

you've got nothing to store inside them. The stores also offer free closet planning for their best-selling elfa shelving systems. During January's annual sale, elfa gear is discounted 30 percent—just in time for New Year's clean-out-the-closet resolutions.

**BEST PERSONAL SHOPPING SERVICE**

**Plaid Monkey**  
(404) 252-0704,  
www.plaidmonkey.com  
With the motto, "If we can send a monkey to the moon—we can send it shopping," it's obvious that owner Robanne Schulman enjoys her job. She's creative, resourceful and fun, making a point to find unusual, innovative purchases for her shopping-averse clientele.

**BEST AUTO BENEFITS**

**Atlanta Classic Cars**  
1705 Boggs Road, Duluth,  
(770) 279-3600,  
www.atlantaclassiccars.com  
Dubbed the Disneyland of car dealerships, the new \$15 million Atlanta Classic Cars facility in Duluth keeps you busy

**READERS' PICKS**

**BEST CAR WASH** *Cactus Car Wash*  
**BEST VET** *Briardcliff Animal Hospital*  
**BEST ALTERATIONS/TAILOR** *Gill's Alterations*

**WHY OUR READERS LOVE THEM:**  
Tracy Noble, a 32-year-old mother of two, voted for Gill's because her mom used them when she was growing up. Now she uses them as well. She finds that they are "always on time," "always do things right" and that they are "courteous."

while you wait for your Mercedes to be serviced. There's a putting green, driving range, workout room (plus well-equipped shower, of course) and T1 lines for your laptop. "I think a lot of people equate going to the car dealer with going to the dentist," says owner Cathy Ellis. "We thought a lot of things could be done in an hour or two."

**BEST PERSONAL CHEF**

**Cathy Luce**  
(404) 786-8799,  
http://uspca.net/ga/magicalmeals/index.html  
Rattling off the list of fancy dishes she can make, Luce admits her clients' favorite meals are often her homemade chunky spaghetti sauce (like mom makes it) and her

pot roast. Luce, who helped pioneer the personal chef niche in Atlanta, arrives in a home toting her own pots, pans and ingredients, whips up several meals, labels them in containers, places them in the freezer, cleans up the kitchen and disappears. "It's like the food fairies have been there," she says. You get four to five servings of multiple meals for \$400 and that includes groceries and storage containers.

**BEST MORNING TIME-SAVER** *Lash & Brow Tint at Natural Body Day Spa*

Multiple locations, including 225 E. Ponce de Leon Ave., Suite 150, Decatur, (404) 370-1330  
Painless application of vegetable dyes: \$40  
Not jabbing a mascara wand in your eyeball on GA-400: Priceless  
All aestheticians are trained in the safe, pain-free process, but we're partial to Brooke at the Decatur location.

**BEST WINE SHOP FOR NOVICES** *The Grape*

4300 Paces Ferry Road, Suite 244, (770) 803-WINE,  
www.thegrape-at.com  
The clever numbering system categorizes wines from one (light body whites with fruity flavor) to 10 (full-body reds for special occasions), making it easy for even the most wine-impaired shoppers to select something to suit their tastes. What's best, this Vinings shop moves beyond the usual suspects to lesser-known, small-production vineyards from around the world. If you're still not sure, the cozy wine bar next door will give you a complimentary sip. ☺

**BEST PLACE TO BUY FRESH PASTA** *Via Elisa*

1750-C Howell Mill Road,  
(404) 605-0668, www.viaelisa.com  
Phone, e-mail or fax ahead to place your order, and get the same tortelloni with ricotta and lemon or roasted winter squash pasta as some of the best restaurants in town do.

**BEST PICNIC BASKET GOODIES** *Star Provisions*

1198 Howell Mill Road,  
(404) 365-0410,  
www.starprovisions.com  
Gourmet cured meats, perfect cheeses from around the world, fresh bread, adorable desserts, penny candies and a marvelous range of tablewares from napkins to glasses, candles and party favors allow for total spur-of-the-moment creativity. Should you want to grill, the foie gras burgers are sure to impress.

**BEST ETHNIC TAKEOUT** *Zyka*

1677 Scott Blvd., Decatur,  
(404) 728-4444, www.zyka.com  
Fiery chicken dishes, fragrant vegetables, floppy rounds of fresh naan (tandoori bread) and basmati rice are worth lining up for.

**BEST CULINARY CELEBRITY TAKEOUT**

*Wolfgang Puck Express*  
1745 Peachtree St.,  
(404) 815-1500  
The cheerful Austrian mega-chef is grinning on the screen above the counter where you order his signature dishes, from Chinois chicken salad to wonderful little pizzas with smoked salmon and dill cream—all cleverly packaged for you to take home.

**BEST NEW DRIVE-THRU**

*Rolling Bones Premium Pit BBQ*  
377 Edgewood Ave.,  
(404) 222-2324  
Located in a meticulously restored 1940s service station just around the corner from the King Center, this savvy newcomer dispenses whole pit-roasted chickens, chopped pork and Texas-style beef to a hungry crowd.

