



DESTINATION SPAS:

# Spa FACTOR

Finding the perfect spa environment and the ultimate spa treatment can set you into orbit in a state of total confusion and deliver you to a peaceful plateau of blissful contentment.

We have made it our mission to help you sort through the bewildering maze of destination spas sprouting up at nearly every hotel and resort property in the nation by sampling as many as we can and reporting our findings.

Some are absolutely fabulous, others are getting by on their laurels while the newbies are trying hard to make their mark. And, it seems that just when you find a treatment you really adore, the spa menu changes introducing yet another eclectic concoction to slather all over your body. Our idea of the perfect job would be to become an official spa sampler, kind of like the clever gals at [www.azspagirls.com](http://www.azspagirls.com). It must be so taxing to have to go to the spa every day!

BY VICKI COLLINS EDWARDS & ALISON BILLS

photo of Mii Amo Spa at Enchantment

## Aji Spa at Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort

888.218.8989

[www.wildhorsepassresort.com](http://www.wildhorsepassresort.com)



Tradition and respect linger around every corner of the 500-room Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort, rivaled only by the thoughtful details incorporated into every nook and cranny of this luxurious getaway located at the foot of the Gila River Indian Community, home to the Pima and Maricopa Indians.

The intimate spa setting at Aji, Pima for “sanctuary,” encompasses every element of the word, providing a relaxing atmosphere where it’s easy to lose yourself in the charm of its indigenous décor, aromas and a welcoming staff. Keeping pace with the rest of the resort, the spa is highly influenced by community traditions which incorporate culture in every way, beginning with the legends revealed in entryway mosaic tiles. Accented throughout by a luscious vanilla butter scent, the spa features 17 custom-designed treatment rooms, a full-service salon, hydrotherapy room and an *olas kí*, a traditional Pima roundhouse dwelling utilized for meditation.

For the ultimate experience, Aji’s signature Blue Coyote Wrap provides a cleansing and nourishing treatment inspired by the Pima legend of the bluebird and coyote. This unforgettable ritual begins with a dry brush exfoliation for promoting circulation, followed by a soothing application of warm, blue-toned Azulene mud. As thoughts are whisked away and the body recedes into an unanticipated state of relaxation, the mud is absorbed into the skin during a tantalizing 15-minute warm aromatic steam and scalp massage. Remnants of blue are rinsed away as hydrating cedar oil is applied in its place. The finale is a rejuvenating full-body massage with therapeutic essential oils.

In harmony with recuperative spa treatments, Sheraton Wild Horse Pass is blessed with a cultural concierge who provides a very personal and enriching experience for guests highlighting tribal history, heritage and cultural authenticity.

As a final touch to your Wild Horse Pass experience, wind down the evening at Kai with a mouthwatering taste of sophisticated Southwestern cuisine.

AB