

# spa opportunities

8 JUNE - 21 JUNE 2012 ISSUE 139

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## Former monastery opens as luxury spa hotel in Italy

Prince Albert and Princess Charlene of Monaco were among the first guests to stay at a new luxury boutique spa hotel housed in a converted 17th century monastery on Italy's Amalfi Coast.

Monastero Santa Rosa Hotel and Spa is located on the cliff edge of Cape d'Orso and was restored by US businesswoman and director of the Sharma Foundation, Bianca Sharma. Howard Spa Consulting has played a key role in creating the 500sq m (5,382sq ft) Santa Maria Novella spa at the 20-bedroom hotel, which retains the property's monastic heritage.

The spa has an 80sq m (861sq ft) private double treatment suite housed within a double-height vaulted space, including a rasul, a steamroom, two wet tables and two dry couches. An outdoor treatment area – Treatment Garden – contains two couches,



The spa hotel is perched on a cliff face above the Mediterranean sea on the Amalfi Coast

while two indoor single treatment rooms – Melograno and Iris – and a 70sq m (753sq ft) thermal suite are also on offer.

The thermal suite features a series of historic spaces linking the various warm rooms, such as the double-height vaulted Tepidarium with pomegranate infused foot spas.

A domed aromatic steam-room; a crushed ice fountain to refresh between thermal bathing; a rock sauna; a hydro pool; and emotion showers complete the facility mix.

Howard Spa Consulting is now operating the spa under a management contract and worked with Goff Associates on the spa's creation. Thermarium has supplied the thermal facilities. Neil Howard of Howard Consulting told *Spa Opportunities* the spa is an "integral part" of the overall Monastero Santa Rosa Hotel. Howard said: "Each room

within the spa preserves the original 17th century vaulted ceilings and many of its rustic walls to maintain the monastic heritage of this unique property."

Facilities at Monastero Santa Rosa Hotel and Spa also include an infinity-edge swimming pool and a private 12th century chapel.

### New central London property for Bulgari

Bulgari Hotels and Resorts has opened its latest luxury property in the Knightsbridge area of London, UK – the 85-bedroom Bulgari Hotel and Residences, London.

Facilities include a 2,000sq m (21,528sq ft) spa, health and beauty area, which offers ESPA treatments and is guided by a concept inspired by Asian and European traditions.

The spa – located over two floors and crafted from onyx, teak and Vicenza stone – features 11 private treatment rooms and a double spa suite with steamroom and spa pool.

### Nicaraguan mega-resort to have spas

Seaside Mariana, the mega-resort development currently under construction in Nicaragua, is due to complete its first phase during the second quarter of 2013.

The 923-acre (374-hectare) complex is divided into six neighbourhoods. It will be anchored by the Wyndham Nicaragua Resort and Casino and a Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course – both of which overlook the Pacific Ocean. Grupo Mariana, the developer behind the scheme, has created its own signature Plumeria Spa concept for Seaside Mariana.

Two Plumeria-branded spas are being built as part of the scheme – the first of which will open at the Playa Hotel in mid-2013 and will



The resort is being developed by Grupo Mariana

span 1,200sq ft (111sq m). It will house four treatment rooms.

The second spa – a 5,000sq ft (465sq m) facility – will form part of the Wyndham resort and is to open in 2014 with eight treatment rooms. All hotel, resort and spa operations will be overseen by KemperSports Management.

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## Marriott reaches Asian landmark

Marriott International has announced plans for the new Renaissance Bo'ao Resort and Spa, which has expanded the group's portfolio of open and signed properties across Asia to 250. The latest signing - to be located in Bo'ao, Hainan Province - is expected to open its doors in 2015, although further details about its facilities have yet to be confirmed.

Marriott currently has 129 hotels open throughout the region, with an additional 121 now in the group's development pipeline - totalling more than 75,000 rooms across 15 countries.

Simon Cooper, the group's president and managing director for Asia Pacific, said the plans to expand in the region is a result of "growth across all countries" - particularly China. "In the past few weeks have signed landmark hotels in key locations including Macau, Vietnam and India," said Cooper.

"We continue to see excellent growth in China where we now have more than 100 open and signed hotels, and expect to open



Marriott operates 129 hotels in Asia and is planning to open 121 more

on average one hotel a month in the country for at least the next three years."

