

Heaven Spa

By: Kristin Detterline

kdetterline@aroundphilly.com

In the competitive spa business, it's all about the "extras." A receptionist that happily provides directions – twice – when you're absolutely sure you've missed a turn; a smiley attendant that ushers you to the lounge between services and asks if you'd like some champagne (yes, please); and a set of hands that manage to stay surprisingly gentle during the most unpleasant moments of a facial. (You ladies with problem skin will know what I mean.)

Heaven Spa, a suburban relaxation destination that's managed to snag nearly every spa award in Philadelphia since opening in June 2005, lives up to its Shangri-la promises. You might not think so when you scope out its location on the bottom floor of a bi-level shopping center. But step inside to the all-white reception area, faintly smelling of aromatic spa products, and beyond to the dimly lit labyrinth of spa rooms, and you'll think otherwise.

After a quick change into my bathing suit, I headed to the lounge, a shabby chic-looking

room with a faux night sky overhead and plates filled with tea snacks where guests wait in between services. Bridal parties, group Botox sessions and meditation classes are also held here.

Tiffany, a slight-looking blonde that calls a few former Eagles regular customers for her deft hands, started my Ultimate Massage with a half-hour soak in the jetfilled hydrotherapy tub to loosen up my muscles followed by a soothing hour-long rub down.

Then it was back to the lounge for a glass of bubbly and some fruit. Tatiana, coowner of Heaven Spa along with Wendy McKay, who mans the reception desk, gave me a Signature Facial. She was all business once she put on her glasses and examined my skin underneath a lit magnifying lens. Layers of cleansers, toners and creams followed. The result? Fresh-looking skin without a drop of make-up. Other services include laser hair removal, laser vein treatments, cosmetic surgery consultations and procedures, Restylane, personal trainers, nutritional consultations, Pilates and Yoga. An adjacent salon houses 45 chairs plus a back area for manicures and pedicures.

On the way out, McKay handed me a little Chinese food box stuffed with two fortune cookies inside for discounted services. One more reminder that too many "extras" are never too much.

The Pavilion, 261 Old York Rd., 215.576.7000; www.heaven-spa.com