

Hot SPAS

THE **35** BEST NEW URBAN AND RURAL RETREATS AROUND THE WORLD

Remember when you last took time for yourself? No? Then book an hour (or four) at one of the world's best new spas—which our wordy reviewers rigorously, and anonymously, tested to ensure they're up to snuff

AUSTRALIA

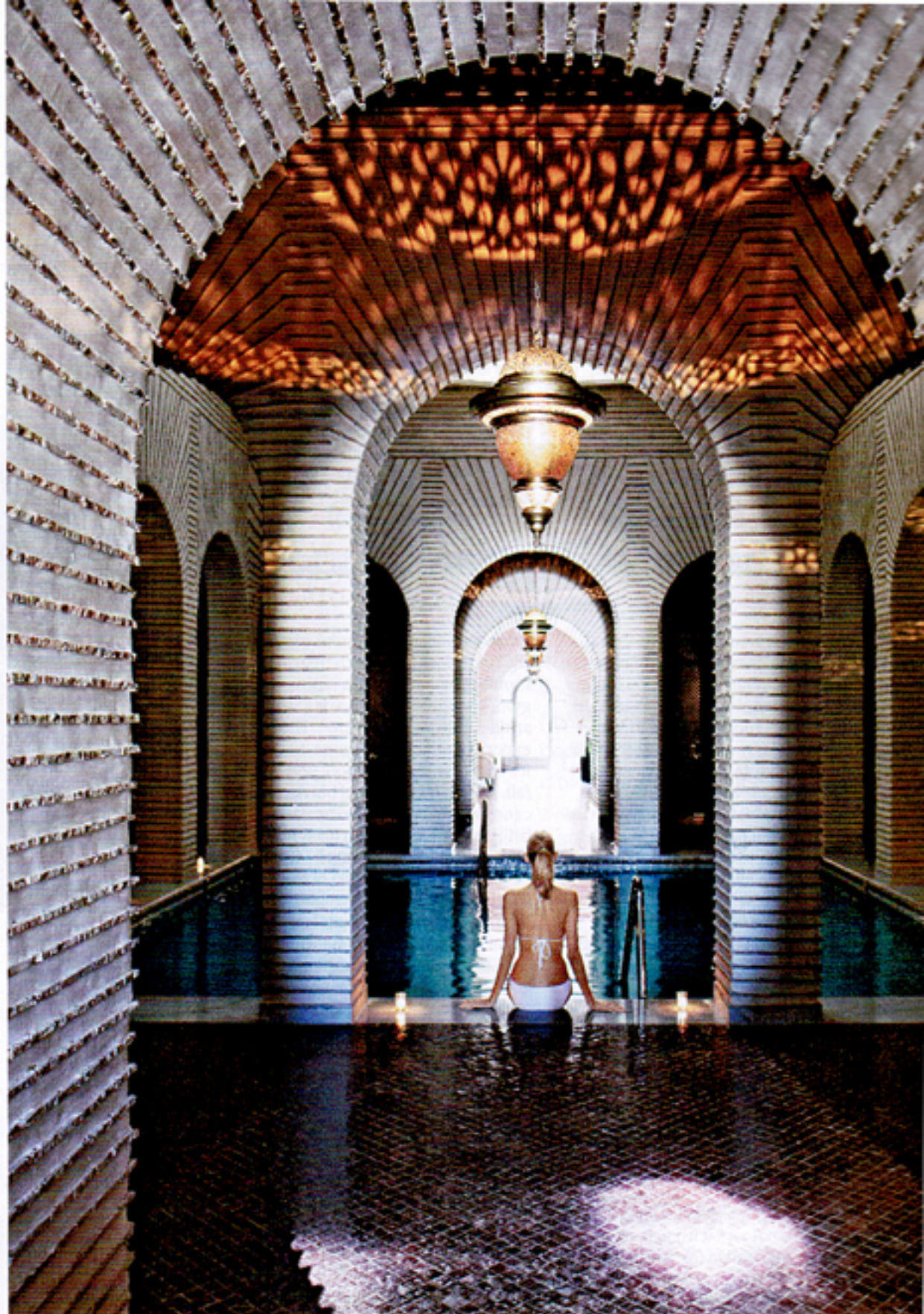
SpaQ, QT, Sydney

What: An alluringly macabre relaxation retreat in the hip new QT hotel. **The look:** Deco with a Brooklyn-gothic twist. The robes are black, the windows stained glass, and the details industrial—like oversized lightbulbs hanging from ceiling hooks. **Who goes:** Hotel guests and trendy locals. **The treatment:** Massages and facials use Kerstin Florian products, but SpaQ's edge is its theatrically 1920s Barber Shop, whose menu includes a classic razor shave and the Fast Eddy Facial—a 30-minute exfoliation and face-and-neck massage. **P.S.:** The snug ice and steam hammam is user-friendly enough, but the dark, cramped relaxation area would benefit from a rethink (61-2-8262-0088; massages from \$145).

BRAZIL

Botanique Spa, Botanique Hotel & Spa, Campos do Jordão

What: Possibly the most sophisticated spa and wellness center in South America, with 10,000 square feet of space encompassing eight specialized treatment rooms, a sauna with a rain shower, a floating chamber, an indoor isotonic pool, and relaxation rooms. **The look:** Cool but not trying too hard. Wavelike turquoise artwork and reclaimed-wood sculptures don't distract from the semi-tropical rain forest you see from the pool and floor-to-ceiling windows. **Who goes:** Ultra-wealthy weekenders helicoptered in from Rio and São Paulo. **The treatment:** The Botanique, in which the masseur plays the body like a tribal drum, creating a blissful, almost numb effect. **P.S.:** Take note of the oils—a local



professor specializing in aromatherapy created 28 scents from ingredients in the mountains (55-11-3500-2115; massages from \$180).

