

# spa opportunities

05 - 18 FEBRUARY 2016 ISSUE 234

Daily news & jobs: [www.spaopportunities.com](http://www.spaopportunities.com)

## Australia's Peninsula Hot Springs plans expansion

Things are heating up at Australia's Peninsula Hot Springs, which has plans to grow its offerings substantially over the next two years, add overnight accommodations and create an official hot springs region near its location in Victoria.

The owners have also recently purchased an additional historic hot springs in New Zealand, which they are in the process of transforming.

Peninsula Hot Springs has plans to add 16 new pools, plus a mud area, an ice cave, a large group sauna and an amphitheatre for entertainment and education. The natural hot springs currently has 41 bathing pools and experiences, and will add the first eight new pools by the end of this year and another eight in 2017, growing its offerings to a whopping total of 57 pools.

Open since 2005, Peninsula Hot Springs' bathing experiences currently include the



Peninsula Hot Springs has plans to add 16 new pools and other features

Bath House, open to groups of friends and families, which features more than 20 globally-inspired experiences, including a cave pool, reflexology walk, Turkish hammam, sauna, cold plunge pools, family bathing area, massaging thermal mineral showers and hilltop

pool with 360-degree views of the region. The Spa Dreaming Centre is reserved for guests aged 16 and over, with an emphasis on tranquil spaces, private pools and spa treatments, including Australian Aboriginal-inspired kodo full-body massages and facials, mud and salt wraps and ancient healing stone experiences.

"The emphasis of Peninsula Hot Springs is on relaxation and well-being for all the community," said Charles Davidson, owner. "We want guests to relax in the natural environment and with each other."

The company also plans to increase accommodation over the next two to

three years – adding 126 bedrooms designed by Australian architect Gregory Burgess in stages. It also hopes to expand its current one-day wellness-related programmes and Happiness Retreats with weekend and week-long retreats.

*Continued on back page*

### Commune merges with Destination Hotels

Commune Hotels & Resorts – which operates Alila, Joie de Vivre and Thompson Hotels – is merging with independent hotel operator Destination Hotels, which runs 45 properties in the US.

Together, the combined company will manage more than 90 hotels and resorts in seven countries, with approximately US\$2bn (£1.8bn, £1.4bn) of total property revenues. The new company will be based in Denver, Colorado, with offices in San Francisco, New York, Singapore and Shanghai.

Details: [http://lei.sr?a=j7M5r\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=j7M5r_S)

### Spa industry legend Lori Hutchinson dies

Lori Hutchinson, founder and co-owner of California, US-based Hutchinson Consulting, has died. The International Spa Association – where Hutchinson served as a board member from 2007 to 2010 – announced the news via social media, saying: "It is with heavy hearts and great sadness that we share the news that former ISPA Board Member Lori Hutchinson has passed away. Lori's energetic spirit was a bright light as she served on countless task forces throughout the years and made an impact on the spa community both personally and professionally. She will be missed immensely and our thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends."

Hutchinson began her career at San Francisco's Stanford Court Hotel in 1978. She



Hutchinson was well-loved in the spa industry

also worked for Campton Place Hotel and Sonoma Mission Inn & Spa before co-founding Hutchinson Consulting – which provides high-level recruitment to the hotel and spa industry, – with her husband Bill in 1993. Hutchinson was also the chair for the Global Wellness Institute's Global Careership Initiative.

Details: [http://lei.sr?a=b3k3x\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=b3k3x_S)

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## Wellness key at Arizona Ritz-Carlton

The Ritz-Carlton is opening The Ritz-Carlton Paradise Valley near Scottsdale, Arizona in late 2018. Developed by Five Star Development Resort Communities, it will include residential component, as well as a 10,000sq ft (929sq m) spa with 10 treatment rooms.

Designed by Peter T. Mason of California-based Mason Architects, the Ritz-Carlton Paradise Valley will be spread over 20 acres and consist of 200 casita-style guest rooms. The design will employ "simple, elegant forms to create relaxed, comfortable spaces in the time-honoured tradition of luxury architecture." Water features will cascade from the elevated Grand Lobby down through to the spa.

