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# spa opportunities

18 JULY - 31 JULY 2014 ISSUE 194

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## Anantara Spa opens at the base of Buddhist mountain

Minor Hotels Group's Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spa brand has opened its third resort in China at the base of Mount Emei – the highest of China's Four Sacred Buddhist Mountains and a UNESCO World Heritage Site of legendary sanctuaries, ancient trees, waterfalls and hot springs.

The 150-bedroom Anantara Emei Resort & Spa is located in Sichuan Province, southwest China. The resort's spa features three treatment rooms and three spa suites, wellness relaxation areas, a Chinese herbal bath, a male and female

salon and a nail spa. In addition to its signature massage therapies, the Anantara facility offers Thai massage and tea-drinking rituals.

Treatments available include a hydrating Pu-Erh tea body scrub, a ginger-laced Ling



The spa offers Thai massage and a body wrap infused with white clay and vitamin E

and Tai Chi classes. There is also a children's pool and club.

Dining options come in the form of six restaurants, each featuring varying ethnic foods. Sichuan recipes will be taught to food enthusiasts in Anantara's cooking classes, dubbed "Spice Spoons".

Visitors to the area can take a cable car to the summit of Mount Emei to see the world's highest golden Buddha statue (48m, 161ft). The Exui Lake is also two kilometres (1.2 miles) away from the resort and China's iconic giant pandas can be found just 90 min-

utes away by vehicle, in the Chengdu Plain.

This resort and spa joins the Anantara Xishuangbanna Resort and Spa in Yunnan Province and Anantara Sanya Resort & Spa on Hainan Island. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=F2n6J* 

## Conde Nast to rename proposed Spafinder

Spa Opportunities understands Condé Nast Traveller magazine is to find an alternative name for its soon-to-launch online spa guide. It had previously announced the service would be known as The Spa Finder, however, global spa search, marketing and gifting outfit Spafinder challenged the move on the grounds of passing off, saying the name was too similar to its own and would cause confusion in the market. Spafinder CEO Pete Ellis - who has been robust in his defence of the Spafinder brand in the past - has remained silent on the matter. Details: http://lei.sr?a=C8h5U

Zhi bath, a body wrap infused with white clay and vitamin E, plus an exotic bamboo massage.

The resort also has an outdoor pool and whirlpool in addition to a fitness centre, which offers table tennis, outdoor tennis courts, yoga

## Limegrove Spa & Fitness launches

The Limegrove Spa & Fitness at Limassol Marina, Cyprus, is a three-storey stand-alone wellness centre project by spa consultants Spa Creators that officially launched on 13 July. The spa and health facility is owned by SCIMPO Investments - a company specialised in wellness projects which is funded by various financial investors, including the centre's operating company - spa consultancy C&G Spa Creators. The Limegrove project - located in a marina complex which has up to 700 berthing places - took approximately three years to complete - having been put on hold for financial reasons for a year. Limegrove Spa & Fitness, a wellness concept by C&G Spa Creators, will feature five customised spa treatment rooms on the top floor, a retail area,



The facility's spa therapists are all trained by Li'tya

relaxation room, sunbathing deck and a sea view terrace. There is room to construct two more treatment rooms if demand is high.

The middle floor comprises a 20m outdoor lap pool, hair salon, lobby and gym – the cardio suite is situated over the water in the marina.

The lower level houses gym changing rooms. *Continued on back cover* 

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## Wellness resort set for Hoi An

The picturesque Vietnamese town of Hoi An – a UNESCO World Heritage site – will play host to a new Tai Chithemed wellness resort when the Alma Courtyard Hoi An debuts at the end of August. The resort will be operated by Serenity Holdings – which as well as Alma, boasts the Fusion Resorts, A La Carte and M2Boutique Hotels brands – following the recent launch of the Fusion Maia resort in nearby Da Nang.

With Vietnam's wellness sector forecast to grow by 16

per cent annually over the next five years, the country is fast becoming a hotbed of development, with a number of international operators eager to set up shop along its coastlines.

