



Best place to buy make-up and skincare goodies
Jeffre Scott Apothecary

Jeffre Scott, a cosmetics-branding guru from New York City, chose Charlotte for his first retail store. Located next to the Manor Theatre, Jeffre Scott Apothecary carries mineral make-up lines by Susan Posnick and Alison Raffaele, Dr. Lewinn's line of luxurious skincare products (love the self-tanner), lip wear by Wallet, plus Zinnia's line of sweet-smelling soy candles. If you're intimidated by mineral make-up, no worries—Scott and his staff will educate you on how to apply it as they pamper you. Also, check out the men's goods, with skin and hair care products from Philip B. and True Gentleman.

607 Providence Road, 704-339-0010

the denim collection online (www.bellyelan.com) and use it to create a wishlist for your upcoming baby shower. 5349 Ballantyne Commons Parkway, 704-844-8820

Luxe bed linens
Isabella

Your bedroom is your oasis and should be designed as such with plush, super-soft bed linens. With options from Dwell, Frette, Signoria, and Peacock Alley, owners Erin Dougherty and Kristen Cox have established their cozy boutique as a go-to shop. Intricately embroidered duvets, silky smooth throw pillows, and extraordi-

narily soft cotton and sateen sheets are among Isabella's many other bed linens while home accessories like scented lotions from Lady Primrose, Slatkin candles, fragrant boxed soaps by Rance, antique furniture, classy lingerie, cashmere throws, and lighting round out the other options. A bonus: Cox, an Allied Member of ASID, can help bring all the pieces together to create that relaxing retreat in your home.

715 Providence Road
 704-377-4919

Garden nursery
Pike Family Nursery

On any given Saturday, Pike

Family Nursery turns into a family playground. Wide indoor aisles complement the vast array of greenery outside. It's an inviting, casual shop with an independently owned feel even though it's an established operation in Birmingham and Atlanta. Pike is large enough to carry just about every gardening item, plant, herb, and small tree known to man, but small enough to offer individual attention to its many customers. And get this: A member of Pike's design staff will come to your home or office to personally design your landscape. Perfect for a household plagued by a black thumb.

12630 N. Community House Road, 704-341-7453

Place for kitchen gizmos and gadgets
Cooking Uptown

Tucked away on the corner of Seventh and Hawthorne streets is the most fantastic and inviting kitchen supply shop in town. Though its thousands of products may be overwhelming at first, after a few visits you'll include Cooking Uptown as a line item on your annual budget. Owner Karen Cooley offers only the best—Wusthof knives, Emile Henry cookware, Gaggia espresso machines, and even her own line of spices. If she doesn't have what you need, she'll find it. Sign up for a Saturday cooking class or Girls Night Out series where you'll learn from the pros how to get the most out of your Cooking Uptown purchase.

1707 E. Seventh Street
 704-333-7300

Chic, affordable furniture
Boulevard Bazaar

The owners here go on a weekly hunt for great finds to restock their warehouse with classy furniture goods that make you

wonder why you ever drove to High Point instead. Open to the public on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, this South End-area spot boasts beautiful bed frames from Highland House and Century armoires in addition to cool accessories like weathered wooden mirrors for the dining room or foyer. Upholstery services are also offered with a four- to six-week turnaround time and interior designers are always on hand to help with your selections.

3021 Griffith Street
 704-527-4223

Place to buy your basics
American Apparel

Everyone has a favorite tee, the go-to wardrobe item for running errands and watching rainy-day movies. Joining South End's eclectic boutique offerings, American Apparel is straight out of L.A. but without the designer price tag. Cotton, Spandex, and a combination of both can be found in V-necks, crew necks, long and short sleeves, and even a few very 1980s leggings, which are offered in every color of the rainbow...and then some. The main reason American Apparel is a winner: All clothing is designed, manufactured, and marketed in "Made in the USA" fashion.

1504 Camden Road
 704-342-6040

Place for a hostess gift
Blis

Blis's apple-green bags are unmistakable among Charlotte's uptown businesswomen. It's the must-stop shop for a last-minute shower or hostess gift, and an easy five-minute browsing break during lunch hour. Give the embroidered blankets and towels, fragrant bath soaps, and