

spa opportunities

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Daily news & jobs: www.spaopportunities.com

Andrew Gibson outlines FRHI's fitness and spa concepts

Andrew Gibson, VP of spa and wellness at Fairmont Raffles Hotels International (FRHI), has spoken exclusively to *Spa Opportunities* about the branding for each of the three hotel groups managed by the organisation – Fairmont, Raffles and Swissôtel – and how spa, fitness and wellness facilities will be represented within each.

FRHI, owned by Doha-based Qatari Investment Authority and Saudi-based Kingdom Holding Company, has regionalised its business and instead of running the brands as separate entities, they will be streamlined for future growth opportunities, according to Gibson.

At a roundtable briefing with members of the media earlier this month at the Savoy in London, FRHI brand presidents Jennifer Fox of



Andrew Gibson left Mandarin Oriental to become VP of spa and wellness at FRHI in January

Fairmont and Peter French of Raffles outlined consumer research results which has helped them to better understand their respective target markets. This information has been used by Gibson to design a framework for each branded

property's spa concept.

The consumer research, conducted by international online market research agency YouGov, demonstrated that the Raffles brand caters for guests with an average age of 39. 77 per cent of Raffles consumers purchase luxury goods and services while on vacation, 91 per cent fly first class, 88 per cent like 'rare' brands and 53 per cent like to be regarded as wealthy.

In terms of spa, the three principles that will permeate each Raffles spa are space, privacy and time. "Excellent

service is no longer a USP, it is an expected part of luxury service," Gibson told *Spa Opportunities* following the briefing. "We're designing our facilities with privacy in mind."

Continued on back cover

'Voluntary yogic vomiting' detox to launch at Ananda

The Himalayan Ananda Spa is offering a new "Yogic Cleanse" programme in December, focused on balancing the body's elements – mucus, bile and wind – via a series of breathing techniques, voluntary yogic vomiting and ayurvedic nasal cleansing procedures.

Available as a seven-day or 14-day course, guests will be invited to carry out the yogic cleanse, known as Shatkriya, to detoxify the body. Hatha yoga poses are incorporated into the retreat's programme.

Luke warm saline solution is swallowed on an empty stomach to induce vomiting to cleanse the digestive system. Details: http://lei.sr?a=R9P7M_S

Bespoke hydropool for Ritz-Carlton Bali

Guests of the Ritz-Carlton Bali in Indonesia, will be able to swim with dolphins in the Indian Ocean, go sailing and participate in night dives when the property opens in Q2 of 2015.

Located in the developing Sawangan area, south of Nusa Dua, the 288-key property – including 90 suites and 14 villas – is owned by PT Bali Nusaintan and will feature a 25,000sq ft (2,323sq m) spa and wellness facility.

The spa will comprise 14 treatment rooms, four of which are spa villas for couples. Thermal spa engineers Barr+Wray have supplied the thermal areas, including a large bespoke version of its Hydro-Vitale pool, which treats the water with ultraviolet sterilisation to improve the water quality. There are male and female wet areas with hot pools, cold plunge pools, a



Ten of the 14 villas on-site are cliff-top properties

salt sauna, steamroom and experience shower. The spa will be run in-house by Ritz-Carlton staff and products will be supplied by ESPA.

This new-build has been designed by architects WATG and the interiors have been created by design firm Burega-Farnell, which also worked on the Shanghai Ritz-Carlton.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=b2F2w_S

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First Hilton in Myanmar launches

Hilton Worldwide has opened the Hilton Nay Pyi Taw in the capital city of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw, just in time for the upcoming East Asia Summit to be held in November at the neighbouring Ruby Hall – a meetings venue.

The 202-key hotel, owned by Eden Group Company, spans more than 100 acres and is situated in the developing Dekkhina Thiri Township. Designed by Leo International Design Group, the leisure facilities on-site at the hotel include The Spa, a fitness centre, jogging paths, a tennis court and the largest outdoor swimming pool in Myanmar – 750sq m (8,073sq ft). The fitness centre and pool are already open, but the 600sq m (6,458sq ft) spa is still under development, expected to launch by the end of this year.

The Spa will feature six treatment rooms, four individual rooms and two couples' suites. There will also be, eight cabanas, a poolside bar, two whirlpools, two steamrooms and two saunas, with products provided by Guinot.