Alma Courtyard Hoi An aims to offer a complete journey for mind, body and soul. All guests receive a daily 'My Chi' wellness journey to balance the body's vital energy or "chi", including a steam and sauna, choice of massage, Tai Chi energy movement and meditation practice. Local therapists will use 100 per cent local and natural spa products at the resort's holistic



Hoi An is well known as one of the most beautiful areas in Vietnam

spa, which comprises 42 treatment rooms – 14 double and 28 single – as well as a poolside juice bar, gym, yoga studio and beauty salon.

Elsewhere at the resort, the 144-bedroom aims to showcase the flavours of Hoi An's French-infused cuisine. The Four Plate Restaurant features four interactive demonstration kitchens to help guests become acquainted with a variety of local foods, while the Blue Bottle Bar features an array of exotic beverages made using local fruits and spices. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=z7b8m* 

## Six Senses Spas to manage Al Bustan Palace

Six Senses Spas has won a contract to manage the 32,000sq ft (3,000sq m) spa due to open in February 2015 at the Ritz-Carlton operated Al Bustan Palace in Muscat, Oman.

Reflective of traditional Omani design, the spa will complement the hotel's opulent domed ceilings, elegant arched walkways, falaj (water channels) reflecting pools and natural stone walls and floors.

A five-minute walk from Al Bustan Palace, the spa is being built into the surrounding landscape of towering stone and rock cliffs of the Haijar

Mountains. Housed on three levels in the style of an ancient Arabian fort, heavy wooden doors flank the imposing entrance.

The spa is comprised of a large reception area; relaxation lounge with a library, game room and a green bar serving Six Senses nutrition shots, power juices and express beauty services. With 17 treatment rooms and a myriad of wet facilities such as infrared saunas,



Al Bustan Palace is flanked by the rock cliffs of the Haijar Mountains

showers, ice showers, relaxation areas and hammams, the facility aims to offer something for every spa-goer. In the meditation and yoga pavilions, guests can experience Six Senses' newly-launched yogic programmes and enjoy sessions from the group's visiting practitioners programme. A wide range of locally-inspired massages, facials, and wellness therapies will be available. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=rgygU* 





## Starwood enters UAE emirate Ajman

Starwood Hotels & Resorts has expanded its footprint in the UAE with its first hotel in Ajman – the smallest emirate by area at only 259sq km (100sq m) – and the UAE's first GOCO Spa.

The 205-key Amjan Saray resort is the first of 10 Luxury Collection-branded hotels due to open around the world in the next 12 months, according to a statement from Starwood.

The GOCO Spa at Ajman Saray features 17 treatment rooms across 1,250sq m (13,455sq ft). Out of respect

for local culture, the spa offers two completely separate, private male and female thermal bathing facilities, which each include a steamroom, sauna, authentic hammam, ice fountain and numerous chromotherapy rain showers.

"Being appointed by HH Sheikh Ammar bin Humaid Al Nuaim to manage the spa and wellness facilities at the Ajman Saray represents a very good omen for our expansion in the Middle East," said Ingo Schweder, CEO and founder of GOCO Hospitality. "It's a vibrant marketplace and we have a



The spa is on the resort's third floor, overlooking the Arabian Gulf

diverse yet specific spa, beauty and wellness offering – unlike any other. We anticipate the addition of more GOCO Spas in this dynamic and financially prosperous region in the next 24 months," Schweder continued.

The private section of the female spa comprises six multi-purpose rooms and The Glamour Studio, a dedicated beauty salon and two beauty treatment rooms offering advance beauty facials by QMS Medicosmetics.

The male spa is equipped with seven multipurpose rooms. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=C4V2e* 

## Tribal Nalai Spa revealed for Park Hyatt, NYC

Park Hyatt's upcoming flagship hotel in New York will feature an artisanal spa called Nalai, which means 'serenity' in the language of the Lenape people – the original tribe of Manhattan.

Scheduled to open in Q3 of this year, the 13,000sq ft (1,208sq m) spa will be located on the 210-guestroom hotel's 25th floor, providing sweeping views of the iconic New York City skyline and Central Park.

