

WORLD'S Top 10 GLAMOROUS SPAS

Writer Nicole Webb

Choosing a luxury spa to indulge your senses is never an easy task. We're in an era where a place to find well-being and respite from daily life is serious business. For those seekers of blissful rejuvenation in exquisite environments that will take your breath away, here are ten of the world's most divine places for your pampering pleasure

1

The Dheva Spa and Wellness Centre at Dhara Dhevi, Chiang Mai, Thailand

Unique both in concept and architecture, this palatial 3,100-sqm sanctuary in Thailand's 'Rose of the North' took more than three and a half years to build. Modelled on a Mandalay Palace setting from Myanmar, the result is a grand spectacle that includes a seven-tiered roof of ornately carved teakwood. Drawing on customs from the ancient Lanna Kingdom, the 25 tranquil treatment rooms are garnished with Thai silks, polished teak wood and marble tiles, embellished with authentic Asian antiques. A refuge from urban stress, The Dheva Spa offers a blissful range of custom-made therapies from Europe, Asia, North Africa and India, including rituals unique to Chiang Mai's Lanna culture, revived by a team of spa specialists and historians. Taking tranquillity to new heights, an elegant watsu pool dressed with lush hammams and herbal gardens featuring fresh organic herbs (used in treatments) make it one of the most beautiful spas in the world. Completing the glamour factor, two hairdressing stations, manicure and pedicure facilities and a spa cafe are available for your indulgence. www.dharadhevi.com



2

ESPA Life at Corinthia London, United Kingdom

Coined the 'Next Generation of Spa' and teetering at the edge of the River Thames, ESPA Life at Corinthia oozes old-fashioned glamour with a touch of modern day class. Spread over four fabulous floors, there are 17 impressive treatment rooms with a team of globally acclaimed experts who are ready to pamper you with unrivalled spa therapies. With 3,300 sqm to play with, ESPA Life is all about curves, black Tunisian marble, soft textured leather and crystal chandeliers. The place to 'see and be seen' yet an exclusive retreat, guests can enjoy its private spa suite, dazzling ice fountain, nail studio, indoor swimming pool set in sleek steel and an invigorating vitality pool. It also houses a black mosaic amphitheatre-style sauna, heated marble lounges and private sleep pods. A cocktail lounge complements the sleek and stylish scene to spoil you with healthy yet delicious treats along with the Sommelier's pick of fine wine and champagne. www.espalifeatcorinthia.com



3

The Spa at The Chedi Andermatt, Switzerland

Renowned for having one of the most striking spas in Europe, The Chedi Andermatt is nestled superbly among the stunning Swiss Alps for unrivalled, year-round beauty. The idyllic setting hosts an oasis of extravagant glamour, and the spa is no exception. Designed by famed architect Jean-Michel Gathy, The Chedi Andermatt is swathed in a combination of warm woods, natural stone and Asian sophistication, revealing an intimate yet visually striking space. At 2,400 sqm, the spa is a comprehensive wellness centre to exhilarate the soul. It includes hydrothermal baths set at varying temperatures, a 35-metre swimming pool under a glass rooftop that looks up to the majestic Alps, and a plethora of treatments known as 'rituals' to choose from. It's Alpine chic mixed with Asian Zen, making for an experience that is luxurious bliss. www.ghmhotels.com





4

Armani / SPA at Armani Hotel Milano, Italy

Described as ‘crisply cool, tautly tailored and masculine minimalism’, Armani/SPA is the epitome of haute couture in architecture. Located in Milan’s fashion district and imagined by Italian fashion maestro Giorgio Armani himself, the hotel’s every last detail drips with his style and design philosophy. The height of sophistication, muted dusky colours lap exquisite marble floors and sculptured furniture. Perched on the eighth floor with stunning views across Milan, this is the perfect hideaway for the discerning city slicker. There are six sublime treatment rooms, steam and sauna sojourns plus a relaxation pool cloaked in floor-to-ceiling glass windows with a glass roof offering a panoramic view over the rooftops of Milan. The Armani/SPA therapies, MU, LIBERTA and FLUIDITA, have been carefully designed to nourish and nurture with a sensory experience, tailor-made for each individual. At Armani/SPA, glamour is the order of the day. www.armanihotels.com

7

AWAY Spa at W Retreat Koh Samui, Thailand

W Retreat Koh Samui earns the badge for the coolest cat in town. Bursting with eye-popping glamour and cutting-edge extravagance, this is the place to unwind in über-hip style. AWAY Spa is tucked within five luxurious pavilions with seven treatment rooms in rich, vibrant colours that will literally whisk you away to a world of delicious bliss. All your senses will be captivated with inspiring scents, imaginative sounds and energising lighting. Detox with natural healing therapies and essential oils to refuel you for those dreamy days ahead. W Retreat Koh Samui is the place where golden sand meets unspoilt waters – a tropical haven in the day, by night an electrifying sanctuary where you can celebrate life in decadent fashion!

