

# spa opportunities

04 JULY - 17 JULY 2014 ISSUE 193

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## Auberge Resorts reveals new hospitality brand VieVage

Boutique hotel owner and operator Auberge Resorts will manage a new resort and destination spa in Napa Valley Carneros, US – on the site of the former Stanly Ranch – under a new lifestyle hospitality brand called VieVage.

The 110-key resort, VieVage Napa Valley, will be the first to be developed under the brand – with a concept Auberge said “will bring contemporary themes of design, community, locally sourced food, sustainability, fitness and wellness together in a fresh, active and social environment.”

The project will be developed by Stanly Ranch Resort Napa on 95 acres of the 712-acre Stanly Ranch. It is expected to break ground in early 2015, with a 2016 opening date. An Auberge Resorts spokesperson told



The VieVage brand will be adaptable to resort and urban locations plus residences

*Spa Opportunities* that details of the spa's facilities will not be released until late 2015 or 2016. According to Auberge Resorts' statement, the resort will be “bordered by vineyards, rolling hills and views of the Mayacamas Mountains.”

Clustered cottage-style accommodations, a casual bar, restaurant, bakery, winery and outdoor gathering spaces have been designed to provide a sense of community. Outdoor concerts, bocce, barbecues and fire pits are included in this communal space initiative – along with the chance to participate in the cultivation of food and wine at the on-site winery – producing examples of the regions renowned Pinot Noir and Chardonnay.

“Travellers today are seeking an experience that is creatively designed yet simple; relaxing yet social; regional yet timeless,” said Craig Reid, CEO of Auberge Resorts. “With VieVage, we will build on the successes of Auberge Resorts' other unique hotels, resorts, residences.” Details: <http://lei.sr?a=h5A9B>

### Malaysia seeks Islamic tourism benchmarks

The Malaysian Islamic Development Department (JAKIM) has been appointed by the National Council for Islamic Affairs to determine the sharia compliance benchmark for tourism services, including spas and hotels.

Datuk Seri Jamil Khir Baharom, a minister in the Prime Minister's department said that national demand for the incorporation and standardisation of Muslim principles has increased in the service industry – aside from those such as halal certification already in place for national food products and Islamic banking, according to national press agency *Bernama*. *Continued on back cover*

### Hawaiian resort sold for US\$325.7m

Sunstone Hotel Investors is purchasing one of the largest hotels on Maui, Hawaii – for US\$325.7m (€240m, £191m) from an affiliate of Blackstone Real Estate Partners IV.

The investment company is paying approximately US\$598,600 (€441,000, £352,000) per room for the Wailea Beach Marriott Resort & Spa. The resort will continue to be managed by Marriott International after the purchase is complete and renovations are scheduled to take place during 2015 and 2016. Sunstone, which owns high-end hotels across the US – such as the Hyatt Regency San Francisco in California, Hilton Houston-North in Texas and Hilton Times Square in New York – told *bizjournals.com* that this is its first property acquisition in Hawaii,



The hotel has a 9,153sq ft (850sq m) Mandara Spa

which it perceives as being a ‘strong market’. Sunstone plans to fund the acquisition, in part, with US\$60m (€44m, £35m) of stock transferred to the seller at a price of US\$14.87 (€11, £9) per share, with the balance of the purchase price coming from other types of stock changing hands, according to *bizjournals.com*. Details: <http://lei.sr?a=j7G5n>

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## IHG's wellness brand serves food

InterContinental Hotels Group's new wellness brand Even Hotels has introduced a health-inspired food and beverage platform called Cork & Kale, which will be available at all Even Hotels properties. The first Even sites are set to open before the end of June 2014 in Norwalk, Connecticut and Rockville, Maryland, US.

Developers of the American Farmers Restaurant Group, Vucurevich Simons Advisory Group (VSAG) and culinary nutritional consultants – from the US-based food Sourcing-Preparing-Enhancing certification body – collaborated with IHG to develop and provide nutritional analysis for a menu focused on 'simple, natural and good ingredients'.

VSAG designed the new hotel F&B service model and built a working test kitchen used to validate all recipes, equipment and processes.