"Treatments at The Spa are a mix of



This hotel is the first of six to open in Myanmar in Hilton's portfolio

Myanmar and Thai-inspired techniques to suit all visitors looking for relaxation and rejuvenation," Win Pa Pa Kyi, spa manager for Hilton Nay Pyi Taw told *Spa Opportunities*.

To cater for meetings, incentives, conferences and events (MICE), the business hotel offers five function spaces including a standing reception area that can accommodate up to 410 people in the 458sq m (4,930sq ft) ballroom. A business centre is also available for guests and there are also three restaurant and bar options.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=e4z3m_S

Kaiser Spa opens in Chinese hotel

The Castle Hotel – a Luxury Collection Hotel by Starwood Hotels & Resorts – has opened on Lotus Mountain in China's Dalian, in a prime location overlooking Xinghai Bay in the East China Sea.

The city of Dalian's ports were used in ancient times as an international trading hub and as a nod to its heritage, the city hosts European-inspired events to attract tourists – for example the Dalian International Beer Festival and the Dalian International Fashion Festival. Dalian is also the sixth city in mainland China to introduce a 73-hour visa-free stay.

The 292-bedroom and 67-residence hotel is owned by the real estate investment company Dalian Yifang Group and is operated by Starwood Hotels & Resorts under The Luxury Collection brand. The hotel has been re-designed by HBA Interior Design, featuring European-inspired architecture.

Following an extensive renovation, the



The six-treatment room Kaiser Spa features a lounge and living room

property has revealed the Kaiser Spa, an 1,800sq m (19,375sq ft) wellness facility that features the skincare range Phytomer as well as six treatment rooms, a whirlpool, sauna, leisure lounge, living room and dining area – separate to the hotel's three restaurants. Investment in the spa's renovation amounted to CNY50m (US\$8m, €6m, £5m).

Details: http://lei.sr?a=V4j6X_S



Giant health club comes to Texas

The spa and fitness offering at Four Seasons Resort and Club Dallas at Las Colinas in Texas, US, is set to undergo a US\$3.5m (€2.8m, £2.2m) renovation, which will transform it into one of the largest luxury hotel health clubs in the country.

Luxury hotel spa operator Trilogy Spa Holdings is using its 'Well & Being' spa brand to market the new 176,000sq ft (16,351sq m) space, which is scheduled to open at the end of Q2 2015.

The Well & Being brand's concept features customised wellness experiences including fitness, nutrition, integrative medicine, mind-body therapies and advanced skincare. This will be the second Well & Being health club to launch – the first is located at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess in Arizona, US.

The space at Dallas will feature three new studios – one for aerobic classes, one for suspension exercises such as aerial hammock yoga, and a cardio gym suite. The expansion will also incorporate a clinic space for personalised nutrition and preventative health



The Well & Being spa and health club will be open to local residents

programmes, plus healing therapies such as acupuncture. Body composition measurement analysis will also be offered on-site.

All staff at the health club will be Four Seasons employees, but Trilogy Spa Holdings will handle training and additional staff hiring.

"Trilogy has been retained to design and manage all aspects of the Well & Being [facility], from creation of the service menu to staffing and training," said a spokesperson for Trilogy speaking to *Spa Opportunities*.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=A5c2d_S

SHA to unveil extended medi-spa

The SHA Wellness Clinic, a medi-spa in the Spanish village of Albir in the Sierra Helada Natural Park, will launch its new medical and wellness area by January 2015.

The 2,000sq m (21,528sq ft) extension will double the size of the building and include a number of new facilities designed to offer guests an even wider range of macrobiotic treatments and anti-ageing programmes.

The existing facility's architect, Carlos Gilardi, and interior designers – Elvira Blanco and Francisco Palacios – have designed the new building, which will have a minimalist, modern feel. New features include an indoor swimming pool, Pilates studio, fitness suite and an organic allotment that will supply the majority of the food served in the medi-spa's Shamadi restaurant.

Some of the new programmes at the extended clinic include one on Alzheimer's prevention and brain stimulation,



The clinic in Spain is owned by the Argentinian Bataller family

liposculpting, hydrotherapy, hair loss therapy, plus regenerative stem cell medicine.

The SHA Wellness Clinic officially opened in 2009, focusing on a macrobiotic treatment plan called the SHA method, lasting a minimum of three days and a maximum of 14 days. The clinic is owned by the Argentinian Bataller family, which invested €50m (US\$63m, £39m) in the project initially in 1990.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=w8u2V_S

GSWS publishes its guide for hydrothermal development

The Global Spa & Wellness Summit (GSWS) has published a standards and best practices guide for spa and wellness industry projects – *The Guide to Hydrothermal Spa Development Standards*.

