

Philadelphia

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Philadelphia: Haircuts and Hair Color

Salon Vanity

EDMONDO BLANDO

Cut, \$75 and up

1126 Walnut St.

215-925-2211

Salon Vanity isn't far from Society Hill, but we had a different Hill in mind when we saw Blando. We sheepishly showed him a picture of Lauren Conrad, and he told us that was exactly the look he wanted for us. He modified LC's style to better suit our thick hair, and added more layers at the crown where we tend to get flat. After he finished snipping, he gave us a perfect blowout to ensure that we left without a hair out of place.

Salon Vanity

NICKY DURKA

Highlights, \$115 and up

1126 Walnut St.

215-925-2211

We're not especially sensitive, but unpleasant reactions to harsh dyes had limited our enthusiasm for color. Durka promised that L'Oréal Professionnel's INOA dye, an ammonia-free formula, would not irritate our scalp—and her russet-flecked hair inspired us to ask for something similar. She applied slivers of a deep red shade throughout our dark brown curls using *balayage* instead of foils (she said that the freehand technique would define our waves without creating obvious or chunky color). The dye felt and smelled gentler than other formulas we've tried, and our two-hour appointment breezed by as we chatted and ate Italian cookies from a local bakery. The auburn highlights looked delicate—and left us with a new faith in color.