Seven of Marriott's brands have a presence in Asia - the Ritz-Carlton; JW Marriott; Bulgari Renaissance; Marriott Hotels and Resorts; Courtyard; and Marriott Executive Apartments.

According to the US Department of Commerce, China is seeing the fastest growth of any country and is expected to see a 274 per cent increase in visitor numbers from the US by 2016.

## Soneva Group sells Evason Phuket resort

The Soneva Group has sold its Evason Phuket resort in Thailand to an unnamed hospitality group. As a result, the resort will cease operations with immediate effect and shall no longer be operated by Six Senses Resorts and Spas. The value of the deal has not been disclosed.

Sonu Shivasani, founder and CEO of the Soneva Group, said: "Although it did not fit into The Soneva Group's strategic plans, Evason Phuket is a wonderful property that will continue to thrive under new ownership. The sale follows our initial strategy to focus on owning and managing our own properties and to work with just one brand, Soneva."

He added that Soneva was looking to find staff at the resort alternative employment.

"I would like to take this opportunity to give my personal thanks to all of the hosts at Evason Phuket for their commitment and hard work. We're working hard to provide alternative employment to as many hosts as



Facilities at the Evason Phuket resort include a large luxury spa

possible. In addition, we have agreed a package for any Evason Phuket hosts whom we can't employ elsewhere."

Facilities at the Evason Phuket resort included a large spa with six single and three double treatment rooms.

The offloading of Evason Phuket is separate from the deal that saw Pegasus Capital Advisors take control of the Six Senses and Evason branded resort and spa management contracts in April 2012.



## Four Seasons Palm Beach launches Lil' Spa

Four Seasons Resort Palm Beach in Florida, US has launched a new Lil' Spa-branded spa facility for its younger guests.

Targeted at children aged between four and 11-years-old, the services include the Lil' Bliss massage, "Scrub-a-dub-facial", Little Princess manicure and pedicure, Boys Sport manicure and pedicure, as well as Little Princess and boys hair cuts and styles.

According to a spokesperson, Lil' Spa has been designed to cater for the needs of the "modern family" by providing a soothing and educational family bonding experience.

When staying at the resort, The Spa journey begins the evening prior when a plush kiddy-sized bathrobe is delivered to the room, along with slippers. Each gentle, calming service is designed to enhance the child's development, vitality, and self-confidence. Children and parents also learn quick and easy ways to



An increasing number of operators are beginning to cater for families

continue techniques at home and will leave with a special spa treat.

- The emergence of spas as a "family affair", was identified as being among the top 10 spa trends for 2012 in Susie Ellis' annual forecast report published in January.

For a comprehensive outline and examples of each trend, go to: <http://lei.sr?a=w1v7e>



An artist's impression of the planned hotel

## YTL Hotels secures £20m loan for Bath spa hotel project

Malaysia-based YTL Hotels has secured a £20m (US\$31.6m, €24.8m) development loan from the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) towards the construction of a new hotel and thermal spa in Bath, UK.

RBS' Consumer Industries Team has provided the funding, which will support the group's acquisition and redevelopment of three buildings in the heart of the historic spa city. The Gainsborough Hotel and Spa will be housed in a Grade II-listed building and will be one of the UK's first to use natural thermal water when it opens in 2014.

YTL Hotels – the hospitality arm of YTL Corporation Berhad – took over the development of the new hotel and thermal spa from Bath Hotel and Spa Limited late last year. Dato Mark Yeoh Seok Kah, executive director of YTL Hotels said: "[The project] will capitalise on one of the city's most unique attractions – the naturally occurring thermal spring waters – that have attracted tourists and visitors to the city for generations."

## 2013 launch for China's Xiangshan Hot Springs

Xiangshan Hot Spring and Wellness Center in China, a new oceanfront bathing attraction reported to cost US\$25m (€20m, £16m), is scheduled to open in August 2013.

Located next to the Hilton Ningbo Xiangshan Resort, the centre is designed by US-based WATG and Thailand-based GOCO Hospitality to include a 6,000sq m (64,583sq ft) standalone building.

The building will house 24 treatment rooms – including two suites and a spa pavilion. Meanwhile, a medi-spa and weight management clinic with seven suites will provide a "unique" selling point.

