



## THE TREATMENT / LE SOIN

**INDIGENOUS HOT STONE MASSAGE**  
MASSAGE TRADITIONNEL AUX PIERRES CHAUDES

AT / AU RIVERSTONE SPA

I'm here to experience a treatment that was created in recognition of the First Nations community's rich history in the region, and it's intended to rebalance my energy and harmonize my body, mind and spirit. We begin with setting a personal intention – mine is to stop judging my aging body's physical limitations too harshly – while my therapist Lisa, who has no idea that today is my birthday, lights a sweetgrass candle, the symbol of happiness, kindness and strength. Using a ceremonial eagle feather, Lisa "smudges" herself, then me and finally the treatment room and stones, as smoke from smoldering sage, cedar, willow and sweetgrass clears any unwanted energy from our surroundings. Asked to choose from a line up of tiny chakra crystals, I find three that speak to me. "That little turquoise one signifies the throat chakra," she says of my favorite selection. It seems a little New Agey at first, but I soon start to sense positivity overflowing my internal riverbanks. Lisa massages my legs with heated basalt stones, and I can feel their warmth penetrating my muscles, right down to the bone. She places two of the stones in my palms, and I hold them while she works her fingers into my scalp. By the end, I'm feeling solid as a rock.

## INN AT THE FORKS, WINNIPEG

Set where the Red and Assiniboine rivers meet, the 117-room boutique hotel serves up farm-to-table cuisine at Smith restaurant and is a short walk to the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. ■  
Dans un lieu où confluent deux rivières, le Red et l'Assiniboine, cet hôtel-boutique de 117 chambres sert une cuisine de proximité au Smith, à deux pas du Musée canadien des droits de la personne.

75 FORKS MARKET RD., 204-942-0555, INNATFORKS.COM

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**THE TREATMENT / LE SOIN**  
**HAMMAM AND / ET GOMMAGE**

AT / AU MIRAJ HAMMAM SPA BY CAUDALIE

"This is the best cure for a red-eye, ever," says my wife, Sarah, who's wrapped in a towel after having flown all night from San Francisco to join me. Besides our scrubber Tina, there's nobody else in this sprawling mosaic-tiled hammam, a traditional Middle Eastern wet steam sauna (known in centuries past as "the silent doctor"), where condensation drips from a curved ceiling. Sarah and I retreat to a glass-enclosed section while a gurgling basin releases hot, moist air infused with eucalyptus, and sweat out our collective toxins. Tina comes for Sarah's gommage treatment first, and when my wife returns, she looks like the most contented odalisque in the empire. When it's my turn to go to the big slab of Jerusalem gold marble, Tina roughs up my dead skin with Moroccan black soap, a vitamin-E-rich vegetable paste made from crushed olives, oil, salt and potash. Then she rinses the sloughed molecules of the former me away. We cap the afternoon by lounging over sweet tea, baklava and grapes – a particularly Turkish form of delight. ■ C'est le meilleur remède à un vol de nuit, affirme ma femme, Sarah, enveloppée dans un sarong, qui est venue directement de San Francisco pour se détourner avec moi. Hormis notre hammam, Tina, il n'y a personne d'autre dans le vaste hammam mosquéï au plafond voûté sautant sous l'effet de la condensation (ce bain de vapeur humide traditionnel du Moyen-Orient était jadis appelé « le mécédin morte »). Sarah et moi allons dans une section vitrée, où l'air chaud et humide parfumé à l'eucalyptus s'échappe d'un bassin bouillonnant, et nous évacuons nos toxines par tous les pores de nos corps. Tina prodigue d'abord le gommage de Sarah. À son retour, mon épouse a l'air de la plus heureuse odalisque de l'empire. Quand vient mon tour de m'étendre sur la grande dalle de marbre Jérusalem Gold, Tina exfolie ma peau avec du savon noir marocain, une pâte savonneuse gorgée de vitamine E faite d'olives broyées, d'huile, de sel et de potasse. Ensuite, elle me rince pour déliminer les molécules de mon ancien moi. Nous nous prélassons tout le reste de l'après-midi en dégustant du thé sacré, des baklavas et des raisins, la turque.

## SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, TORONTO

This glass temple of luxury has 202 rooms (among the most spacious in the country) and is home to the Asian-inspired cuisine of Bok. ■ Ce luxueux temple de verre compte 202 chambres (parmi les plus grandes du pays) et abrite la restauration inspirée d'Asie de Bok.

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SHANGRI-LA.COM/TORONTO/SHANGRILA