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Behold: The \$25,000 Manicure

When it comes to getting our nails done, most of us are more concerned with finding a salon that is both affordable and ethical than anything else. But in SoCal — with a nail shop on nearly every corner — it takes a little more than great polish colors and happy employees to bring in customers.

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Enter Newport Beach fixture Images Luxury Nail Lounge, which just launched a new menu of nail services that start at \$500 and go up to \$25,000. Yes, you read that correctly: Your next mani could be worth more than your car. And, it turns out, the menu isn't just a wild marketing scheme; it's actually based on special requests from some of the salon's wealthiest flashiest customers.

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"We have clients that request services like this, so when we decided to do a luxurious menu, we talked with them about all the things they would want together," Tony Nguyen, general manager of Images Luxury Nail Lounge, told us. "I can't tell you their names, but there are women in Newport and Irvine that want to really splurge once in a while."

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In fact, since they opened last year, the salon has had manis with diamonds on the menu, priced at between \$500 and \$600 for a full set, and people have been getting them. The only downside? "Diamonds can only be applied to acrylics," Nguyen says.

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Okay, so let's talk about the three new menu options. For between \$500 and \$2,500, you can get the "Haute Couture Manicure," which includes luxurious bells and whistles (mineral bath, massage, polish), plus nail art using up to 20 diamonds. Oh, and you get a facial, too.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF IMAGES LUXURY NAIL LOUNGE.

Willing to spend between \$2,500 and \$10,000? Choose the "Gold Rush Manicure" and you'll get everything in the previous manicure, but done in a private room. Plus, they'll use Models Own Gold Rush polish (the salon partnered with the polish brand to have one of only two bottles of this lacquer, priced at over \$100K thanks to the diamond-encrusted bottle) and 24-karat flakes of gold in your nail art. Expect add-ons to your facial (like lash extensions and threading) — and they get you boozed up with free Champagne.