

spa opportunities

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Urban Retreat goes mobile

TOM WALKER

Spa operator Urban Retreat, which has sites at upmarket UK department stores Harrods and Harvey Nichols, has launched a new franchise model. Urban Retreat At Home will be rolled out over the next three years and offer beauty therapists the opportunity to become independent franchisees and deliver Urban Retreat-branded treatments at clients' homes.

Speaking to *Spa Opportunities*, George Hammer, founder of Urban Retreat, said: "We're building on the experience of having been at Harrods for 10 years and this franchise opportunity is open to all mobile therapists.

"Up to now, mobile therapists have often been considered second rate, badly trained and inconsistent. What we're doing is harnessing all the good parts about being a mobile therapist



The Urban Retreat concept will soon be made available for private homes

and creating an up-market offering rather than a discount, cheap offering.

"Most mobile therapists work on the basis that they are cheaper than a salon – we're working on the basis that At Home treatments will be either at salon price, or above, by making it a premium experience."



The property will include a 52-bedroom hotel

Work starts on £12m Birmingham scheme

PETE HAYMAN

Sanguine Hospitality has confirmed the start of construction work on a £12m flagship hotel and spa development in the centre of Birmingham.

Denizen Construction has moved on site at The Cube, which will boast a 52-bedroom Hotel Indigo and the Club and Spa. Facilities at the fifth floor Club and Spa will include an indoor swimming pool; a sauna and steamrooms; 10 treatment rooms; and a hydrotherapy pool. A dry flotation tank and a fitness suite will also be available.

Adam and Eve spa opens at Iberotel Dubai

TOM WALKER

A new day spa has opened at the Iberotel Grand Hotel in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

Facilities at the Adam & Eve spa include 13 private treatment rooms and the spa menu includes a number of holistic treatments – ranging from full body massages to facials and body scrubs and wraps – as well as nail and hair treatments.

The Iberotel Grand Hotel has 409 bedrooms and facilities at the property include three restaurants and conferencing space.

Waldorf Astoria to open in RAK

TOM WALKER

Hotel giant Hilton Worldwide is to operate a new Waldorf Astoria hotel in Ras Al Khaimah (RAK), UAE. Facilities at the 349-bedroom hotel will include a bespoke spa experience unique to the property.

Although exact details for the spa are yet to be revealed, the hotel itself will be located within the Al Hamra mixed-use development, a 40 minutes' drive from Dubai International Airport. Opening in the fourth quarter of 2011, the hotel will offer outdoor swimming pools, 10 restaurants and bars, and a 450sq m (4,844sq ft) meeting and ballroom space. The complex will be the second Waldorf Astoria property in the



Hilton signing the management deal with Hamra

Middle East, following the opening of the Qasr Al Sharq in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 2005.

Hilton Worldwide will operate Waldorf Astoria Ras Al Khaimah on behalf of the Al Hamra Group.

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Spending on leisure to increase

PETE HAYMAN

Spending on leisure and luxury is poised to account for nearly a quarter of total consumer spending by 2030, according to PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). PwC's latest UK Economic Outlook reported that household spending on recreation had, on average, increased by 3.5 per cent between 1963 and 2009.

Consumers have increased their spending on spas, hotels and restaurants during the same 46-year period by 0.4 per cent, which is expected to continue growing in the coming two decades.

PwC said that the increases in 'superior goods' such as hospitality and recreation will be in part due to an ageing population, while spending on 'essential goods' will decrease.



Consumer spend on luxury items and leisure time is set to increase

Overall, household spending is expected to grow by 1 per cent in 2011 compared with 2010 – "lagging behind" an anticipated increase in gross domestic product (GDP).

Dolce to reopen and operate Lake Las Vegas hotel

TOM WALKER

Dolce Hotels and Resorts has been appointed to rebrand and manage the former Ritz Carlton Lake Las Vegas hotel in Henderson, Nevada, US. The hotel was closed in May 2010 due to low occupancy and Dolce aims to reopen the

349-bedroom property by April 2011.

