

Ola!

Getting Glammed Up at a Cool, Coastal Coiffing Spot to Get Cut, Colored, and Styled

BY MARITZA COSANO
PHOTOS: ADDIEL PERERA

Going to a hair salon to get glam is like a wrinkle in time. It's a moment set aside for self-care, pampering, and attention in a busy world. For many of us, several factors contribute to this feeling.

Like hair color, the best hair salons in the world have a formula comprised of a perfect science—exceptional expertise, a personalized and luxurious client experience, innovative techniques, high-end products, and a strong reputation built on expertise and an engaged clientele.

At Ola Hair Salon, the name, which is the Spanish word for “sea wave or swell”, sets you at ease. Before you step indoors, you stand at a plaza surrounded by a blend of coffee, flowers, and delicious Mexican food near the Flamingo Park historic district in West Palm Beach. Once an industrial setting with sharp lines and clinically white walls, owner and hairstylist Tiffany Kiriakidis transformed her salon into a stunning, calm, and pleasing space, meticulously designed

to create a peaceful and luxurious client experience.

The effect was achieved by orchestrating a harmonious blend of aesthetics and sensory details, such as the soft blue and white hues and scents of the sea. Muted golds and greens contrast with tropical rattan furnishings, creating the illusion of paradise with a serene, coastal, relaxed [Piña Colada by the ocean moment] and laid-back atmosphere, which lines up beautifully with WPB's seaside culture.

The salon's chic, modern yet classic and sophisticated style is carried throughout, even to the restroom, set aside behind a newly built-in wall for extra privacy. As you sit on her chair, you see the reflection in the mirror of an elegant white crystal chandelier overhead, casting soft shadows on a large mural of a woman's profile that looks like you, any woman seeking a relaxing and welcoming sanctuary. Kiriakidis commissioned local artist, Megan James, to paint this custom-made art piece.

Born and raised in Connecticut, a daughter of Puerto Rican parents, Kiriakidis, who married a Greek entrepreneur named Niko Kiriakidis, focuses on understanding and enhancing each client's unique hair texture and needs. As a teenager, she was the girl next door, who loved giving her girlfriends the best “updos” in town. She attended a performing arts school, dreaming of a career on Broadway as a vocalist. However, when her dreams were dashed due to financial constraints, she quickly pivoted to the art of hair, determined to make that her new stage. And while her husband is an entrepreneur who owns various businesses, including his family's Greek restaurant in Connecticut, she aspired to have a company of her own. Moving to Florida in 2021 provided a new landscape. But what would she call it? She thought. Three years later, after building her clientele in West Palm Beach, that thought returned.

What's in a Name?

“One day, my family and I were driving by the beach, and I was staring out the





window while the waves were clashing,” recalled Kiriakidis. “It was a beautiful, sunny, warm day on an Easter Sunday, and we wanted to go take pictures with the kids by the water. I was staring at the ocean, and I thought, I wish I could have my salon’s name be significant with the ocean. The beach is everything to me. I’m Latina, I’m Puerto Rican, an island in the Caribbean! The ocean runs through my blood. So, I thought, Ola.”

As the one-syllable word rolled softly off her tongue, she suddenly gasped. Just two months prior, Niko had told her to name the salon Ola, which in Greek means “all is well; everyone welcome; everything is okay.” Back in the day, the Greeks used to stamp the

shipping boxes at the shipyards, Ola kala. Everything’s okay.

This was a resounding message for Kiriakidis, who had gone through some trials that year. “On a spiritual level, someone upstairs was talking to me, telling me, everything’s going to be okay. That’s the name for your salon. So, that’s the long-winded story of how the name came about,” she said.

What Clients Say

Ola, which also sounds like the word “hello” in Spanish, is a name that has caught the attention of locals who have discovered her talents, personal attention, warm personality, and

contagious sense of humor.

