

marketwatch



GalleRevival

Galle in Sri Lanka is valiantly trying to rebuild itself after the Tsunami devastation. And now with Per Aquum set to open The Fortress in the final quarter of 2005, it seems as if Galle's recovery plans are moving as anticipated. Work at the Fortress has resumed at a fast pace. Described as "recreating history, The Fortress will be styled after the powerful Dutch fort, echoing the historic days of Old Ceylon, Modern Asia."

"One of the key messages originating from Sri Lanka following the Tsunami is that tourism must continue. It is the lifeblood of many of the population here who rely on the industry for their livelihood. With the opening of the Fortress towards the end of the year, Per Aquum aims to bring the spotlight back to Sri Lanka in terms of luxurious accommodation, encouraging worldwide recognition for the destination and an increase in the number of visitors. In fact we are so confident in the recovery of the destination that I have personally invested in Fortress resorts," says Scott Toon, General Manager of The Fortress Scott Toon. The Fortress with its 49 guest rooms with a naturally modern twist includes 6 two-storey Ocean lofts with private pools and 2 Fortress Residences.

www.peraquum.com



Branded Elixirs

Bali's The Westin Resort in Nusa Dua unveiled its luxurious line of spa products range. The designer and developer of the range, Farida Chettab Brouwer who is also the consultant for The Westin Resort turned to the Bali's vast botanical heritage to produce the line. The line includes fourteen products used at the facility and ranges from body lotion, massage oil, shower gel, foot tonic, bath salt and body splash right down to hair tonic. Combined with spa treatments, the experience here will be divine.

www.westin.com

GO ON... ASK A QUESTION

Have a burning query on Spa Education & Training? From next issue on, SpaAsia in collaboration with SPAcademy will feature a brand-new exciting column to answer your every question. Forward all questions to Dr Rosabel Abuan, Director of Academic Studies of Raffles Knowledge at question@spaasia.com. Raffles Knowledge integrated expertise includes Raffles International Training Centre, Singapore and SPAcademy By Raffles International (Winner of Best Spa Academy in SpaAsia Crystal Awards 2004).

Dr Rosabel Abuan possesses a Doctorate in Education from the University of the Philippines, a Master of Arts degree in Teaching from Monash University, Australia, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the St. Mary's University in the Philippines. She was formerly the Dean of College for the School of Arts and Sciences at the St. Mary's University in the Philippines and now specialised in hospitality and spa curriculum design and development.

THAI HARD FACTS & FIGURES

New research has identified Thailand's spa industry as performing well until the Tsunami forced the closure of over 25 spa facilities. Intelligent Spas estimated approximately 3.6 million visits were made to Thai spas during the 12 month period between July 2003 and June 2004, whilst average annual visitors per spa was up 43% compared to the previous period.

"This report updates the unaugural research conducted in 2002. Since that time the industry has experienced overall growth in spa visits and spa facilities. Intelligent spas identified there are approximately 320 spa facilities in Thailand employing over 5000 people. About 20% of these spas are operating in the greater Phuket area and continue to be negatively affected as many travelers choose other destinations," says director of Intelligent Spas Julie Garrow.

Spa industry benchmarks from the latest research include that on average 78% of spa visitors were international tourists, 57% of spa visitors were female, 43% were male, almost half of the spas were located in a resort and that spas contained 9.4 treatment rooms on average.

www.intelligentspas.com