"Cork & Kale is an upscale fast-casual food and beverage offering, featuring freshly-prepared food and pre-packaged grab-and-go items as well as retail-style products," Even Hotels said.

Menu choices include heart-healthy and



Even Hotels launched in 2012 after 24 months of consumer research

low-fat options, paleo or vegetarian-friendly dishes, in addition to sweet indulgences. Guests can order their food for the next day through the platform's Good-to-Go service. Team members at each hotel will undergo a certification process to understand and communicate to guests information about the Even Hotels menu including nutritional content details of each dish.

Each hotel will also include a Cork & Kale Bar experience, featuring hand-crafted cocktails made with fresh herbs and natural mixers.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=X2k6u>

## Outrigger expands into Asia Pacific region

Outrigger Hotels & Resorts has revealed its plans for a multi-brand expansion strategy in the Asia Pacific region with the addition of multiple beach resorts and a new range of upscale urban leisure hotels under an entirely new brand.

Hawaii-based Outrigger has two resort projects in Vietnam and China and will be joined by several more properties across the region in the coming years, according to Mark Simmons, Outrigger's vice president of sales and marketing for Asia Pacific.

"The company's vision is to grow here and in the Indian Ocean through the acquisitions of prime properties that are strategic to the brand," Simmons told *Travel Daily*.

The 256-guestroom beachfront Vinh Hoi Bay Resort & Spa will open in 2017 and will mark the company's entry into Vietnam.

Outrigger's first property in China will open by the end of 2016 – the 499-bedroom Clearwater Bay Resort & Spa on Hainan Island.



Non-beachfront leisure locations will be developed under a new brand

"They're the two main ones on their way but we're also currently looking at various locations in southeast Asia, the Maldives, Seychelles, Bali and Australia," Simmons continued. Sri Lanka and Bali are also locations of interest to him.

Non-beachfront locations in destinations with a leisure focus will be developed under a new hotel brand – to be revealed later this year.

Details: <http://lei.sr?a=b9E4B>





## Starwood to sell hotel for US\$230m

Starwood Capital Group hopes to sell the hotel section of its Baccarat Hotel and Residence on New York's Manhattan Island for as much as US\$230m (€170m, £136m) – setting the city record at US\$2m (€1.5m, £1.2m) for each of its 114-bedrooms, according to the *New York Post's* real estate pages.

The residences above the hotel, opposite the Museum of Modern Art, are being sold separately to the hotel and have asking prices of up to US\$60m (€44.2m, £35.4m)

for each of the 13 penthouse apartments. The residences have access to a Baccarat spa, fitness and aqua centre – which features a 55m (180ft) marble pool and a five-star restaurant.

Starwood plans to retain management of the 46-storey luxury hotel, which was built in 2012.

According to *The Post*, the hotel will be filled with more than 12,000 Baccarat-branded crystal items, including crystal chandeliers. In 2005, Starwood acquired Groupe du Louvre – which owns the crystal maker Baccarat. The hotel's scheduled reopening in Q3 of this year



Starwood will retain management of the hotel through its SH Group

is planned to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the designer French crystal brand.

The city's hotel market came to a shuddering halt in 2008 when occupancy rates were in the low to mid-70s and room rates fell. It has recovered well, however, as tourism and business travel brought in 54 million people last year and occupancy rates have been in the high-80s, according to the press.

The sale will allow Starwood to develop new projects whilst keeping its hotel flag flying.

**Details:** <http://lei.sr?a=G4j5N>

## Spa owner charged with prostitution in police sting

The owner of a spa in a suburb of Los Angeles, California, has been charged with prostitution after allegedly touching an undercover, and undressed, police officer as part of a sting operation on 4 June.

Mei Hai, a 52-year-old female therapist at Hot Li's Massage Spa in Los Angeles was arrested the same day an investigation was launched after the local police force received complaints Hai was "fondling patrons or performing sexual acts for money above the price of a regular massage," according to local media.

That afternoon an undercover agent went to the spa for a US\$60 one-hour massage from Hai. After a 40-minute back massage he was asked to roll over onto his back. The report indicates the police agent asked, "You don't do any extra massaging, do you? I brought another US\$40 with me."

