

An Atlantic City SPA WEEKEND

BY LISA ARCELLA

It's easy to forget that Las Vegas isn't the only city to find great gambling, restaurants and nightlife. But Atlantic City has been quietly revitalizing its famous boardwalk and can be a fantastic weekend getaway destination.

Leading the charge is The Quarter at the Tropicana Resort and its 200,000 square feet of dining, shopping and of course gambling. There's the top notch hotel with fabulous views of the boardwalk and Atlantic Ocean and the casino that would rival any in Vegas. But it's the "Quarter" that makes this spot so special in the city. It's a three-story, true-to-life streetscape that has been recreated to look like old Havana. The impressive array of restaurants includes, PF Chang's China Bistro,



Cuba Libre, Red Square and our favorite, The Sounds of Philadelphia, an old fashioned dinner club where you can dine on the best cornbread you've ever had (next to your mamma's, of course) and listen to world class entertainment.

There are lots of shops here like Brooks Brothers and Brandeis Jewelers, but a must for any weekend warrior looking for some R&R is the bluemercury spa. On one level, you can shop till you drop for beauty products, while downstairs you can experience a tranquil hour away from it all in the gorgeous spa.

For the ultimate pick-me-up try the rejuvenating lemon sugar bath massage (75 minutes/ \$150) where you indulge in a citrus bath and then are massaged from head-to-toe. Or consider the antioxidant grapeseed body glow (80 minutes/ \$190) where a red vine scrub is followed by a fossil mask, before the body is cocooned in warm wrapping to cleanse and purify the pores. If that's too exotic, there's an entire menu of massage treatments to choose from. ■



While bluemercury is our favorite, there's lots of places along the boardwalk to receive a wonderful treatment. Also worth checking out:

Spa Roccare at the Borgata Hotel and Casino—a 50,000 sq foot spa with 22 treatment rooms.

The Spa at Bally's—a beautiful marbled whirlpool, steam room and shower.

The Health Club and Spa at Resorts—It has a one of a kind Eucalyptus inhalation room.

The Spa at the Taj at Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort—Tuesday is Ladies day which includes a Swedish massage, facial, pedicure and manicure and a spa lunch.

The Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spa at the Seaview Marriott Resort—check out special half day and full day packages for men, bridal parties and moms to be.

For more information on where to go and what to do, contact the Atlantic City Convention and Visitors Authority at www.atlanticcitynj.com, The Quarter at www.tropicana.net, and the bluemercury spa at www.bluemercury.com.

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