



# Stop the world

...and Melt with a new  
Newbury Street spa

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**INTERVIEW.** The latest den of pampering on Newbury Street has everything you need in a mid-day escape — massage, facials, haircuts and, crucially, strawberries and booze. Melt Spa owner Melanie Tringali says the spa, open just two weeks, is looking to make its mark in the crowded spa market with a luxurious and personal touch.

#### What makes Melt unique?

I'm exclusive to the Hydrofacial, it's nowhere else on Newbury Street or [in] the surrounding towns. It's a machine that does a number of different treatments on the face; we can do microdermabrasion that's as invasive. We use all botanical oils — it's just fabulous.

#### What's the spa culture like in Boston?

Because we live in such a stressful environment, I think it's becoming a lot more popular. Women love to come in and leave the world behind.

#### And men don't?

I want to promote a gentleman's menu too ... especially massage, which is really huge with men.

**I don't like strangers touching me, but my back hurts. What**

#### would you suggest?

I would start with a chair massage while you're getting a manicure. You don't have to take off any clothing, and the masseuse can lightly rub the neck. Once you have that, you can move on to something else, like arms. Once you start, get a little part done, you get addicted.

#### What's the vibe at Melt?

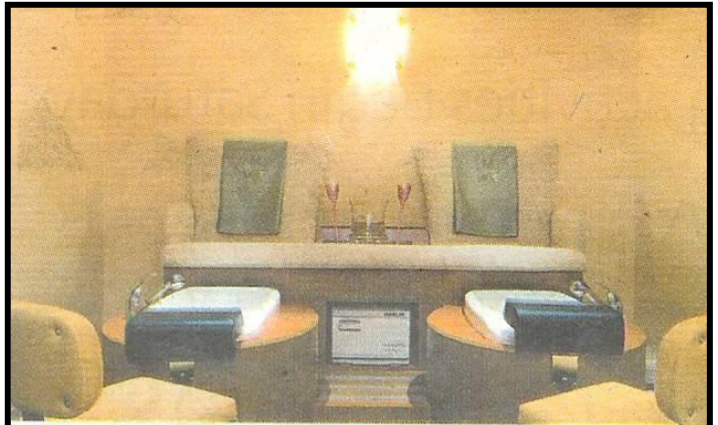
It was an office space beforehand, so I pretty much gutted the whole thing. I realized I was in competition with more than 130 salons on Newbury Street. I decorated it in a very homey way. We have upholstered chairs, artwork on the walls. We serve champagne and strawberries, and no Styrofoam anywhere.

We use satin sheets, satin pillowcases, satin slippers. Very VIP. People that visit have been saying it is like going into your best friend's home, putting your feet up and relaxing.

**You know, I think that if I go into my best friend's home, put up my feet and demand champagne and strawberries, I'm not going to get too far.** [Laughs.] Well, as far as the decor goes, it isn't sterile.

#### Melt

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Melt: Even more chic than your best friend's pad