

# LUXURY SPA FINDER

THE SPA LIFESTYLE AT ITS FINEST

SPECIAL ISSUE

## The Bold Spirit of American Spas

**MONTAGE'S CUSTOM-MADE  
SPA RETREAT**

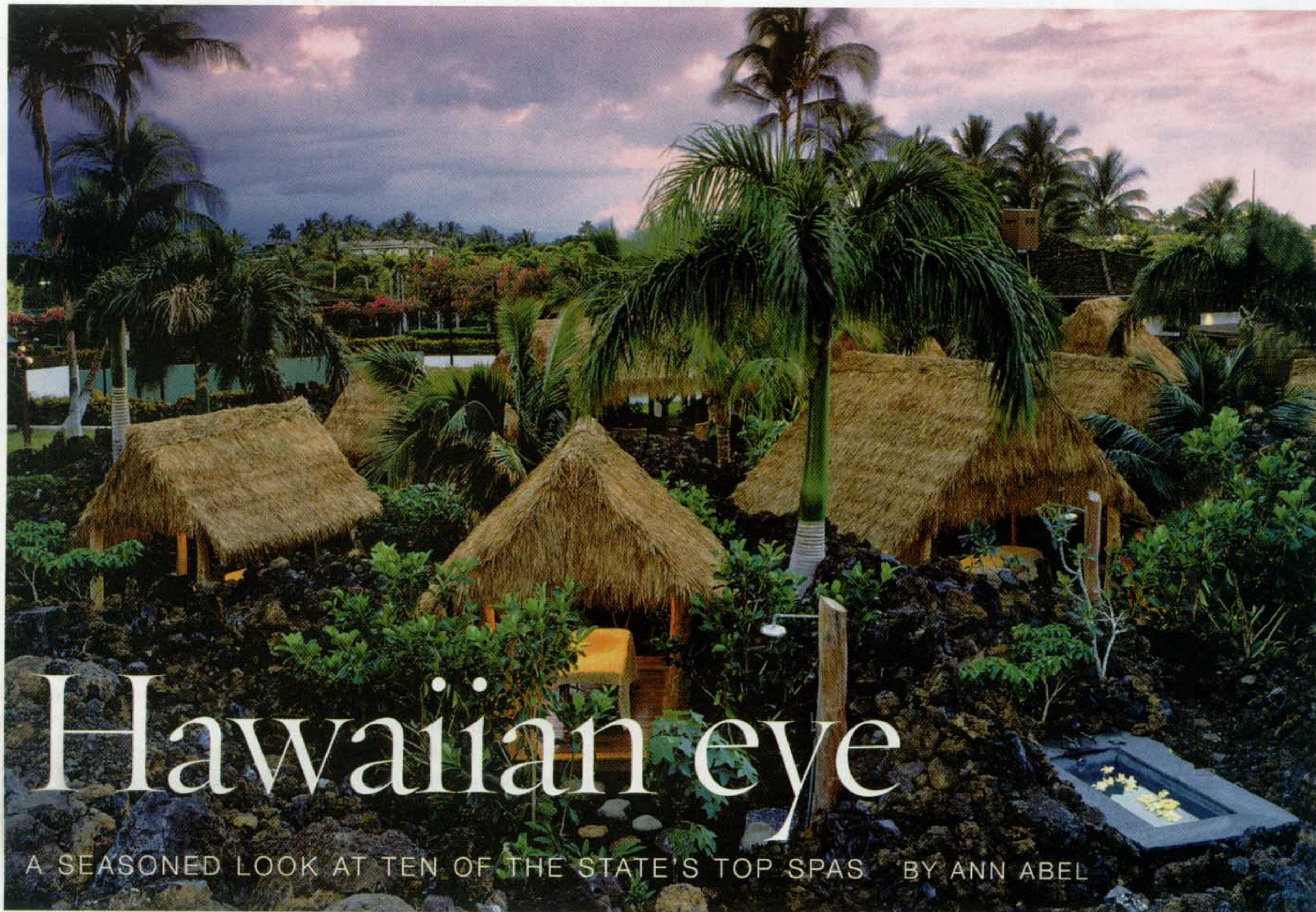
**LAKE AUSTIN SPA  
RESORT'S WITH-IT NEW LOOK**

**EL MONTE SAGRADO:  
LET'S GET METAPHYSICAL**

**A SELECT GUIDE TO  
HAWAII'S RESORT SPAS**

**SUNDARA'S AMBITIOUS  
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PHOENIX'S ROYAL PALMS**



# Hawaiian eye

A SEASONED LOOK AT TEN OF THE STATE'S TOP SPAS BY ANN ABEL

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#### FOUR SEASONS HUALALAI, KOHALA COAST, BIG ISLAND

The fitness offerings here trump anything else I've seen at a resort spa (and many destination spas): a 25-meter lap pool (right), three gyms with expert trainers, a climbing wall, a basketball court, and 50 classes a week. Post-workout, you can see an acupuncturist, physical therapist, or exercise physiologist. As spa director Thad Calciolari, a Canyon Ranch alum with a master's in exercise physiology and two Hawaii Ironman Triathlons on his résumé, says, "Everyone has pampering down. We have that, plus that extra dimension." And they do have pampering down, with a handsome indoor-outdoor facility, skilled therapists, and authentic treatments. I especially liked the Hawaiian Wahi 'Iliahi Wrap (\$150), a cooling treatment with sandalwood powder and lemongrass tea that turned my skin to satin. The third leg of the race is the hotel, and Hualalai wins this one, too. The Asian-inflected decor is gorgeous, the food delectable, the top-flight staff addressed me by name from minute one, and my room, an airy oceanfront double (\$810) with an outdoor lava shower, was my favorite of the trip.

## triathlon winner

