



Colin ^{AND} Kats TO TIPS

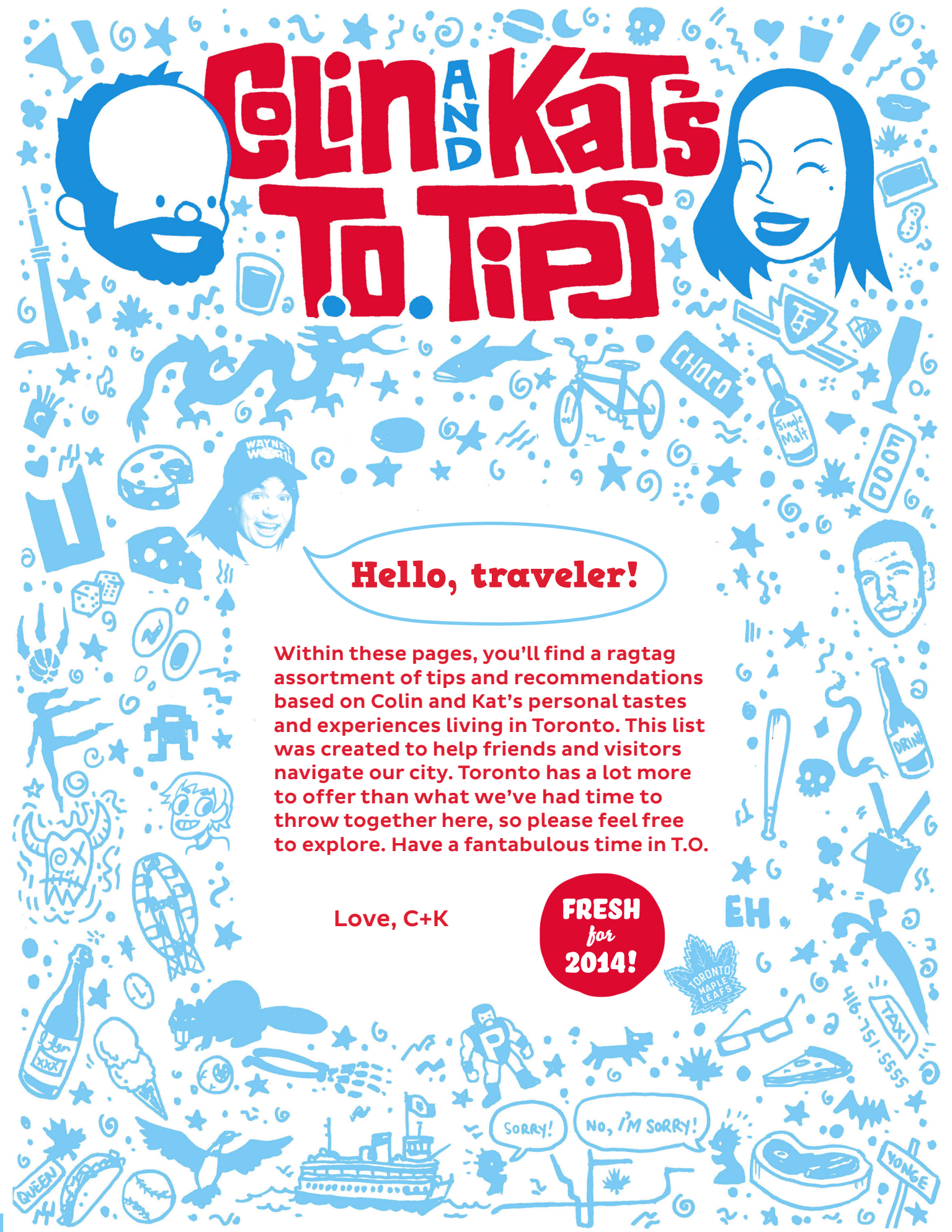


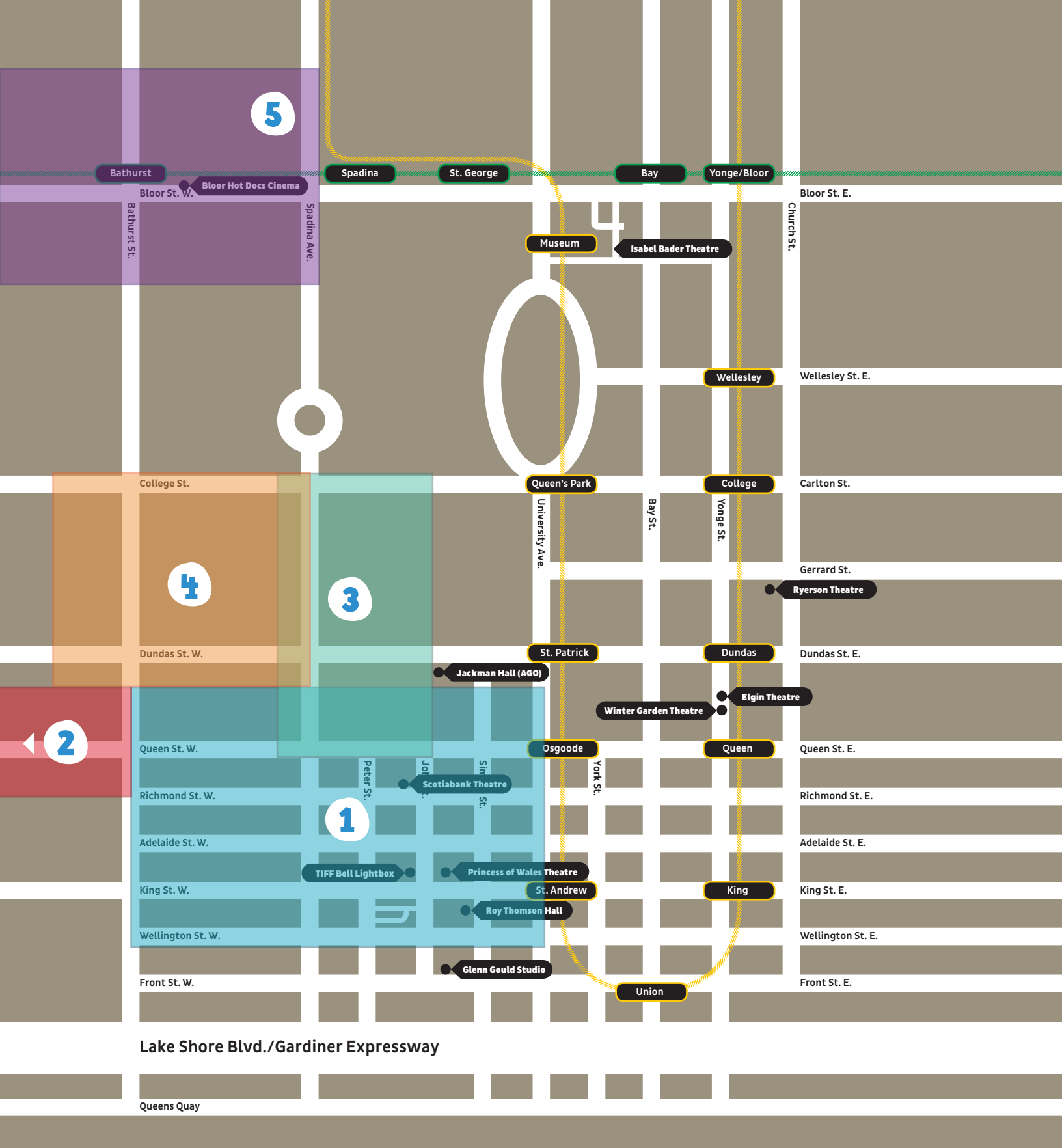
Hello, traveler!

Within these pages, you'll find a ragtag assortment of tips and recommendations based on Colin and Kat's personal tastes and experiences living in Toronto. This list was created to help friends and visitors navigate our city. Toronto has a lot more to offer than what we've had time to throw together here, so please feel free to explore. Have a fantabulous time in T.O.