Facilities at the hotel, which is owned by Village Hospitality, include a 30,000sq ft (2,800sq m) spa and wellness center; 32,000sq ft (2,990sq m) of conferencing space and a number of restaurants and bars.

Joint venture acquires eight spa resorts

TOM WALKER

A newly-formed private investment vehicle has acquired the property portfolio of MS Resorts through a foreclosure proceeding.

CNL-AB, a joint venture between hedge fund Paulson & Co and private equity investor Capital Trust, acquired eight MS Resorts in the deal.

The resorts are the Grand Wailea Resort and Spa; Arizona Biltmore Resort and Spa; La Quinta Resort and Club and PGA West; Doral Golf Resort and Spa; Claremont Resort and Spa; Ritz Carlton Grande Lakes; JW Marriott Grande Lakes; and JW Marriott Desert Ridge.

In a statement Michael Barr, portfolio manager at Paulson & Co., said, "We and our



All of the eight resorts included in the foreclosure deal include a spa

partners are excited to be the new owners of some of the world's most desirable resorts and look forward to providing new sponsorship to maximize the value of these irreplaceable assets."



RockResorts to manage Bimini Bay

TOM WALKER

RockResorts, a subsidiary of Vail Resorts, has secured a deal to manage the Bimini Bay Resort and Marina in the Bahamas. All existing resort properties at Bimini Bay – including restaurants and activities, as well as the largest deep-water marina in the Bahamas – will be managed through the company's property management collection, Legendary Lodging.

The resort, owned by the Capo Group, currently comprises 350 individually-owned existing residences, three restaurants, a shopping village, the "Beach Bums" children's activity centre and two outdoor pools.

As part of its development strategy for the site, RockResorts plans to add a boutique RockResorts hotel with 80 to 100 rooms,



The Bimini Bay Resort will undergo a redevelopment under RockResorts

RockResorts branded residences, a RockResorts luxury spa and additional restaurants.

Exact details of the spa facility are yet to be confirmed, but a spokesperson said it could be open by September 2011. The RockResorts hotel is scheduled to open in 2014.

Ritz-Carlton Reserve first for Mexico

MARTIN NASH

Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company has agreed a joint venture with Grupo Questro and Trinity Investments to operate a Ritz-Carlton Reserve resort at San Jose del Cabo, Mexico.

Scheduled to open in 2014 and the first Ritz-Carlton Reserve project in the country, the hotel will offer a total of 124 one-, two- and three-bedroom villas, each with private infinity plunge pools, outdoor terraces with fireplaces, outdoor showers and Butler service.

Also to be included in the Puerto Los Cabos mixed-use development are a world-class spa, Desert Botanical Theme Park, Fisherman's Wharf, a 500-slip marina and two private championship golf courses. The 13,000sq ft (1,200sq m) Ritz-Carlton Spa offers 16 treatment rooms,



The 13,000sq ft Ritz-Carlton Spa will boast 16 treatment rooms

including two couples suites, private ladies' and gentlemen's wet lounges, steam/sauna areas and dry relaxation dens.

Signature treatments include the Cloud 9 Massage, which uses locally grown ground flowers and herbs such as Niagara lavender and Quebec sage.

DoubleTree by Hilton signs Romanian deal

PETE HAYMAN

A new DoubleTree by Hilton hotel is to open in Ploiesti, Romania, following the completion of a franchise development deal between Hilton Worldwide and SC Valdor SRL. It will be one of three DoubleTree by Hilton hotels earmarked

to open in Romania this year, with other properties planned for Oradea and Bucharest.

The 242-bedroom hotel will feature two restaurants; a bar with a terrace; a Precor-equipped fitness centre; a swimming pool; and a spa area with treatment rooms.

Hyatt Regency to revamp Waikiki spa resort

TOM WALKER

Hyatt Regency will invest US\$13m (€9.3m, £8m) in the redevelopment of its Waikiki Beach Resort and Spa in Hawaii.