**Details:** <http://lei.sr?a=M4a8G>

## Doha dominates PwC Spa Benchmark report

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has published its *Spa Benchmark survey* for the spa sector in the Middle East – with Doha giving a strong showing in the only report about spas from the Jordanian Dead Sea region, Doha in Qatar and Beirut in Lebanon.

Issued on a quarterly basis, the latest edition covers the period from January to March 2014 – tracking key metrics and information on the performance of the sector in the Middle East market.

The average revenue per treatment sold during the first quarter of this year was highest in Doha (US\$140), roughly 50 per cent higher than that of the Dead Sea and 120 per cent higher than in Beirut – according to the report. The Doha market also captured the highest average daily treatment revenue per available treatment room (US\$326) while the revenue in the Dead Sea was US\$92 and US\$61 in Beirut.

The study also stated the average daily



Leading spas in the Middle East contributed data to the PwC report

revenue generated per therapist for Doha spas was 26 per cent higher than Dead Sea spas and 244 per cent higher than Beirut spas.

Although average revenue per treatment sold and average daily treatment generated per therapist are higher in Doha, the Doha spa market accounted for the lowest utilisation of therapist hours in the three markets surveyed. Performance data was contributed by leading spas. **Details:** <http://lei.sr?a=p9A8M>



Laboratories La Prairie SA was founded in 1982

## World's first La Prairie hotel boutique in Switzerland

The Grand Resort Bad Ragaz in Switzerland – a wellbeing and medical health centre – has opened the world's first La Prairie hotel boutique to showcase the cosmetics collection, tailored for different skin types.

Located in the hotel's spa foyer, the 18sq m (194sq ft) retail outlet is manned by specialist beauty consultants who provide guests with customised advice.

While there are other La Prairie boutiques worldwide, this is the first one to ever be located within a hotel property.

"We are extremely proud to have opened our first ever La Prairie boutique in a hotel in Switzerland, birthplace of La Prairie," said Werner Dirks, general manager of La Prairie Switzerland. "We have been working together with the Grand Resort Bad Ragaz successfully since 2000. The La Prairie zone in the hotel caters allows its guests to immerse themselves in the La Prairie universe." **Details:** <http://lei.sr?a=G3u4Q>

## Over-60s to make up 14% of total global population by 2020

Euromonitor predicts that by 2020, the over-60s demographic will account for 14 per cent of the total global population, with the overall number reaching 1.1 billion.

The global population of over-60s stood at almost 880m in 2013, representing 12 per cent of the total global population.

People over the age of 60 – Later Lifers – fall into two clear categories in regards to health: healthy and active or unwell and reliant on care, according to market intelligence firm Euromonitor in an article published on its blog on 13 May.

“Health takes on a greater importance as people age and become more aware of their mortality,” said Euromonitor editorial director, Gina Westbrook. “Therefore, they wish to preserve their health and independence for as long as possible.”

China alone had 219.6m over-60s last year. **Details:** <http://lei.sr?a=m9w3D>



The hotel will include 280 guestrooms and a spa

## W Hotel planned for 2019 in Shenyang province, China

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide have agreed with real estate developer Shenyang Huaqiang Jinlang City Square Properties, to create the first W Hotel in Shenyang, a northeastern province in China.

Scheduled to open in January 2019, the W Shenyang will be situated on Qingnian Avenue, known as the city's Golden Corridor – encompassing the central business, cultural and administrative districts.

The hotel will consist of 280 guestrooms, 26,000sq ft (2,415sq m) of meeting space, a 24-hour business centre, spa, work-out facility, and an indoor heated swimming pool. It will also feature four different ethnic culinary options. “Shenyang provides an ideal foothold for Starwood's expanding pipeline with its growing economy and position as a trade hub for northeast China,” said Franck Huang, vice president of acquisition and development in Greater China for Starwood. **Details:** <http://lei.sr?a=r5S3B>

## Shangri-La to manage Le Touessrok

Shangri-La and Resorts has signed a management contract for the Le Touessrok resort in Mauritius which will be reflagged and launched as Shangri-La's Le Touessrok Resort & Spa in September 2015 following a renovation.

