

IN THE COUNTRY

Tirta Spa gathers the best of Asian relaxation treatments under one glorious roof.



Stairway to Heaven

Step into the temple that is **TIRTA SPA** and you immediately know there is something special about this corner of Boracay, whether your goal is to relax, rejuvenate, restore or renew. Tirta is Hindu for “holy water”, and time spent here will both take your breath away and allow you to leave with the special gift of breathing more deeply. The calming echo of a gong announces not only your arrival, but also releases any bad energy, and as you climb the stone steps leading to this hilltop haven your senses are nourished by the sound of water flowing and the gentle ringing of wind chimes. Owner En Calvert admits to being a spa addict, and for years traveled the spa world collecting ideas before creating her own dream come true.

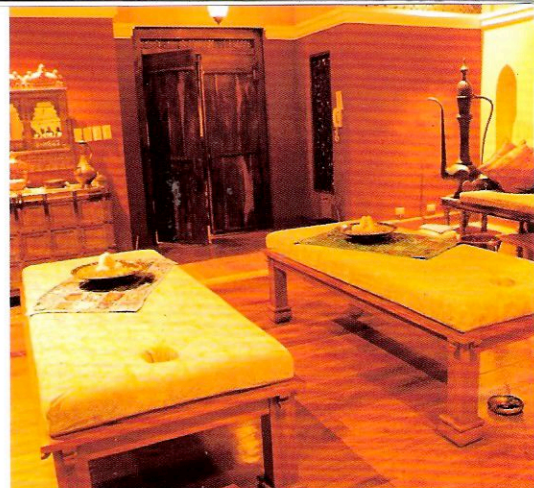
Produced by *Manuel G. Chaves*

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Tirta was built with the image of a temple in mind, to be a very grounding, serene oasis of silence, and spiritual design elements such as water, Buddhas, koi ponds, and reliefs from the bible of Buddha are scattered throughout the breathtaking property. Calvert says her goal was “to create both a place where clients could feel more spiritually grounded and have an experience where they leave feeling uplifted, invigorated, happy and beautiful.” Guests will appreciate both the breadth of traditional and innovative treatments being offered for both



men and women and the detail with which each pampering experience is so carefully delivered. All products used in treatment are fresh-made daily from the highest quality oils, herbs, spices and flowers, and explanations are given to help choose which scent or herb might fulfill different needs, i.e., eucalyptus is recommended for healing, and lavender helps relaxation. Exfoliate with a *calamansi* and ginger scrub; detoxify and hydrate with a wild green honey wrap; or simply relax with the highly recommended Tirta signature massage—a unique blend combining the best of Swedish, lymphatic drainage, aromatherapy and reflexology techniques. Treatments can be ordered a la carte or in spa packages, and all pampering takes place in private villas overlooking the coastline. All guests begin the experience with a foot spa ceremony designed to purify and ground clients. Each villa balances a unique blend of architectural elements taken from Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and India, accented by Filipino design detail



such as capiz shell lamps, narra wood and *banig tikog* ceilings. Indulge in an enchanting Egyptian milk bath (part of Secrets of Egypt package), where you step into a mosaic-tiled cabana bathtub filled with hot water perfumed with freshly cut flowers and are then nourished by a mixture of warm milk with honey poured over your body, and understand what it means to feel like royalty. Lay face down on the massage table and peer through the face rest to enjoy a display of fresh flowers, and it's easy to understand what it means to have really thought of everything. *Sitio Malabunot, Manoc-Manoc, Boracay Island, Malay, Aklan; (6336) 260. 2488; www.tirtaspa.com. SUNSHINE DE LEON*

JOY RIDE

It's a fine ride when everyone gets off the family car none the worse for wear. The all-new **CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY** minivan promises that and a few more simple joys: it is designed to make life infinitely more convenient. For starters, you can forget worrying about how to make all the sports gear fit when rushing to get to your son's soccer game. It offers seats that swivel to face each other, a removable table that fits snugly between rows, hidden floor storage bins, and fold-in-the-floor third-row seating. There are dozens of possible combinations for handling up to seven passengers and bulky items like big coolers, bikes, go-karts, wheelchairs and furniture. Tray tables become handy work areas. Lamps are built into the overhead console—perfect for reading the papers or catching up on that novel. Kids love the television screens that include wireless headphones, an audio system with nine speakers, a hard drive for music files, play lists and photo images. All this and a sunroof too. It's a family room on wheels. It also comes with the latest in safety and security features. In a word, this classic minivan brings the comforts of home on the road. It comes in clear-water blue pearl, deep crimson crystal and light sandstone metallic. www.chrysler.com.ph. PATRICIA R. PAREDES



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