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LIVING

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Spectacular Spas

WELLNESS REDEFINED TERRIFIC TRAILS SOUP'S ON!

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a white bathrobe, is sitting on the edge of a spa pool. She is looking down at a tray of spa amenities on the pool's edge, which includes a basket of colorful flowers, a small bell, and some fruit. The background is filled with lush green trees and foliage, suggesting a serene, natural setting.

SPA GETAWAYS

THESE FIVE TERRIFIC CALIFORNIA RESORTS
WILL PAMPER YOU AROUND THE CLOCK.

Living in California has its advantages, especially when it's time for some well-deserved R & R. A temperate climate and quick access to sea, snow, and forest conspire to provide vacation options that fulfill our deepest getaway fantasies. Add the luxury and comfort of a spa into that mix and you have a recipe for complete rest and rejuvenation. Many finer resorts include on-site spas that offer the perfect weekend recharge. With a lineup of massages, facials, and body treatments, you'll leave relaxed, revived, and with the enviable glow that comes from pure pampering. While many destinations in California tempt travelers, these five resort spas stand out for their unique new treatments that renew body and soul.

BY TAMARA COLLINS



THE SPA AT AUBERGE DU SOLEIL

Surrounded by some of the most revered wineries in the world, Auberge du Soleil spreads out over a terraced hillside high above the Napa Valley. Wandering over the 33-acre property on meandering paths, from the wisteria-draped guest cottages to the celebrated restaurant and spa, you'll feel like you've been transported to Provence. Gnarled old olive trees shade the paths and the scents of lavender and rosemary hang in the air. The resort's 50 rooms and suites reflect that same Mediterranean sensibility with warm woods and sun- and earth-toned accents.

From every perch at Auberge there's a breathtaking view, including the spa's infinity-edged hot tub, which is fed by natural spring water that flows from the property. With the intention of reconnecting its guests with nature, the spa sources many of its ingredients from the valley. Calistoga mud and local olive oil, herbs, and grape seeds are gathered each day for therapeutic treatments that fall into one of four categories: Valley, Grove, Garden, and Vineyard.

New on the menu are three unique treatments that bring the pleasures of drinking a glass of wine into the spa experience. Head

sommelier Kris Margerum and spa director Peggy Francis carefully selected wines and treatments with harmonious aromas that, when combined, would create an unforgettable sensory experience. Soaking in the Body Purifier Bath surrounded by the scent of citrus and light spice, you'll savor the white pepper notes of an Austrian grüner veltliner. The Honey Rose Scrub with Rose Oil Massage is paired with a nebbiolo/sangiovese blend from Napa's Amethyst; the wine offers notes of rose and floral flavors. A local merlot, Barlow, complements the heady scents of the Rosemary and Grape Seed Foot Scrub with subtle earth and herbal notes.

Couples can experience the treatments in the spacious new Melisse Suite with its private yard and soaking tub. A fireplace warms the room on cool days and, of course, there's that breathtaking valley view. The remaining seven treatment rooms open onto fern-filled garden patios with outdoor showers or tubs that let you embrace the natural elements of Auberge du Soleil, the "Inn of the Sun."

Auberge du Soleil is located at 180 Rutherford Hill Road in Rutherford; call 800-348-5406 or visit www.aubergedusoleil.com.