The Xiangshan Hot Spring and Wellness Center will offer a number of results-oriented wellness programmes, including ones that address specific health concerns.

Other indoor facilities will include a women's beauty salon; a male grooming area; relaxation areas and quiet zones; and water experiences



The 6,000sq m wellness resort is scheduled to open in August 2013

such as vitality pools.

A 5,000sq m (53,820sq ft) outdoor bathing area will offer mineral and thermal springs.

GOCO is the sole consultant working on the spa, which is owned by resort developer Sanli Guo Yuan. GOCO is to provide feasibility, concept and design services. It will then manage the centre and springs.

## Hilton to open first managed property in Peru in late 2012

Hilton Worldwide will open its first managed property in Peru by the end of the year.

The global hospitality group has signed a management contract with JGJ Proyectistas SAC for the new-build 207-bedroom Hilton Lima Miraflores, which had been originally planned as a franchise property.

Facilities will include a luxury spa, a heated outdoor swimming pool and a Precor-equipped fitness centre, although a spokesperson said further details are yet to be confirmed at this stage.



The new thermal suite at the GL1 spa, Gloucester

## Publicly-owned UK spa adds NOLA 7 thermal suite

Aspire Sports and Cultural Trust has opened the new marine thermal suite at the GL1 leisure centre in Gloucester, UK which it operates on the behalf of Gloucester City council. The wellness thermal spa suite was designed and delivered by NOLA 7.

The £125,000 (US\$194,000, €155,000) investment includes a salt inhalation marine steamroom in stone mosaics, salt cleansed hydrosprays with granite surround, aroma rock sauna, adventure and contrast showers, hot stone loungers and a relaxation zone.

Richard Bishop, managing director of NOLA 7 said: "We wanted to reflect the maritime heritage of Gloucester in the design of the new thermal suite."

Cathy Daley operations director GL1 of Aspire Sports and Cultural Trust said: "I'm delighted with the finished product of the Marine Spa, it has exceeded all expectations and has received excellent customer feedback in respect of both the quality and the features new to this facility."

## Hyatt completes acquisition and rebrand of Mexico hotel

An affiliate of Hyatt Hotels Corporation has completed the US\$190m (£151m, €121m) purchase of Mexico City's Hotel Nikko Mexico from Japan-Mexico Hotel Investment Co. The 756-bedroom property has been rebranded as the Hyatt Regency Mexico City and will now undergo a US\$40m (€32m, £25m) renovation.

It comes as Hyatt announces agreements for eight new properties across Latin America – six in Mexico and one each in Colombia and Chile. Spas will be among the facilities at the Park Hyatt Riviera Maya; Park Hyatt Los Cabos; Andaz Mayakoba; and Hyatt Playa in Mexico.

Hyatt Regency Cartagena will be the group's first branded property in Colombia and is to feature a spa.

# Henri Chenot spa revamp completed

Espace Henri Chenot, the destination spa created by alternative health specialist Henri Chenot at Palace Merano in northern Italy, has reopened following an extensive refurbishment.

Part of a wider multi-million euro investment in the hotel, the scheme included the addition of 24 new treatment rooms and an extension of the floorspace from 3,500sq m (37,674sq ft) to 4,000sq m (43,056sq ft). The majority of the work has been carried out on the spa's wet area – 18 of the new rooms are dedicated to hydrotherapy and have been equipped with an adapted version of Unbescheiden's Caracalla massage bath, as well as its Jouvence dry float bed.

The baths have been altered to complement Chenot's concept of Biontology, which mixes Chinese and western medical techniques in a three-phase hydro-energetic cure comprising



Facilities at the Henri Chenot spa include 24 new treatment rooms

an underwater massage with additives, a body wrap and a jet shower session.

Starpool of Italy also supplied equipment as part of the spa refurbishment, while France-based Michel Jouannet worked on the project's design aspects. Other new facilities include a peeling room for scrubs.

• For more information on Unbescheiden's Caracalla massage bath and Jouvence dry float bed, go to: <http://lei.sr?a=9/457>

## Work starts on Sandton Skye development

Construction work is underway on the ZAR1.5bn (US\$179m, EUR143m, £114m) Sandton Sky lifestyle development in the financial hub of Johannesburg, South Africa.

