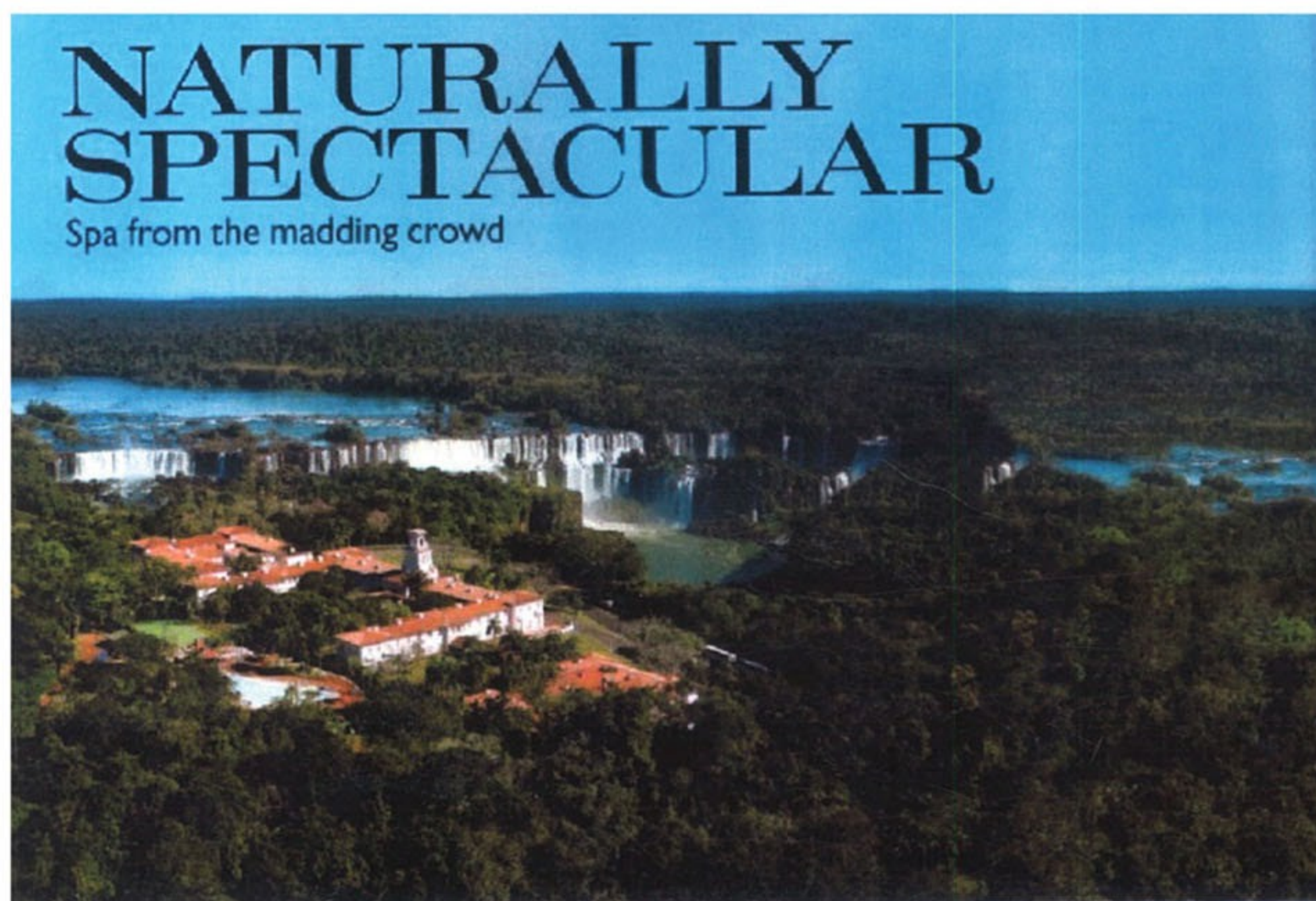


“This is Jaisalmer’s newest tented outpost. It’s the little touches that raise the bar...As you leave, it is with a new understanding that camping doesn’t get any better.”