The book is designed to help spa owners, operators, architects and builders when considering the building of either public or private hydrothermal areas. It contains global terminology, definitions of hydrothermal areas and provides information on project planning, right through to key building and construction considerations, including recommended materials.

"Wet areas in spas are among the most expensive and intricate to develop and their installation too often results in mistakes that cost time and money to correct," said Susie Ellis, GSWS chair and CEO. The guide is a first point of reference for developers.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=x3V8x_S



The Austrian centre has recently been renovated

FX Mayr Health Centre offers flu prevention programme

The head medical doctor at FX Mayr Health Centre, Stephan Domenig has come up with a new digestive reparation programme to support the immune system during the cold and flu season.

The course will take place at the Austrian medi-spa and detox retreat located on the shores of Lake Wörthersee.

This centre, which has been newly renovated to include an updated sauna, spa area Kneipping and cosmetic areas, is dedicated to gut health. The FX Mayr Cure is designed to repair the damage done to the digestive tract during everyday life and to reduce guests' vulnerability to illness.

Scheduled to take place between 1 November 2014 and 31 January 2015, the new 'Winter Vitality' programme will include an initial medical examination.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=Y3s2V_S

US medi-spa to offer medical marijuana recommendations

A US medi-spa in Massachusetts is offering medical marijuana evaluations in addition to its regular preventative health procedures.

Evaluations are carried out by doctors at the clinic, who then offer recommendation letters for the use of medical marijuana, for patients with chronic and debilitating conditions. These letters are then given to a health practitioner who decides whether to dispense the prescription or not.

In 2008, Massachusetts voters decriminalised the possession of small amounts of marijuana. Massachusetts became the 18th state to legalise medical marijuana when voters passed a ballot on the matter in 2012.

Dr Katherine Downey, founder of MD Medical Spa and Wellness Center, has adopted a "whole body" approach to medicine and patient care. Her clinic offers counselling services and exercise regimens.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=c2Y8X_S



Diaz has worked for Comfort Zone since 2011

Arnaud Diaz moves from Comfort Zone to Thalgo

Thalgo Cosmetics Group has appointed Arnaud Diaz as international director of the company. He has moved from Comfort Zone skincare, where he used to be responsible for international development.

Diaz will use his expertise in spa business strategy development and execution – in addition to his understanding of marketing and sales – to help support the international growth of the marine spa brand Thalgo. He will be based at Thalgo's headquarters in Roquebrune-sur-Argens, France.

Before moving to Thalgo, Diaz worked at Comfort Zone from 2011, based in Parma, Italy. Prior to that, he worked for Sothys for five years, until 2010, as export director. He made a significant contribution towards helping this company survive the economic recession which struck in 2008.

"My mission is to grow the brand awareness and drive long term, continuous growth," said Diaz in a statement.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=q5B6S_S

Sauna owners rally against tax hike

Operators of public saunas in Germany say they will struggle to make ends meet if the rate of value added tax they pay is increased from seven per cent to the full value of nineteen per cent.

Access to saunas is soon to be classified a luxury by the German government, and will therefore be taxable at a higher rate.

Key players in the pool, sauna, spa and heat experience manufacturing industry gathered at the international trade fair for hydrothermal facilities, Interbad, in Stuttgart, Germany between 21-24 October. Industry associations have come together at this forum to create a plan to campaign against the federal government's decision to increase the tax rate on 1 July 2015.

Dr Christian Ochsenbauer, president of the German Association for the Recreational and Medicinal Bath Industry, told attendees of Interbad that the tax hike cannot be absorbed by operators due to the extremely high energy costs in the running of these thermal facilities.



Ulrich Kromer, president of Messe Stuttgart, co-organises Interbad

The increase in tax will therefore be paid by visitors in the form of higher admission prices, which in turn would lead to huge losses in customers. "Roughly 50 per cent of local government-run saunas in Germany could find themselves in financial difficulty as a result of the tax rate increase," said Ochsenbauer.

Rolf-A Pieper, president of Deutscher Sauna-Bund hopes that a nationwide petition by guests of public saunas will raise awareness.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=F4W6G_S

Maldivian resort becomes JA Manafaru

The Beach House Iruveli on the island of Manafaru in the Maldives, at the northern tip of the Haa Alif Atoll, is being rebranded by its owners JA Resorts and Hotels this month to become the JA Manafaru.

