

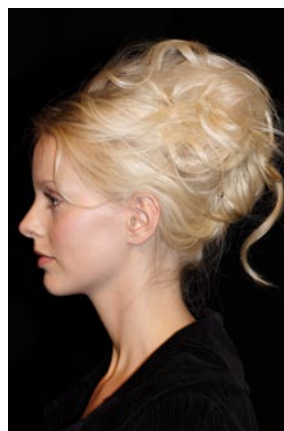
GROOMING: HAIRSTYLE

Eiji Yamane

Big hair may be back, but that's no cause for panic. More wind-blown Bardot than structurally-mystifying Divine, Eiji Yamane's "perfectly imperfect" updos make getting "done up" a less daunting demand. The proprietor of New York's Eiji salon, Yamane—famous for his sculptural "dry-cut" techniques—was commissioned by designer Zang Toi to create a new look to complement his young, edgy, but still uptown Fall 06 collection. The result? Organized chaos that begs for a spring garden party. For DIY imperfection, Eiji offers a few tips: "Use small and big curling irons to create diverse texture. Then just put it up where you want to put it. Half an hour at most." Yes, really. That's all. —JOY MERRIFIELD
Go to www.eiji-newyork.com



EIJI YAMANE: PHOTOGRAPHY BY HAMISH ROBERTSON.



NEW YORK CITY: TISSERIE

Pure cocoa beans are to Venezuela what caviar is to the Caspian Sea. Combine those choice basic ingredients for chocolate with French technique, Japanese-inspired packaging, and a split-level Union Square space designed by David Rockwell, and you've got the brand new Tisserie. Founded by two Venezuelan brothers, Tisserie is the extension of their pastry shop and restaurant, St. Honore, in Caracas. In addition to meeting Manhattan's chocolate needs, the café-restaurant will serve up their own baked breads, including tarts, pastries, and cakes. For a sweet ending to a jaunt at the nearby farmer's market, belly up to the circular coffee bar and indulge. —PAMELADEVI GOVINDA
857 Broadway, NYC.

LOCAL: FAVORITES

Cross-Country Chocolate

Is there a sweet tooth in the world that doesn't like chocolate? If so, we haven't met them yet. But while it's universally loved, every city has its own local obsession. At **Kee's** (80 Thompson St.), an under-the-radar spot in Manhattan, the rich aroma of chocolate envelops you as soon as you walk in. That's because proprietor Kee Ling Tong whips together fresh bonbons every day, with her signature Crème Brulée truffle inevitably selling out before noon. Since its 1998 opening in Chicago, **Vosges** (520 N. Michigan Ave.) has developed a cult following, thanks to Katrina Markoff's use of exotic spices. Her "East meets West" balance folds flavors like Ceylon cinnamon and Sicilian sea salt into dark and milk chocolate truffles. Jonathan Gram, who took over **Comperte's Chocolatier** (912 S. Barrington Ave.) in LA three years ago at the ripe age of 18, has mastered artisanal chocolate-making, left: A recent creation, the raspberry pink peppercorn truffle, was inspired by a salad, of all things. At Boston's **Temper Chocolates** (500 Commonwealth Ave.), Caroline Yeh extends her scope outside her backyard to France, Ecuador, and beyond. "We specialize in the hard-to-find stuff," she says. Hungry yet? —AMY THOMAS



TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL

Before the annual slew of recycled summer blockbusters hits the theaters, cineastes can soak up the best in indie film at the Tribeca Film Festival from April 25–May 7. The fest has seen a meteoric rise in popularity and power since its 2002 founding by Robert De Niro and Jane Rosenthal as a way to spotlight New York City as a major filmmaking center and reinvigorate the area surrounding Ground Zero. The official lineup is released in late March, but expect more winners like 2005's *Transamerica*. —DEIRDRE CORLEY
Go to www.tribecafilmfestival.org



MUSIC: SPRING SOUNDS

Three New Albums

Few bands have stirred the music scene recently more than the **Editors**, a Birmingham, U.K.–based four-piece with their own brand of Britpop brooding. With one foot in Joy Division–esque melancholy and another firmly planted in the 80s, the Editors' sharp guitar hooks laced with singeing vocals are welcome reverberation. Their debut album, *The Back Room*, gets its U.S. release this month. Turning your frown upside-down is the resplendent candy-pop of fellow Brits **The Boy Least Likely To**. Weaving acerbic lyrics into bouncy melodies, their colorful debut *The Best Party Ever* lives up to its title. Sweden's **The Concretes** are anything but grey on their second album, *In Colour*. The album is drenched in lush harmonies perfect for rainy Sundays. —ANDI TERAN