Love, C+K

**FRESH
for
2014!**





Downtown Toronto





1 Queen Street & Surrounding Area – from University to Bathurst

- 1 401 Richmond**
401 Richmond St. W.
A maze of arts businesses & galleries with a good café – the Roastery. Best thing is the rooftop garden & the ground-floor design shop, SWIPE.
- 2 Avenue Open Kitchen**
7 Camden St.
The last of the great old-school diners. This tiny spot only has a few seats & is often crazy busy at lunch, but for a serious greasy spoon experience, it cannot be beat.
- 3 Beast Restaurant**
96 Tecumseth St.
About a block west of the boundaries of this zone, one of Toronto's best local / sustainable / snout-to-tail-ish restos.
- 4 Black Bull**
298 Queen St. W.
50% average pub, 50% biker bar, but it's got one of downtown's biggest & most popular patios.
- 5 Body Blitz Spa**
471 Adelaide St. W.
If you're a woman & you have a couple of hours to kill, spend \$50 on access to the waters at this ladies-only water spa. It's really worth it.
- 6 Burrito Banditos**
120 Peter St. — downstairs
If you're from LA, Texas or Mexico, we don't want to hear about how much better your burritos are. The shrimp and halibut are our faves here.
- 7 Cameron House**
408 Queen St. W.
A great old school Queen West bar. Nice atmosphere, good bartenders, no attitude.
- 8 CJ Lunch Box**
409 Richmond St. W.
An ideal spot for grabbing a super-cheap Japanese box lunch that you can walk into a theatre with.
- 9 Ematei** TOP PICK!
30 St. Patrick St.
Tucked in a side street, a genuine Japanese restaurant! The Chinese run sushi joints along Queen got nothin' on Ematei.
- 10 Fresh & Wild**
69 Spadina Ave.
Upscale grocery & café for your to-go food needs & fancy snacks.
- 11 Fresh on Spadina**
147 Spadina Ave.
Best lunch option for the vegetarians and smoothie lovers. And hippies.
- 12 Gandhi Roti**
554 Queen St. W.
Roti (curry wrapped in a tortilla-like shell) is like Toronto's Philly Cheese Steak or Deep Dish Pizza, a beloved staple. This is East Indian style, not the traditional Caribbean, so expect flavours like butter chicken.
- 13 Gardenview Convenience**
168 John St.
Between "convenience" & "grocery," this handy place is open 24 hours.
- 14 Hero Burger**
441 Queen St. W.
Also open 24 hours. Nuff said.
- 15 Jules Restaurant**
147 Spadina Ave.
An unpretentious French bistro with a good steak-frites deal at dinnertime.
- 16 Khao San Road**
326 Adelaide St. W.
It's best Thai food in Toronto. Tony Jaa would weep when presented with a bowl of their khao soy. Be warned: there are always lineups.



- 17 LCBO**
415 King St. W.
You can't buy booze in corner stores here, so take note of the hours at this government retailer: open till 9pm Mon-Thurs & Sat; 10pm Fri, & 5pm Sun.
- 18 Marben** **TOP PICK!**
488 Wellington St. W.
Locally sourced, with an ever-changing menu, this is one of the hands-down BEST restaurants in the 'hood. No jokes.
- 19 Milagro**
5 Mercer St.
Mexican food (the guac is amazing) — the menu is vast and there are drink deals every day of the week. It's big, so waiting for a table usually isn't an issue.
- 20 Nora Shawarma**
141 Spadina Ave.
There are two shawarma/falafel places near the Scotiabank Theatre. This one's a block farther away & worth the walk.
- 21 Paese**
333 King St. W.
Very good Italian, and right across from the Hyatt.
- 22 Ravi Soups**
322 Adelaide St. W.
Their soups are very delicious. So are their wraps. Nice little back patio, too.
- 23 Ritz-Carlton**
181 Wellington St. W.
Even if you're not staying there, the spa is fantastic and the terrace bar is the perfect place for a swanky drink.
- 24 Sadie's Diner**
504 Adelaide St. W.
Vegetarian diner-style comfort food. A bit off the beaten path but if that's what you're after, it's worth the trek.
- 25 Smoke's Poutinerie**
218 Adelaide St. W. & 578 Queen St. W.
Canada's national food: poutine. Try the fancy varieties unless you've never had the classic.
- 26 The Beverley Hotel**
335 Queen St. W.
This new boutique hotel has a small but charming rooftop patio and great snacks & cocktails.
- 27 The Burger's Priest**
463 Queen St. W.
The regular menu, the secret menu, the veggie options, it's all insane. Worship at the burger church.
- 28 The Counter at The Thompson Hotel**
550 Wellington St. W.
While it's a pricey imitation diner, it is open 24 hours.
- 29 The Rex Hotel**
194 Queen St. W.
A dirty old bar filled with legit jazz masters. One of TO's oldest jazz institutions.
- 30 The Rivoli**
332 Queen St. W.
The cultural anchor of Queen St. The back performance space was home to Kids in the Hall when they began. Arcade Fire's first Toronto gig was here. They opened for Kat's old band.





Queen St. W.

2 Queen Street, west of Bathurst

If you keep walking along Queen westbound past Bathurst, you'll eventually hit Parkdale. It's a formerly-tough-now-gentrified-but-actually-still-quite-diverse neighbourhood. Here are a few of our "further west along Queen" recommendations. If you keep going even further west along Queen than what we've mapped out here, you'll soon hit the Drake Hotel, the Gladstone Hotel, and then the (pretty awesome) neighbourhood of Parkdale.