Shangri-La will take over management of the resort in August this year, following the signing of a joint venture between Shangri-La's holding company, Shangri-La Asia and the resort's owner, Sun Resorts. Shangri-La Asia has taken a 26 per cent stake in the Indian Ocean property.

Located on the east coast of Mauritius, the current Le Touessrok resort features a Givenchy Spa which uses Swisscare products by Group LVMH Laboratories which have been developed specifically for Givenchy. Details of the renovations planned by Shangri-La have not been released and it is unclear if the spa will undergo a serious refurbishment.

The spa offers age-defying skincare inspired by cosmetic medicine techniques. Treatments include lymphatic facials, body scrubs, body



The resort will continue to operate as Le Touessrok until it is renovated

wraps, hydrotherapy massages, pressure therapy, massage and beauty and hair treatments – at the on-site Kérastase-branded hair salon.

There are currently three villas and 200 guestrooms, all of which have sea views. In addition to both water and land-based activities, the resort offers access to two islands, Ilet Mangenie – a secluded isle with 3.5km of pristine beach – and Ile aux Cerfs which is home to the Bernhard Langer 18-hole championship golf course. **Details:** <http://lei.sr?a=f7j7B>

## Thai operator AHMS launches spa centre

Thai resort operator Akaryn Hospitality Management Services (AHMS) has launched its first Ayurah Wellness Centre at the Aleenta Phuket-Phang Nga resort as part of the site's THB100m (US\$3.5m, €2.6m, £2m) renovation. The operator plans to roll out this wellness centre concept at its other resorts.

The Ayurah Wellness Centre concept is results-oriented and medically-focused. The centre offers anti-ageing therapies in addition to light-based treatments and oxygen experiences which are supposed to relieve jet lag and stress. Cellulite reduction and body-firming procedures are also on offer, in addition to reflexology, grooming facilities and a children's area.

The spa features chromotherapy rooms, hydrotherapy baths – including Vichy shower rooms – a post-treatment relaxation chamber and a beauty salon. Each wellness centre will be supported by an on-site doctor.



Each wellness centre will be supported by an on-site doctor

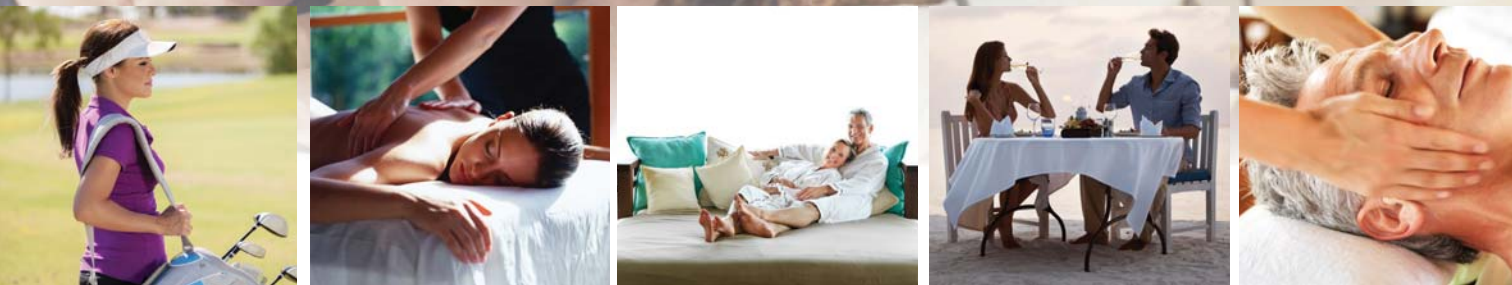
Wellness and fitness activities provided by the Ayurah Wellness Centre include yoga, Thai boxing, tai chi, pilates and nature walks.

AHMS' new flagship resort, Akaryn Koh Krabeay Retreat in Cambodia will also include a centre when it opens next year. The two existing resorts, Aleenta Hua Hin-Pranburi and Akaryn Samui Resort & Spa will get centres too. **Details:** <http://lei.sr?a=W8n8G>



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## CIDESCO announces two new spa and beauty diplomas

The spa training organisation, Comité International d'Esthétique et de Cosmétologie (CIDESCO) has announced the addition of two more diplomas to its portfolio of world-renowned qualifications – the Spa Therapy Diploma and the Beauty and the Media Make-up Diploma.