The luxury residential and hotel scheme has been designed by local architect AMA and includes a ZAR8m (US\$954,000, €763,000, £610,000) wellness spa featuring modern African and eastern design styles.

Spanning 450sq m (4,844sq ft), the spa will accommodate 12 treatment rooms, a fitness centre and indoor and outdoor pools. Treatments will focus on hydrotherapy, fish therapy and those by African product house, TheraVine. South Africa-based Simply Spas – the firm behind the Lanzarec and Oceana spas – will consult on Sandton Skye's spa element



The lifestyle development includes a spa and is due to open in 2014

and will manage it once complete.

The complex, with three 15-storey residential towers, is due to open in 2014.

• For more about Simply Spas' involvement with the spa at the Lanzarec Hotel and Spa in Stellenbosch, see Spa Business 2009 Issue 4, p32: <http://lei.sr?a=15/61>

## Roundtable scheme launched for sustainable packaging

The US-based Institute for Sustainability has launched a new initiative to assist cosmetics and beauty companies to source and develop sustainable packaging.

The new Sustainable Packaging Cosmetics Roundtable will look to make it easier for

members to make individual choices when interacting with suppliers, retailers, and consumers with respect to sustainable packaging.

Inaugural members include Chanel; The L'Oréal Group; The Estée Lauder Companies; Avon Products; Coty; and Mast Global.



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## Rezidor Hotel Group plans new Radisson Blu in Georgia

A new 100-bedroom Radisson Blu-branded resort is to open in Tsinandali, Georgia, under plans announced by Rezidor Hotel Group – part of the Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group. The new property will launch in 2014 within the Tsinandali estate in the province of Kakheti.

New York-based architect John Fotiadis will design the building, which will include a spa area spanning more than 1,000sq m (10,764sq ft) and containing treatment rooms. Details of the layout and facilities within the spa are yet to be confirmed, although it will be at the top of the hotel overlooking the Greater Caucasus mountains.



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/DARTIN SHIRONOSOV

The programme is a “response to guests’ needs”

## Kamalaya adds sleep classes to wellness offering

Kamalaya resort in Koh Samui, Thailand, has added a sleep enhancement programme to its range of wellness courses.

The focus of the new programme is to re-establish healthy and restful sleep, while addressing sleep issues and imbalances – both during a guest’s time at Kamalaya and also for the long term back home.

According to Kamalaya co-founder and traditional Chinese medicine expert Karina Stewart, the sleep programme was created in response to a need from guests.

“A high proportion of our guests mention sleep as an issue and concern in their lives,” she said. “Most are suffering from disruption to a healthy sleep cycle – whether it is poor quality sleep, insufficient sleep or an inability to fall asleep. This programme is a vital addition to our portfolio as we know sufficient quality sleep is a key ingredient to optimal wellness and vitality.”

Founded by John and Karina Stewart in 2005, the Kamalaya resort offers a holistic experience that integrates healing therapies from east and west.

## L'Occitane spa for Bangkok hotel

France-based hospitality group Accor has announced the launch of the new flagship Sofitel Bangkok Sukhumvit hotel – the luxury brand’s second property in Thailand’s capital city.

Facilities include the 414sq m (4,456sq ft) Le Spa with L'Occitane, which features seven treatment rooms and is the first spa in Thailand to offer products from L'Occitane. The treatment rooms each refer to a Thai and Provence feel, including two Lemongrass and Kaffir Lime Thai massage suites; one double Immortelle suite; and two Red Rice and Almond single suites. An external massage sala and two Verbena and Lavender single suites complete the line-up of treatment rooms at the spa.

A 23m pool, a fitness centre with cardio and toning machines; a whirlpool; and a sauna and steamroom in each changing room are also available, in addition to a hydrotherapy bath. Guests at the BBG-BBGM-designed hotel have



The treatment rooms offer spectacular views overlooking Bangkok

access to the spa and fitness facilities, although non-guests are able to subscribe to the fitness centre for an additional fee.

Other facilities include the skyline restaurant, L'Appart, led by French chef Aurélien Poirot; the Voilà eatery; and Le Macaron, a patisserie and delicatessen.

