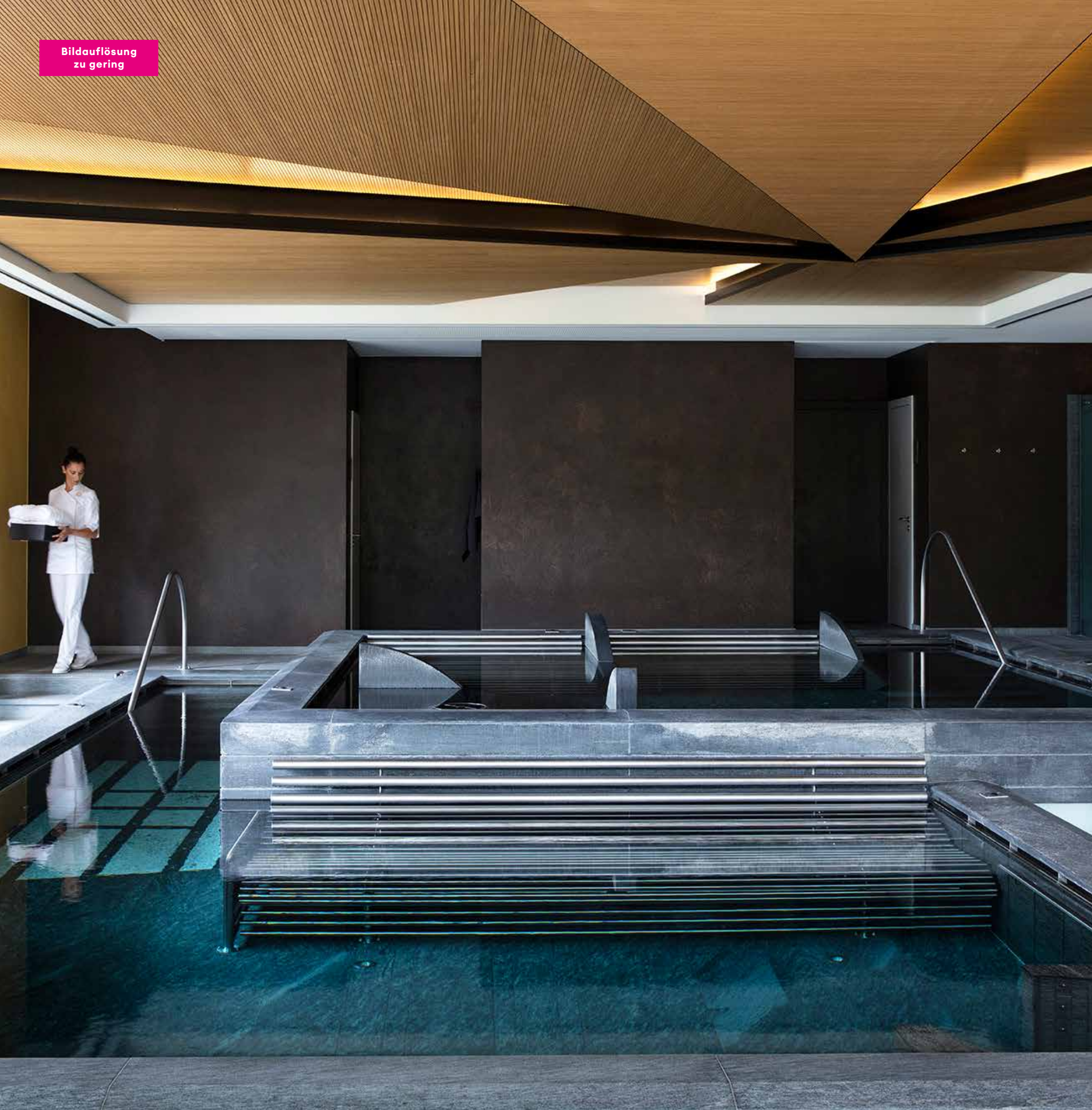




the luxe life

PHOTOS HOTEL
WORDS STEFFI HIDBER

«100 hectares of pure happiness» is the Castello del Sole's tagline. For me, real happiness can be found in about 2500 square meters of this amazing hotel. Come join me for some truly beautifying down-time in one of the Ticino's most unique spas. And yes, there will be wine.



'IMMERSING YOURSELF IN EXCELLENCE.'

To be honest, it's incredibly easy to fall in love with the Castello del Sole. Or rather, it would be hard not to. Located right in the middle of one of Switzerland's most photogenic and most calm-inducing natural settings, right on the northern shores of the Lago Maggiore. Here, a stone's throw from Ascona and smack-dab on the Maggia river's delta, a castello has served as a hiding place for over nearly 500 years. Over the centuries, the stronghold built by Francesco Orelli in 1532 has evolved into an architectural gem, at times having served as the spiritual home of the Protestant religion, a simple osteria, and now – lucky us – as an exclusive hotel property that manages to redefine contemporary luxury as a living, breathing example of how simple hospitality can truly be.

