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PART OF THE ALL-  
NEW W RETREAT  
AND SPA IN  
SEMINYAK, W'S  
EXCLUSIVELY  
DEVELOPED  
'AWAY' SPA  
BRAND IS  
PIONEERING  
IN MORE WAYS  
THAN ONE - AS  
KATIE TRUMAN  
DISCOVERED.

THERE's a few firsts that come with W Hotel's Away Spa in Seminyak: it's the only W facility worldwide to incorporate the company's new detox-refuel concept; it's open 24/7 and it's the first Away Spa operating W's signature "Whatever/Whenever" service, offering guests whatever they want, whenever they want it. With just four W Retreats globally, this Bali retreat is also the largest - evident, given the ground-floor space it occupies covers a whopping 1,500sqm.







With just seven treatment rooms, the spaciousness speaks for itself, and it allows more room for cutting-edge facilities, of which there are many. Best of all, it's probably the only hotel spa that doesn't take itself too seriously. Much more than 'just a spa', this fabulous space is all about fun: an escape within an escape...and W's way of whisking you off to another stratosphere.

More super-slick urban than beachfront retreat, Away's all-white, sleek and futuristic-style interiors resemble a vast spaceship. Beside the ocean, water and fluidity are recurring themes, with details like speckled aquamarine floor-lights mimicking wave patterns and water reflections on floor-to-ceiling windows creating constant movement. Spacious ensuite treatment rooms cover three singles with meditation platforms, two doubles with vitality baths and two privately accessed suites, providing wet and dry treatment areas. Innovative ideas include plugging-in your own iPod in the Away docks and floor monitor screens that display flick-through calming photographs (as opposed to floating flowers, yawn) visible through the headrest hole.

Set aside enough time to indulge in all the lavish, inclusive facilities available. Pre-treatment, male and female locker rooms incorporate a decadent wet area, with hot stone bath and cold plunge pool (alternated for maximum benefit) as well as hamam and individual rainforest showers. Through white sliding doors, next stop is the Detox Oxygen Room, which uncannily resembles a set from Star Trek (I half-expected Captain Kirk to pop-up). The ultimate in body preparation, inhale pure fresh oxygen through individual masks, while leisurely flicking through the glossies. And post-treatment, come up for air in the Decompression Room; a chic, sunshine-filled lounge where comfy sofas, health-giving juices and chilled sounds complete the relaxing debriefing.

Treatments are exclusively custom-made for W Bali. Don't expect to find the usual suspects here: instead, traditional Asian therapies and techniques are all shook-up to create a totally unique menu of recharging, reinvigorating treatments.

Spa products are also specifically designed for Bali's Away menu, custom-blended to match individual treatments and made from fresh, organic natural ingredients, on sale at their store (called, rather nicely, Retail Therapy). Three sublime menus reflect different moods and personalities: Serene + Soulful (quiet passionate soul that delights in imagination and seduction); Fit + Fabulous (healthy and sexy mortal that delights in action, strength and young at heart) and Glamour + Glitz (magnificent and dazzling being that which basks in limelight, splendour and romance). Quite. These correspond with Massage and Bodyworks, plus Preludes, a 10-minute warm-up complimentary for any treatment, featuring Wushu (breathing and stretching), Tantric (meditation) and Warrior (Indonesian martial-arts).

Menu highlights include aptly-named 'Over The Top' Bodyworks, featuring diamond dust polish and 24k gold wrap; 'Zen Balancing' Massage with heated bamboo and the signature 'Well-Healed Massage', combining ancient healing techniques with warmed fresh ginger packs – recommended for soothing away stresses. The SHHHH selection offers sensuous Balinese-derived treatments for men and women, like 'Hot Mama' for new mommies, plus there are facials and a la carte options. Multi-hour, decadent 'Be Merry' Packages include checklists that cover drinks from the bar.

Yes, you read correct, there's a bar in the spa. And why not? Chill Bar rewards all that good work with a glass of whisky, champagne, or a cocktail (try the 'Diva Quaranta') as well as naughty nibbles, like Tasmanian oysters, tailor-made to specific personalities.

The spa is entered via a contemporary-style wishing well, but Away goes one step further to making glamour pussies' dreams come true, with elements of Hollywood-style, play-role escapism (that's if you're not already a celeb). The glitzy Salon is perfect for pre-event glamming-up and hen parties, with 'Red carpet manis / pedis' (Bolly optional). Locker Rooms feature vanity mirrors bulb-lit like Lady GaGa's back-stage dressing room, while Glam Package 'Tried and Trended' spoils you with a day-long movie-star makeover and photoshoot.

As the entire Away complex is open 24/7 (including Sweat, W's hi-tech workout suite), treatments and facilities are available round-the-clock, accommodating anyone at anytime: from jet-lagged jetsetters and stressed-out execs to partygoers needing to wind-down after a long playful night, or those refueling for the next one (signature 'Away Massage: Morning After' magically covers both states).

Away aims to be a one-stop playground; not only for treatments but for multiple elements combined – drink, eat, hamam, oxygen, fitness and more – in which, whoever you are, you can indulge, relax and enjoy for as long as you like. In this spa, you can do anything you want to do – provided of course, it's legal. ☑

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