

Angeleno



A PRETTY FACE OFF

Biggest. Most Luxurious. Longest List of Celebrity Clientele. Competition is fierce among Los Angeles spas for the right to such titles. Since taking the gold often means resorting to extreme measures—exorbitant prices, far-out treatments and gargantuan facilities—we checked out some of the latest contenders. BY JENN SMITH

ALLEN EDWARDS SERENITY SPA

After securing locations in Brentwood and Woodland Hills, Allen Edwards has apparently developed an appetite for expansion akin to that of the Border Grill folks and set up shop in Studio City.

Despite a mini-mall location, Edwards has kept the new spa up to standard. According to partner and creative director, Claudio Lazo, the location was chosen to invoke a relaxed neighborhood feel. At Serenity Spa, therapists book fewer clients and 60-minute massages actually last that long. A well-rounded menu of basic treatments includes a Serenity Spa Body Facial, a Triple Body Trimmer Cellulite Wrap, Microdermabrasion and Stone Therapy Massage, as well as waxing, manicure/pedicure and electrolysis. The spa's water theme—apparent in the emerald-colored cement floor and hallway speakers gushing water sounds—was muddled only by the George Winston-esque piano music playing in my treatment room.

It was there that I met Michael Kujawa, the licensed massage therapist who administered my body-bronzing treatment. A session with Mr. Meticulous (a nickname he suggested—and earned) left me looking more sun-kissed than a week in Hawaii. After a few hours at this ocean-themed retreat, I was glowing and ready for weekend combat at—where else?—the beach.

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