

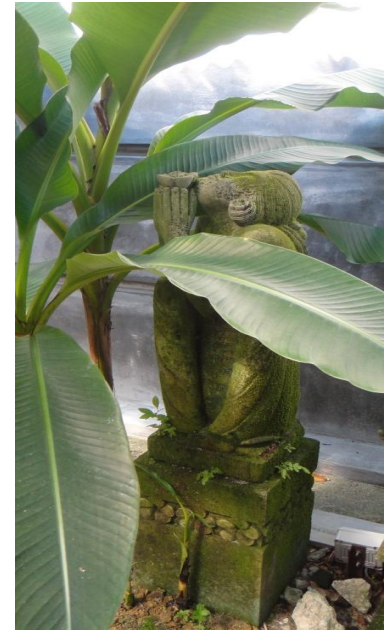
ENCHANTED

By Kamila Delart

Just like in a fairytale... You step over the threshold of the **Alun-Alun Spa**, the lively uproar and colorful holiday lights of Pantai Cenang instantly vanish, and you find yourself surrounded by magic...

Having a weakness for interior design, I cannot help but halt every few steps, enchanted by all the beautiful details: antique doors with filigree carvings, mythical statues, delicate seashell lamps quietly moving in the breeze, moss-grown stone frogs proudly guarding the intricate water paths... A tranquil sanctuary that will entice all of your senses...

Sipping a Ginseng-Root tea, the legendary Asian elixir of longevity, my body cools slowly down. My therapist, Zura, presents me with the choice of four different Aromatherapy blends, encouraging me to inhale their fragrances, and select the one I feel intuitively drawn to. My choice of Jasmine seem to reveal far more than just my preference of scent, as Zura sympathetically nods, telling me that she could sense my low energy, promising that the Jasmine oil will help alleviate my exhaustion. Not having properly slept for the last few days, I'm impressed by her accurate 'diagnosis'.



With the spa featuring eleven rooms, I expect my treatment to take place in a cozy but tiny space. So I couldn't be more surprised when I enter a beautiful spa suite with a private outdoor hydrotherapy garden. Taking a deep breath, I notice the calming aroma of Lavender, and Zura explains that in order to create a truly healing and nurturing environment, they spiritually cleanse each room by burning sacred herbs after completing a treatment, while the therapists practice a purifying ritual to renew their own energy prior to touching a guest.



My spa experience begins with a bathing ceremony. Zura gently lathers my body with a rose soap. As she finds her way even between my toes, I feel like a little girl again, reminded of my mom's loving care. Zura blows air into a soapy cotton bag, turning it into a balloon with a silky surface. With her hand sliding few inches down, she releases thousands of tiny bubbles, spreading them with a feather-like motion all over my body. From six shower heads above me cascade streams of warm water, rinsing the soap, and caressing my skin. Just like a tropical rain. And when I catch a glimpse of a red banana tree bud, I could not come up with a more appropriate name for my spa package than the chosen 'Rainforest Bath'.

My aromatherapy massage utilizes a distinctive blend of massage techniques. Resembling the waves of the ocean, Zura's hands follow a perpetual flowing motion, releasing memories trapped in my body, and allowing the life-force Chi to freely flow. Alun-Alun. - The Little Wave. A signature massage stroke so unique it became an eponym the Spa has been named after. I inhale the intense sweet fragrance of Jasmine, a sacred flower blossoming during tropical nights, and my tired body gives finally in, letting truly go.

My spa experience is completed with a flower bath. Immersed in warm water infused with a purifying sea salt, I watch the Chrysanthemum blossoms float around, trying to remember the meaning of their colors: white stands for inner peace, pink for joy, yellow for truth, red for abundance... I'm not really sure whether I got it right. But feeling rested, inspired and playful, it does not really matter...