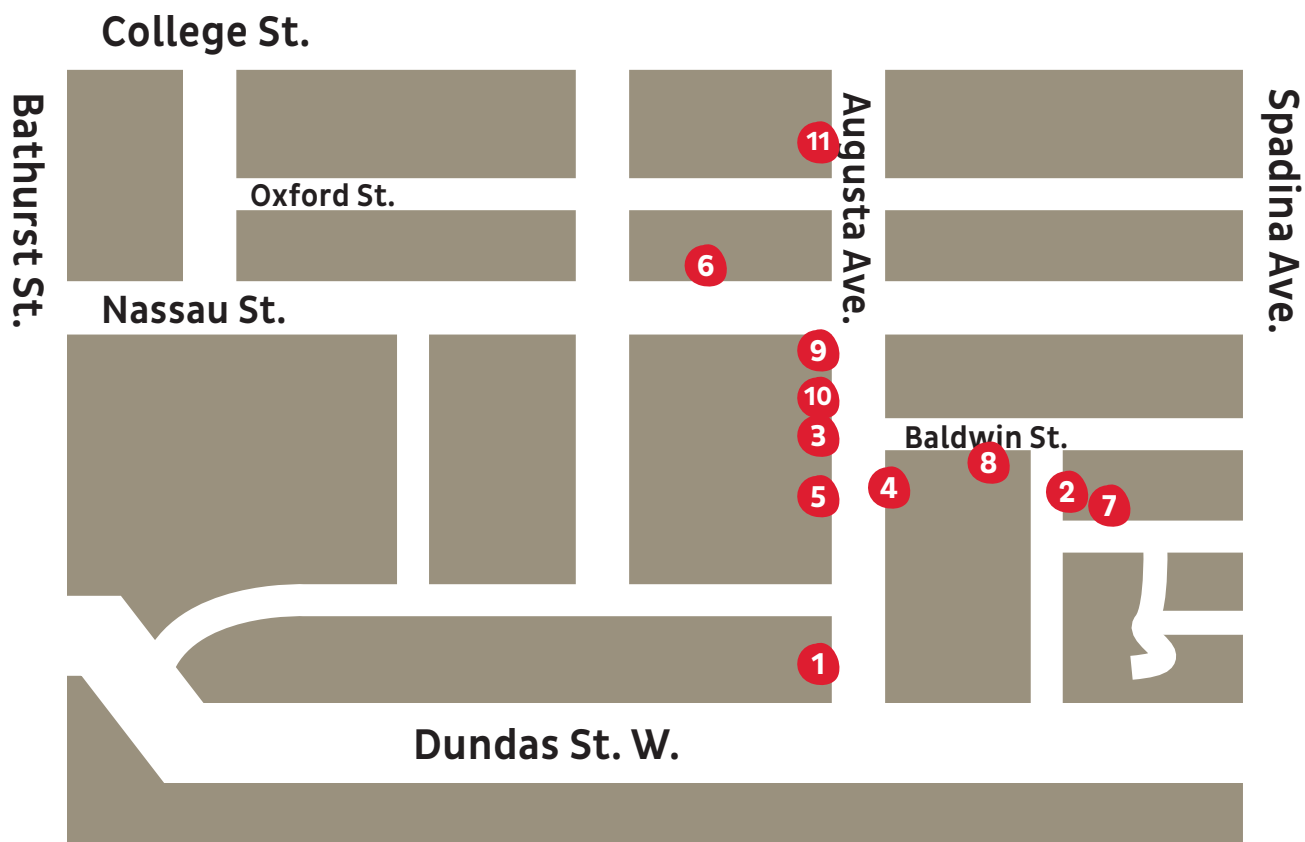
- 1 Czehoski**
 678 Queen St. W.
 Formerly a butcher & deli, this is now a cool eatery with a Czech deli vibe.
- 2 Clafouti**
 915 Queen St. W.
 Best French bakery downtown. Croissants are to die for. So's everything else.
- 3 Come As You Are**
 701 Queen St. W.
 Need some lube to help finish off that lucrative film deal? This is the place to go, a female run co-op sex shop with all the equipment to do the job right.
- 4 Done Right Inn**
 861 Queen St. W.
 Small hole in the wall bar with a lovely back patio and a chill "real Toronto" vibe. Our friend Eva bartends there. She's wonderful and she won't take any of your guff.
- 5 La Hacienda**
 640 Queen St. W.
 Again, if from LA or Texas, spare us a lecture on authentic Mexican. La Ha is the Canuck punk version & was Colin's hangout during college.
- 6 Harlem Underground**
 745 Queen St. W.
 They serve fried chicken AND waffles. TOGETHER.
- 7 Nadège Patisserie**
 780 Queen St. W.
 This French joint is giving every other patisserie in Toronto a run for its money. Try the macarons, you'll think you're in Paris. Or Cannes.
- 8 Prague Deli**
 638 Queen St. W.
 Don't let the new décor fool you, this is serious old school Czech deli. Everything on the menu is authentic and deliuous. The Czech deli game on Queen West is strong.
- 9 Rotate This**
 801 Queen St. W.
 Excellent record shop. It's where you'd buy your concert tickets if you lived here.
- 10 Trinity Bellwoods Park**
 This huge dog park is located across the street from Clafouti, the Done Right Inn and Nadège. It's where we go to drink in the summer, so if you're craving some "real Toronto time", juSt. Walk down into the large crater-like "bowl" with a brown paper bag and enjoy.



