

Cut

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C'est un salon hors du temps, à contre-poil de ses aseptisés concurrents. Ici, le barbier est une femme... et cela change tout.



La porte s'ouvre, rue Meyerbeer, sur un univers subtilement désuet, apaisant et convivial. Le royaume d'Annick Laborde se décline sur fond de jazz feutré, de vieux bois et de lourds fauteuils de fonte habillés de chrome et de cuirs rouge framboise. Douce chaleur des serviettes encore fumantes et accueil tout sourire: Madame le barbier, pétillante et généreuse en impeccable tablier de jardinier, suscite tantôt la surprise, tantôt la confiance, toujours les confidences entre deux coups de ciseaux ou de coupe-chou. Le geste est sûr et la main délicate. Le temps s'arrête. Et la magie opère...

La légende raconte qu'Absalon, fils du Roi David, courut à sa perte en emmêlant sa longue chevelure aux branches d'un chêne. Rien d'étonnant à ce qu'Annick, grande prêtresse de la coupe masculine, reprenne son nom au fronton du salon. "J'ai eu la chance d'apprendre le métier avec un passionné, même ce qui ne se faisait plus... comme la barbe. Pas facile pour une femme, les clients sont un peu surpris la première fois, mais les préjugés s'envolent vite, très vite..." Comment résister au col en crépon à l'ancienne, au mythique savon à barbe "Crabtree & Evelyn" à l'huile d'amande douce, au bain d'eau parfumée à la fleur d'oranger pour éteindre les derniers feux du rasoir ? L'atmosphère est propice aux discussions : Annick connaît sa clientèle sur le bout des doigts, s'enquiert de la santé des enfants, des derniers voyages, distille quelques conseils pour mieux découvrir

Nice. Seul sacrifice à la tradition : un coupe-chou à lames interchangeable pour garantir une parfaite hygiène. "Pour le reste, je voulais vraiment un salon pour hommes à l'ancienne. J'adore mes "Belmont" des années 50, la Roll's des fauteuils, récupérés chez un vieux coiffeur. Tout est d'origine." Et tout est passion chez ce petit bout de femme...

Rue Meyerbeer depuis 20 ans
Sa clientèle ? "Beaucoup d'Italiens bien sûr. La barbe fait partie intégrante de leur culture." Mais c'est un Australien qui pousse la porte du salon, pour une coupe "court joli". Il est mécanicien dans l'aviation, et chaque escale niçoise le ramène inévitablement chez Annick. "Parfois, je rase de très jeunes gens qui n'ont pas encore de barbe ! Qu'importe, c'est le cérémonial qui les fascine." Parmi les habitués, quelques "people" détendus et connaisseurs, comme Jim Care, le chanteur des Simple Minds, discret et fidèle. "Ils sont tous adorables. Lorsqu'ils partent à l'étranger, ils me reviennent avec des photos de barbiers du monde entier. C'est un peu comme si je voyageais, moi aussi." Contre le comptoir trône le fauteuil d'enfant, avec sa tête de cheval façon manège au milieu du siège, déniché chez un antiquaire voisin. Une pièce unique qu'Annick a longtemps cherchée. Blaireaux et ciseaux ont pris possession des lieux. Ils sont partout, se reflètent à l'infini dans les miroirs... Magique ! Et Annick, depuis 20 ans, règne sur ce petit coin de monde surgi du passé, un havre de paix et de douceur. A rebrousse-poil de l'agitation extérieure.

Rue Meyerbeer depuis 20 ans

Meyerbeer Street for 20 years
Her customers ? "Many Italian people, of course. Beard is an integral part of their culture". But it's an Australian dude who is entering her saloon for a "short and nice" cut. He is a mechanic in civil aviation, and each time he lands in Nice, he never misses to visit Annick's saloon. "I sometimes shave off very young men who are almost beardless ! But who cares ?! Above all, they are fascinated by the ceremonial" Along the regular visitors, some relaxed and expert "V.I.P.", as Jim Care, the Simple Minds's singer who is discreet and has been faithful to Absalon for many years. "All of them are so sweet. Whenever they go abroad, they always come back with photos of barbers and men's hairdressers they've taken all over the world. In a way, they allow me to travel with them". Leaning against the counter, there's a horse-headed children's chair, bought at a neighbouring antique dealer's. Annick had been searching this unique piece for a long time. Shaving brushes and chisels have taken possession of the place. There are everywhere and are endlessly reflected in the mirrors ... It's magic !
And for 20 years, Annick has been reigning supreme over this tiny part of the world, this peace and sweetness haven, which is so far from the outside unrest.

Meyerbeer street, the door opens on a subtly old-fashioned, soothing and friendly atmosphere. Annick Laborde's kingdom smells muffled jazz, old wooden and cast-iron armchairs trimmed with chrome and raspberry-red leather. The smooth heat of steaming towels welcomes you. Misses the Barber, with her unique smile and sparking eyes looks so generous in her gardener's apron that she arouses surprise as well as confidence, and maybe that's why she is often told some secrets between two haircuts. Her gestures are graceful and her hand is sensitive. Then, time stops and magic starts... A legend tells that Absalon, King David's son, had almost been heading for disaster when one day, his long hair was caught in an oak's branches. As Annick has been known as the famous priestess of men's haircuts, you won't be surprised to learn that she has given him a tribute by calling her saloon by his name. "I was really lucky because I learn my job with the help of a passionate man who even taught me how to cut beards. I must admit that this is not easy for a woman. The first time, customers are a bit surprised but fortunately, prejudices quickly evaporate as time goes by..." You will fall in love with the old-fashioned tick-crape collar, the mythic sweet almond oil "Crabtree & Evelyn" shaving soap and the orange blossom water that calms down the safety razor's heat. This pleasant atmosphere loosens tongues : Annick knows her customers at her fingertips, their children's health, their latest trips and she is used to give them good advice to discover Nice. The only sacrifice to tradition is that

she chooses to use interchangeable razor blades for perfect hygiene. "Apart from that, I really make it a point of honour to own an old-fashioned men's saloon. I'm fond of my "Belmont" dating back from the 50's, the armchairs' Roll's, bought at a former hairdresser's. Everything is of origin". And when you listen and look at this small and engaging woman, you understand that for her, everything rhymes with passion ...

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This is an out of time saloon, so far from its sterile competitors. Here, the barber is ... a woman and that makes the whole difference.

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