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Buried Treasures

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It's May, and time for a bit of seasonal housekeeping – at least for me. You see, I was recently forced to notice that my usual stack of spa notes, press kits and press releases had morphed into an ominous heap. I knew that if I didn't dig in, all of those fascinating, intriguing tales of spa adventure and valuable professional insights would be lost forever. So did I, and here's what I uncovered.

Sea To Sky I made the winding, scenery-jammed trek to British Columbia, Canada's eminent Winter Olympics venue, Whistler. I was lured to Four Seasons Resort Whistler (www.fourseasons.com).

The architecture of the resort and 8,000 square-foot spa is termed "rustic modern" and it heavily exploits the spectacular natural light and scenery endemic to the area. Contemporary features made of glass, unstained maple and white stone contrast with the simplicity of neutral colors and hardwood floors.

The Spa at Four Seasons Resort Whistler is under the direction of Jennifer Simms, a spa management veteran with previous ties to Eclipse Hair Design & Day Spa in the Cayman Islands, and the Spa at Chateau Whistler. Simms is a visionary in every sense of the word when it comes to innovative and creative treatments and programs for her spa.

"Finding a unique theme for our spa was difficult at first, as there are so many great spas in Whistler already, and I didn't want us to be like anyone else," remarks Simms. "I thought the Sea to Sky theme would be perfect since that's the name of this gorgeous area of oceanic and mountain wilderness where we live."

Everything about Whistler speaks of freshness and a nature, and includes the design, décor and experiences offered at the spa. The service menu is packed with treatments inspired by marine and mountain influences.

The marine aspect of Whistler's services led to a fortuitous partnership between the spa and a woman named Diane Bernard, otherwise known as the "Seaweed Lady." Bernard's British Columbia-based company, Outer Coast Seaweeds (www.outercoastseaweeds.com), sells fresh seaweed harvested from the Canadian Pacific Ocean. Simms, believing that mineral and nutrient-rich seaweed products would be perfect for her spa, called Bernard to inquire and made an immediate connection. The spa has continued to benefit from the partnership by offering wild seaweed products that's not only natural and indigenous to B.C. but also intriguing and unique enough to draw their guests' attention. **BB**

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