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**SIGNATURE TREATMENT AT ALVADORA SPA AT ROYAL PALMS
USES INDIGENOUS ORANGE BLOSSOMS TO CREATE NEROLI NIRVANA**

PHOENIX – For three weeks every March, Royal Palms Resort and Spa, managed by Destination Hotels & Resorts, is drenched with the scent of the blooming citrus trees. In 1929, the original Royal Palms was built on 65 acres in the middle of a citrus grove at the base of Camelback Mountain. Today, many of the original trees are peppered throughout the grounds and around the Alvadora Spa.

“The scent of the orange blossoms is intoxicating for our guests and something they remember and associate with the resort and the spa,” says Michelle Kinney, director of the resort’s Alvadora Spa. “We created a way for them to enjoy the romance of the citrus blossoms any day of the year with our Orange Blossom Body Buff treatment.”

The orange blossom scent comes from neroli, the fragrant bitter orange blossom which produces one of the most cherished and expensive oils in the botanical kingdom. Neroli’s benefits are both physical and emotional. It is exceptional for hydrating, soothing and oxygenating dry, sensitive skin and supporting the skin’s natural renewal process.

Because its soft, delicate scent is uplifting to the spirit, it has even been used in some forward-thinking mental health centers for patients with depression. At the same time, because it is naturally balanced, it has a calming, slightly hypnotic effect and has been used to alleviate anxiety, nervous tension, grief and insomnia.

Neroli is named after Anna-Maria de la Tremolille, Princess of Nerola (near Rome) in the 17th Century. According to tradition, orange blossoms were used in bridal bouquets to calm apprehension before the couple retired to the marriage bed. Today, the orange blossom represents joy, sensuality, weddings and romance.

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Explains Kinney, “We wanted the Orange Blossom Body Buff to be more than just a body buff – it also had to be a therapeutic, holistic experience. The result is 60 minutes (\$125) of pure, sensuous luxury.”

A tray, beautifully presenting the products used in the treatment and accented with orange slices, greets the guest upon arrival. While lying face down, the soothing aroma of neroli wafts from the scented face cradle; when lying face up, a warmed, rolled towel cradles the neck. The treatment begins with a Turkish salt applied by hand to the entire body with long, gentle strokes. For complete exfoliation, a thermal mineral bath gel is applied with two loofahs while the soothing neroli continues to deeply hydrate the body and calm the mind.

After a quick shower rinse, a nourishing lotion is applied to the body, and the face is misted with neroli water. The guest is wrapped gently in towels while enjoying a scalp and neck massage with neroli oil. Heaven.

For guests who want to take the neroli nirvana home, a variety of products are available for purchase at the spa including neroli oil, neroli water and the spa’s signature neroli candle. A private label, spa-grade product line of body and hair products and featuring the allure of neroli is offered in all guestrooms and is available for retail purchase.

To enter the Alvadora Spa at Royal Palms is to experience the sounds, scents and sensations of romance itself. This intimate retreat, nestled in the Old World milieu of the Royal Palms, is adorned with warm wood, rich colors, aromatic fireplaces, gentle fountains and lush gardens – providing the perfect space for a couple to share a treatment à deux, or an individual to experience quiet introspection. Treatments are inspired by the revitalizing benefits of the herbs, flowers, oils and minerals indigenous to the Mediterranean – a unique departure from the desert-inspired treatments predominant in the Southwestern spas.

For information: 602-977-6400, 800-672-6011 or www.royalpalmsresortandspa.com.

A member of Historic Hotels of America, Royal Palms Resort and Spa is a AAA Four Diamond resort located at the foot of majestic Camelback Mountain. Combining the graciousness and sophistication of a Mediterranean villa with the intimacy and privacy of a secluded retreat, Royal Palms offers: 117 custom-appointed guest rooms and intimate clusters of casitas and villas; regal Spanish Colonial architecture; over 20,000 square feet of estate-like meeting space; Tuscan-style gardens; exquisite tapestries, antiques and stone fireplaces throughout. Designed around the original historic private mansion, Royal Palms is home to the award-winning T. Cook’s restaurant, Alvadora Spa, a swimming pool with private cabanas, and croquet lawn. Just minutes from Scottsdale’s shopping, galleries, golf, Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport and the Camelback financial corridor, Royal Palms is an ideal retreat for business, pleasure and special occasions, offering luxury, privacy and convenience.

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Royal Palms Resort and Spa is one of 32 independent, upscale and luxury hotels, resorts and golf clubs in the United States managed by Destination Hotels & Resorts, the fourth largest independent hospitality management company in the country. The company, based in Englewood, Colo., features a portfolio of more than 8,000 guest rooms, 13 golf courses and nine full-service spas. DH&R properties are located in key metropolitan and resort markets including New York, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Denver, Dallas, Boston, San Diego, Aspen, Phoenix, Palm Springs, Jackson Hole, Maui and Lake Tahoe.

Destination Hotels & Resorts also provides consumers with access to a unique collection of lodging properties in the United Kingdom through a sales and marketing alliance with the De Vere Hotel Group PLC. This partnership extends the reach of DH&R to the U.K. with a partner who offers a similar portfolio of distinctive hotels and resorts. For more information on the properties in the Destination Hotels & Resorts collection or the De Vere alliance, please visit www.destinationhotels.com.

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