www.wretreatkohsamui.com



5



Six Senses Spa at The Alpina Gstaad, Switzerland

Brushed with a modern Eastern flair, the plush Six Senses Spa at The Alpina Gstaad is a boutique cottage-style meets trendy inner city pad that exudes a cosy, secluded vibe with an urban twist. Designed to reflect the majestic Alpine peaks, the sophisticated setting involves mesmerising water features, toiled timber beams, cool granite and curvaceous walls bearing bold colours. A 25-metre-long lap pool, salt room, floatation room, juice bar and kid’s spa are all part of the deluxe service. Six Senses is holistic and healing; a charming haven of peace and tranquillity with traditional mountain treatments that will leave you reinvigorated and utterly relaxed. www.sixsenses.com

6

Le Spa at La Mamounia, Marrakech, Morocco

Grand yet intimate, Le Spa encompasses 2,500 sqm of decadent decor. Reopened in 2009 after a \$176-million facelift, its star-studded launch caught the eye of celebrities around the globe. Designed to give guests a true sensory experience, this red-carpet retreat is an alluring blend of Hispano-Moresque architecture. Peaceful yet opulent, it brings an Arabian Nights palace to life in regal French splendour. Outside, private gardens span 20 acres and include 100-year-old olive, palm and fruit trees. The elegant surroundings are infused with the delicious aroma of orange blossom, courtesy of 700 blooming orange trees. Inside, marble fountains decorate delightfully quaint European courtyards; ornate ceilings and arched columns are the backdrop to velvet lounges and oversized Moroccan red and white glass lamps. When it comes to treatments, no stone is left unturned. The famous Moroccan Royal Hammam treatment is pure luxury using black soap made from pressed olives and salt and a deep calming massage with argan oil. There are three hammams, nine treatment rooms and six outdoor massage cabins to indulge in, plus a chic hair salon headed up by Jean-Michel Faretra. www.mamounia.com





9

Iridium Spa at The St Regis Lhasa Resort, China

Perched majestically on the ‘roof of the world’ at 12,000 feet above sea level, Iridium takes pride of place as the highest luxury spa on the planet. Exquisitely designed to reflect the spirit of Tibet, Iridium is a mystical sanctuary that pays tribute to spiritual wellness in stunning fashion. Inhale the beauty and serenity; feel the worries and constraints of time vanish as you melt into a setting of luxurious harmony. With treatment rooms and a yoga pavilion set on stilts over crystal-clear water, coupled with traditional Tibetan herbal treatments derived from time-honoured rituals – this is a spa that will nourish the body and soothe the soul. A meditation garden provides a sacred space for quiet contemplation, while the sparkling Golden Energy pool, literally paved in gold, invites you to relax and rejuvenate overlooking the resort’s enchanting lake and the breathtaking Potala Palace. www.starwoodhotels.com



8

Uma Spa at Tierra Patagonia Hotel & Spa, Chile

Nicknamed ‘Hotel of the Wind’, this innovative hotel is located at the entrance of Torres Del Paine National Park on the shore of Lake Sarmiento in Chilean Patagonia. Designed to blend in with its unique, natural surroundings and shaped like an old fossil beached on the shore of the lake, its ambience is cosy yet refined. A blend of traditional materials with contemporary design, its neutral, unobtrusive colour-palette polished with lush sheepskin rugs and handmade throws brings rustic warmth to a minimalist decor. Tierra Hotels has an adventure spa philosophy offering guests an active outdoor experience with a variety of relaxing options, ranging from a simple nap to a massage in the equally heavenly Uma spa. An indoor heated pool surrounded by floor-to ceiling-windows highlights one of the most striking views on earth. www.tierrahotels.com



10

SALA SPA at SALA Phuket Resort and Spa, Thailand

SALA SPA prides itself on being a contemporary haven of equilibrium and wellness. Nestled on the pristine Mai Khao Beach on the island’s northwest end, this modern, Sino-Portuguese-style resort with 79 loft-style villas and suites is perched on one of the island’s most luxuriously inviting spots.

A getaway that will wrap guests in a bubble of pure romance and serenity, SALA is flanked by golden sand and surrounded by a succulent coconut plantation. The award-winning resort spa allows you to escape everyday life for rejuvenation with a range of alluring spa signature rituals. Be seduced by cool white marble floors, candlelit coves and an array of glittering pools. Guests can indulge in French luxury treatments exclusively by Clarins with the combination of modern and ancient techniques that will leave you absolutely radiant. www.salaresorts.com