3 Chinatown: Spadina from Queen to College

Chinatown is pretty self-explanatory, though there are a few non-Chinese gems to be found here as well. Chinatown is your best friend because so many of the restaurants are open until 5am.

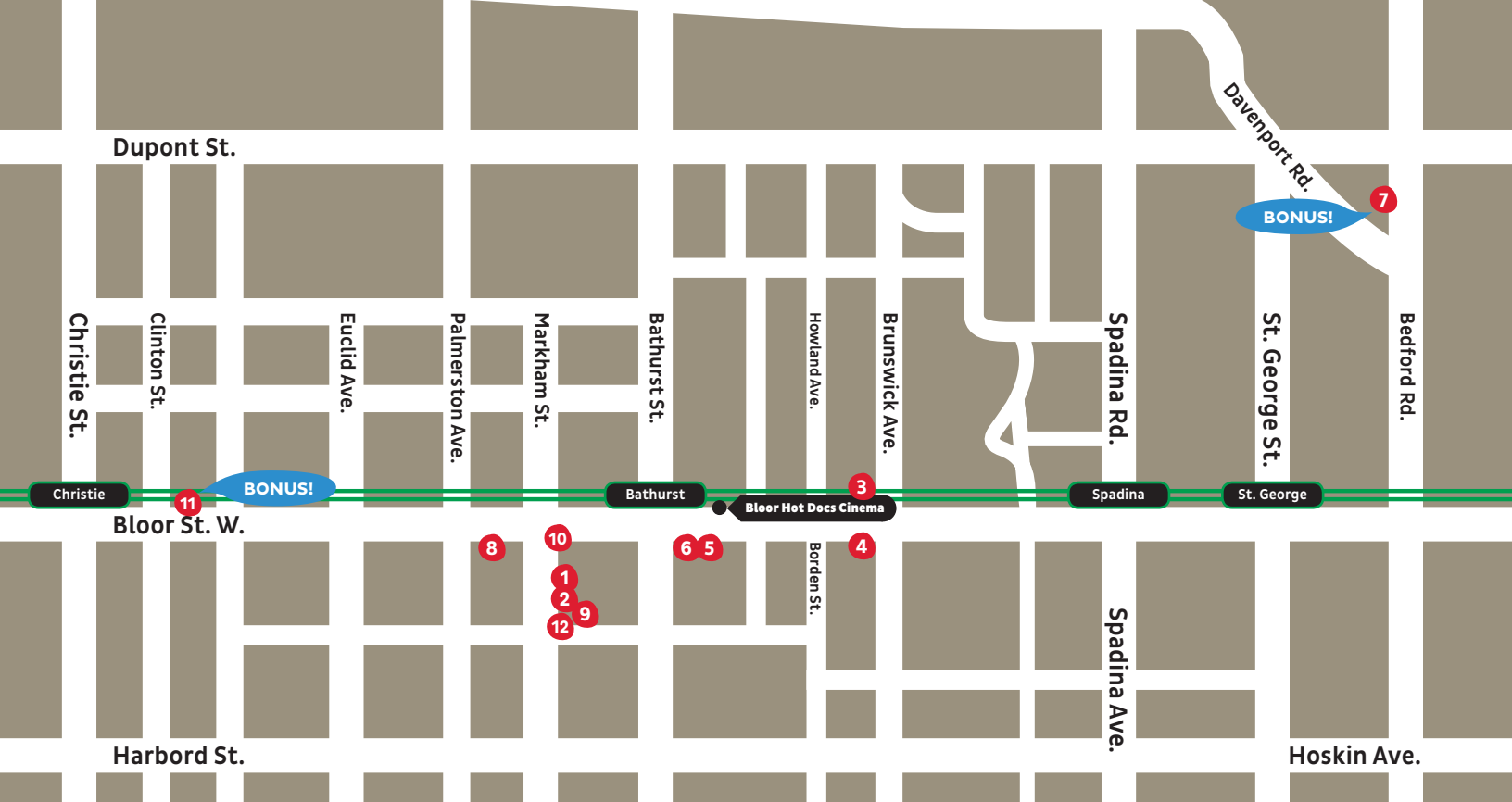
- 1 Asian Legend**
418 Dundas St. W.
 More swanky décor than the old staples, this one offers more upscale Chinese food with emphasis on Northern cuisine.
- 2 Bright Pearl Seafood Restaurant**
346 Spadina Ave.
 A massive interior with cart service dim sum. Fun fact: used to be a funeral home & is rumoured to be haunted.
- 3 Chinese Traditional Bun**
536 Dundas St. W. — downstairs
 Similar to Mother's Dumplings, but far more of a regional /backwater flair in this no frills joint. It will make you wish you grew up in rural China.
- 4 Dark Horse Café**
215 Spadina Ave.
 Great espresso drinks, hot baristas of all genders. The savoury scones are delish.
- 5 Goldstone Noodle Restaurant**
266 Spadina Ave.
 Hong Kong Style diner with excellent congee. The building to the north was the last Chinatown Cinema, the "Far East Theatre" & is now a dance club or vacant, we're not sure.
- 6 Hotel Ocho**
195 Spadina Ave.
 Boutique hotel with a great bar/resto on the ground floor. Perfect for quiet & classy daytime meetings. Cocktail specials every night.
- 7 King's Noodle House**
296 Spadina Ave.
 The first place Colin ever had a bowl of Chinese noodles in Toronto back in 1988. Awwwww. Recommended: BBQ duck & chicken noodle soup, or congee.
- 8 Mother's Dumplings**
421 Spadina Ave.
 Easily one of our top places in Chinatown. Wide selection of steamed, boiled & fried dumplings with homey service. Exactly what you'd expect from the name.
- 9 New Ho King**
416 Spadina Ave.
 Open till 4am, this is one of Kat's favourite joints for late-night dining. Recommended: the magical "Hunan tofu" for vegetarians & for everyone else, the deep fried squid.
- 10 Pho 88**
270 Spadina Ave.
 Toronto is a good place to indulge in excellent Vietnamese noodle soups. This is one of the best Pho joints in Chinatown.
- 11 Rol San**
323 Spadina Ave.
 Open till 4am and good for all-day dim sum. Stephen Chow's *God of Cookery* posters adorn the walls, and it's where Colin took the director of *Ong Bak* at 3am in 2003.
- 12 Swatow**
309 Spadina Ave.
 Another open till 4am Chinatown staple that's open super late, Swatow has amazing homemade shrimp wontons, solid noodle dishes, and a similarly amazing salty deep fried squid to New Ho King's.



