

BEAUTY AND THE BEAT

Trick or Treatment

If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, it follows that relaxation would also be a relative thing. As it turns out, one woman's worst nightmare (snakes!) is another's inventive alternative to shiatsu. Below, we take a look at some of the most creative—and just plain crazy—treatments that spas the world over have to offer. **By Danielle Pergament**



IZUMI LUNAR PHASE TREATMENT, THE HYATT REGENCY, GORA, JAPAN

The treatment: Over 28 days, 28 procedures, including a Fruith-erapy Massage and a Detox Bath in the waning moon. About \$3,200.

The hook: The program follows the "cycle of the moon to rebalance... your mind, body and spirit."

Who would get this: Werewolves with a lot of time on their hands.



NIGHTINGALE-DROPPING FACIAL, THE DIAMOND HAWAII RESORT & SPA, MAUI

The treatment: Powdered bird droppings imported from Japan are mixed with cleansing milk and massaged into the face. \$208.

The hook: Kabuki actors have long believed the droppings exfoliate and have a mild bleaching effect.

Who would get this: Avian-flu naysayers.

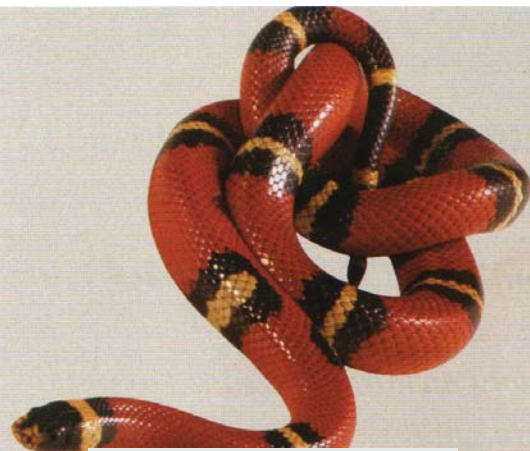


"DOCTOR FISH" SOAK, OEDO-ONSEN-MONOGATARI, TOKYO

The treatment: Clients dangle their legs in a pool filled with tiny Garra rufa fish, which nibble away at dead skin cells. About \$32.

The hook: This is a popular treatment in Japan since it apparently leaves skin exceptionally smooth.

Who would get this: Sushi lovers with a guilty conscience.

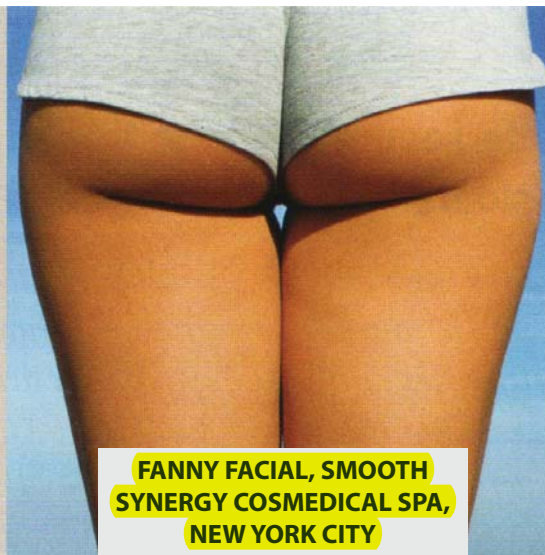


SNAKE MASSAGE, THE ADA BARAK SPA, TALMEY EL'AZAR, ISRAEL

The treatment: Half a dozen nonvenomous snakes slither over the client's back and legs. About \$70.

The hook: "Many people...prefer the touch of the snake to that of humans," says owner Ada Barak. "What's missing in this scenario is the apple."

Who would get this: Nostalgic former Fear Factor contestants.



FANNY FACIAL, SMOOTH SYNERGY COSMEDICAL SPA, NEW YORK CITY

The treatment: An aesthetician exfoliates your butt, then applies a mild electrical current that purportedly firms the area. \$250.

The hook: According to the spa's website, it's a way to "achieve that total bombshell look.... (Results may vary.)"

Who would do this: People who forget where their face is.



AROMATHERAPY SESSION, THE HATTE DAWG PET SPA, BUCYRUS, KANSAS

The treatment: A 30-minute dog bath scented with lavender or mint, followed by a canine pressure-point massage. \$30.

The hook: The session "heal[s] the canine body, mind, and soul!"

Who would do this: Trouble, Leona Helmsley's Maltese. And he'd still have \$1,999,970 left over for chew toys.

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