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Three summer hairstyles by Lulu Locks, owner of the Providence salon Suite Tart. From left: The Topknot, the Fishtail Updo, and the French Twist Revisited. The Providence Journal/Bob Thayer



By Jenna Pelletier / Journal Staff Writer  
Posted May 24, 2015 at 12:01 AM



## No-fuss tips for hair, makeup, tanning, swimsuits and eyewear.

Glowing skin, bare legs, big shades. It's easy to conjure up that carefree summer look, but — especially after the harsh winter we had this year — it can take some effort to achieve it. Here's a cheat sheet with five ways to look fabulous this season.

### 1. Pull your hair off your neck

When it's 90 degrees outside, the last thing you want to do is hold a hot hair dryer over your head only to have sweat and humidity ruin your look moments after you've stepped out the door.

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"The thing with humidity is it's an amplifier," says hairstylist Lulu Locks. "If your hair is big, it'll make it bigger. If it's straight, it'll make it straighter."

Locks, owner of Providence salon Suite Tart, has a solution: Easy updos.

She offers three looks that can be replicated at home on damp or dry hair:

#### Topknot

Place a ponytail elastic anywhere you want to see a topknot — the higher the better. Tease the whole thing by backcombing (curly haired girls can skip this step). Spread hair around the elastic so there is an even distribution of hair in all directions (think sea anemone). Tuck the ends under with bobby pins, or if your hair is long, roll them under, then pin. Use a few extra pins to shape the topknot. Finish with hairspray.

#### Fishtail Updo

Start by applying dry shampoo. Using all of the hair, create a fishtail braid behind one ear. A fishtail is a simple braid done with two sections. A small piece is removed from the back of one and added to the top of the other. Once the braid is complete, add an elastic and then pin it across your back hairline.

#### French Twist Revisited

Part hair. Gently twist and fold a small section (about 3 inches wide) at the hairline on one side of the part and pin it. Pick up the next section and fold it into the same shape. Repeat on opposite side of part. Lastly, roll the hair, adding a little at a time, across your back hairline. Continue to twist until the ends are over one ear or the other. Secure with pins.

Suite Tart, 150R Broadway, Providence. (401) 272-8278, [suitetart.com](http://suitetart.com).

### 2. Get a sunless tan

Concerns about skin cancer and premature aging have turned many sunbathers into spray-tan devotees.

It's possible that no one applies more faux glows in Rhode Island than Cassandra Capararo of Glistening Goddesses. During the busy season, she can spend up to 12 hours a day spraying clients with custom formulas that come with a "no orange" guarantee.

Capararo, who has worked with fitness competitors and pageant queens including former Miss Universe Olivia Culpo, offers some tips on how to get the most out of a spray tan:

— Before your tan, exfoliate the skin and do not apply oils, lotions or sunscreen.

— Avoid sweating, exercising or getting wet after you are sprayed and before you rinse off the formula.

— Post-tan, moisturize twice a day with an unscented lotion.

Glistening Goddesses has locations at 622 Killingly St., Johnston and in the Arcade Providence, 65 Weybosset St., Providence. (401) 454-4569, [glisteninggoddesses.com](http://glisteninggoddesses.com).

### 3. Pick up a Rhode Island-designed swimsuit

Florida native Artiss Akarra has brought a bit of Miami Beach to Rhode Island.

The clothing and accessories designer recently turned an old bread truck into a sleek mobile shop for his Eight-United Republic brand. He retrofitted it with modern fixtures, a dressing room and racks filled with swimsuits and cover-ups.

Akarra designs the suits in Lincoln and has them manufactured in Brazil. He offers about 30 different women's styles, plus some men's options. They range from high-waisted retro bikinis to colorful one-pieces to itty-bitty Brazilians in notice-me prints.

And if you can't find one that's just right? Give him a few weeks, and he'll customize one of his existing designs with your choice of fabric and cup preferences (padding? underwire?). Ready-to-wear swimwear costs \$90-\$138 and custom suits cost \$150.

The Rhode Island School of Design grad also sells about two dozen styles of his Eight Optics eyewear and some ready-to-wear clothing.

The location of the truck can be tracked via [its Facebook page](#): Eight-United Republic Affair. Upcoming stops include Providence's Vanity Supper Club on May 24 from noon to 5 p.m. and the Providence Flea on June 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Akarra is also expected to park his mobile showroom at beaches throughout the state as the weather heats up.

### 4. Find a flattering pair of sunglasses

What's the best frame shape for my face? That's the question Lynne Diamante is most frequently asked at her Johnston eyewear boutique OPTX Rhode Island.

It's simple, she says: First, hold a handheld mirror up to your face. Then, trace the outline of it using lipstick or liner. "You will see a very distinct shape," she says.

In general, frames with opposite characteristics will look most flattering. For example, those with round faces should opt for angular lines, including rectangular frames. On the other hand, rounded or oval shaped sunglasses will balance a rectangular face.

Diamante, a former Miss Rhode Island who appeared last summer on the Bravo reality program "Game of Thrones," recommends cat-eye and aviator shades for a heart-shaped face. Oblong faces are flattered by oversized pairs, as well as wayfarer styles.

As far as trends go, expect to see over-the-top embellishments (rhinestones, nail heads and charms) on sunglasses; blue and orange shades; retro-hipster styles made out of acetate; fabric on frames; and brightly colored mirrored lenses.

OPTX, 1277 Hartford Ave., Johnston. (401) 521-6789, [optxrhodeisland.com](http://optxrhodeisland.com).

### 5. Soften your makeup

Skip the bold colors and harsh lines for a few months. Summer calls for a light hand with makeup, says makeup artist Danielle Bisbano. Think soft washes of color on the cheeks and glossy lips.

Here's how to achieve Bisbano's ideal summer look:

— Start by applying a tinted moisturizer with sunscreen, such as Dew Skin by Beautycounter.

— Add a cream blush such as Besame Creame Rouge, in Apricot or Crimson, to cheeks and lips.

— Line top and lower lash lines with a gold or brown eye pencil such as Pixi Endless Silky Eye Pen in Copper Glow or Beautycounter Color Outline Eye Pencil in Brown. Apply mascara.

— Swipe lips with a gloss or tinted balm. Bisbano is a fan of Burt's Bees products including the brand's Lip Shine in Pucker and Tinted Lip Balm in Forest Flower.

— Prevent makeup meltdown by spraying the face with a finishing spray such as Skindinavia Makeup Finishing Spray.

More quick tips:

— Apply sunscreen as a first step before other makeup.

— If you tend to be oily, use blotting papers to absorb excess shine.

— Choose a matte bronzer over a shimmery one to avoid a "disco ball effect."

— Revive skin with a rosewater spray such as Reviva Labs Rosewater Facial Spray. This formula has plumping hyaluronic acid.

Danielle Bisbano Makeup Artistry, (401) 862-3025, [daniellebisbano.com](http://daniellebisbano.com).

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