A spokesperson said: “It is the first flagship Sofitel in South East Asia while Sofitel Bangkok Silom is rebranding to become a Pullman hotel.”

## UK fitness body partners with meditation group

The UK’s Fitness Industry Association (FIA) has signed a partnership deal with the Meditation Foundation.

As a result, the Meditation Foundation will become a FIA Vanguard member and will support the association’s initiatives with GPs, healthcare providers, educational institutions and social/community groups. The partnership will look to provide FIA members with the opportunity to experience a core “Meditation and Mindfulness for Health and Wellbeing” programme that can be used as an additional revenue income to traditional group exercise sessions. There will also be an accredited teacher training programmes for members of staff.

FIA chief executive David Stalker said: “This partnership highlights our extending role to work across all aspects of health and wellbeing. Evidence based research supports the benefits of Meditation and Mindfulness in public health and we are looking forward to working closely with the foundation to establish core programmes and teacher training initiatives to help us create a healthier nation.”



IMAGE: SHUTTERSTOCK.COM/CLAYTON BUSINESS

The partnership will look to promote meditation classes at UK gyms

The long term programme will also tie in with National Stress Awareness Day in November, on which taster sessions will be offered with Meditation Foundation teachers.

Stuart Bold, CEO of the Meditation Foundation, said: “The partnership presents exciting, timely and extensive opportunity for all involved to significantly improve the health and wellbeing (physical and mental) of a very wide array of the UK population.

“It also provides FIA and REPs members with the ability to offer innovative, relevant and attractive programmes as a new and sustainable source of revenue generation.”

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Tel: +54 11 4468 0879

[www.vitaspaestetica.com](http://www.vitaspaestetica.com)

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Tel: +1 715 342 2969

[www.nationalwellness.org](http://www.nationalwellness.org)

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IMPACT Exhibition and Convention

Center, Bangkok, Thailand

The World Spa & Well-being Convention 2012 is marketed a gateway to the Asian spa industry, offering a myriad of opportunities to network, build business connections and be inspired with industry people across the

region. The event has been divided into three concepts – "by Hand", an exhibition of the services and equipment; "through Head", an opportunity to 'use your head' and exchange ideas and learn from business; and "with Heart", encouraging the spa & well-being industry and those who use their 'hearts' when working in the industry.

Tel: +66 0833 5112

[www.worldspawellbeing.com](http://www.worldspawellbeing.com)

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[www.mcleaneventsinternational.com/events/spatecfallna2012/about](http://www.mcleaneventsinternational.com/events/spatecfallna2012/about)

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## 2012 WLSA winners announced

Spa Le Bristol by La Prairie in Paris, France, and The Spa at The Address Dubai Marina in the United Arab Emirates are among the winners of this year's World Luxury Spa Awards (WLSA). The awards come after a year-long search for the world's best spas and spa brands, with the aim of recognising those facilities that have "raised the bar of service excellence".

Spa Le Bristol by La Prairie - named Best Emerging Spa - was among the facilities opened at Hotel Le Bristol as part of a €100m (US\$126m, £80m) renovation last October.

The Spa at The Address Dubai Marina picked up the Best Luxury Hotel Spa accolade, with MAIA Luxury Resort and Spa in the Seychelles awarded Best Luxury Destination Spa.

Other winners of the World Luxury Spa Awards include Spa Evian Source @ Evian Royal Resort in France (Best Luxury Resort Spa) and Banyan Tree Spa (Best Spa Group).

Marinique de Wet, executive manager of the World Luxury Spa Awards said: "The level of competition in 2012 where exceptional evident from the calibre of spas that were nominated



Spa Le Bristol by La Prairie in Paris was among this year's winners

by clients. These spas stood up to the highest expectations and where tested by discerning spa-goers looking for the ultimate experience where only the absolute best is acceptable."

Winners and finalists were selected through an online voting process involving thousands of spa guests worldwide.

Registrations for next year's World Luxury Spa Awards have now opened.

• To read more about how spas are making their mark at seven new high-end hotels in the French capital along with Spa Le Bristol by La Prairie, see *Spa Business 2011 Issue 3*, p64

## Pop Up Kids Spa to return to Shanti Maurice

A Pop Up Spa for guests aged between five- and 15-years-old is to make a return to the Shanti Maurice resort in Mauritius between July and September 2012.

