



## PRESS RELEASE

### **BANYAN TREE SPA CONTINUES TO RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL AWARD RECOGNITION AND INNOVATE WELLNESS EXPERIENCES**

**Singapore, December 2009** – Banyan Tree Spa, Asia’s largest spa operator, has been voted “Best Spa Operator” award at the 20<sup>th</sup> Travel Trade Gazette (TTG) Travel Awards 2009 in October. It is the proud winner of this award for the fifth consecutive year. The award was garnered through votes from travel consultants and readers of TTG across Asia Pacific. In addition, Banyan Tree Spa Academy was voted “Spa Academy of the Year” in the 5<sup>th</sup> AsiaSpa Awards 2009. The votes came from a panel of 28 independent judges comprising health experts, spa specialists and well-being writers from the region.

“We are honoured to be recognised at both the TTG Travel Awards and the AsiaSpa Awards. These two awards are a testimony of Banyan Tree Spa’s strong brand recognition and service quality, as well as the result of our core focus on the training and development of our spa therapists at Banyan Tree Spa Academies in Phuket, Thailand and Lijiang, China, to ensure a high level of consistency in our service delivery,” says Mr Ravi Chandran, Managing Director of Banyan Tree Spa.

These awards further reinforce Banyan Tree Spa’s position as the leading spa operator in Asia. When the inaugural Banyan Tree Spa Phuket opened in 1994, it pioneered the tropical garden spa concept with its Asian therapies and holistic focus on spiritual, mental and physical harmony, offering guests a sanctuary for the senses – a place for physical, mental and spiritual renewal. Within 15 years, it has grown to managing 65 spas globally, under its Banyan Tree Spa, Angsana Spa, and Elements Spa by Banyan Tree brands.

#### **Continued Innovation to Deliver New Spa Experiences**

Inspired by traditional Asian remedies and a holistic focus on spiritual, mental and physical harmony, Banyan Tree Spa continues to develop and introduce new traditional healing therapies and wellness experiences in its Spas.

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In October this year, Banyan Tree Spa launched in Phuket the *Inspired by Ayurveda* treatment packages which combine Banyan Tree Spa's signature spa treatments with Ayurvedic therapies, stimulated by the latter's rising popularity amongst global wellness seekers. A selection of three treatment packages, namely Restful Balance, Peace of Mind and Perfect Energiser, is designed in consultation with the in-house Ayurvedic doctor at Banyan Tree Spa Phuket. The time-honoured treatments work in harmony with the body to restore balance, relief stress and energise the body, perfect for stressed out individuals and those seeking natural healing therapies.

The Inspired by Ayurveda menu is now available at Banyan Tree Spa Phuket and Banyan Tree Spa Bangkok and will be launched at Banyan Tree Spa Bintan and Banyan Tree Spa Ungasan in Indonesia, Banyan Tree Spa Vabbinfaru in Maldives and Banyan Tree Spa Seychelles within the first half of 2010.

Spa experience rises another notch at Banyan Tree Spa Hangzhou in China with the introduction of the brand new *Oriental Bath Experience* when it opens in mid-December 2009. Inspired by traditional Eastern cleansing and bathing rituals, the Oriental Bath Experience will complement signature Banyan Tree Spa treatments. Guests have a choice of the Yin Experience or Yang Experience, or they may use the Oriental Bath facilities at their leisure. The Yin Experience is suitable for those who enjoy cold spa therapy and Yang Experience is suitable for those who enjoy hot spa therapy, with a choice of cold body scrubs and warm body scrubs to complete the respective Experiences. The body scrubs are concocted from native ingredients, harnessed for their exfoliation and cleansing benefits.

### **Banyan Tree Spa Academy**

With an emphasis on the training and development of its therapists, Banyan Tree Spa recognises the importance of accreditation, to meet the industry standards and practices in the wellness industry where service is of utmost important. The Banyan Tree Spa Academy Phuket is accredited and licensed by Thailand's Ministry of Education and Ministry of Public Health.

Banyan Tree Spa extended its reach into China, with the opening of Banyan Tree Lijiang Spa Academy in March 2007 to train dedicated Chinese spa therapists, well versed to deliver the high service standards of the Banyan Tree Spa experience in China.



BANYAN TREE  
— SPA —

Trained and certified spa therapists will support Banyan Tree Spa's expansion plans in 2010, with the opening of new spas including Banyan Tree Spa Hangzhou, China; Banyan Tree Spa Ungasan, Indonesia; Banyan Tree Spa Cabo Marqués, Mexico; Banyan Tree Spa Samui, Thailand; Banyan Tree Spa Al Wadi, Ras Al Khaimah in the United Arab Emirates; Elements Spa by Banyan Tree Palacio Estoril, Portugal; as well as Angsana Spa Nikko Hotel Shanghai, China and Angsana Spa Sankara Nairobi, Kenya.

For more information and reservations, visit [www.banyantreespa.com](http://www.banyantreespa.com).

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#### **About Banyan Tree Spa**

Pioneer of the tropical spa, Banyan Tree Spa first opened in 1994 in Phuket, Thailand. As the first luxury oriental spa in Asia, it reintroduced an exotic blend of health and beauty remedies passed down through the generations. Banyan Tree Spas are found in all Banyan Tree resorts worldwide, and standalone locations including Banyan Tree Spa Shanghai, China (2003), Banyan Tree Spa Phoenix Seagaia, Japan (2004), Elements Spa by Banyan Tree Royale Hayat, Kuwait (2006), and The World Spa by Banyan Tree (2007).

Banyan Tree Spa therapists are graduates of the **Banyan Tree Spa Academy**, located in Phuket (Thailand) and Lijiang (China). The dedicated training facilities ensure therapists deliver consistently high quality service that guests have come to expect from the brand, and to cope with the Group's worldwide expansion plans.

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