“I surprised my wife with a gift to get her hair done at Ola Salon, and she absolutely loved it! Tiffany, the owner, and her amazing team went above and beyond to make her feel welcome and pampered. The salon is stunning, beautifully designed, calm, and relaxing. My wife couldn’t be happier with the experience and will definitely be back!” Said Pantelis D.

For many people, especially women at various stages of life, who suffer from thinning hair or other hair issues, Kiriakidis has been a cornerstone since she opened her salon in November 2024.

A woman named Sue said, “I have suffered with extremely thinning hair for years and now, most recently, complete loss. For years, previous hairdressers told me there was nothing they could do. Within a couple of visits, Tiffany recognized that she had a solution that could give me hope for a normal life. She worked with me on several options as to how she could help when no one else had, and even seemed willing to try. From the very first moment the hair topper was placed on my head, my self-confidence has never been the same.”

Before & After

As a hairdresser, Kiriakidis finds pleasure in helping people like Sue, seeing the transformation that happens. “When the client walks in, and you see grays, different elements, dimensions, and textures. You see all these different things coming at you on one person’s head. And you have to try to formulate one formula to basically give you your outcome. When I first graduated from hair school, I worked at a salon assisting in the color department. I would shampoo the color down and see how it would transform the ends of the hair. When I applied the toner, I would see how the hair would change again. Something clicked. I feel like a scientist, I thought.” And that was the beginning of her fascination with the science behind hair color.

Some people don’t give hairdressers credit that they are indeed scientists, experimenting with formulas that combine elements of chemistry and color theory to achieve specific results. The process involves chemical reactions, such as the oxidation of

melanin pigments produced in hair follicles and transferred to hair cells to lighten hair and the bonding of new dyes to create different colors. For Kiriakidis, who loves art and mixing colors, each client is like a new canvas set against a coastal setting.

“I love the beautiful finishing style at the end, and the way it transforms the person,” she said. “Just being there with the client, connecting the whole time, remembering how they looked when they walked in, how they were feeling, and seeing their emotions in the before and after pictures I take. You can see it’s like an emotional thing for them. When you do all of that formulation, cutting, styling, and you see them leave, you see the transformation in their face, soul, and in their character.”

In an industry that’s forever evolving, Kiriakidis tries to follow the trends, but at the end of the day, she remembers to go back to the basics. A client might be asking for something that they’re looking at on social media, and what they’re seeing looks perfect for that person’s complexion, but perhaps not on them. So, while trends can be fun, great, and cool, she always advises her clients on what’s right for them.

In those moments, and like most hairdressers who find themselves at times to be therapists of sorts, mainly because salon settings foster trust and intimacy, Kiriakidis practices her professionalism, but also enjoys the strong relationships she’s made with her clients to guide them well.

“There’s this special bond that happens between clients and hairdressers,” she said. “The trust that

you have in your hairdresser is like no other. And it stems from: Okay, this person takes care of me. When I leave, I feel beautiful, better, and uplifted. And then there’s also the trust factor. We have our bodies, hearts, souls, brains, memories, all of that, right? But what’s on the outside reflects everything on the inside. So, we joke around all the time and say that people trust their hairdresser more than their doctor. It’s a joke, obviously, because I cannot save someone’s life.”

But she can get you glammed up! Kiriakidis recalled again that story when she got all her girlfriends dolled up for their prom, but didn’t have enough time for her hair, so she went with a ponytail.

“It’s my most prideful moment because everybody felt so good on their way to prom. And that’s what I live for. I had kids really young, and some people say, Oh, why did you do that? Do you regret that? No, because now I am where I am with my kids, the ages that they are, and it’s perfection. Everything happened for a reason. That’s my playbook. Ola. Ola. Yes, everything’s going to be okay.”

No more bad hair days! Getting glammed up at Ola is what every woman needs after a busy day. And ladies, I’m not just the writer of this story; I’m also an Ola client.

Editor’s Note: Ola is located at 2612 Florida Ave. in West Palm Beach. Online at olasalon.beauty.