The spa is envisioned as a sanctuary dedicated to health and wellbeing, centred around the last two pools of the oasis meander, and is separated from the rest of the resort by a mature citrus grove, which will grow seasonal produce for the on-site restaurants. The wellness programme will



Water features will cascade from the Grand Lobby to the spa

include indoor and outdoor desert-inspired treatments, and the spa will feature sauna, steam, a "chill zone" room, whirlpool and experience showers, as well as quiet gardens, outdoor experience pools and relaxation areas. An emphasis is placed on the careful use of materials to create "a compelling sense of connection with the healing energy of the natural world," the company said. A 2,500sq ft (232sq m) fitness centre will also be included. Details: [http://lei.sr?a=b2J2H\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=b2J2H_S)

## Skincare line ila expands branded spas

Skincare brand ila is set to expand its presence with several ila only spas in the works for 2016, as well as a yoga programme designed to complement the brand's treatments and a line of yoga clothing and accessories launching later this year.

The British company operates two ila only spas in India and one in the Maldives, with plans to open another Indian location and two to three UK locations in 2016.

"It really works well for us," Denise Leicester, ila's founder, told *Spa Opportunities* of the branded concept. "You can select the team and give them the training, and give them every single touch point... We can shape the spa more when we do it ourselves."

Leicester said so far, she's had 100 per cent therapist retention, and guest feedback at the ila only spas has been great. She credits that, in large part, to the training she gives therapists, which includes a focus on mindfulness,



The first ila only spa, launched in 2014, is at Raas Jodhpur in India

heart consciousness and transformative healing. "They're learning to touch with awareness," she explained. "Creating that clarity and clearness within ourselves means that that's how we engage with the guest. It's taking responsibility as a therapist, and it's empowering the therapist. Being present and working in that way is so rewarding."

Details: [http://lei.sr?a=U6P2u\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=U6P2u_S)





## Inbalans partners with comfort zone

Spa development company Inbalans has teamed up with skincare brand comfort zone for a new space in the heart of the Latvian city of Riga.

The Inbalans comfort zone space Riga is located in a central location and is designed to promote a holistic, healthy and sustainable lifestyle. It had a soft opening last month, with plans for a full grand opening in March.

"It felt like a perfect marriage," said Alla Sokolova, founder and CEO of Inbalans. "We've been working with comfort zone for three years

at Amber Spa (located in Jurmala, Latvia, which Inbalans manages), and we felt we were completely aligned in terms of philosophy, and the way we're growing and developing and working towards a sustainable future."

This is the first branded comfort zone space, and features two treatment rooms spread over two floors, dedicated to the Italian skincare brand – one for facial care and another large room with a shower for full body treatments. Part of comfort zone's programme includes



The Inbalans comfort zone space is in the Latvian capital of Riga

combining skincare analysis and recommendations with lifestyle advice, said Sokolova, including home care, food and diet plans and exercise plans with exact movements.

The space also includes an interactive wellness studio that can be used for workshops, seminars and meetings that will help promote the holistically healthy lifestyle, including corporate wellness programmes. The spa will also partner with area hotels to offer treatments.

*Details: [http://lei.sr?a=b4W9V\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=b4W9V_S)*

## Chiva-Som launches five new retreats

Wellness destination Chiva-Som has launched five new retreats designed to address specific health issues. The programmes support treatment of specific conditions including cancer, migraines and high blood pressure, as well as assisting in the management of stress and excess body weight.

The addition of these five new programmes brings the total number of treatments with specific health objectives to 13 at the 21-year-old resort.

The new retreats have been developed in response to patterns in the requirements of guests, with increasing numbers looking for support for these conditions, the company said. Guests must book a minimum of 10 nights at Chiva-Som to take advantage of the new retreats.

In creating the retreats, Chiva-Som's health and wellness team takes into account the latest research and a review of the most effective programmes and treatments, the company said.