As tempting as all the culinary delights the Castello has to offer – and as terribly guilty one might feel if it was, say, a beautiful late spring day filled with sunshine and determined-looking hikers with expensive, well-used gear – we're here for one reason: To immerse ourselves (quite literally) in the softly gurgling waters of the Castello spa.

The «Castello SPA & Beauty»

hasn't been banished to the least-frequented parts of the estate, as often is the case in hotels. Quite the opposite: A luxurious 2500 m2 of prime real estate has been transformed into pure luxury for body and mind. Guests can expect all the bells and whistles that make a modern hotel spa, without any of the distractions that can go with them: The overall mood is one of calm, spaciousness and feeling welcome without being smothered.

A well-equipped gym, an indoor/outdoor swimming pool, a separate exercise pool, jacuzzi, steam bath, Kneipp trail and a high-tech Hydropool are just a few of the wellness offerings that are laid out beautifully and with care not to disrupt the clean, calming lines of the spa's layout.

If you're feeling extra-indulgent you can relax in the «Onsernone» spa suite for two or more hours of «matchless luxury» on 70 m2. As beautiful as the private spa is, the private view of the park can be enjoyed from nearly every corner of this one-of-a-kind wellness destination. And indeed, the outdoor gardens with their artfully scattered lounge chairs, hammocks and quiet corners of privacy are one of the biggest attractions of this particular spa... and

a wonderful way to turn a spa break into a summery, relaxing experience.

For spa manager Jutta Hosser, who knows exactly what discerning wellness friends need and expect, the unique blend of spaciousness and feeling protected is what makes the Castello spa so unique. «It's quite amazing how you can spend time in every corner of our spa and always feel like you're in a cocoon – while enjoying the beautiful views of our estate.» I'm not about to disagree, but as my signature treatment is about to start, I decide to skip the questions about the exact type of tree I'm currently gazing at and get ready for the Castello's signature beauty treatment.

this year, I'm already gearing up to the Castello's signature facial – the Vineasole beauty treatment. For 90 minutes, I'm taken on a deeply relaxing journey, made up of cleansing, a gentle scrub, some painless extractions, an incredibly well-performed facial massage – and to top it all off, while the nourishing face mask is working its magic, a lovely hand, arm, foot and leg massage – using the «VineaSole» skincare products unique to the Castello del Sole, and which can be bought at the spa individually to take home.

It's not hard to believe Jutta Hossner, that she has never found a more beautiful spot in all

'TAKING FARM-GROWN TO A BEAUTIFUL NEW LEVEL.'

It's not often that you get to enjoy beauty treatments with own-brand products that are made with ingredients from the hotel's own vineyards, so I'm understandably excited to discover the Castello's VinoAqua Therapy® and own skincare range Vineasole Cosmetics®. The former is based on ancient beauty knowledge: The Romans had already discovered the skin-smoothing and firming properties of grapes, and grapevines. Here at the Castello Spa, grape pomace – one of the by-products of the hotel's own winemaking facilities – is used as the heart of both their body treatments and their own products. After a gently invigorating body scrub with finely ground grape seeds and oil, a relaxing bath with either Chardonnay or Merlot dials up the relax factor by quite a few notches.

And while Jutta lets me know that they'll be adding a signature full-body massage by the end of

of the Ticino – and that she feels truly blessed to be able to work in such gorgeous surroundings. That she and her team of well-trained, exceptionally warm and friendly staff strive to create the kind of quiet luxury they themselves want to enjoy, makes this spa a true gem. And the Castello proves, once again, that people and the mood they set makes the experience. The only conclusion I can come to, post-treatment and happily dozing in a comfortable lounge chair, is that I'll have to come back soon to confirm that this was not just all a well-scented, beautiful dream. ♦



'LOREM
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DOLORES
IPSU.'

STEFFIS SIGNATURE TREATMENT TIPS

N°1

Vinoaqua Therapy

(signature body treatment with peeling, wine bath, slimming body wrap and moisturizing treatment) – CHF 230.00 (105 min)

A beautiful, relaxing full-body experience that is destined to be enjoyed à deux... or all alone, if you need some peace and quiet. And honestly, when did you last bathe in wine?

N°2

Vineasole Facial

(signature beauty treatment to boost hydration and smooth lines) – CHF 200.00 (90 min)

An impressively glow-inducing anti-aging beauty treatment that leaves your skin plumed, refreshed and wonderfully supple. The only downside? That you'll probably fall in love with the skincare products and will want to buy the entire range as souvenir (prices range from CHF 61.00 for their cleansing milk to CHF 135.00 for the luxurious night cream).

GEARING UP FOR A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER

BEAUTY HIGHLIGHTS
CURATED BY STEFFI HIDBER

Bild anfragen

As a lifestyle journalist and Switzerland's leading beauty blogger, I'm knee-deep in beauty products all year round. But in the springtime, my obsession with new skincare and perfume launches reaches a feverish peak. Aren't we lucky that H Magazine is now letting me share my favorite finds with you?

