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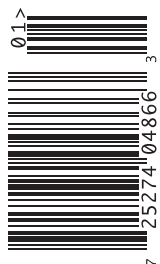
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Spa-tacular!

Hot news! Here are six steamy reasons to head to DC's hotels after Inauguration Day

| By Kimberly Wilson |

Spas are the new restaurants. Just think about it. In 2008, DC hotels revolutionized the dining scene with celebrity chefs and modern, inventive menus. This year, a slew of top local, national and international spas will hit Washington, each of them calling a hotel address home.

Consider **Aura Spa** (vidafitness.com), which, after debuting on P Street in late '08, takes over 4,000 square feet of Marriott's Renaissance Hotel this month. Awash in blue hues, Aura's calming waters-of-the-womb vibe is in sharp contrast with its super-edgy parent fitness facility, **Vida**, which has its own 6,000-square-foot spot at the hotel. Both are available to guests and locals eager to dive into one of the few endless pools in DC, a stunning steam room and treatments utilizing the Bioelements line, a mix-and-match, eco-friendly skincare solution. We're guessing the favorite will be the Detox Body Cocktail, an exfoliating sea scrub treatment, and the Black Baltic body mud wrap to remove toxins from the skin.

Following an infusion of some \$50 million, the Kimpton Hotels's newest crown jewel, the **Lorien Hotel & Spa** (lorienhotelandspa.com), will throw open its stylish doors mid-February in Old Town Alexandria. While the addition of three restaurants from local star chef Robert Wiedmaier is impressive (see *Food Drink Bites*, page 106), nabbing celeb designer Vicente Wolf to kit out the urban oasis is the true coup. The Zen master's touch extends to the 4,000-square-foot spa and fitness center and includes such details as bamboo floors, shades of white and modernist angles. And if that isn't soothing enough, the Lorien Spa menu offers la-la-land-inducing services like the Caviar Dream Crème Facial (complete with actual fish roe) and a Spirulina Body Wrap (employing the healing, seaweed-like algae).

In summer 2009, the esteemed **Bliss Spa** (blissworld.com) will open its Washington outpost, alongside the city's first restaurant by Jean-Georges Vongerichten, in the new W Hotel (in the former Hotel Washington space). Expect the signature girly products and ultra-feminine décor you've come to love in London, Hong Kong and Manhattan. The roomy personal steam showers, walls covered with fluffy white clouds and fresh-baked brownies will be present, though a DC feel



THE SKINNY: DC's newest spas help soothe inaugural overindulgence.

will permeate the house. Cherry blossoms feature largely in the entryway watercolor painting by celebrated contempo artist Ruby Osorio. Inside the 3,000-square-foot spa, you can expect the eye candy to extend beyond the décor, as Bliss is a favorite of visiting celebs like Molly Sims and Liv Tyler. Signature offerings include Blissage 75, a tension-melting marriage of massage and an over-the-top warm-wax foot-softening wrap.

Come summer, you'll have the in-house spa at **The Jefferson Hotel** (thejeffersonwashingtondc.com) to frequent, as well. The spa suites will be stocked with the hip, organic line Red Flower, as well as herbs and botanicals farmed on Thomas Jefferson's land. Expect vinotherapy, too, as a nod

to the man who pioneered American wine vines.

And, as if the renovation at the **St. Regis** (stregis.com) hadn't dazzled already, in 2010 the posh 16th Street hotel will unveil a luxe spa in the townhouse next door to Alain Ducasse's haute eatery, Adour. Treatment details are still under wraps, but patrons will be able to enter from both the hotel and K Street's power corridor.

DC's own historic Willard InterContinental (washington.intercontinental.com) unveiled a new, 5,100-square-foot **Red Door Spa**. The elegant Elizabeth Arden space features a full men's menu and a nod to Washington's own close-up: a facial, massage, manicure, pedicure and lunch—aptly dubbed the Inaugural Indulgence. ■