The new retreats are designed to address specific health issues

The Cell Vitality programme is for guests who have recovered or are in remission from cancer, and is fine-tuned by wellness experts for each individual, while Cranial Relief is a dedicated retreat for guests who suffer from migraines. Emotional Wellbeing was created for guests who feel over-stressed and Tension Release is designed to help guests who suffer from high blood pressure. Sustainable Slimming aims to help guests lose weight.

*Details: [http://lei.sr?a=X3f3z\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=X3f3z_S)*



Joseph C Magnacca is Message Envy CEO

## Magnacca named CEO of franchisor Message Envy

US massage franchise operator Message Envy has named Joseph C. Magnacca as its new chief executive officer. Message Envy's former CEO Dave Crisalli will continue to serve the business as a member of its board.

Magnacca has held top leadership positions at large retail and franchise brands such as Loblaws, Walgreens, Duane Reade and RadioShack.

"I am truly excited to join this terrific business," said Magnacca. "Message Envy is a pioneer and leader in the wellness space. The leadership team, our franchisees and the Message Envy community have done an outstanding job in developing the brand. I look forward to leading the team as we position the business for future and further success."

*Details: [http://lei.sr?a=E4H7B\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=E4H7B_S)*

## Online booking company Wahanda gets new name

Online booking platform Wahanda is rebranding as Treatwell, the Dutch company it acquired in June 2015 for €34m (US\$38m, £25m). The rebrand is part of a strategy to unify the company under one umbrella as it continues to accelerate its international expansion.

"As we continue to pursue our global ambitions, it makes sense to operate under one brand," said Lopo Champalimaud, founder of Wahanda and CEO of the newly-named Treatwell Group. "But we didn't stop there. We also took the opportunity to improve the experience for both our customers and business partners."

Treatwell will be unveiling new product developments to its diary and client management system, including its of point-of-sale functionality, resource management capability and improved email marketing.

*Details: [http://lei.sr?a=S7C9W\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=S7C9W_S)*

## Replay to develop Antiguan resort

Vancouver-based development company Replay Resorts has acquired 108 acres of oceanfront land from the Government of Antigua on the site of the former Half Moon Bay Resort. Originally built in the 1950s, the resort has been abandoned since Hurricane Luis devastated the island and the property in 1995.

“Over the past 18 months, we have met with developers from around the world who have shown great interest in redeveloping Half Moon Bay, but Replay Resorts stood out for its expertise in resort place-making and, as importantly, its ability to put these places on the world map,” said Antigua Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Replay has completed preliminary planning for the new Half Moon Bay Resort, which includes an internationally-branded luxury



Half Moon Bay Resort has stood vacant since 1995's Hurricane Luis

hotel as well as oceanfront villas, a retail village and ocean-view cottages. The company plans to make the new resort an active place, with bike and walking trails, beach activities, interactive guided experiences, an edible landscape, pools, spa and fitness components.

*Details:* [http://lei.sr?a=v3a3K\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=v3a3K_S)

## Cachet resort to feature WTS spa

Italian architect Stefano Boeri has lined up his latest forest-inspired project: a resort property in China's Guizhou province. The Cachet Hotel Group has announced Boeri will partner with acclaimed local artist Simon Ma to build the centrepiece of Cachet Wanfeng Valley – its first resort development in Asia.

The resort will feature a Cachet Hotel cSPA, a new environmental and design-led concept created by consultancy and management company WTS.

The group has unveiled renderings of the pair's design for a striking “lifestyle destination” with trees on every terrace. The building will feature a 182-bedroom Cachet Resort Hotel and a 71-bedroom URBN hotel, two restaurants and lounges, a swimming pool, spa and fully equipped fitness centre. The Wanfeng Valley resort is being developed across 49.4 acres (199,915sq m) in the Xingyi City by its owner, the Guizhou Wanfeng Valley Ecological Cultural & Tourism Development Company. It will be located close to major shopping, dining, convention and entertainment outlets, the



The forest-inspired hotel is designed by Italian architect Stefano Boeri

city's airport and a high-speed rail station set to open in 2020. Boeri has built a reputation for his use of plants and flowers in urban environments, and his famous residential Vertical Forest in Milan was named the ‘Best Tall Building Worldwide’ for 2015 by the Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat.