The 84-bedroom property was bought in March 2013 and has since been operated by owner JA Resorts and Hotels. The former owner was Sun Hotels and Resorts and prior to that, it was the Waldorf Astoria Maldives.

The Calm Spa and Salon at the property features six couples' suites, one Ayurveda room, one Thai massage room and two 'day rooms' for relaxation. There is also another indoor relaxation area and an outdoor relaxation area too. In addition, there is a salon where manicures and pedicure stations are located. The spa's wet zone facilities include two saunas, two steamrooms and four pools of differing temperatures. The spa's decoration and set up is being finalised.



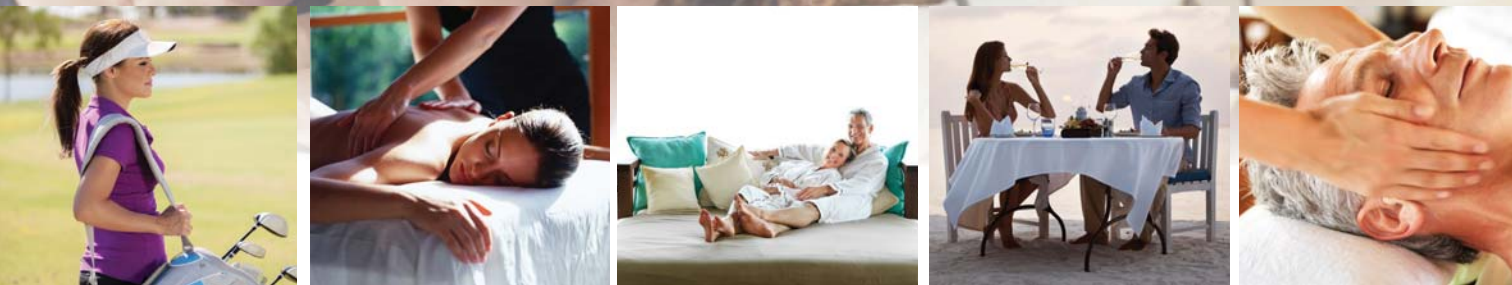
The resort features a water sports school and a dedicated kids club

The luxury British skincare brand Elemis is the house product used in the spa. The treatment menu lists a number of Elemis-branded therapies, including seven types of facials, 10 types of massage, seven body treatment wraps and baths, four spa rituals, in addition to manicures and pedicures. The retreat also offers a dive centre.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=K4d6W_S

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Spafinder partners with cancer education body

Spa and wellness media and marketing company Spafinder Wellness has partnered with non-profit educational organisation Wellness for Cancer.

The partnership has been formed to allow members of Spafinder's global network to reach people who have experienced or are living with cancer. Those with cancer, present or in remission, make up a broad segment of the population – 15 million people in the US alone.

Wellness for Cancer, has established standardised, objective cancer-focused training and business criteria for the wellness industry, according to the partnership that was announced at the International Spa Association's (ISPA) annual Conference and Expo in Las Vegas on 13 October.

Members of Spafinder's network of spas can apply for 'Cancer Aware' certification. **Details:** http://lei.sr?a=v4W4X_S



The spa's outdoor hot tub offers mountain views

Revamped ski hotel and spa to reopen in December

Hotel des Dromonts, in the French ski resort of Avoriaz will reopen on 12 December following a €2m (US\$2.6m, £1.6m) revamp after becoming part of the luxury Maisons & Hotels Sibuet brand.

The 34-bedroom four-star property was originally designed by Jacques Labro in the 1960s and owned by the Olympic ski champion Jean Vuarnet and Gerard Bremont. Fifty years after first opening, the hotel has been reconfigured and decorated in signature Sibuet style. The revamped hotel will feature two restaurants and a signature Spa Pure Altitude.

The 300sqm (3,229sq ft) spa will comprise three treatment rooms, a hammam, an indoor spa pool, sauna and a relaxation room decorated in locally quarried slate. There will also be a terrace with an outdoor spa pool, providing panoramic mountain views in the Portes du Soleil ski area.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=e5E3Q_S

London hosts naked mixed-gender yoga

The latest fitness trend to hit London is mixed-gender naked yoga classes. Actor Matthew McConaughey and pop artist Lady Gaga are said to be fans of the liberating exercise, which supposedly helps participants beat weight issues and become less self-conscious.