A three-storey aerie at the top of the hotel will serve as an extension of the spa,

comprising a steamroom, hot tub, changing rooms and an indoor swimming pool – which features underwater speakers that play an exclusive soundtrack from Carnegie Hall.

Treatments will range from ancient healing techniques to those which involve advanced technologies and enahnced beauty rituals.

The spa will release a limited inventory of seasonal treatments to the public for advance purchase six to eight weeks prior to the launch



The spas large windows make the space feel like an artisanal workshop

of each season – to be offered at a designated time each day. Product lines carried by the tribal Nalai spa will include Carita Paris, H Gillerman Organics and Stemulation.

The hotel was designed by Pritzker Prizewinning architect Christian de Portzamparc and the Yabu Pushelberg firm carried out the interior design. The spa's interior has expansive floor-to-ceiling windows to allow light in. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=w7V2d* 

## Barr + Wray acquires interior designers EDP International

Barr + Wray has acquired Dubai-based spa interior design specialists EDP International.

The companies have previously collaborated on a number of spa projects, including the Eastern Mangroves Hotel & Spa by Anantara and the Jumeirah Etihad Towers, both of which are in Abu Dhabi.

According to Barr + Wray managing director Alister MacDonald, the move helps the UK-based company to meet the increased demand for spa interior design services he has seen from the Middle East.

The acquisition also allows the company to offer a more integrated and co-ordinated approach to spa engineering and interior design. MacDonald said all stages of a project could now be managed under one roof, from design through to delivery.

As part of the acquisition, three of EDP's designers will transfer to Barr + Wray's operations. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=U5z5X* 



Viva Mayr detox treatments will be on the menu

#### ESPA Life partners with VIVA Mayr Clinic at the Corinthia, UK

ESPA Life at Corinthia Hotel London is partnering with Austrian-based medispa VIVA Mayr Clinic from June 2014 onwards to offer treatment plans all based on the Modern Mayr Medical Philosophy – a fasting and intestinal cleansing programme developed by Dr Franz Xaver Mayr at the turn of the last century.

Located within the 294-key Victorian Corinthia Hotel London, ESPA Life is a 3,300sq m (305,521sq ft) spa spread across four floors, featuring a team of naturopaths, dieticians, acupuncturists, osteopaths, physiotherapists, sports masseurs, personal fitness trainers and beauty therapists.

The site will be known as ESPA Life VIVA Med and its ESPA services will be supplemented by treatments from founders of the VIVA Mayr Clinic doctors Christine and Harald Stossier – both of whom are qualified general practitioners. Both doctors will be on-site. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=z4v8n* 

## GSWS invites spa stakeholders to complete industry survey

The Global Spa & Wellness Summit (GSWS) is inviting all spa businesses and stakeholders to participate in an important global industry survey which will provide up-to-date and robust spa economy data, vital for effective benchmarking.

SRI International – the not-for-profit research organisation originally founded as Stanford Research Institute – led the landmark Global Spa Economy study presented in 2008 at the GSWS and will reprise that role this year. The new survey will provide the revised results required to compile the baseline for annual updates going forward.

The survey, which takes approximately 10 minutes to complete, involves different kinds of spa stakeholders inputting details of their business interests in the spa industry. The information submitted is confidential and participants will receive a copy. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=r4f8Q* 



Each of the Tokoriki Retreats has a plunge pool

## Sheraton resort opens after US\$18.5m revamp in Fiji

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide has announced the opening of Sheraton Resort & Spa on Tokoriki Island, Fiji – having undergone a US\$18.5m (€14m, £11m) renovation prior to raising the Sheraton flag.

The 35-acre resort – which can be reached by either a 12-minute helicopter ride or an hour's boat trip – is owned by a local Fijian proprietary company called Ritam Investments, which is part of the P Meghji Group. Tokoriki Island is the northernmost island within Fiji's idyllic Mamanuca group.