“Travellers can look forward to an unrivalled dimension of authentic local discovery, new experiences and innovative designs from the iconic Cachet and eco-friendly URBN brands,” said the group's co-chair, Liang Shang Yan.

*Details:* [http://lei.sr?a=v7f9A\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=v7f9A_S)

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## How to help clients with 'Cultural Stress'

With society's extreme dependence on digital devices and 'over-connected' living, it's not surprising we are seeing a rise in stress levels. The constant and pervasive stress of everyday life that has become a normal part of our society is what I like to call Cultural Stress.

Whether it's a long commute, a never-ending to-do list, worries about job loss or global conflict, it's the unnecessary stress we put on ourselves in our attempt to live up to everyone's expectations.

Stress is an inevitable part of life – the key is how you handle it. I advise my patients to identify their stressors and do what they can to keep them at bay. Through my years of research I have discovered a strong link between Cultural Stress and ageing. Not only does it affect us visibly as signs of ageing on

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"Through my years of research, I have discovered a strong link between Cultural Stress and ageing."

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the skin and body, but also emotionally with increased feelings of isolation, lack of confidence and a lack of creativity.

To survive the assault of 'Cultural Stress,' I advise my patients to adopt my Inclusive Health approach to wellbeing – which looks at emotional, nutritional and topical care – in an attempt to help minimise the impact Cultural Stress has on their lives.

This can be in different ways, depending on the person. I might encourage them to let go of the need to be perfect, help them to improve their health at a fundamental level by eating hydrating foods and savouring sleep, or to embrace the power of movement.

By taking healthy measures to eradicate Cultural Stress, we can dramatically increase the odds of unlocking our potential to look younger, feel younger and live healthier, happier and more rewarding lives.

## Oman port project gets green light

Some of the world's best-known hospitality operators are vying to open hotels in a new mixed-use waterfront destination in Oman, which will regenerate one of the oldest ports and market districts in the Arab world. Brands including Hyatt, Hilton, Four Seasons, Mandarin Oriental, Banyan Tree and Viceroy have declared their interest in opening hotels in the Mina Sultan Qaboos Waterfront Project, which will enter the first phase of construction in June 2016.

The state-owned Oman Tourism Development Company (Oman) will establish a new company to develop the OMR500m (US\$1.3bn, £917.7m, €1.19bn) waterfront scheme – which it says will "set new standards for authentic waterfront destinations in the region" – on a 101 hectare site in the



The project will be a tourism and cultural gateway for Muscat

centuries-old Sultan Qaboos Port in the province of Muscat. It has formed an investor relations task force to identify funding and project partners from the private and public sectors, who will hold 49 per cent ownership in the project to Oman's 51 per cent.

*Details: [http://lei.sr?a=E7f9t\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=E7f9t_S)*

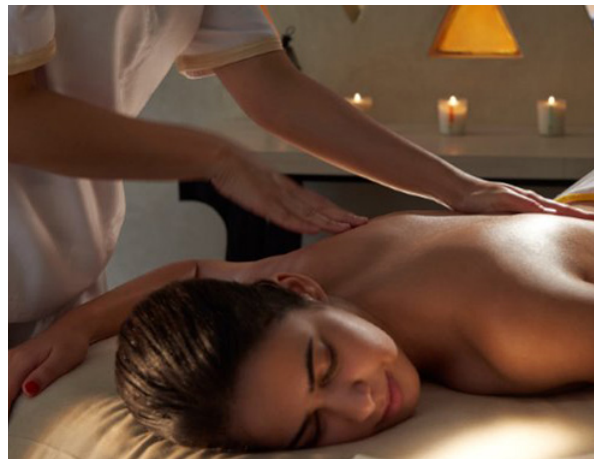
## Year of the Fire Monkey at Mandarin

To celebrate Chinese New Year, which begins this month, Mandarin Oriental has launched the Year of the Fire Monkey Spa Experience. The Fire Monkey year is said to be one of change, requiring strength and agility in order to succeed. Available year-round at all of its spas globally, the treatment has been designed to inspire renewal, energy and determination.