The outdoor, cabana-style facility has already operated during April in order to give younger guests a taste of the resort's Nira Spa.

Spa manager Novie Jones said: "With an increase in children's spa interest, instead of turning our younger guests away to protect the adults-only haven that is Nira Spa, we simply pamper them in a different area."

"Not neglecting our ethos of remaining all natural, we thought this a wonderful opportunity where a junior spa could have the double edged effect of pampering, while educating future adults of the value of leaving a green footprint."

Jones added that product house Africology had been involved in devising a range of 100



Shanti's pop up spa is part of a strategy to cater better for families

per cent natural products for use on children's skin. All kids' products are also designed to be "completely edible".

• Nira Hotels and Resorts is currently preparing to open five more luxury resorts.

The five new resorts currently planned are in various phases of development in Sathwa, Seychelles; Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam; Niseko, Japan; Yunnan province, China; and Sri Lanka. Each resort will include a Nira-branded spa.

Read more: <http://lei.sr?alpha=0617>

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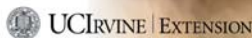
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## Second Shanghai hotel for Four Seasons

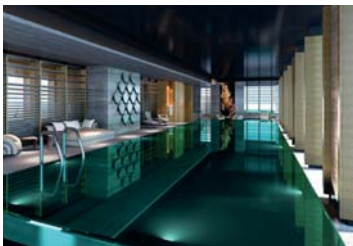
Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts will open its second hotel in Shanghai this summer with a new 187-bedroom property in the heart of the Chinese city's Pudong district. Located to the east of the Huangpu River, Four Seasons Hotel Pudong, Shanghai forms part of the new 55-storey 21st Century Tower in the district's Lujiazui business hub.

Gensler are behind the exterior design of the building and Wilson Associates worked on the interior of the hotel, which is inspired by Shanghai's 1920s and 1930s Art Deco period.

Facilities will include the 1,765sq m (18,998sq ft) FLARE spa covering the whole 41st floor, which will house six treatment rooms – four single and two VIP spa suites.

A fitness centre on the same floor will boast a sauna, a steamroom and ice fountain, as well as a brine inhalation area in the men's area and a tepidarium room in the women's area.

Four Seasons Hotel Pudong, Shanghai will also include an 18m (59ft) indoor lap pool and dining options including Camelia with a menu created by Executive Chef Weimar Gomez.



The 1,765sq m FLARE spa will cover the entire 41st floor of the hotel

Rainer Stampfer, regional vice president and hotel general manager, said that Shanghai is a city with a "glamorous past" and "incredible possibilities" going forward.

"This is the environment that we are creating at our new Four Seasons – a place to do business, make connections, experience the city, and live the Pudong lifestyle to its fullest," said Stampfer.

• Four Seasons Hotel Milano in Milan, Italy, will launch a spa designed by architect Patricia Urquiola later this month. The spa has been incorporated into a former 15th century convent. *Read More:* <http://lei.sr?a=a1r4Z>

## Meritage Resort unveils US\$40m expansion

The Meritage Resort and Spa – one of the largest resorts in California's Napa Valley, US – has unveiled new facilities as part of a major US\$40m (£31.4m, £25.4m) expansion.

Crush Ultra Lounge with six bowling lanes; a piazza with a spa/hot tub; an Italian-style café; and extensive meeting space have been created as part of the privately-financed scheme.

A further 165 guestrooms and suites were also added during the 19-month renovation, with the California resort now boasting more than 300 Tuscan-inspired guestrooms and suites. PK Architects of Tempe, Arizona, were behind the design of the 131,000sq ft (12,170sq m) extension, which has been developed adjacent to the existing facilities at the resort.

Meritage Resort and Spa already includes Spa Terra – a luxury subterranean facility housed in the 22,000sq ft (2,044sq m)



The new facilities include a signature couples' treatment room

Estate Wine Cave and boasting 12 treatment rooms. A signature couples' room is among the treatment rooms. The spa also includes a relaxation lounge and private lounges for men and women, which include steam grottos and water walls.

According to a spokesperson, the spa was designed to be a "feast for the mind and body", and was built by "artisan craftsmen".

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