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SOUTHEAST ASIA

FEBRUARY 2010

ROMANCE is in the air

FIVE ESCAPES THAT
ARE PERFECT FOR TWO

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A weekend away
from the casinos

STATE OF BLISS

LUXURY SPAS THAT
CATER TO COUPLES

RAJASTHAN

Stylish camps
in the desert

CAMBODIA

SIGHTS & SMELLS
OF A NATION
ON THE MEND

PLUS: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CRUISES

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TREATMENTS FOR TWO. SOLO PAMPERING ASIDE, THESE LUXURY SPAS OFFER ENVIRONS AND THERAPIES FOR COUPLES TO UNWIND TOGETHER. **BY CATHARINE NICOL**

TREATED ROYALLY
From top: On Hadahaa Island; Mandala Spa and Villas; spa tatami at Pullman Lijiang Resort and Spa.



MALDIVES

■ **Park Hyatt Maldives Hadaaha**

The Setting Largely candlelit, the five spa villas at the Park Hyatt Maldives Hadaaha's Vidhun Spa (*vidhun* means "shine" in Dhivehi), feature fenced-in alfresco space and sleek pale wood design. At sunset, witness the gradual quietening of the island while floating side by side with your partner pre-treatment in the petal-dusted bath, moving to the daybed to dry off and sip a relaxing cup of tea as the stars gradually appear across the sky, then to the open thatch-roofed treatment area where two beds wait for your chosen therapy. **The Treatment** Sessions here are influenced by Ayurveda, Chinese and Tibetan traditional medicines and are comprised of therapies using indigenous plants like coconut and rose. Especially sensual, the *Sehathu* Massage, with its rose, lotus and jasmine oils, is designed to balance the body's hot, cold and dry humors. maldives.hadaaha.park.hyatt.com; *Sehathu* Massage US\$450 per couple.

PHILIPPINES

■ **Mandala Spa and Villas**

The Setting On Boracay Island, this holistic resort is secluded high above the southern end of White Beach. Four spa villas exude tranquility thanks to simple dark wood floors, a cool breeze, undulating curtains and colourful textiles. From the main treatment room, step down your villa's levels to where the large stand-alone bath overlooks the gardens outside. **The Treatment** The therapists here are among the most gentle you'll find (they begin their day with yoga) and practice local forms of healing. While the traditional *Hilot* Trilogy treatment is what they are best known for, they recommend the nurturing Hawaiian *Kahuna* Massage for couples. The dance-like Polynesian *Ka Huna* strokes are designed to reconnect you with your spirit. Afterwards, step over the rose petal-strewn floor and into the bath big enough for two, fragrant with coconut milk and flowers picked from the garden. mandalaspaspa.com; *Hawaiian Kahuna* Massage P3,850. »



FROM TOP: COURTESY OF PARK HYATT MALDIVES HADAAHA; COURTESY OF MANDALA SPA AND VILLAS; COURTESY OF PULLMAN LIJIANG RESORT AND SPA