The treatment incorporates a number of traditional elements to stimulate the senses, relax the mind and rejuvenate the body.

Guests are welcomed with hot or cold towels infused with mandarin orange or tangerine oil, both of which symbolise good tidings. They are then invited to enjoy a welcome drink of Chinese red dates, honey and goji berries, which help to de-stress and encourage sleep. Traditional sweet treats popular during Chinese New Year festivities will be available to enjoy in the spa's relaxation area, including sweetened tangerine, coconut and ginger from the customary 'Tray of Togetherness.'

The Year of the Fire Monkey Experience begins with a foot ritual with rose oil, followed



The treatment aims to stimulate the senses and relax the mind

by a full body exfoliation incorporating chrysanthemum flowers. A warm shower with the addition of 'pomelo water' – traditionally used to wash away negative feelings – is followed by a short, guided singing bowl session. The body massage that follows combines the effects of oriental meridian massage with a blend of ylang ylang, rose and calming chamomile oils to encourage joy and emotional release.

Finally, guests are offered a sweet plum tea, and on leaving the spa will receive a traditional Chinese 'lai see' lucky red packet.

*Details: [http://lei.sr?a=X8d4q\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=X8d4q_S)*





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# Wellness design goes beyond spa

Andrew Gibson, vice president of spa & wellness for FRHI – parent company of Swissotel, Raffles and Fairmont – spoke at the London Health Show last month about trends in the spa industry. He highlighted the fact that wellness is moving beyond the confines of spa, and affecting the entire hotel, in everything from air quality to lighting to building materials.

“This is a rapidly changing market,” said Gibson. “Wellness is no longer a basement operation – the whole

hotel is about wellness...Wellness is not just treatments and services you provide to guests.”

Because of this, said Gibson, more and more of his work is helping design departments integrate wellness throughout the hotel through what he calls “imperceptible wellness.” With Swissotel, Gibson said the focus is on wellness



Andrew Gibson said wellness design is affecting the entire hotel

through fitness, while with Raffles, it’s the “overall feeling” of the hotel, and Fairmont stresses the socialisation aspect of wellness.

Not all hotel developers are willing to look at wellness holistically, said Gibson, as there’s a cost involved – but the ones that do, get it.

**Details:** [http://lei.sr?a=f5p3w\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=f5p3w_S)

# Six Senses programme pays off

Six Senses’ Integrative Wellness programme is increasing spa revenue, said Anna Bjurstam, vice president of spa and wellness, who detailed results of the initial two months of the programme at the London Health Show last month.

Six Senses engaged with “some of the best experts” said Bjurstam – prominent doctors Dr Mehmet Oz (known for his popular US television show), Dr Michael Breus and Dr Steven Gundry – to create the Integrative Wellness programme, which recently launched at eight Six Senses locations.

Bjurstam said that education is a huge component of the programme’s launch, and the company has put together a series of short, focused, educational videos featuring the doctor partners, which help guests understand a variety of wellness topics.

The programme itself includes medical screenings such as blood pressure, oximeter, BMI, stress levels and cardio levels, Doctor Oz’s RealAge Test, and Fusionetics, a performance healthcare system. A personalised Integrative Medicine programme is then created for each guest, including sleep,



Anna Bjurstam says education is a huge part of the programme

nutrition and fitness, as well as advice and tools on how to continue at home.

In the first two months, spas have averaged around 20 screenings per month, with some locations doing as many as 50 screenings.

“It’s better than we had hoped for,” said Bjurstam. “Every screening means an extra \$800 to \$2,000 in revenue, booked programmes, retail and more... It has helped with spa revenue – some spas are meeting their budgets in 20 days.”

**Details:** [http://lei.sr?a=b4K8Y\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=b4K8Y_S)



The Ritz Paris has been closed for renovations

## Ritz Paris fire may delay opening of first Chanel spa

A fire damaged the Ritz Paris on 19 January. No injuries were reported at the hotel, which is closed for renovations and was due to reopen in March, along with the first-ever Chanel-branded spa. A spokesperson for the Ritz Paris said it was too soon to tell if the fire would affect the reopening date.

