SPA DAYS

EIGHT DESTINATIONS BRING SOMETHING NEW TO THE MASSAGE TABLE.

We live in the most efficient, least disease-ridden time in recorded history, yet we still don’t feel all that well. We require much more than a deep-tissue massage and cleansing facial to restore us. The latest and greatest destination-driven retreats are fulfilling our needs with natural resources to promote total wellness, and the facilities, experts, and programming to repair what ails us. Whether it’s reconnecting to nature, depriving the senses to gain focus, or meditating for elevated lucidity, getting out of our heads and into the right hands is vital to living our best lives.
When Argentine hotelier Alan Faena made his first foray into North America, the result was all about red and animal print, gold leaf, and an unadulterated, look-at-me luxe: that’s a feast for pretty much all the senses.

Opened in 2016, the 22,000-square-foot spa dubbed Tierra Santa Healing House spans the entire third floor and includes a fitness center and yoga studio. Attendants dressed in uniforms by Carolina Kleinman, an Argentinian fashion designer whose company, Carolina K, is known for colorful prints, usher clients to a reception area where a long, white sofa sits upon a striped rug and beneath the often-Instagrammed Float chandelier made by Dutch design firm Tweelink using 500 fishing floats. Embroidered throw pillows and ottomans, also by Carolina K, are stylishly strewn about the space.

The transformative, magical 1,200-square-foot wet spa is clad almost entirely in white marble from the showers to the ice room and the heated slab where one can rest after completing the healing waters circuit. The design is very deliberate and is meant to calm the mind as well as the body. A hexagon-shaped slab of Amazonite is the star of the hammam, where curved benches surrounding the room are lit from beneath and seem to float in this space, the spiritual center of the hotel. From $795; faena.com. —Rima Suqi