Work will include the renovation of the resort's entire third floor public areas and the introduction of two new restaurants, a new poolside lounge and bar, a pool deck and an entirely new Regency Club product.

The resort's spa will remain open during the works, which are scheduled to be completed by September 2011.



The resort will include a full-service day spa

Hilton signs deal for Hacienda La Botanica in Seville

PETE HAYMAN

Hilton Worldwide has signed a management agreement to convert the Hacienda La Botanica resort near Seville, Spain, into a new Waldorf Astoria Hotels and Resorts property. The group has already taken over the operation of the resort and is now planning to relaunch it under the Waldorf Astoria brand this summer.

Facilities at the resort include a 5,000sq m (53,820sq ft) spa with therapy rooms and a number of hydrotherapy studios, along with indoor and outdoor pools.

Stax revises Farnham sports centre scheme

PETE HAYMAN

Plans for a new multi-sports and leisure club facility in Farnham, Surrey, have been revised to incorporate a larger health spa area and a smaller sports hall.

A number of treatment/therapy rooms and a hydrotherapy area are to be developed as part of the new complex, along with changing facilities. The group behind the scheme – Stax – has also submitted an additional planning application for construction of two 98sq m (1,055sq ft) spa cabins to the south west of the site.

KeyLime Cove waterpark opens spa for kids

TOM WALKER

KeyLime Cove waterpark in Gurnee, Illinois, US has opened a new kids spa.

The Enchanted Lagoon-branded spa will offer themed manicures, facials and pedicures as well as hairstyling services which allow kids to choose from a range of "looks" – including rockstar, princess and mermaid.

Kids will also be able to produce their own lotions and choose their favourite scents for a perfume – from vanilla, chocolate, strawberry and papaya.



The beachfront view of the Dover Marina Hotel

Leaf Hotels to run new-look Dover hotel

TOM WALKER

Leaf Hotels has announced that the Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa is to open on 24 March, following the completion of a multi-million pound redevelopment.

A spokesperson confirmed that the spa will form part of the next phase of improvements at the hotel, which are due to be carried out later this year. The 81-bedroom property will be run by Leaf Hotels under the Best Western brand, and is set to include three conference, function and meeting rooms and a restaurant and bar.

Ageless Esthetics appoints Morgan as COO

PETE HAYMAN

Skincare and spa product supplier Ageless Esthetics has appointed Justin Morgan as its new chief operating officer.

Morgan joins the company from ZO Skin Health where he managed the manufacturing of products as well as product research and development.

His previous roles in the skincare sector include a stint at consultants Riley-Nacht. Ageless Esthetics currently supplies 13 spas in the US, with the majority of them in the states of Colorado, California and Florida.

W Hotels unveils Bali resort and spa

TOM WALKER

W Hotels Worldwide has launched its W Retreat & Spa Bali in Seminyak, its third Retreat to open within the past 12 months.

The 158-key resort has been designed in partnership with SCDA Architects and AB Concept and Poole Associates, and includes a large AWAY-branded spa.

The 1,500sq m (16,000sq ft) AWAY Spa has been designed by Singapore-based A. W. LAKE Spa Concepts and inspired by two of Bali's "sacred elements" – wind and

water. Facilities include seven treatment rooms and a Detox Chamber – a pure oxygen filled blue room where guests can undergo mild depression before their treatments.

The AWAY brand has been exclusively designed for the W Hotels by parent company



The AWAY spa has been designed by Singapore-based A. W. LAKE

Starwood. There are now 11 AWAY Spas around the world with three more planned for upcoming W Hotels in Guangzhou, Singapore, and Bangkok. W Hotels is Starwood's designed hotel brand and there are currently 41 W-branded properties in its portfolio.

New-look spa facilities for Jakarta hotel

TOM WALKER

A new-look swimming pool and a spa and wellness centre have been launched at the Hotel Nikko Jakarta, Indonesia, following a refurbishment scheme.

The spa and wellness centre boasts a total of eight treatment rooms – seven single and one double, the latter featuring a private bath for flower and milk baths.

