

# *Khoobsurat*

Salon and Spa

*Beautiful in any language*



To step into Khoobsurat Salon and Spa in Santa Rosa, California, is to step into a world of peace and possibilities, a magical, serene oasis that beckons one to relax, to let go of the cares of the world, and surrender to peace and pampering.

Soft light and music soothe the senses when entering Khoobsurat, but the welcoming, warm smile of owner Leena Mahal provides the best clue that in Khoobsurat you have found a home away from home, a place of friendship and laughter; a place to let your guard down and lift your spirits up.

Leena has always had, in her words, “A spirit of service.” As a young girl growing up in Punjab, in northwest India, Leena would practice doing makeup, cooking, and serving others, including doing her mother’s chores so her mother could relax.

Raised to be “a good daughter, sister, wife, and mother,” Leena nevertheless always had a strong voice inside her that “had a mind of its own.” As a girl, attending private schools in India, Leena excelled in sports. She participated in running and badminton, routinely besting kids who were years older. Later, in boarding school, Leena trained hard and competed nationally in basketball, winning, in 1989, a gold medal for best scorer in all of India. Her participation in sports came to an abrupt end when she was injured in a game.

After school, Leena married and moved to Cleveland, Ohio, with her new husband. They had two boys together, but the marriage lasted just four years. Leena, now a single mother, headed west with her sons and found a home in Santa Rosa, California.

Leena and her sons settled in their new life together. Leena found a position as a receptionist at a massage studio. She studied under the owner and earned her own certification as a massage



**Khoobsurat owner  
Leena Mahal**

therapist. Later, she started a janitorial service, called Taj Mahal Janitorial. “I wanted to find something that would give me the flexibility to be there for my kids,” she said. Doing mostly commercial janitorial work, Leena’s business quickly grew to employ eight people. During this time she also studied and became a Certified Nursing Assistant and worked providing home care for the elderly. All of this hard work enabled her to spend time with her boys and send them to private schools in the area.

One day Leena decided to attend cosmetology school, and everything changed. “I was working 10-hour days and then heading to school half asleep,” Leena said, laughing. “But even though I was tired, when I walked in to that classroom I suddenly felt alive and excited and I knew that this was what I wanted to do. It would

allow me make a living while serving others.” She smiled and added, “I still have the heart of a servant. If I rub your feet, I don’t feel *less*, I feel *more* of who I am.”

After graduating from cosmetology school Leena bought the latest in skin care equipment and rented a station at a local spa. But it wasn’t long until she decided that in order to fulfill her dream she would have to open her own spa. In 2009, she opened Khoobsurat Salon and Spa. Khoobsurat means beautiful in Leena’s first language, Hindi.

Beautiful, though, means more to Leena than just appearances. “Beauty goes so

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much deeper than outer beauty,” she said. “The word can apply to anything. Here at Khoobsurat Salon, we understand that inner beauty and peace are as important as outer appearances.”

From the beginning, Leena wanted to provide more than just spa services. She wanted to create a safe place where her clients could be themselves and let go of fear and judgment.

“We have a very personal relationship with our clients,” said Leena. “We’ve created a safe space for them, a space where they can stop and embrace themselves. After all, we need to love ourselves or we can’t love others. We become part of our clients’ lives; we provide comfort and friendship.”

Soft-spoken and quick to smile, Leena is understandably pleased with what she has created. From humble beginnings, today Khoobsurat Salon and Spa has seven specialists providing a wide range of services, including several types of massage—Swedish, hot stone, Shiatsu,

deep tissue, and aromatherapy—skin and hair care, teeth whitening, permanent makeup, nail care, waxing and threading, and more. But for Leena, it’s more than giving the highest quality service; it’s about giving back.

“People tend not to acknowledge themselves,” she said. “My biggest gift is my heart and faith. I’m a big believer that we attract what we create in our lives—what you put out is what comes back. This is what we offer our clients—a chance to create a more beautiful life, inside and out.”

Leena’s eyes flash when she speaks of her life’s work. She emphasizes that to her it’s about putting her heart and soul into serving every client. Her business philosophy is to give every customer more than what they came in for, more than they expected. To Leena, there is a spiritual element to this; for her, it’s about imparting more happiness to another without waiting to be asked.

Not wanting to turn anyone away because of financial stress, Leena works on a sliding scale. “We can work with any budget. We want them to come in—we’ll work with them. It feels good to give to others.” She donates regularly to local charities and supports the community whenever possible. It’s part of her philosophy of giving back.

Khoobsurat Salon and Spa is a place to rest, relax, and rejuvenate, a comforting sanctuary in a harried world. It’s a place of and for beauty of all kinds. Whether you’re looking for a massage, a facial, a new hair style, or a whole new look, Leena and the rest of the staff at Khoobsurat Salon and Spa are ready to welcome you into the fold.

“I love giving the gift of my clients’ desires,” said Leena. “I love when they tell me, ‘this was so much more than I expected!’ There’s no amount of money that can give you that kind of satisfaction; on a soul level, it’s like magic.”

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**Khoobsurat Salon and Spa is located at 1506 Fourth Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.**

**707.573.7055**

**[www.santarosabeautysalon.com](http://www.santarosabeautysalon.com)**