The previously independent resort features a total of 101 guest rooms and suites, including 30 Tokoriki Retreats. The Tokoriki Retreat Spa features four treatment rooms for therapies inspired by its location. Products at the spa are supplied by both Pure Fiji and Thalgo. Treatments include massages, body wraps, body scrubs, facials and mani-pedis. Recreational facilities on-site include a cinema. **Details:** http://lei.sr?a=v8q6x

## Disney's B Indulged spa to open in Q3

The B Resort & Spa in the Walt Disney Resort, by Florida's Lake Buena Vista, launched in June after an extensive renovation of the guestrooms, while the newly-added spa is scheduled to follow later this year.

Situated in a the 17-storey tower, the 394-key B Resort & Spa is within walking distance of the Downtown Disney area of Orlando theme park Walt Disney World. The property was acquired in December 2011 through a joint venture between investment companies Florida-based InSite Group



The resort is minutes from the Downtown Disney zone in Orlando

and London-based Cube Capital. The property is managed by Crescent Hotels & Resorts, headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia.

The first full-service B Indulged by Aveda Spa remains on schedule for a late Q3 opening. The 3,000sq ft (279sq m) spa will feature four treatment rooms – one of which is for couples – a spa pool, a separate hair salon, nail boutique, relaxation lounge and a B Active fitness centre.

The spa, which will be run in-house, is supplied by Aveda skincare. Treatments available

include massages, body, nail and hair care.

"B Indulged by Aveda, a collaboration between B Resort & Spa and Aveda, will provide customised treatments for ladies, gentlemen, teens and children," said spa director Beny Koe speaking to *Spa Opportunities*. The hotel also includes 25,000sq ft (2,323sq

m) of indoor and outdoor function space.

Restaurant offerings include a full service American BBQ restaurant called American Q. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=k4Y3u* 

## Affordable Maldives resorts in the works

Resort manager The Small Maldives Island Company will soon launch two new affordable island resorts set to offer daily spa treatments for every guest, and complimentary water sports.

The Amilla Fushi resort will open in November 2014 and the Finolhu expects to open in Q4 of 2015. Both are owned and currently being developed by Coastline Hotels and Resorts – part of the Coastline Group – one of the Maldives' largest private companies. Further details of the properties' spas are not being

released at this time. The Small Maldives Island Company says it is seizing an opportunity in the Maldives that has not been exploited yet, by providing affordable holiday options.

"My business partners (chair and co-founder Michael Flynn and director of operations Carsten Schieck) and I have all been involved in Maldives resorts for a long time and have all been hankering to do something to shake



Guests can snorkel to the Amilla Fushi house reef's dive site

things up and move away from the status quo – now we have the opportunity to bring our ideas to life," co-founder of The Small Island Company Tom McLoughlin, known for his role at spa creator company Per Aquum told *Spa Opportunities*. Per Aquum, the spa division of Universal Enterprises, was bought out by Minor Hotel Group MHG) in 2013. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=m5u3U* 

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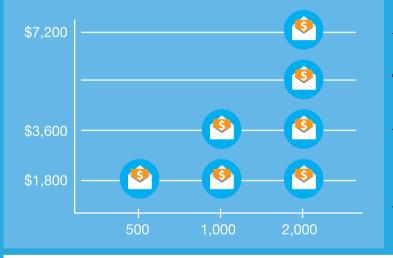
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## Green Spa Network selects new executive director, Paul Schmidt

Sustainability-focused spa association The Green Spa Network (GSN) has appointed a new executive director, spa industry veteran Paul Schmidt, who will be responsible for all programme development.

Schmidt's experience includes an extensive background in massage therapy, as well as curriculum building for massage schools in the US - Utah College of Massage Therapy and Eagle Gate College. He has also directed several spas including the Willow Stream Spa at the Fairmont Southampton and oversaw the development of wellness centres in Burlington - Vermont, Salt Lake City - Utah and Jackson Hole in Wyoming. Schmidt has served on the board of numerous massage schools, the International Spa Association and the Jackson Hole Destination Wellness Committee. Schmidt will report to the GSN board of directors. Details: http://lei.sr?a=p4m6K



The site is the former HQ of Durham University

#### Historic building in Durham, UK, to become spa hotel

The historic former headquarters of the University of Durham in the UK could be converted into a luxury spa hotel under multi-million pound plans recently revealed by businessman Shaun Crawley.