A steamroom, a sauna, a whirlpool and a cold plunge pool are also available at the hotel, as well as a Technogym-supplied fitness suite.

The spa uses an Indonesian supplier that uses naturally-sourced ingredients, with products including the mangos teen body scrub and mask to reduce skin irritation.



The spa boasts eight treatment rooms - including a couple's room

Located in the heart of the Indonesian capital, Hotel Nikko Jakarta offer 261 rooms, with a further 166 to be made available following the second phase of a renovation programme.

Deloitte: European hotels top rankings

PETE HAYMAN

Deloitte has revealed that European hotels were among the world's top performers in 2010, despite the slow recovery and the introduction of austerity measures. According to the business advisory firm, London came third only to

Sydney, Australia; and Seoul, South Korea; in the global occupancy rankings at more than 82 per cent.

Geneva, Switzerland; and Venice, Italy; were revealed as the top two performing locations in terms of average room rate and RevPAR.

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For more information on Shiseido Spas, please find us on www.shiseidospas.com

Nola 7 completes hotel spa and waterpark projects

TOM WALKER

Tamplier Hotel, located within the Bansko ski resort in Bulgaria, is to add a waterpark and spa to its facilities this spring.

Due to open later this month (March 2011), both the waterpark and spa have been installed by Bulgarian supplier Nola 7.

Elsewhere, Nola 7 has created a 2,000sq m indoor waterpark at the Teshilovo Resort, near Moscow, Russia.



A new spa will open after a rebrand of the resort

Landry's acquires Trump resort in Atlantic City

TOM WALKER

Hospitality giant Landry's has acquired the Trump Marina Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City for an undisclosed sum.

Landry's plans to redevelop the property and rebrand it as a Golden Nugget resort destination. As part of the revamp, the casino will boast a new luxury spa. Exact details are to be confirmed but facilities will include a H2O Pool and Lounge, featuring "all season hot tubs and fire pits".

Radisson to open Guildford hotel

TOM WALKER

Hotel group Radisson Edwardian, which owns and operates the London's iconic May Fair Hotel, is to open its newest property in the capital this summer.

The £60m (US\$96m, €69m), 185-bed-room Radisson Edwardian Guildford will include a large day spa and conferencing space as well as a range of dining options.

The spa will house a swimming pool, five treatment rooms, a relaxation area, sauna, steamroom and mud spa as well as a health and fitness suite.

Inquiry launched into fish spas

TOM WALKER

The practice of using toothless Garra rufa fish to perform pedicures at spas is to be probed by the UK's Health Protection Agency (HPA) and environmental health officers.

The treatment has become popular in the UK and a number of operators, such as London-based Aqua Sheko and Appyfeet, base their entire business model on the Garra rufa treatments.

An HPA spokesperson told *Spa Opportunities* that the agency was looking into the matter following queries from health officers around the UK.

"Following a number of enquiries to the HPA from local environmental health officers over the past six months, the agency is currently investigating if there are any potential risks of infection associated with the commercial use of fish spa pedicures in the UK," she added.



The practice of using Garra rufa fish will be investigated by UK authorities

Karen Ho, owner and founder of Aqua Sheko said: "We take health and safety very seriously and have made it a priority to ensure high standards. The feet and hands of every customer will be washed by our therapists, who also check for any cuts and contagious disease during the wash. The water in our tanks is changed twice a day and sterilised five times per hour."

Consultants Horwath to open Dubai office

TOM WALKER

Leisure consultancy Horwath Hotel, Tourism and Leisure (HTL) has opened a new office in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The office is the first for the Horwath HTL group in the UAE and is part of the company's

strategy to establish the brand in the Middle East and to open up and increase business in the Gulf. The Dubai office will focus on destination development and planning disciplines within the Horwath HTL network, as well as expanding the cooperation with banks.

SOKO opens three new Chinese properties

TOM WALKER

Chinese wellness operator SOKO Fitness & Spa Group has expanded its presence in its core Northeast China market with three new facilities.

