

THE ESSENCE OF LUXURY

ELITE

T R A V E L E R

NOV/DEC
2005

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TOP SPAS OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

From the desert to the sea, Southern California remains a renowned playground for Hollywood heavy hitters and some of the world's most selective travelers. Here, abundant sunshine, natural beauty and a wealth of exquisite amenities equal a sublime spa-going experience. Check in to these oases for platinum-level pampering in the Golden State.

BY ERIC HISS



THE SPA AT THE RITZ-CARLTON, LAGUNA NIGUEL

Location: Laguna Niguel

What Makes It Great: Newly completed, the spa here has been artfully rendered as a sophisticated oasis, accented with imported marble and chandeliers.

Perched on a cliff overlooking the Pacific, the space soothes guests with multiple relaxation lounges, water elements in all 11 treatment rooms, saunas and steam baths.

Signature Treatment: Ocean Spray and Beach Stone Therapy

Spa Fans: We're sure Hollywood's elite will be checking out the brand new facility.

Best Hands: Jill Quam, Michael Hempen

Spa Director: Doug Piil,

Phone: (949) 240-5020,

Fax: (949) 240-5218;

Email: doug.piil@ritzcarlton.com;

Website: www.ritzcarlton.com

THE WELL AT MIRAMONTE RESORT & SPA

Location: Indian Wells

What Makes It Great: Situated in one of the region's most exclusive desert enclaves, The Well is a resplendent new 12,000-square-foot facility brimming with the textures, treatments and timeless appeal of the Mediterranean. Exclusive couples-only cabanas sport stunning views of the Santa Rosa Mountains.

Signature Treatment: Mediterranean Massage

Spa Fans: Alicia Silverstone, Andre Agassi, Denzel Washington

Best Hands: Christina Frantzen

Spa Director: Jennifer Di Francesco,

Phone: (760) 837-2336;

Fax: (760) 341-5836;

Email: jenniferdi francesco@miramonteresort.com;

Website: www.miramonteresort.com

THE SPA AT FOUR SEASONS RESORT AVIARA

Location: North San Diego

What Makes It Great: Nestled within a coveted location adjacent to a lagoon and the ocean, the newly renovated 15,000-square-foot spa draws inspiration from the resort's natural surroundings, integrating abundant natural light, water features and accents of warm colors and rich wood detailing. Salon services are by Jose Eber.

Signature Treatment: Watsu Shiatsu

Spa Fans: John Travolta and other Hollywood A-listers

Best Hands: Darro Zeer, Kelli Olds

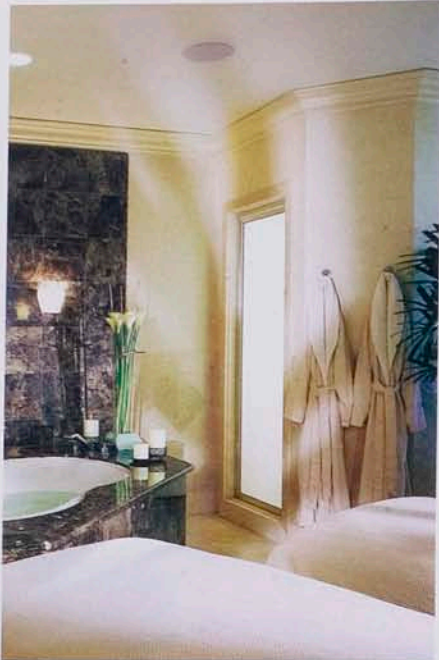
Spa Director: Kevin South,

Phone: (760) 603-6902,

Fax: (760) 603-3607;

Email: kevin.south@fourseasons.com;

Website: www.fourseasons.com/aviara



SPA GAUCIN AT ST. REGIS MONARCH BEACH

Location: Dana Point

What Makes It Great: Marrying a Mediterranean-inspired aesthetic with sophisticated opulence, the ample 30,000-square-foot spa seduces guests with elements such as water walls and waterfalls, a marble fireplace and oceans of natural light. Featuring 25 treatment rooms, the spa offers a worlds' worth of treatments.

Signature Treatment: Illumina Facial

Spa Fans: John Travolta, Pierce Brosnan, Ziyi Zhang

Best Hands: Carmen Goglianian, Leah Krieger

Spa Director: Valory Reed,

Phone: (949) 234-3360;

Fax: (949) 234-3365;

Email: valory.reed@stregis.com;

Website: www.stregismonarchbeach.com



SPA MONTAGE AT MONTAGE RESORT & SPA

Location: Laguna Beach

What Makes It Great: Indulgent indoor/outdoor lounge areas complemented by floor-to-ceiling windows allow spa-goers here to bask in the Southern California sunshine as they take in panoramic ocean vistas. Guests not only benefit from highly personalized treatments that include one-on-one consultations, but also from an insiders' list of "Secret Services," including exclusive, after-hours use of the spa.

Signature Treatment: Surrender

Spa Fans: Heather Locklear, Melinda Clarke

Best Hands: Suzanne DeFranco

Spa Director: Barbara Schultz,

Phone: (949) 715-6010;

Fax: (949) 715-6014;

Email: bschultz@montagelagunabeach.com;

Website: www.montagelagunabeach.com



THE SPA AT THE LODGE AT TORREY PINES

Location: La Jolla

What Makes It Great: Rugged cliffs and a nature preserve set a serene backdrop for the Lodge at Torrey Pines, where the 9,500-square-foot spa tempts clients with an exquisite array of spa treatments derived from coastal botanicals and the sea. Handsome Arts & Crafts-period style furnishings give a well-turned residential feel to the spa.

Signature Treatment: Spa at Torrey Pines Signature Ritual

Spa Fans: PGA elites and other athletes

Best Hands: Jessie Stewart, Barbara Hagen

Spa Director: Darcie DeBartelo,

Phone: (858) 777-6691;

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Email: ddebartelo@lodgetorrey.com;

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