The founder of the only mixed gender naked yoga programme in London – Naked Yoga London – is a lady who goes by the name of Annette. She teaches yoga to nude students on mats arranged in a horseshoe shape so that each participant faces her and no one else. No one is behind anyone else.

"We have such high and unattainable standards of what our bodies should look like," Annette told *The Daily Mail*. "People can feel inadequate, insecure and dissatisfied with themselves. Part of the reason I do naked yoga is to react against these ideals of perfection."

"The benefits range from simply feeling great and free, experiencing the liberation of your body free from clothes and moving in



Actor Matthew McConaughey is reportedly a fan of naked yoga

contact with the air, to a sense of psychological liberation," Annette added.

Attendees range in age from their 20s to their 60s and the gender split is about two-thirds men and one-third women.

Designed to be for all abilities, the course is a range of four classes over four weeks that each last one hour and forty-five minutes.

Annette provides naked yoga retreats in northern Ibiza too, on 20 acres of private land where guests stay in a country house.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=u8s5c_S

Kazakhstan resort promises caviar baths

An upmarket resort planned for Kazakhstan on the eastern shore of the Caspian Sea expects to offer baths of black caviar to its spa guests when the project opens in 2020.

Dubbed the "Kenderli" resort, the project's plan was first conceived in 2012, according to *Tengrinews.kz*, which received information on the development from the Ministry for Investment and Development of Kazakhstan.

While Iranian investors have expressed interest in the US\$3.3bn (€2.6bn, £2bn) project, it has not attracted any significant funding yet – which could delay development plans.

Projected figures for the development suggest that by 2020 more than half a million tourists will be flocking to Kenderli every year, with foreigners making up more than half of the estimated 642,000 visitors. Russia is considered to be the most promising market for the resort, however it will target holidaymakers from parts of central Asia and the former



Bathing in black caviar is one of the resort's planned spa treatments

Soviet Union, plus visitors from Turkey in the Middle East. Other attractions at the resort will include 'dancing with seals', golf, hot air ballooning and boat dining experiences.

The Kenderli is expected to grow into a city once it opens, so that by 2030 it will accommodate 12,000 beds in three hotels and 28,000 beds spread throughout 1,000 villas, 1,950 townhouses and 150 bungalows.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=T8q4r_S



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DIARY DATES

7-9 November 2014

SpaCamp

Hotel Neptun & Spa, Rockstock-Warnemunde, Germany

SpaCamp is a trade event where professionals meet to discuss future industry issues in an informal setting. This will be the fifth edition of the event, which is aimed at hoteliers, spa managers, owners, wellness consultants, designers, architects, software publishers, students, cosmetic manufacturers, media, tour operators and marketing professionals. Attendees propose themes themselves for discussion during idea workshops, which form the agenda.

Tel: +43 66 289 0003

www.spacamp.net

13-16 November 2014

SLOW LIFE Symposium

Soneva Fushi, Maldives

SLOW LIFE stands for sustainable, local, organic, wholesome, learning, inspiring, fun experience. At this annual symposium, business leaders, scientists, NGOs, renowned thinkers and policy-makers convene in a bid to help boost progress towards environmental sustainability. It is organised by Sonu and Eva Shivdasani of the Soneva Group and previous attendees include entrepreneur Richard Branson and actors Edward Norton and Daryl Hannah.

Tel: +66 2631 9698

www.slowlifesymposium.com

24-26 November 2014

Sustainable Cosmetics Summit Europe

Paris, France

The European edition of range of summits focused on sustainability and eco practices in the beauty industry. The summit will focus on green ingredients, customer behaviour, marketing of eco-friendly cosmetics and responsible consumption.

Tel: +44 20 8567 0788

www.sustainablecosmeticssummit.com

10-11 December 2014

Spameeting Middle East

The St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort, Abu Dhabi

A two-day event of eighteen guaranteed face-to-face appointments that each last 25 minutes. This speed-dating approach to business allows a selection of spa suppliers to meet with project holders in the region.

Tel: +33 1 44 69 97 67

www.me.spameeting.com



18-19 November 2014

Spa Life UK

Center Parcs Woburn Forest, UK

The first day of Spa Life includes an invitation-only CEO Summit for spa operators in the UK as well as a buyer/supplier forum. The second day will

include a conference. There will also be a networking dinner as well as a supplier showcase and expo. Keynote sessions during the event will focus on customer loyalty, branding and discounting.