The group recently opened its second day spa in Shenyang, a beauty salon in Dalian, Liaoning Province, and a health and fitness club in Dalian, which is operated under a management agreement.

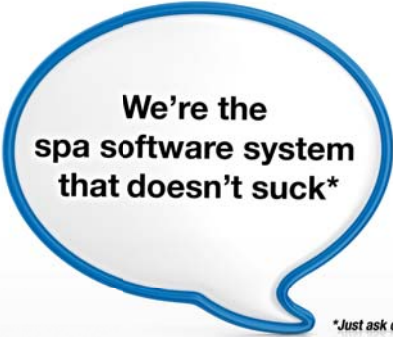
The 7,000sq ft (650sq m) Legend Spa Wanda in Shenyang is located in the city's downtown area and includes 11 treatment rooms.

Tong Liu, CEO of SOKO, said: "This presents new opportunities to expand into new markets without significant initial capital costs while maintaining control of our facilities."



SOKO has opened a 7,000sq ft Legend Spa Wanda in Shenyang, China

The openings increase the number of facilities in the SOKO portfolio to 24. Seventeen of the properties are wholly-owned, while six are majority owned and one is minority owned and operated under a management agreement.



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DIARY DATES

30 MARCH – 1 APRIL**SPATEC Spring North America**

Chateau Elan Winery & Resort, Braselton, Georgia, US

This is a three-day forum of one-to-one meetings and networking opportunities between corporate spa operators, directors and design/management companies and spa suppliers and vendors. The meetings last for 20 minutes.

Tel: +1 603 529 0077

www.mcleaneventsinternational.com

3-4 APRIL**Natural & Organic Products Europe**

Olympia, London, UK

Now in its 15th year, this trade event is said to be one of the UK's top exhibitions for the international natural and organic sectors.

Tel: +44 1273 645 110

www.naturalproducts.co.uk

APRIL (TBU)**International Resorts Exhibition**

Jeddah Hilton, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

A networking and exhibition event for hotel, spa and tourism professionals.

Tel: +966 5055 777 96

www.perfectevents-ksa.com/index.htm

APRIL (TBU)**Healthcare Tourism Congress**

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

A two-day congress produced following Malaysia's Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's call to tap into the health and medical tourism industry.

Tel: +603 2170 1588

www.htcongress.com

7-9 APRIL**World Congress on Anti-Aging Medicine & Biomedical Technologies**

Orlando, Florida, US

With more than 90 international presenters, this conference and expo on preventative medicine and biomedical technologies will feature a range of topics including weight management; photodynamic therapies; thermography and the role of insulin and cortisone in the epidemic of obesity and metabolic syndromeX.

Tel: +1 561 997 0112

www.worldhealth.net/orlando

**14-16 APRIL****Intercharm Professional**

Crocus Expo International Exhibition Center, Moscow, Russia

An exhibition for the spa, beauty, cosmetic and hairdressing industries, which showcases new products, equipment and services.

Tel: +7 495 937 6861

www.intercharmpro.ru

15-17 APRIL**The Yoga Show**

Manchester Central, Manchester, UK

The inaugural event of the Yoga Show in Manchester.

Tel: +44 1787 224 040

www.theyogashow.co.uk

4-7 MAY**SPATEC Europe**

Corinthia Hotel Budapest, Budapest, Hungary

A two-day forum of face-to-face meetings between UK and European spa owners, directors and senior personnel and leading spa suppliers.

Tel: +44 208 547 9830

www.mcleaneventsinternational.com

8-9 MAY**Beauty UK**

NEC, Birmingham, UK

The cream of the UK's beauty industry will gather to celebrate new product innovations, swap business advice and learn how to grow beauty businesses, salons and spas in 2011.

Tel: +44 1332 227 690

www.beautyserve.com

12-14 MAY**Sustainable Cosmetics Summit North America**

Grand Hyatt, New York, US

This two-day conference aims to encourage sustainability in the beauty industry by bringing together key stakeholders to debate major issues facing the beauty industry such as sustainability and natural, organic, fair trade and ecological products.