Crawley has purchased Old Shire Hall in the north of England with a view to create a 70-bedroom boutique hotel and spa, which he says will "rival the best in the area."

Plans are to transform the Grade II-listed Victorian building to include a fine-dining restaurant, several bars, 40 hotel rooms, a 30-room apart-hotel and function rooms for the building which is situated in the heart of Durham. There will also be spa facilities offering a variety of treatments.

The University sold the building to the now-defunct regional development agency One North East in 2008 for £4.2m (US\$7.1m, €5.3m). In February 2014 the property was sold to Crawley for an undisclosed fee. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=F7y9r* 

## Fijian resort & spa tempts daredevils

The new Nanuku Resort & Spa has opened in what is known as the 'Adventure Capital of Fiji' – near to Pacific Harbour on Viti Levu island – offering guests a range of activities.

The thrills and spills include shark dives in the Beqa Lagoon, surfing at the legendary Frigates Pass, ziplining through lush rainforest canopies and an off-road cave safari where you wade by lantern light through Fiji's largest network system of caves.

Owned by American investment company Bixby

Bridge Capital, the US\$25m (€18m, £15m) Nanuku Resort & Spa spans 25 acres across a single cove, although the total land plot totals 500 acres. Nanuku Ocean Estates residencies are up for sale and occupy another 25 acres of this in a separate cove, while future residential development is in the early planning stages according to national media. A third cove project is also said to be in the pipeline, but the rest of the land will remain largely undeveloped.

In the resort's main cove, the Lomana Spa & Wellness Centre features two indoor treatment



Resort activities include stand-up paddle boarding and food trail walks

rooms for both couples' or individual therapies and three outdoor treatment bures (wood and straw cabins). The centre also includes an outdoor relaxation area, a secluded spa bath, tropical garden and hair salon. The outdoor decking area is used for manicure and pedicures. There is also a fitness centre upstairs.

The spa, which is run in-house by Nanuku Resort & Spa, uses products from the Pure Fiji range which blend pure coconut oil and flower extracts to moisturise both skin and hair. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=g5q8H* 

## Asian-inspired Setai hotel to relaunch spa

A regenerated spa is about to premiere at The Setai hotel on Miami Beach, Florida, US, which opened in November last year after a multi-million dollar series of renovations.

The revamped spa will officially launch on 8 July and will feature four spacious and oriental-inspired treatment suites boasting ocean and pool views, plus a private bathroom and steamroom in each. The large rooms have been designed with couples or friends in mind, enabling treatments in tandem.

The hotel re-emerged last November with revamped infinity pools

The spa will offer specially formulated skincare treatments by Thémaé – the first time the brand has featured in a US spa – whose products are made from four types of teas: red (rooibos), white, green and black.

"Thémaé has been partnering with the best spas across the world," said Bertrand Thiery, CEO and co-founder, Thémaé. "For our debut in the US, we have chosen The Setai, Miami Beach, not only for its award-winning history as an authentic Asian-inspired luxury hotel, but because we also share the same passion to provide our guests with the highest level of service and best experience possible."

The spa will continue to offer its signature Asian-inspired spa rituals such as the Ancient Balinese and Traditional Thai massages.

Thémaé is a Paris-based cosmetics and spa brand named after the Japanese tea preparation ceremony. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=x5j2G* 

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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

#### 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.international beauty expo.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 innovate concepts to market. **Tel:** +1 609 759 4700 **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

#### 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



#### 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

suppliers to participate in a series of one-toone meetings over two business days. Tel: +1 214 592 4270 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 bredth of Europe are today. One third of attendees in 2013 represented debt, equity and development companies. Tel: +1 714 540 9300

www.europehotelconference.com

#### 18-20 Sep 2014 World Spa & Well-being Convention 2014 Bangkok, Thailand

A three-day trade exhibition and a twoday 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

#### 20-23 Sep 2014 SPATEC Middle East 2014

Dubai, UAE SPATEC Middle East 2014 offers the most important spa operators spas from the Middle East region a place to meet with key leading domestic and international suppliers. Tel: +356 9944 8862 www.spatecme.com

#### 30 Sep-1 Oct 2014

#### Spameeting Europe 2014

Radisson Blu Hotels & Resorts, Dubrovnik Sun Garden, Croatia A two-day forum of face-to-face meetings between spa suppliers and decision makers from Europe.