NATURALLY SPECTACULAR

Spa from the madding crowd

HOTEL DAS CATARATAS

Parati, Brazil

It is the only hotel in the world to be built in a National Park, surrounded by virgin forest and ancient ruins from the first civilisation (which you can visit from your porch) when the park closed its borders in the early evening, you'll see the whole raw natural beauty of the place to yourself. Large iguanas scamper in the forest, while butterflies land on your hand. Orient Express has recently injected some polish into the pretty colonial interiors, the service is masterly and the new spa has only five treatment rooms – perfect little bubbles for massages which use essential oils harvested from the jungle and body scrubs made from a mixture of exotic Amazonian plants, including andiroba and açai. Don't do Brazil without a two-night stopover here. **Website:** hotel-das-cataratas.com **Book it:** Tailor Made Travel (tel: 0845 456 8050) offers seven nights from £1,800, including flights, transfers and breakfast.

THE SERAI

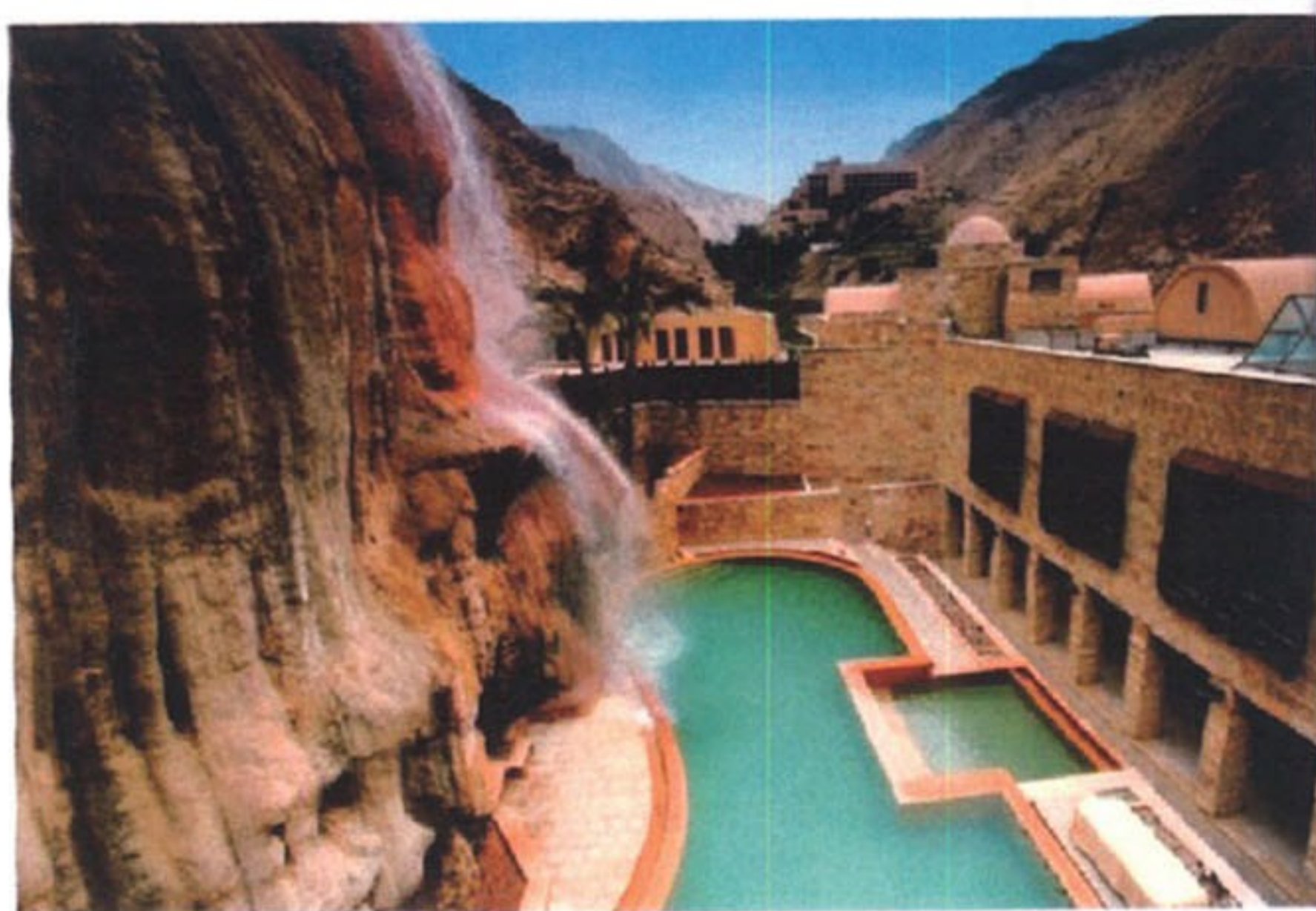
Jaisalmer, India

This is Jaisalmer's newest tented outpost. It's the little touches that raise the bar: luggage is swept to your room by a camel-drawn cart, a soft strain of thirties jazz tinkles in the bar and hot-water bottles keep you toasty at night. And now there's a super spa as well. Book in at dusk after a camel ride and afternoon tea in the Maulana Dunes (reserved for guests of the Serai). Treatments blend local goodies (safron, honey, black sesame seeds) and are conducted by candlelight, with only the faint stirring of mad local musicians gathering by the campfire for an evening's performance. As you leave, it is with a new understanding that camping doesn't get any better. **Website:** the-serai.com **Book it:** Greaves India (tel: 020 7487 9111) offers four nights at the Serai, as part of a week-long tour of Rajasthan, from £2,120, including flights, transfers, treatments and breakfast.



You are unlikely to forget you're in Jordan, near Petra and the Dead Sea, as most of the therapists wear traditional dress