These two courses join another CIDESCO spa management course announced last month, the Post Graduate Beauty & Spa Management Diploma, as part of a training push. The diplomas aim to provide recipients with a qualification that will be recognised and respected world-wide and will enable them to stand out in an increasingly competitive skills market.

The Spa Therapy Diploma permits candidates to obtain a qualification in spa therapy without the prerequisite of a qualification in beauty therapy, which can often form an obstacle. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=7s3K6>



Royal Group has appointed hotel operator Accor

## So Spa at Sofitel Singapore Sentosa Resort to open in Q3

The So Spa at the Sofitel Singapore Sentosa Resort & Spa will open in Q3 this year as part of an estimated 12 to 18-month HK\$20m (US\$2.6m €1.8m, £1.5m) refurbishment of all accommodation, public areas, conference rooms and landscaping.

The 215-key property – including suites and villas whose interiors were designed by Ed Tuttle – is a wellness enclave which was purchased by Royal Group Development for refurbishment for HK\$210.85m (US\$27m, €19.9m, £16.1m) from HKR International.

Accor Hotels will continue to manage the resort, but under the luxury brand Sofitel, once the revamp is complete. The project is expected to be finished by the end of 2015.

The Sofitel-branded So Spa's 20 treatment rooms – 14 indoor suites and 6 outdoor pavilions – are accompanied by a female-only spa garden and a mixed garden. Each spa garden features a flotation pool with waterfalls. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=G8X8u>

## Canadian expert explores medi-spas

As spas decide to keep up with the trend of becoming more technical, and consequently more solutions-based, the implications of incorporating safe medical services into spas are becoming more acute, according to Dr Diane Wong, owner and founder of Glow Medi Spa in Toronto's Yorkville, Canada. The Spa Industry Association of Canada's (SIAC) subsidiary of leading industry spas, Leading Spas of Canada, provided a platform, on 10 June, for a webinar where Dr Wong explained the benefits, risks, complications, regulations, costs and alternatives to potentially hazardous medi-spa services. The webinar was organised by Spas2b, a full-service international spa development company that specialises in spa business management education and training. Wong, a general practitioner dedicated to non-surgical cosmetic treatments and enhancements, told webinar viewers – spa owners, managers, physicians, nurses and educators of medical aestheticians – about the different



Wong pointed out that there are currently no Canadian medi-spa rules

treatments on the market and how advances in technology have allowed for a boom in “lunch-time” express treatments with no real need for a long recovery period, known as “down-time”.

As a course director of the Laser Training Institute (Canada Division), Wong stressed the need for medically-trained staff in a medi-spa to operate the often dangerous equipment.

“Medically-trained people are necessary so that they can deal with potential complications that might arise during a treatment,” Wong added. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=k4q7Q>

## Buxton Crescent thermal spa project heats up

The Buxton Crescent and Thermal Spa project in Derbyshire, UK, is moving forward with tenders for the building works to be issued in July, with a view to commencing work in October 2014.

The 79-bedroom five-star spa hotel – jointly owned by Derbyshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council – is expected to open at some point in 2016.

The spa will include thermal and wet treatment areas such as a sauna, saunarium, infrared sauna, ice room, aroma room, steamroom, salt grotto. The two separate existing male and female basement pools will both be completely refurbished.

Carbon dioxide and peat-infused baths will also feature, in addition to hydro massage and a hydrotherapy bath for couples. Dalesauna, supplied the thermal and wet zones at the spa.

Danubius Hotels will operate the new spa, bringing medical expertise and traditional therapies to guests. CP Holdings



The crescent was built in the 1780s by the fifth Duke of Devonshire

– majority owner of Danubius Hotels – and Trevor Osborne Property Group are developing the spa, having invested a total of £15m (US\$24.8m, €18m) in the project between them. Other funding includes £12.4m (US\$20.5m, €14.9m) from the UK's Heritage Lottery Fund, £500,000 (US\$800,000 €600,000) from English Heritage and £2m (US\$3.3m, €2.4m) from the local authorities who own the site.

*Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=H9c4a>



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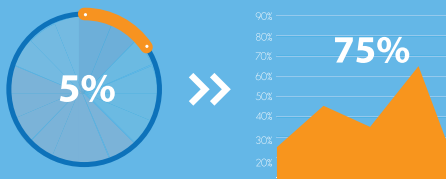
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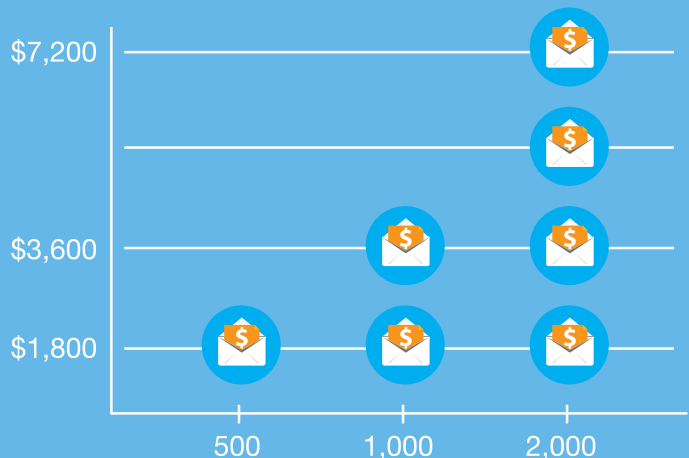
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# DIARY DATES

**27-28 Jul 2014**

**Les Nouvelles Esthetiques Spa Conference**

The Maslow Hotel, Sandton,  
Johannesburg, South Africa

Les Nouvelles Esthetiques magazine was established in Paris in 1952 and is published in 30 countries. The South African edition was launched in 2002 and its annual conference has become a key educational programme for spa, wellness and hospitality professionals.

Tel: +27 11 447 9959

[www.lesnouvelles.co.za](http://www.lesnouvelles.co.za)

**23-24 Aug 2014**

**Sydney International Spa & Beauty Expo**

Sydney Exhibition Centre, Glebe Island,  
Sydney, Australia

The Sydney International Spa & Beauty Expo is a key event for the country's spa and beauty industries. Professionals from both sectors and at all levels have a unique opportunity to source and experience the latest beauty products, treatments, ideas and equipment from and suppliers.

Tel: +61 2 9422 2535

[www.internationalbeautyexpo.com.au](http://www.internationalbeautyexpo.com.au)

**9-11 Sep 2014**

**HBA Global Expo**

Javits Convention Center, New York,  
United States

HBA is a B2B event that provides personal care and beauty manufacturers with a spectrum of new ingredients, solutions, supplier resources and education to help bring innovative concepts to market.

Tel: +1 609 759 4700

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

**10-12 Sep 2014**

**Cosmeeting Paris**

Porte de Versailles, Paris, France

A Spa Corner will be incorporated into this trade show featuring over 230 exhibitors. Other zones will include Nat&Bio, for natural products; the Cosmeeting showcase; Zoom for new emerging brands; and Cosmeeting Colour for ethnic beauty suppliers.

Tel: +33 1 44 69 95 69

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

**14-17 Sep 2014**

**SPATEC Fall North America**

Scottsdale, US

SPATEC Fall 2014 will bring together the operators of the US's leading hotel resort, destination, athletic, medical and day spas with key domestic and international



Spa China Summit 2014 brings suppliers to meet with the hotel Spa, day Spa and medispa project holders

**21-23 Aug 2014**

**SpaChina Summit & Awards**

The Ritz-Carlton, Chengdu, China

The seventh Spa China Summit is a three-day event aimed at the country's spa professionals, owners, investors and suppliers. It will include speeches by

top experts, workshops and networking sessions. Held alongside the summit, the fifth SpaChina Awards ceremony recognises leaders and innovators in China's spa industry.

Tel: +86 21 5385 8951

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

suppliers to participate in a series of one-to-one meetings over two business days.