Tel: +44 208 567 0788

www.sustainablecosmeticsummit.com

16-18 MAY**Global Spa Summit**

Bali

This invitation-only annual summit – now in its fifth year – brings together top-level executives from around the world who have a strong interest in the spa industry.

Tel: +1 212 716 1199

www.globalspasummit.org

16-18 MAY**Beautyworld Japan**

Tokyo Big Sight, Tokyo, Japan

New products and trends for the Japanese beauty market are showcased at this event.

Tel: +81 3 3262 8939

www.beautyworldjapan.com

17-19 MAY**The Hotel Show**

Dubai World Trade Centre, Dubai, UAE

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Hotel Arlberg***** Lech am Arlberg, Austria
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Hotel Prezydent***** Krynica-Zdrój, Poland
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OPINION

When the going gets tough

Difficult economic environments call for a more strategic and forensic analysis of the competition – some ignore it at their peril

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. It's a well used phrase and one, I suspect, that has been repeated by management teams around the globe over the last couple of years.

The economic climate for businesses in most countries has been extremely challenging. Taking a straw poll of people I come in to contact with on a daily basis, be they business partners, clients or peers in the industry, many have spent increasing time ensuring they have their financial house in order (strong cash flow, stringent pursuit of debtors, etc) and that they are looking after their talent.

The really smart ones are also keeping a very keen eye on their competition and equally looking to identify new areas in which to expand. In terms of competition to spas, there is obviously the 'close in' type – other spas in the neighbourhood, or indeed further afield (as people are willing to travel for the experience); but competition should also be viewed in the context of fighting for a consumer's 'share of purse/wallet' and indeed fighting for 'share of diary', with time becoming an increasingly rare commodity. It's about



Crispin Reed

Crispin Reed is the managing director of Brandhouse, a leading independent brand agency specialising in strategy and creativity. Brandhouse focuses on understanding the people who choose and use brands, and the emotional bonds that they form with them.

“Being able to look at one's business from the perspective of a competitor can be both liberating and enlightening”

understanding the core emotional drivers that motivate people to experience spas and considering who or what else might be able to deliver against these needs.

If a core driver is relaxation or escape, then a consumer might choose to spend their money on a short city break. The motivation might be deeper rooted – to rebalance and overcome a bereavement. In which case, 'competition' may actually come from psychotherapists.

There are two schools of thought with regard to competition. One is effectively to ignore it and focus effort on delivering what a business is good at. This is admirable, but borders on the arrogant and can have serious downsides. The other, which I believe to be more appropriate in this day and age, is to approach the issue strategically and with a more forensic analysis.

Strategically speaking, there are many techniques and approaches that can be adopted from straightforward desk research (a lot

easier in this Google-enabled world) through to more intense 'wargaming'. The latter is becoming much more prevalent. Not only can it be very insightful to put oneself in the place of the competition and assess what action they may take, it can also be fun.

Like many things, effective 'wargaming' requires thorough planning and market analysis, an independent facilitator and benefits from participation across many levels of the business. Looking at one's business from the perspective of a competitor can be both liberating and enlightening and more often than not can identify 'quick wins'.

I believe it is essential for spas to consider their competition in the broadest sense.

As the US steel magnate Andrew Carnegie once said: "And while the law of competition may be sometimes hard for the individual, it is best for the race, because it ensures the survival of the fittest in every department." Explore further: www.brandhouse.co.uk

Leisure job 'ban' for non-EU migrants in the UK

TOM WALKER

UK companies will find it increasingly hard to recruit non-EU immigrants as fitness instructors and spa managers.

A review of the country's skill shortages by the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) has recommended changes in the current points system, with a number of jobs being affected – including those within the beauty and fitness sectors.