CANADA

Miraj Hammam Spa by Caudalie Paris, Shangri-La Hotel, Toronto

What: A hammam with nine treatment rooms meant to transport you to Marrakech (or at least a hyperstylized version of it). **The look:** Mosaic tiles, gold marble, Oriental rugs, and windows that look as if they came straight out of a Moroccan riad. **Who goes:** Businesspeople from the area, and those in town to do deals. **The treatment:** The deep-tissue massage, expertly performed by a strong-handed therapist, plus a 30-minute add-on in the hammam that includes an exfoliation with eucalyptus-infused black Moroccan soap. **P.S.:** Hit the lounge (which looks like a set for *Aladdin*) for sweet mint tea, grapes, and baklava dripping with honey (647-253-5770; massages from \$75).

FANCY A DIP?

Detox-spa master Henri Chenot has opened the hydrotherapy-fortified Le Spa at Selman, in Marrakech.

Hot LIST

★ Denotes a spa that is connected to a Hot List hotel.

Spa, Four Seasons Hotel, Toronto

What: A corporate but cushy pleasure palace on the hotel's eighth and ninth floors—and at 30,000 square feet and with 17 treatment rooms, the Four Seasons' largest urban spa. **The look:** Beige, white, and gray. The vibe is clean and serene but somewhat icy—it's lucky the staff provide a warm-and-fuzzy complement. **Who goes:** Posh locals from the surrounding Yorkville neighborhood. **The treatment:** The 75-minute European Classic facial uses detoxifying mud from Hungary and includes over-before-you-know-it extractions, a rosemary and pineapple exfoliation, and a sublime face and hand massage. **P.S.:** Don't leave without taking a swim in the indoor pool or a dip in the bubbling whirlpool (416-963-6006; massages from \$156).

CHILE

Manavai Spa, Hangarua Eco Village & Spa, Easter Island

What: A rock garden enclosed by a volcanic wall—plus four round, ancient-style