Tel: +1 214 592 4270

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

**17-18 Sep 2014**

**Hotel Investment Conference (Hot.E)**

Jumeirah Carlton Tower, London, UK

Hotel Investment Conference Europe (Hot.E) sessions focus on two things, the capital markets (debt and equity) and where the investment opportunities across the length and breadth of Europe are today. One third of attendees in 2013 represented debt, equity and development companies.

Tel: +1 714 540 9300

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

**18-20 Sep 2014**

**World Spa & Well-being Convention 2014**

Bangkok, Thailand

A three-day trade exhibition and a two-day congress, focusing on Education and Standards & Innovation, the WSWC is setting new operational standards, helping to strengthen the industry for the future.

Tel: +66 2833 5126

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

**20-23 Sep 2014**

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## Rancho Mirage Resort finally debuts

The Ritz-Carlton Rancho Mirage, in southern California, opened in May after seven years of delays.

Originally scheduled to debut in December 2007, before the financial crisis, the 244-bedroom resort in Coachella Valley – on a 650-ft (2,133sq m) bluff overlooking Palm Springs and enveloped in the Santa Rosa Mountain range – has been renovated by Arcadia-based developers Kam Sang Co over the past 15 months. The resort has been converted from the Lodge at Rancho Mirage, since its rebrand in 2001, back into a luxury Ritz-Carlton property.

While most of the resort has already opened, the Edge steakhouse is expected to debut in Q4 of this year and the 24,000sq ft (2,229sq m) spa will launch in Q3. The 16-treatment room desert spa features a pre- and post-treatment relaxation area, including natural rock walls and a plunge pool set into the hillside.

A selection of treatments will be on offer including the signature Ritz-Carlton Tailored



Construction resumed in 2012 after Kam Sang bought a majority share

Facial and the Organic Bliss Scalp & Body Massage, as well as a number of other facials, massages, men's exclusives, water therapies and body treatments. Treatments feature techniques and ingredients indigenous to the area, focused on hydration, and relaxation.

Other wellness facilities include a pool, fitness centre and yoga areas, while there will also be 30,000sq ft (2,787sq m) of meeting space. There are also plans to build up to 150 adjacent condominiums. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=t5h3P>

## Huma Island Resort & Spa launches in the Philippines

The five-star Huma Island Resort and Spa, located on the last frontier of the Philippines, has launched with 15 beach villas, 64 water villas – built on stilts over the beach water – and two presidential suites.

The 81 tropical villas are situated on the Dicoligan island in Busuanga, Palawan – developed by the owning company, Kuwait-based IHTC. Its subsidiary company in the Philippines, HUMA Corporation renamed the island Huma Island Resort & Spa three years ago prior to the renovation.

Built over water, with glass floors, the US\$525,000 (€383,268, £311,999) seven-treatment room Huma Island Spa offers guests beauty services such as waxing, manicures and pedicures, in addition to Ayurvedic therapies plus Swedish massages.

The spa also features an Arabic hammam which comprises a steambath and two hammam treatment tables for Moroccan-style exfoliating mud therapies.

*Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=E2m6r>



Spafinder Wellness 365 is organising the awards

## 300 nominees compete for world's first Wellness Awards

Nearly 300 nominees for the world's first Wellness Travel Awards, which will honour hotels, resorts, destination spas and retreats offering the best wellness travel, vacations, spa breaks and experiences. An independent global panel of 25 wellness and travel journalists – including *Spa Business* editor Liz Terry and managing editor Katie Barnes – plus industry experts, selected the official nominees for the 18 categories. The chosen ones represent six continents, more than 40 countries and are known to offer experiences and environments that leave visitors healthier when they check out than when they checked in.

Wellness enthusiasts can vote at [spafinder.com](http://spafinder.com) from now until 19 September 2014. The winners will be announced at the World Travel Market in London between 3-6 November. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=u7f8G>

## Spa consultancies announce collaboration

Soul Spa Concepts, a spa design and consultancy company, has partnered with dR Global Dubai – the spa training and education consultants who distribute top cosmetic brands – to offer knowledge to clients from design and pre-opening through to ongoing management contracts.