4 Kensington Market

Kensington Market has a rich 100+ year history as one of Toronto's most diverse neighbourhoods. Full of bars, restaurants, army surplus & vintage shops, produce stands, meat, fish & cheese shops, weird hippies and crust punks. There's A LOT more there than we've listed but it's a small area, so explore for yourselves. Don't miss the Al Waxman statue in Bellevue Square Park. Those of you who know Canadian TV will remember that Al was the King of Kensington.

- 1 The Boat**
158 Augusta Ave. — upstairs
Toronto's top indie live music & dance party venue. Nondescript exterior, but inside it's decorated like an old ship, portholes & all.
- 2 Cold Tea**
60 Kensington Ave. — in the "mall"
This super-cool, hard-to-find spot serves amazing cocktails and is one of the best new bars in Toronto.
- 3 El Gordo Fine Foods**
214 Augusta Ave.
Delicious empanadas and churros (aka, addictively delicious donut sticks).
- The Embassy**
4 223 Augusta Ave.
Tiny bar & often packed in the evenings, but it's really worth going in some afternoon for a pitcher of Pimms Cup.
- 5 The Hungary Thai**
196 Augusta Ave.
Yes, they serve Hungarian food and Thai food. It's not fusion, they just do both. Really well. Order a coconut soup followed by schnitzel. It's brilliant.
- 6 Ideal Coffee**
84 Nassau St.
Kat's favourite coffee place in the Market.
- 7 Moonbean Café**
30 St Andrew St
Very good coffee place in the Market. Baked goods also excellent, especially the bagel-shaped, cheese & spinach stuffed flaky "burekas".
- 8 Patty King**
187 Baldwin St.
Know what "doubles" are? They are delicious chickpea curry sandwich type things, and this place has the best ones downtown. Also: great Jamaican patties, ginger beer and other assorted Caribbean snacks.
- 9 Ronnie's Local 069**
69 Nassau St.
Ronnie's is Kat's favourite bar in the market. Excellent vibe, simple but topnotch beer selection (try the Delirium Tremens on tap).
- 10 Segovia Meat Market**
218 Augusta Ave.
Toronto's original Chilean empanadas. El Gordo Fine Foods (next door) also sells their empanadas, but this is where they originate.
- 11 Torito Tapas Bar**
276 Augusta Ave.
Delicious tapas. That's all.
- 12 Aunties & Uncles** **BONUS!**
74 Lippincott St.
Not really in Kensington Market but it fits on the map. Colin's brunch staple for homey food in a lo-fi setting. These guys catered our wedding. We love them that much! Avoid weekends as lineups are constant.