Tel: +44 1268 748 892

www.spa-life.co.uk

11-13 December 2014

22nd Annual World Congress on Anti-Ageing, Regenerative and Aesthetic Medicine

The Venetian/ Palazzo Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, US

More than 26,000 anti-ageing scientists and physicians from 120 countries will attend the congress by The American Academy of Anti-Ageing Medicine. A number of keynote speakers will lead discussions on anti-ageing innovations. Speciality workshops will be held on hormonal nutrient therapies, in addition to aesthetic treatments.

Tel: +1 888 997 0112

www.a4m.com

22-25 January 2015

Les Thermalies

Carrousel du Louvre, Paris, France

Les Thermalies, the French water and wellness show, features eight exhibition areas themed around sectors such as thalassotherapy, French thermal springs, balneotherapy design, day spas, foreign destinations, and beauty.

Tel: +33 1 45 59 09 09

www.thermalies.com

1-3 February 2015

Spatex

Ricoh Arena, Coventry, West Midlands, UK

A trade show for pool, spa and wet zone facilities. Now in its 19th year, the event is host to the Institute of Swimming Pool Engineers (ISPE) Workshops – which relays valuable business and technical expertise to attendees. Networking opportunities continue at the show's annual SPATA and BISHTA Industry Awards and Gala Dinner.

Tel: +44 1264 358 558

www.spatex.co.uk

22-23 February 2015

Professional Wellness & Spa Convention

ExCel, London, UK

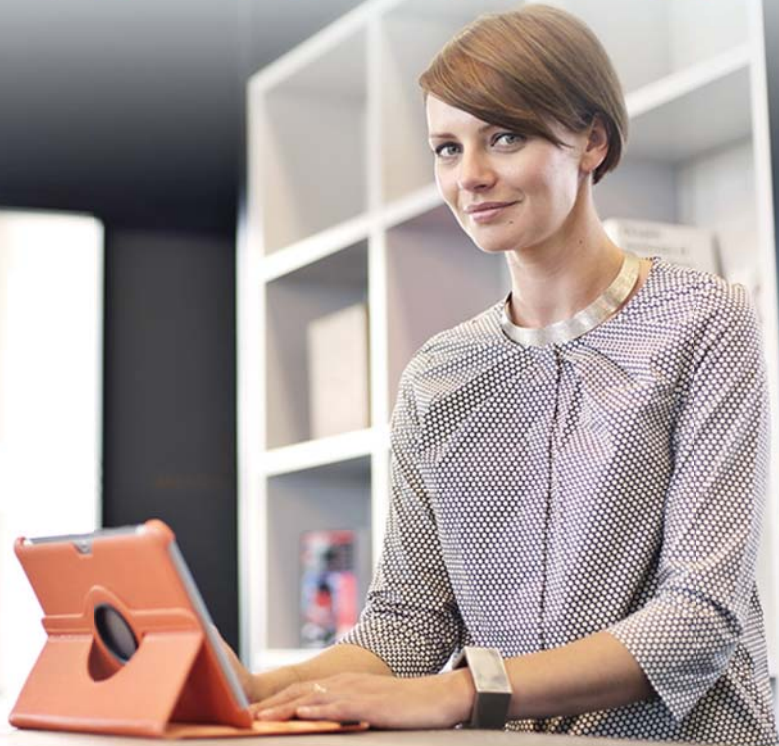
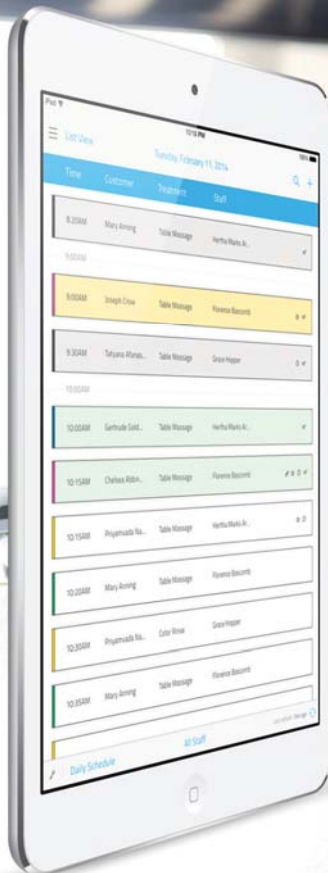
A two-day convention for international spa leaders which focuses on practical business solutions. Attracts some 300 delegates and speakers. On the first day, many delegates will also attend the annual World Spa & Wellness Awards, which had 11 categories last year. The convention and awards are staged alongside the two-day Professional Beauty exhibition – a beauty trade show.