Helen Coulon, managing director of Soul Spa Concepts – which has operational bases in Romania, England and France – is working with brands such as Buddha-bar, Starwood, Marriott, Hyatt

and many others in more than 20 countries.

dR Global, run by Daniella Russell, will provide the partnership with its experience of spa project management, distribution strategies and training programmes – currently employed across the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Russell will operate as development and operations director in her new role.

“We have some amazing interest for new projects in a variety of locations from the



Helen Coulon used to work at Chiva Som International on spa openings

Maldives to Brussels and realised we needed to join forces as quickly as possible to achieve the best for these spa opportunities that have come our way,” said Coulon in a statement.

The collaboration will also aim to create training schools for therapists with an emphasis on retail and customer care. Russell and Coulon first worked together 20 years ago at the spa retreat Chiva Som International, Thailand. *Details:* <http://lei.sr?a=7D6K6>



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## Spa Manager

### Cape Weligama Resort – Sri Lanka



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

Opening August 2014 is the 40-suite Cape Weligama, perched dramatically atop a palm-studded headland. Cape Weligama sits in 12 acres of landscaped gardens and enjoys striking 270-degree panoramas of the Indian Ocean and cove sprinkled Weligama coastline. Clusters of standalone villas and high standards of personalised service emphasise the residential aspect of a stay.  
[www.capeweligama.com](http://www.capeweligama.com)

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**[spa@capeweligama.com](mailto:spa@capeweligama.com)** and/or  
**[farida@salamanderspa.net](mailto:farida@salamanderspa.net)**

*Thank you and we look forward to hearing you soon! -  
 The Cape Weligama Team*

## Sri Lankan President launches Centara Resort

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa was on hand this month to launch the Centara Ceysands Resort & Spa, which is situated on the southwest Bentota Peninsula – sandwiched between the Bentota River and the Indian Ocean.

The 165-key resort features a Spa Cenvaree with traditional Sri Lankan and Ayurvedic Indian treatments along with its range of signature Thai therapies. The spa is connected to a fitness centre, oceanfront swimming pool, hot tub and a children's pool.

"We view Sri Lanka as being of great potential for us, and the island is part of our strategy to develop our market in the Indian Ocean region," commented Thirayuth Chirathivat, CEO of Centara Hotels & Resorts.



Colombo Bandaranaike International Airport is 100km from the resort

Guests must travel for two minutes by barge to reach the resort's arrival lounge at Aluthgama on the inland side of the river. River and deep-sea fishing, plus river safaris are also available. **Details:** <http://lei.sr?a=b9M8R>

## Sensitive skin product sales take off

Almost a quarter of facial skincare users in the US say they look for products with natural, organic ingredients – claiming they have sensitive skin – according to *Mintel's Global New Products Database* (GNPD) based on results from between 1 January and 1 April of this year.

People who claim their skin is sensitive represent 25 per cent of total skincare users, compared to 15 per cent in 2009. Meanwhile, 71 per cent of facial skincare users want ultra-gentle products.

Mintel estimates that sales of gentle/ sensitive products are more than US\$202m (€148m, £118m) per year with the majority of sales being generated by the facial cleanser and facial moisturiser segments. Sensitive and gentle skincare products are also capturing a greater percentage of facial cleanser and moisturiser sales.



22 per cent of facial skincare users seek out paraben-free products

"While facial skincare products have typically highlighted the addition of ingredients such as vitamins and botanicals, the category appears to be moving toward highlighting what's not in the formula – dyes, fragrance etc," said Shannon Romanowski, senior beauty analyst for Mintel. **Details:** <http://lei.sr?a=w5F9Y>

## Malaysia to determine Islamic tourism benchmarks

*Continued from cover*

According to Amer's management team, such restrictions create a friendly atmosphere for customers seeking entertainment and dining options that respect their values and cultures.

"When everything has been fine-tuned,

these services will be recognised by JAKIM as sharia-compliant, just as food is given halal certification," Jamil Khir Baharom told *Bernama*, a national news agency. "We have an excellent record in shariah-based finance in Malaysia," he added. **Details:** <http://lei.sr?a=M5Q6F>

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