tidy and barely red after ten minutes. Brazilian wax, \$50.

### Thibiant Beverly Hills

**Eve Perey**  
449 N. Canon Dr.  
310-278-7565

As a former midwife with 30 years of waxing experience, Perey has a quick hand and a gentle bedside manner. Instead of making us stumble through an awkward description of the look we wanted, she gave us a few options (“a triangle, landing strip, or all off”), and meticulously painted on a warm yellow-green wax. She entertained us with casual conversation while she removed strip after strip,

and waxed so thoroughly that there wasn’t a stray left behind. After a touch of Sea Breeze Astringent and verbena oil to remove stickiness and calm postwax inflammation, we had an impeccable strip and baby-soft skin. Bikini wax, \$30.

The chamomile-and-shea-butter wax at Maxwax in New York City

### Queen Bee Waxing

**Jodi Shays**  
10182½ Culver Blvd.  
310-204-2236

We used to think Brazilian waxes were a royal pain—until we got the royal treatment from Shays. The Queen Bee owner and Bath, England, native escorted us to a sunny room, where the Union Jack was on prominent display, and distracted us with friendly chitchat while she got busy. We were impressed by the supersmooth consistency of her wax (she imports it from Italy but wouldn’t divulge its name), as well as her method of pressing our skin immediately after each rip to stifle the sting. She brushed on jojoba-and-grapefruit oil to quell puffiness and sent us on our way with a spotless bikini line. Brazilian wax, \$45.

**Reported by: Allure staff, New York City; Meredith Lindemon, Philadelphia; Adrienne Wichard, Washington, D.C.; Suzy Buckley, Miami; Ronit Pinto, Beverly Hills, MI; Paige Bowers, Duluth, GA; Lindsey Gladstone, Chicago; Jennifer Worick, Seattle; Michaela Caughlan, San Francisco; Laurie Drake, Victoria Land, and Beth Whiffen, Los Angeles.**

Find more salon and spa listings at [allure.com/beautydirectory](http://allure.com/beautydirectory).



WaxMee Spa in Miami imports its aloe-olive-oil-and-chlorophyll wax from Spain.