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First Planet Hollywood to open in Asia

Asia's first Planet Hollywood Hotel will launch in Goa, India, before the end of 2014. It is the second Planet Hollywood-branded property in the world, following the existing one in Las Vegas, US.

A franchise agreement with India's JMJ Group has been signed with the owner of the Planet Hollywood brand, Wyndham Hotel Group.

Located at Utorda Beach on Goa's southern coast, the Planet Hollywood Beach Resort will feature 115 guestrooms and 15 luxury tents across four hectares of land. Facilities will include yoga retreats, swimming pools, a spa and a large amount of indoor and outdoor event space. Wyndham has revealed that the event space is part of plans to target the Indian weddings market, according to traveldailymedia.com.

"Given its features, we are looking forward to Planet Hollywood being a landmark destination in Goa," said Sachin Joshi, managing director of JMJ Group. "Guests at



The only other Planet Hollywood Hotel is located in Las Vegas, US

the property will be treated like celebrities."

Wyndham's brands are expanding in India on a wider scale, to target rapidly growing secondary markets in the country. The group has signed 10 more hotels in the country, adding to its existing portfolio of 57 properties either open or in the pipeline. These 10 franchise properties will operate under the Ramada Encore and Howard Johnson brands. These hotels are expected to be open by mid-2017.

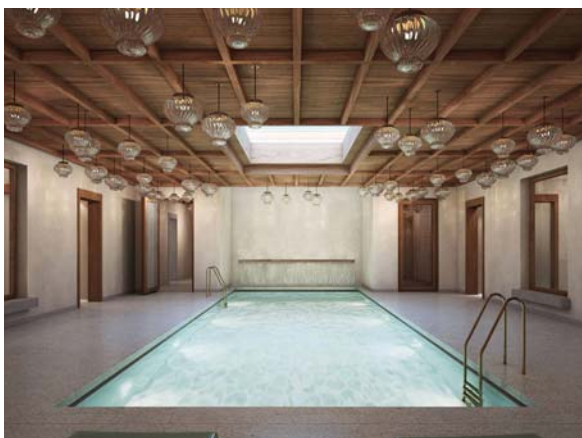
Details: http://lei.sr?a=f6Ngn_S

Spa sommelier to tailor treatments

Abadía Retuerta LeDomaine, a five-star retreat in Spain's Duero wine region is transforming the estate's former stable into a spa, complete with a 'spa sommelier' who will carry out blind tasting sessions for each guest before suggesting treatments based on individual preferences.

The entire estate, which used to be an abbey and winery, dates back to 1146. The hotel opened in 2012 after a complete restoration of the abbey, with 22 suites. The hotel is also planning to add eight new guestrooms which will be complete by Q2 2015. 500 acres of the 1,730-acre estate are given over to vineyards, with some of produce to be used for vinotherapy in the property's spa.

Named El Santuario, the 10,000sq ft (929sq m) spa will open its doors in Q3 of 2015 and will feature four individual treatment rooms and a separate spa suite. There will be a Finnish sauna, steambath, experience shower, hydrotherapy pool and a heated indoor pool. Among



The El Santuario spa will be housed in the estate's former stable building

the vineyards, there will be an outdoor pool.

Massages, body scrubs, body wraps, facials and grooming services will all be available at the spa, but the spa sommelier will help guests to choose what treatments to have. The blind tasting ritual comprises smelling a selection of oils and tasting several wines. Skincare ranges at the spa are provided by Natura Bissé, Anne Semonin and Eva J.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=r4y7G_S

Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa relaunches after refurbishment

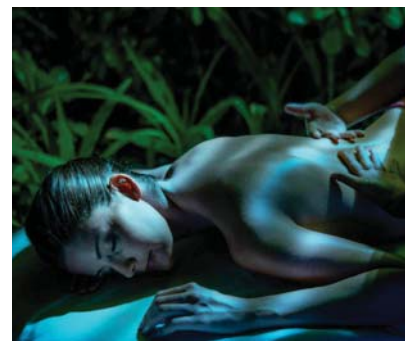
The Grade I-listed Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa in Bath, UK, has finally relaunched after a heritage-led refurbishment of the Georgian building that dates back to the mid-1700s.