The BBC reported that the damage started on the seventh floor and spread to the attic and roof.

The Ritz Paris, open since 1898, closed its doors in 2012 for extensive renovations. The project is being led by architect and designer Thierry W. Despont.

Details of the Chanel au Ritz Paris spa have been kept under wraps, but a press release said the spa will be “a new beauty concept dedicated to Chanel’s skincare” and will “provide guests with a unique sensorial and customised experience inspired by Chanel’s art of skincare.”

**Details:** [http://lei.sr?a=4s8N7\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=4s8N7_S)

## Technology is changing today’s spa operations: panel

A panel of global spa professionals at the London Health Show last month said technology is rapidly changing the way spas operate.

“If I look at technology today, it certainly is taking over,” said Andrew Gibson, vice president of spa & wellness for FRHI. “... We always wanted to be low-tech, high-touch – Now, we’re high-tech, high-touch.”

Envisioning the spa of the future, Anna Bjurstam, vice president of spa and wellness for Six Senses Resorts and owner of Raison d’Etre Spas, said, “Tech will have taken over.” Customers will book treatments online, choose what kind of music they like, inform therapists what sort of pressure they need, and they’ll even pay with their phones, said Bjurstam.

**Details:** [http://lei.sr?a=y6F2K\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=y6F2K_S)



### Caudalie's new eye balm uses patented Grape Resveratrol

Caudalie has launched a new 25-minute Anti-Ageing Eye Treatment specifically designed to care for the delicate eye area. The techniques and products used are designed to make skin brighter, smoothe lines and wrinkles and substantially reduce puffiness and dark circles, while lifting the eye contour and enhancing the eyes. Caudalie's Resveratrol Lift Eye Lifting Balm has been created in conjunction with Harvard Medical School, and combines Caudalie's patented Grape Resveratrol with micro hyaluronic acids for plumping and lifting. It's also packed with peptides and an anti-puffiness plant complex derived from the silk tree.

**KEYWORD:** CAUDALIE



### Elemis supporting international women's charity

Skincare brand Elemis is supporting Women for Women International with the launch of a Special Edition Pro-Collagen Marine Cream Ultra-Rich next month. Women for Women International works with women whose lives have been torn apart by conflict in countries such as Rwanda, Syria and Kosovo. The organisation helps female survivors of war reclaim their lives by providing the resources for learning and developing skills that get them and their families out of poverty.

**KEYWORD:** ELEMIS

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### Noel Asmar providing equine team's Olympic uniforms

Apparel brand Noel Asmar – which has both equestrian lifestyle and spa uniform divisions – has been selected as the official apparel partner of Equine Canada, and will be fitting the Canadian Equestrian Team at the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics.

Owner and designer Noel Asmar said it was “both an honour and great pleasure to have been selected.

“We are a Canadian company that got its start in dressing the teams of iconic hotels and spas around the world,” Asmar continued.

“We take a lot of pride in dressing professional teams for success. Our Noel Asmar Equestrian division will outfit each member of the Canadian Equestrian Team and their supportive crew with a cohesively stylish but technical wardrobe for the athletics at such a momentous moment.”

The Canadian brand produces more than 70 per cent of its products locally.

“Equine Canada is thrilled to enter this exciting partnership with Asmar Equestrian,” said Equine Canada CEO Eva Havaris.

**KEYWORD:** NOEL ASMAR

### Flexibility key for Carmenta's steam, sauna cabins

Carmenta Wellness has launched a new range of small steam, shower and sauna cabins.

The Sensation range is designed to let spas offer more treatment choices with its flexible and affordable cabins.

With clean, sharp lines and six modular possibilities, the cabins are suitable for all types of space.

Materials include high-pressure laminates on the walls and roof, and Corian and stainless steel benches and columns.