Ma'In, Jordan
King Herod meets Queen Hedonism at this new hotel, tucked up in a ravine below sea level. For centuries, Judean rulers took it easy under the mineral-rich waterfalls and steaming hot natural sauna caves. These days, Six Senses has injected some elegance into the proceedings, with its rustic-chic spa and original treatment choices. The creamiest yogurt, freshly picked olives, sweet honeys and dates are collected from local farms and pounded into delicious potions, giving your skin the silkiest finish. You're unlikely to forget where you are as most of the therapists wear traditional dress, but if geography was never your strong point being in Jordan means the unforgettable Petra, Wadi Rum and the Dead Sea are all on your doorstep. **Website:** sixsenses.com **Book it:** Cleveland Collection (tel: 0845 450 5732) offers four nights from £1,755, including BMI flights, transfers, breakfast and treatments.



CARLEA LODGE

Lord Howe Island, Australia

What a setting: on a remote and tiny Pacific island, with jaw-dropping views of volcanic mountains and a rumbing cobalt sea. Inside, all is nautical – wooden decking, giant oceanic cushions and floor-to-ceiling windows – stay in the new Makambo Loft or Lidgbird Pavilion. This is an adult adventure island. The one-treatment-room spa continues the simplicity but properly delivers, it's a place to get out of the sun and turn inward, with facials, foot treatments and de-stress massages by Aussie brand Li'Ya. After a bike ride or a heart-pumping mountain hike, the Kodo treatment is just what your body needs, arhythmical therapy that leaves you comatose. Take out the glass-bottomed canoe for a paddle, or amble across serene, empty beaches, delicious for skinny-dipping. There are chic canapés and champagne to return to, followed by the freshest fish imaginable. A simple sunny paradise. **Website:** lordhowe.com **Tel:** 00 61 2 9918 4355 **Book it:** Qantas (tel: 020 8600 4300) flies from London Heathrow to Sydney three times daily, from £880.