Tel: +33 1 44 69 97 67 www.spameeting.com

#### www.spaniceting.com

#### 13-15 Oct 2014

ISPA Conference and Expo 2014 Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino Las Vegas, Nevada, US

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www.experienceispa.com

У Twitter: @spaopps



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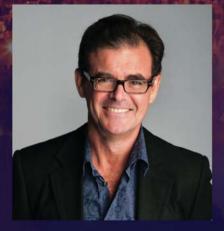
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## US\$55m revamp for Hawaiian Westin

The Westin Maui Resort & Spa in Hawaii, US, is set to undergo a US\$55m (€40m, £32m) facelift that includes a new landscaping facility, conversion of a convention hall into a ballroom and major upgrades to its existing spa centre.

Construction is expected to last 30 months, according to a draft environmental assessment for the proposed renovation. The start date has not yet been determined however, as the project is still in the permitting stage.

The resort's existing 15,000sq

ft (1,394sq m) Heavenly Spa by Westin is an oceanfront facility that features 16 treatment rooms, a relaxation lounge, a Westin fitness studio, a studio for yoga, Pilates and meditation, in addition to a full-service salon.

The men's and women's locker rooms each feature a whirlpool, steamroom and sauna.

The Heavenly Spa carries a signature product line called Hualini which consists of locally grown exotic ingredients such as extracts from pineapples and passion fruit, designed



The resort's main hotel tower recently received a US\$50m revamp

exclusively for Hawaiian Heavenly Spas. The 759-key Westin Maui, which is located in the Kaanapali Resort in Lahaina, also recently completed a US\$50m ( $\in$ 37m, £29m) renovation of its main accommodation tower – The Ocean Tower, according to *bizjournals*. This extensive refurbishment took six months. The James Campbell Company owns the land on which the resort is built and Starwood affiliate Westin Maui is the lessee of the property in Maui. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=W6Y3U* 

## Malaysian gov't set to fund spa scholarships

The Malaysian ministry of tourism and culture (MOTAC) has partnered with a local spa academy to provide scholarships for would-be spa therapists as part of the country's project to become a high income economy by 2020.

Malaysia's Economic Transformation Programme identified several national key economic areas (NKEA) which require development. Malaysia is targeting annual tourism expenditure of RM168bn (US $\pm$ 2bn,  $\pm$ 38bn,  $\pm$ 31bn)

by 2020. Improvements to the spa and wellness sector is one of the country's financial priorities identified during industry consultations.

Spa and wellness is being targeted to bring RM400m (US\$124m,  $\in$ 91m,  $\pounds$ 73m) in gross national income to the country and create 3,500 jobs, according to a statement made by Ong Hong Peng, secretary general of the ministry of tourism and culture. The statement was published on a local media website.



Officials hope to meet the target of 36 million tourist arrivals by 2020

To achieve this, Beaubelle Aesthetics Academy will offer a training programme which follows the National Occupational Skills Standard (NOSS) Level 3 for Spa Therapists, which was developed by the Skills Development Department using the National Dual Training System – 30 per cent theoretical and 70 per cent practical training. Three to five-star spas across Malaysia will employ the graduates. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=p5c9K* 

## Hyatt to restore 16th Century castle into a luxury hotel

Hyatt Hotels & Resorts has entered into an agreement with Badriah Investments to develop a Hyatt-branded hotel within a 16th Century castle in the southwest German spa town of Baden-Baden.

Scheduled to open in 2018, the Neues Schloss Baden-Baden castle will be restored to include 146 guestrooms, a bar, restaurant, fitness centre and meeting space. A modern extension of the property will feature a spa, pool and sauna area, with views of Baden Baden and the Black Forest.