The privately-owned investment firm Topland Group acquired the two central buildings of the Royal Crescent – built between 1767 and 1774 – that make up the hotel and spa in 2012. Somerset-based interior design firm Jane Clayton and spa consultancy Spa Creators were appointed to carry out a complete refurbishment of the 45 bedrooms and suites and spa.

Alistair Johnson, managing director for Spa Creators, spoke to *Spa Opportunities*, to outline the extent of the work carried out in the building's spa and gym.

"We re-engineered the entire reception and welcome space into a single lounge and reception," said Johnson. "The hotel has a private membership of roughly 500 guests."

Details: http://lei.sr?a=P9v9q_S



The ilya therapy uses seven oils along the spine

Four Seasons in Maldives reveals ilya night spa treatments

The Four Seasons Resort Maldives at Landaa Giraavaru is launching a new sleep-enhancing ritual at its Night Spa, designed by organic skincare brand ilya.

Guests are taken away from the 96 thatch-roofed bungalows, beach bungalows and suites at the resort, and are taken by dhoni – a kind of boat – to the Island Spa. Transformed into the resort's Night Spa, with a torch-lit lounge and hanging beds, the ilya-designed Om Supti ritual begins at 10pm and lasts two and a half hours.

Seven pure essential oils are used along the spine between the seven main chakras. The massage therapist then focuses on the Vishuddha, the throat energy centre. A facial then targets the 16 petals of the throat chakra.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=X5S7p_S

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FRHI brands' spa concepts revealed

Continued from front cover

Andrew Gibson – VP of spa and wellness at Fairmont Raffles Hotels International (FRHI) – has said that spas under the Raffles brand will be designed with space and privacy in mind, as part of his ongoing vision for the future of the brand.

Raffles spas, such as the new one at the Raffles Istanbul (pictured), will each feature three unique elements: privacy, space and time.

“For example, the spacing between fitness equipment will be thought through to give a degree of privacy when using the equipment,” said Gibson. “The treatment rooms will be capable of private changing and they will be adequately spaced to provide room to move.

“The spa facilities are also designed primarily for the hotel’s guests.” While local clientele will be able to use the spa, the design and treatment menu will be geared toward hotel guest satisfaction. The pools and fitness facilities usually will be for hotel guest use only, but some locations may make different arrangements.



The spa at Raffles Istanbul features seven treatment rooms and two pools

The Raffles spa imagery of a lotus flower from bud to bloom has been altered as part of the shift. The lotus now represents the body’s different chakras, using different colours. “The colours are more organic in nature to imply that we will have natural-based products available wherever possible,” added Gibson.

The big difference between Fairmont and Raffles spas will be that Fairmont facilities will create social hubs in an attempt to attract members of the local community.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=n6M8w_S

Indian spa consultant unveils first spa

Gavin Rodrigues, founder and CEO of new spa and wellbeing management consultancy Essense Wellness (EW), has spoken exclusively to *Spa Opportunities* about his first spa project at the recently-launched Hilton Jaipur, India.

After working as the regional spa director for Epikurean Hotels and Resorts, Rodrigues decided to launch his own consultancy in May this year. Rodrigues has also worked with Six Senses at the Soneva Fushi and Soneva Gili resorts. In addition, he was involved in the opening of the Ananda spa in the Himalayas, when the retreat was associated with FRHI.

Due to high demand from industry colleagues, Rodrigues started his own company in India, with the aim of supplying spa consultancy services to projects in the country.

“India is not an easy place to do business, especially spa business,” said Rodrigues. “This is because working in the Indian spa industry requires a certain skillset. After being in the industry and travelling the globe for 14



Spa consultancy Essense Wellness has its own edible skincare range

years, I am very happy to have started my own company here.” Hilton Worldwide in India provided him with his first opportunity to create and manage a new 20,000sq ft (1,858sq m) spa at the 179-bedroom Hilton Jaipur. Within the Eau de Vie spa, there are four treatment rooms and a couples’ suite, in addition to a sauna, steamroom, hair salon and fitness centre.

The treatment menu features massages from an array of cultures, including Indian Ayurvedic, Vietnamese and Thai techniques.

Details: http://lei.sr?a=j4B5t_S

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