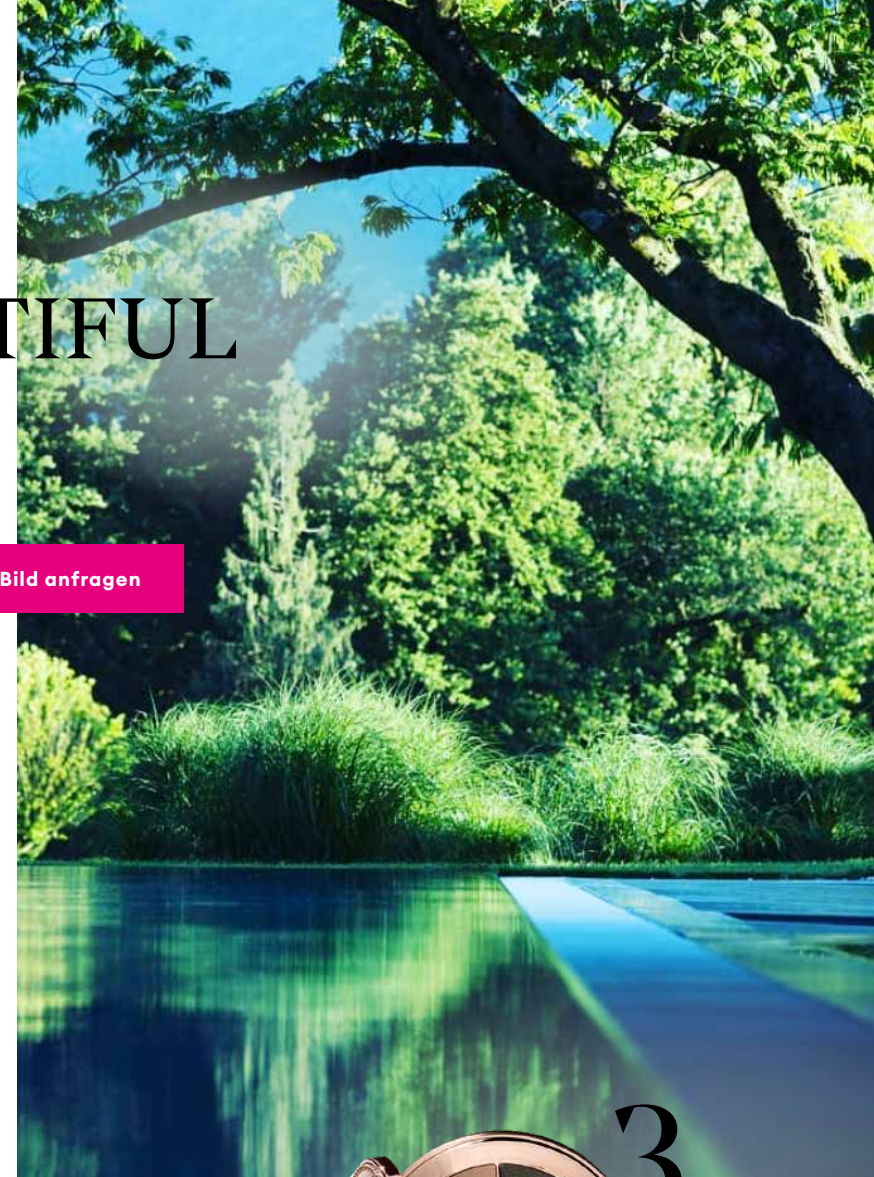
1 – When it comes to intensely pigmented, blendable make-up products, NARS simply can't be beat. The brand decided to celebrate the 25th anniversary with 10 iconic new blush shades. The cult-classic «Orgasm» now comes in this brilliant coral pink shade with a whisper of gold pearl. I'm swooning!

2 – I'm a huge fan of overnight masks, because they seem to get so much more while I'm asleep than I could possibly do when I'm awake! MBR recently launched an anti-aging mask that promises to visibly smooth and plump the skin, while kicking our skin cell's fibroblasts to produce more collagen naturally.

3 – This gorgeous eye shadow palette with a beautiful additional highlighter is what really caught my eye and stole my heart... and I'm quite sure it will be joining me on all kinds of adventures this summer.

4 – What's that? You want a truly luxurious skincare experience? This beautifully formulated, new eye cream by La Prairie sees its patented Golden Caviar extract combined with illuminating Lumidose – for a truly extraordinary skincare experience.

5 – Perfumer Karine Dubreuil-Sereni created three new «Bentley Beyond» fragrances, and I adore all of them. But the luxurious, powdery of «Mellow Heliotrope», with its notes of sweet heliotrope, warm vanilla and anis is my absolute favourite. ♦



ANZEIGE
PRIVATE DEAL

5 Bentley Beyond Mellow Heliotrope Eau de Parfum – CHF 200.00

2 MBR THE BEST Night Mask – extraordinarily effectfull anti aiging – CHF 880.00

3 Estée Lauder Bronze Goddess Azur «The Summer Look» Palette – CHF 74.00

4 La Prairie White Caviar Eye Extraordinaire – CHF 619.00

1 NARS Blush «Orgasm X» (limited edition) – CHF 42.00