Famous for its ancient Roman baths and thermal spas, Baden-Baden is home to this castle, which comprises 590,000sq ft (55,000sq m) of historic grounds plus parkland, close to the French and Swiss borders.

Formerly the residence of the region's margraves – military commanders that protected the borders of the Holy Roman Empire this will be the seventh Hyatt-branded hotel in Germany. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=n3G4S* 



Planet Beach machines perform seven massages

#### Automated US spa franchise Planet Beach travels to Europe

The automated spa franchise Planet Beach, headquartered in New Orleans, US, is branching out into Europe, bringing its membership-driven business model with low labour costs and competition to the Polish spa industry.

Planet Beach, the Marrero-based skincare and spa franchise – with a presence not only in Louisiana, US, but also in Egypt, Australia, Canada and Saudi Arabia – has partnered with franchisee Marek Przezpolewski, a dual resident of Miami and his native Poland. He plans to open two Planet Beach locations in Poland by the end of 2014. The other is expected to debut at the beginning of 2015.

"The Polish health and wellness market has similar concepts, but they are very expensive," said Przezpolewski in a statement. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=n6P5v* 



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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.

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

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### Shangri-La to manage hotel on Palm Jumeirah

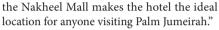
Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts has signed a letter of intent to manage a 290-bedroom hotel in The Palm Tower on the world's largest manmade island, Palm Jumeirah in Dubai - owned by real estate developer Nakheel. Construction of The Palm Tower is scheduled to begin this year and expected to open in 2016, with the Shangri-La hotel to be located on the first 18 floors of the 52-storey building. The hotel will feature a health club and spa, an outdoor pool and family dining.



Shangri-La is expanding its portfolio in the Middle East with this site

The Palm Tower itself is part of the new The Palm Monorail and Nakheel Mall, an entertainment destination – also slated to open in 2016.

"Palm Jumeirah is synonymous with luxury living and leisure," said Nakheel chair Ali Rashid Lootah. "Our new partnership with Shangri-La further reinforces the island's position as a global destination offering unrivalled, world-class facilities for Dubai's residents and tourists." Shangri-La president and CEO Greg Dogan agreed, "The Palm Tower's strategic position at the heart of The Palm and alongside



Shangri-La's new project on Palm Jumeirah is part of the group's expanding portfolio in the Middle East. It currently operates four hotels in Abu Dhabi and Dubai in addition to a resort in Muscat, Oman. It also plans to manage two hotels that are under development in Qatar.

Nakheel is currently developing hotels in Dubai at Palm Jumeirah and the Deira Islands – another collection of man-made islands. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=N8z4Z* 

## Cyprus' Limegrove opens in Limassol

Continued from front cover Separate changing rooms for spa customers, a steamroom and sauna, a studio for meditation, yoga and Pilates as well as an outdoor fitness area are included in Limegrove's new Limassol spa. "The Limegrove facility fills a gap in the market," Chris Anastassiou, managing director of Spa Creators for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, told Spa Opportunities. "There's nothing like this in the whole of Cyprus - a day

spa concept totally separate from any hotel accommodation. The Limegrove spa offers the standards of a five-star hotel but in a specialised environment that hotels don't have because that's not their core business. Spa is never their focus," Anastassiou continued.

While the Limegrove expects some transient clientele, for example yacht owners visiting the marina, the majority of its members will be locals who become regulars, meaning the facility will have a more social ambience. According to Anastassiou,



Li'tya products are also used within the hair salon and men's barber

the centre anticipates 600 members. As Spa Creators are distributors of Li'tya spa products, the Limegrove will be supplied by the Australian Aborigine product house.

Li'tya, meaning 'of the Earth', is a range of skin, hair and body products made from indigenous Australian plants with the principles of modern and indigenous herbalism, aromatherapy and touch therapy. The spa menu's treatments include spa rituals, massage journeys, facials, body wraps and men's therapies. *Details: http://lei.sr?a=d2k3K* 

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