5 The Annex: Bloor from Spadina to Bathurst

The zone of Toronto around the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema is known as The Annex. It's close to the university campus, and it's one of Toronto's most hip-yet-elite neighbourhoods. Margaret Atwood lives in The Annex, and so do a million college students, so beware the drunken hoards on a weekend night in early September. If you keep walking west along Bloor St. past from the Annex, a block or so later you'll find yourself in Koreatown. The Korean food is good, but you should also stop for walnut cakes. You'll see them looking all walnutty in the windows of the little bakeries.

- 1 **The Beguiling**
601 Markham St.
Best comic book shop in town.
- 2 **Butler's Pantry**
591 Markham St.
Simple but hearty meals. Fast, inexpensive, and their signature salad dressing is insanely addictive.
- 3 **By The Way Café**
400 Bloor St. W.
This middle-eastern-ish place serves a really great brunch.
- 4 **Future Bakery & Café**
483 Bloor St. W.
This airy place with a big patio serves desserts up front and hearty east European food in back. Want mashed potatoes with gravy for \$3? This place has you covered.
- 5 **Guu Sakabar**
559 Bloor St. W.
Takes Toronto's fledgling Izakaya scene to the next level. Loud and fun. Both food and drinks are great.
- 6 **Insomnia**
563 Bloor St. W.
Practically across the street from the Bloor Cinema, this bar has great cocktails.
- 7 **Le Paradis**
166 Bedford Rd.
Tucked up in a residential area is Toronto's quietly best French restaurant.
- 8 **Sky Blue Sky**
605 Bloor St. W.
Sandwich shop where everything on the menu is named after a Wilco song. It's all delicious, and you can call or email in your order for pickup.
- 9 **Southern Accent**
599 Markham St.
Great food, enormous portions, charming, fancy-ish atmosphere. Their pickled okra is something.
- 10 **Suspect Video**
605 Markham St.
Toronto's best video store. Colin worked here for years.
- 11 **Tacos El Asador**
690 Bloor St. W.
Best tacos in town, and their hearty chicken soup is also amazing.
- 12 **Victory Café**
581 Markham St.
Around the corner on a cool side-street, this bar has one of the best patios, and is a perennial Toronto fave. It's where Kat & Colin ended up on their first date.



Other Places!

Here are a number of our other favourite places that are not in the areas we have focused on, but easy to get to by cab or transit. Explore our fair city, visitors!

3 Speed

1163 Bloor St. W.

This place is around the corner from where we live, so we're biased in its favour. Great bar, great patio, great brunch.

The Bairrada Churrasqueira

1000 College St.

The nondescript front doesn't even hint at the glorious backyard patio of this traditional Portuguese BBQ spot. Try the Flaming Sausage. It is exactly as it sounds.

Bakerbots

204 Delaware Ave.

Best homemade ice cream sandwiches, made to order. All other baked goods here are also pretty much perfect.

The Black Hoof

928 Dundas St. W.

Toronto's #1 charcuterie. Raw horse, tongue on brioche, smoked sweetbreads, bone marrow. Beware: it's small & they don't take reservations. Also check out Rhum Corner and Cocktail Bar, run by the same folks and right next door / across the street.

Essen

1282 Dundas St. W.

Owned by a pal's brother. Inspired Jewish staples.

The Garrison

1197 Dundas St. W.

If you lived in Toronto and were super cool, you'd see all the best indie bands here & reminisce with the staff & owners about the good old days.

Grand Electric

1330 Queen St. W.

Way west on Queen (near the Drake & Gladstone hotels), this fancy taco joint has a killer bourbon menu. No reservations, lineups are LONG.

Imperial Pub

54 Dundas St. E.

The only decent place to have a drink if you're near the Ryerson.

