

**29 June, 2007**



### **SENSES SPA OPENS AT THE WESTIN AUCKLAND**

Auckland's newest luxury spa, Senses, has opened at the five-star Westin Auckland, Lighter Quay.

Meticulously planned to be at the forefront of spa design, the facility embodies Westin's guest rejuvenation philosophy – a nurturing sanctuary to escape the intrusions of the outside world.

Offering a wide range of therapies, Senses Spa will be run by some of the most skilled therapists in New Zealand.

As the focal point of the hotel's 8,000 square foot wellness centre, Senses Spa has seven treatment rooms – four singles, two doubles and a VIP suite.

A team of four senior Thai therapists has been flown in to run the spa, which will offer signature treatments from across South East Asia as well as a range of beauty treatments.

The Westin Auckland, the flagship of leading New Zealand hotel developer Melview Developments, will be the first hotel in the country to offer the renowned Thalgo marine product range in its spa treatments. Acknowledged for 40 years as the leading marine cosmetology company, Thalgo products are derived from algae harvested off the coast of Brittany in France – a fitting choice for the hotel's harbourside location.

Melview founder and Managing Director Nigel McKenna said the hotel would set a new standard in luxurious waterfront accommodation and Senses Spa complements this vision.

Reflecting The Westin's New Zealand spirit, Senses Spa will also use essential oil blends from pioneering local skincare range Evolu in its massage treatments.

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The Senses Spa treatment menu includes 11 massages – ranging from aromatic massage and specialist Thai and Balinese therapies to sports massage, hot stone massage and Ayurvedic Third Eye massage with hot oil. Prices start at \$120 for an hour's massage.

Atmospheric and serene, Senses Spa shares the same earthy, textural design as the rest of the hotel; Maori influences in colours, materials and artwork within a framework of European styling.

With its own entrance off Halsey Street, Senses will operate as a stand-alone facility looking to attract a large percentage of its business through the local community, as well as working as a luxury facility for Westin guests.

### **Our Senses Spa Staff:**

**Spa Director Joe Palang** has also arrived from Thailand, where she managed 13 spas together with two in the Maldives. She also spent five years based in Australia, researching and developing potential spa and wellness projects in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Australia, USA , Spain Greece and Mexico.

**Therapist Kay Chaiworn** has been a therapeutic trainer for many years, working for MSpa international which manages 12 spas in Thailand under the brands of Mandara Spa, Anantara Spa and other specifically developed spas for Four Seasons Bangkok, Plaza Athenee and a further 26 spas internationally. Kay has been responsible for therapist training and development of massage and spa treatments throughout the MSpa network worldwide.

**Ya Nurat** began her therapeutic career with Manda Spa at the Marriott Hotel in Phuket Thailand for five years from 2001. She comes to New Zealand directly from the Kempinski Hotel on the Dead Sea in Jordan.

**Wan Pattoo** is another MSpa trainer, working in the field of massage and body treatment development for the company's international network of luxury spas. Before becoming a trainer, Wan worked as a therapist in several medically-based spa centres.

**Sky Chaiworn** has arrived in New Zealand directly from The Oriental Hotel, Bangkok where she worked as a specialist Ayurvedic treatments therapist. Prior to that she spent four years working at other luxury Bangkok hotels including the Conrad Hotel, Dusit Thani Hotel and Grand Hyatt Erawan as a spa therapist.

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