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- Best Wine Shops

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Millefleurs Day Spa - Review

Casablanca Comes to 17th Street

by Lisa Arcella

Step through the door and head up the steps of the new Millefleur spa and you will soon forget you are in New York City. The fragrant scent of burning amber is first to meet you, followed by peaceful music and greetings of a welcoming staff. In the large, open-spaced common area (large by Manhattan standards) is a Moroccan themed room with flowing fabrics, low tables, colorful carpets and mint tea that immediately begins the relaxation process.



"I have always been intrigued by North Africa and ancient civilizations," says owner Gina Michael. "Beauty and spiritual secrets are intertwined to enhance the quality of life." Michaels believes the healing begins by creating an inviting space where celebrities like Liv Tyler and Lawrence Fishburne, along with the less stellar among us, feel comfortable hanging out.

The spa menu features stone and deep tissue massage, reflexology, aromatic facials, acupuncture, brown sugar scrubs, laser hair removal, French waxing and threading, pre-natal and couple massages seven days a week from 9 a.m. to midnight. A specialty is the herbal steam wrap, which, according to Chen, contains 116 herbs and minerals and "will cause a four- to ten-inch loss on the body. Many customers combine the 2 1/2-hour process with a facial. But Millefleurs also offers more offbeat fare like tarot-card readings, Mendi tattoos and even belly dancing lessons. Michaels says that she is also a medium who will happily read your future.



There are only three treatment rooms, although skylights and high ceilings create an illusion of greater space. When the weather allows, there is a sauna and open-air massage area on the roof. Manicures and pedicures are available in the open room and the spa works with three product lines: Lierac from France, EmerginC and Essensa herbal products.

The combination of the slimming wrap and the wonderful surroundings and scents left us feeling a few pounds lighter (which didn't last long) and like we had been on a short, but exotic vacation — even if it was in the middle of the concrete jungle.

Millefleurs Spa

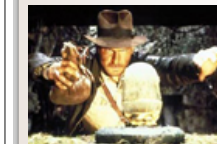
3 E. 17th St. (between Fifth Avenue and Park Avenue South)
212-966-3656
gigi0986@aol.com
Second location at 26 E. 64th St.

***NOTE: THIS SPA HAS CLOSED.**

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(Updated: 05/16/11 BH)

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