The Monkey's Paw

1229 Dundas St. W.

This used book store & curiosity shop is guaranteed to have the weirdest and most intriguing stuff you could possibly want to browse.

The Royal

608 College St.

This is the cinema we program! It's across the street from Sidecar and we're always willing to give you a tour and then treat you to a cocktail.

Saving Grace

907 Dundas St. W.

Amazing brunch spot (packed on weekends, but open every day). Baked egg specials & french toast are perfect.

Sidecar

577 College St.

The name says it all. Great cocktails match the great food at this restaurant in Little Italy.

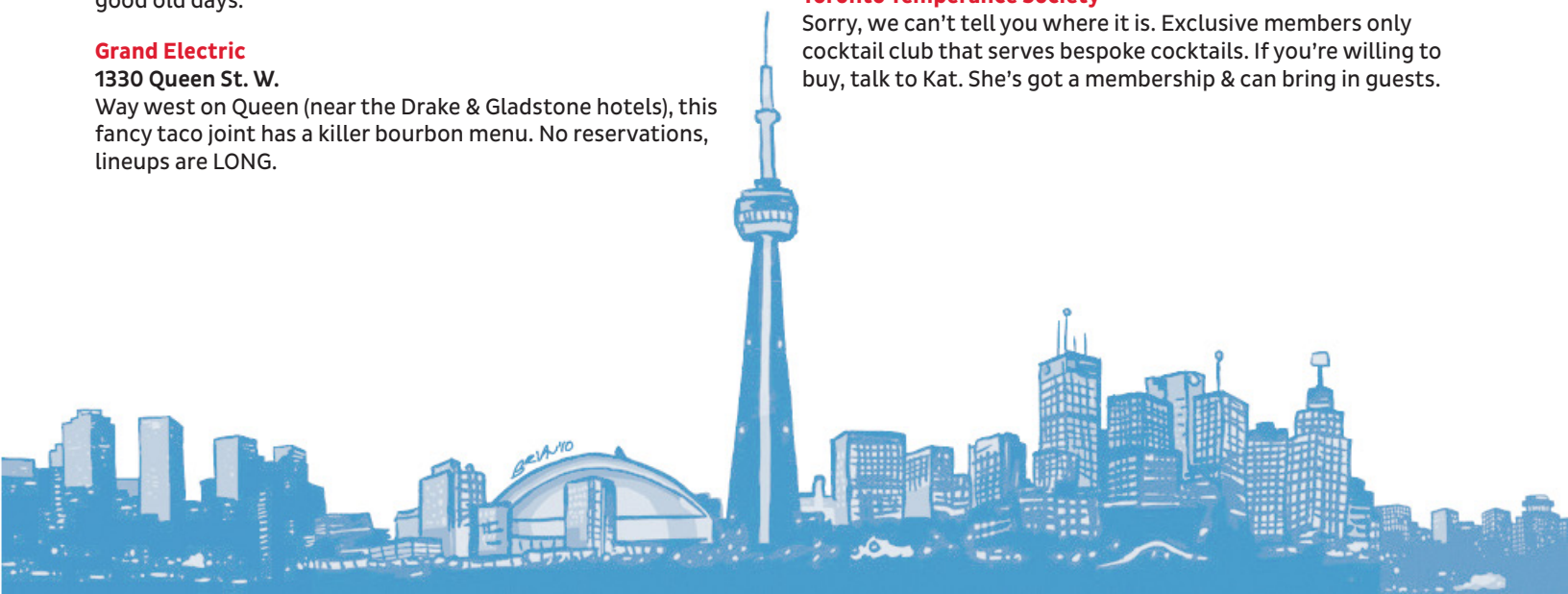
Soundscapes

572 College St.

One of Toronto's best music shops. Check out the local rack for some genuine TO talent.

Toronto Temperance Society

Sorry, we can't tell you where it is. Exclusive members only cocktail club that serves bespoke cocktails. If you're willing to buy, talk to Kat. She's got a membership & can bring in guests.





All TO Tips © Colin Geddes & Katarina Gligorijevic

This collection of hot tips reflects Colin & Kat's personal tastes & experiences living in Toronto and in no way is affiliated with any organizations or other people, places or things, living or dead, throughout the universe.

Due to the hasty nature of this DIY project, we regret any errors or omissions, and we'll do our darndest to correct them if we decide to do this again in the future.

No animals were harmed specifically for the making of this Tip Sheet, but some were very, very tasty.

If you find our tips useful (or if you didn't), let us know at colin@ultra8.ca & katarina@ultra8.ca or tweet us [@colingeddes](https://twitter.com/colingeddes) / [@katarinag](https://twitter.com/katarinag)

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