MAC has deduced that many jobs within the leisure sector are "non-skilled" and therefore do not qualify for Tier 2 status – requiring the applicant to have a level 4 qualification or above on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

The new classifications are due to come into force on 6 April and are part of the government's strategy of reducing the share of non-European Economic Area (EEA) immigrants of the UK workforce.

The Home Office has already announced that in future, only graduate-level EEA workers will be allowed to apply to come to the UK, while the number of skilled migrants is being capped annually at 21,700.



The five-day workshop will cover hydrotherapy

Hydrotherapy workshop to be held at Toskana Terme

TOM WALKER

Toskana Terme in the town of Bad Sulza, Germany, five-day experiential hydrotherapy workshop for spa professionals.

To be held June 25-29, 2011 in partnership with the American Spa Therapy Education and Certification Council, the training event will be called Living Waters: The Art, Science & Spirit of Hydrotherapy with Anne Bramham.

Covering 13 different hydrotherapy disciplines, the workshop will provide attendees with knowledge to produce results for discerning spa guest through therapeutic-inspired hydrotherapies.

The programme will include both practical and theoretical instruction.



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For more information contact: Antonietta Perretta,
Program Coordinator 416-675-6622 ext 4089

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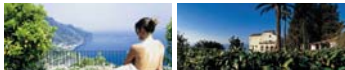
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Candidates should send a CV and supporting letter to: Terry Rodham, Group Health and Fitness Manager, The Hogarth Health Club, Airedale Avenue, Chiswick, London W4 2NW
Email: terry@thehogarth.co.uk

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Company: Renard Resources
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Aman Spa opens on private island

PETE HAYMAN

The private island retreat of Amanpulo (Peaceful Island) on Pamalican Island in the Philippines now features a luxury spa offering.

Situated on a slope above the treetops with views of the Sulu Sea, Aman Spa is composed of a series of pavilions constructed of native wood and other natural materials.

The reception pavilion features a lounge and retail space, as well as a finishing salon for manicures, pedicures and hair treatments. A separate three-storey fitness pavilion houses a fully equipped gym, a pilates studio with Allegro Reformers, and a spa wet area offering male and female lounges with steamrooms, cold plunge pools and outdoor relaxation verandas shaded by a tree canopy. There is also a yoga and meditation pavilion.



The retreat now boasts an Aman-branded bespoke spa and fitness offer

A further three pavilions accommodate a total of six treatment rooms, with each room containing a deep-soaking bath tub, a wash-room, a dressing area and a steam shower.

Amanpulo resort comprises 40 beach, hillside and treetop casitas modelled on authentic bahay kubo dwellings.

Revamped spa to open at Macdonald Inchyra

TOM WALKER

The refurbished spa at Macdonald Inchyra Hotel & Spa near Falkirk in Central Scotland is set to open next month. The £2.3m (US\$3.7m, €2.6m) revamp of the spa – part of an overall £4m (US\$6.4m, €4.6m) redevelopment of the four-star hotel – has created eight new treatment rooms, a relaxation room and a spa café lounge, as well as a fitness suite equipped by Technogym. Additional spa facilities, including a 20m swimming pool, an aroma steamroom, a rock sauna, an ice fountain and an experience massage shower, will be opened in May.

Andrew Seal, general manager, said: "We are delighted that the first stage of the refurbishment is complete and to be able to offer these



The revamped spa's facilities includes a 20m indoor swimming pool

state of the art facilities to all of our guests. The redevelopment will enhance our guests' experience and also allows us to secure the positions of our 100-strong workforce and add a further 20 new positions, which is welcome news in this economic climate."

Mouse Castle Golf Club set for revamp

TOM WALKER

Proposals for a £40m upgrade of the Mouse Castle Golf Club at Eastend, Cleghorn, in Scotland, have been submitted for public consultation. If approved, the 5.2-acre (2-hectare) sport resort will feature a large luxury day spa,

a revamped golf course, a new castle-style clubhouse with a swimming pool and a golf training academy.

The development will also feature a 150-bedroom hotel of medium-sized and executive suites and 15 onsite chalets and a restaurant.

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