

THE BEACH

Known for its strip of independent shops and homey restaurants, this lakeside community exudes timeless, small-town charm just east of Toronto's downtown.

Light fixtures crafted from industrial whisks are just one of the many alluring details that Tori Vaccher has incorporated into her eponymous **Tori's Bakeshop** (page 52). Here you'll feel at home ordering delectable donuts, pies and more that cater to everyone's needs: each item is organic and vegan-friendly, and there's a large selection of gluten-free products, too. 2188 Queen St. E., 647-350-6500; www.torisbakeshop.ca.

The red facade of **Arts on Queen** adds a whimsical touch to The Beach streetscape, as do the gallery boutique's Canadian art, jewellery and decorative pieces. It all comes together rather, well, artfully—no wonder the shop has been open for more than 25 years. 2198 Queen St. E., 416-699-6127; www.artsonkingandqueen.com.

A visit to **Luberon**, a quaint, Parisian-style housewares boutique, is like taking a little stroll down a European boulevard. All the products here are inspired by—and sourced from—French regions like Provence and Marseille, and range from table accessories and gourmet spreads to cards and other stationery. 2240A Queen St. E., 416-693-7373; www.luberon.ca.

Decorated with antique-inspired garden tools, faux grass flooring and wood accents, **Moo Milk Bar** matches fresh-air ambience with its terrific selection of all-natural baked goods. In only its first year of business this distinctive milk-and-cookies concept has already become a local fave, with a daily selection of almost 20 types of cookies and 15 milk flavours. 1918A Queen St. E., 647-343-4272; www.moomilkbar.ca.



Beat the heat at **Ed's Real Scoop** (page 52), the area's coolest ice cream parlour. Owner Ed Francis's frosty shop has been a Beach favourite for more than a decade—and not just in the summer! His eclectic offerings include ice cream flavours like Guinness Stout and Maple Bacon Crunch, plus gelato, frozen yogurt, chocolate treats and more, all house-made with *real* ingredients. 2224 Queen St. E., 416-699-6100; www.edsrealscoop.com.



On the edge of Kew Gardens, sophisticated bistro **Amuse** (page 58) is a lovely spot for romantics to refine their palates. The stylish dining room provides intimacy for indulging in dishes like Cornish hen, pork back ribs and spring leg of lamb. Even though you're eating out, you're sure to feel right at home. 1975A Queen St. E., 416-694-0004; www.amusetoronto.com.

The front windows of **Green Eggplant** are lined with lovely floral arrangements, and swing open to encourage a gentle, fragrant breeze. At once airy yet cozy, the popular Beach eatery dishes out large portions of Mediterranean-inspired family favourites. 1968 Queen St. E., 416-913-3361; www.greeneggplant.com.

A unique boutique for the craft-inclined, **Beadworks** (page 52) features a wall-to-wall selection of, what else, beads! Awaken your creativity by handpicking your own beads of bone, clay, wood, glass, crystal, metal and more—they're all excellent for stringing together to make one-of-a-kind accessories. 2154 Queen St. E., 416-693-0780; www.beadworksjo.com.

 The Beach neighbourhood lies along the Lake Ontario shore, naturally, at the eastern end of what would be considered "central" Toronto. To get there, simply board the eastbound 501 Queen streetcar—in good traffic, it's about a 25-minute ride from downtown.