**KEYWORD:** CARMENTA





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- LEISURE SERVICES MANAGER
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If you're interested in a career within Aqua Sana, please visit the Center Parcs Careers Website and select 'Job Search'.

Here you can select the Village where you are interested in working and see what opportunities are currently available. You can also register for 'Job Alerts' and we will contact you as and when opportunities become available.'

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Salary: Competitive

Job location: Richmond, London, UK

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Salary: Competitive

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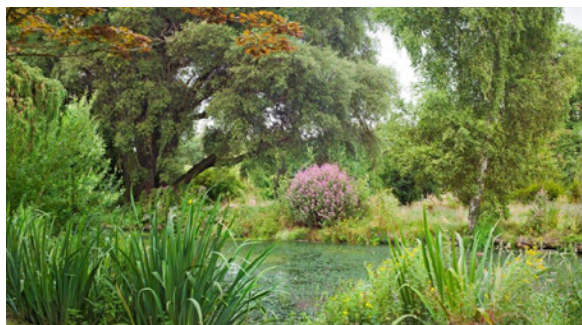
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**Salary:** Competitive



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- Experienced spa therapists, ideally having worked in a highly customer service oriented spa environment.
- Outgoing, nurturing and friendly towards their customers.
- Passionate about the health and well-being industry and be able to communicate that passion appropriately to our guests.
- Able to provide excellent customer service to our guests.
- CIDESCO/BABTAC qualified (or equivalent) and experienced (NVQ level 3 or similar).
- Flexible in approach and work best in a team-working environment.
- Have excellent communication skills.
- Fluent in spoken English.

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## Australian hot springs plans new pools

*Continued from front cover*

General manager Brook Ramage, founder of Golden Door Australia, joined the team about six months ago, and will help create the retreat programming.

"Brook has an incredible amount of knowledge and experience in the wellness industry, particularly with wellness retreats," said Davidson. "He brings that knowledge to the hot springs industry that will help raise the bar of wellness, bringing the best of health and wellness retreats to the natural health-giving powers of thermal mineral waters."

Davidson is also working with several groups in the area that are interested in starting hot springs in order to create the Mornington Peninsula hot springs region, similar to the Rotorua hot springs district in New Zealand, where Davidson was involved with the master planning. "The concept in Rotorua and in our region is to offer the full range of hot springs



Peninsula Hot Springs will have 57 pools after the expansion

offerings that will help deliver an experience for all customer groups," said Davidson.

The company has also recently purchased Maruia Hot Springs in New Zealand, a natural hot springs resort with overnight accommodations and more than 100 years of history.

"We are in the process of transforming this facility to become synonymous with 'Pure New Zealand,'" said Davidson.

*Details: [http://lei.sr?a=W5K3j\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=W5K3j_S)*

## Former concentration camp to be resort

A former fortress and concentration camp on an island in Montenegro is set to be turned into a luxury resort and spa after a controversial planning proposal was accepted by the government.

Local news reports state that the five-star development – located on Lastavica Island, better known as Mamula, in the Adriatic Sea – will include a hotel complete with a marina, wine bar, restaurant, VIP terrace, open air dance floor, beach bar and spa.

Serbian architects Salt & Water and Juan Navarro Vallejo from the Sima Multimedia company in Gibraltar have designed and produced renderings for the reconstruction of the island's ruined 19th century Austro-Hungarian fortress.

"The original idea was to completely preserve the existing exterior, known as one of the biggest and best preserved fortifications on the Adriatic Sea, and also as one of the most impressive Austrian architecture landmarks of Montenegro," said the architects in a statement. The project has been developed



The fortress was occupied by Italian forces under Mussolini

by the Swiss-Egyptian developer Orascom. Some local groups have protested the development due to the site's violent history. The fortress was occupied by Italian forces under the rule of Mussolini during the Second World War and thousands of local people were imprisoned there. Last year, former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali wrote a letter to Montenegro's government calling for the fortress to be transformed "into a facility and institution of peace and international cooperation."

*Details: [http://lei.sr?a=m8R2g\\_S](http://lei.sr?a=m8R2g_S)*

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