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BY MARGARET PIERPONT

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BY SHARI MYCEK

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BY SANDY GRASON ILLUSTRATION BY JULIETTE BORDA

SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

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A Bath Renaissance

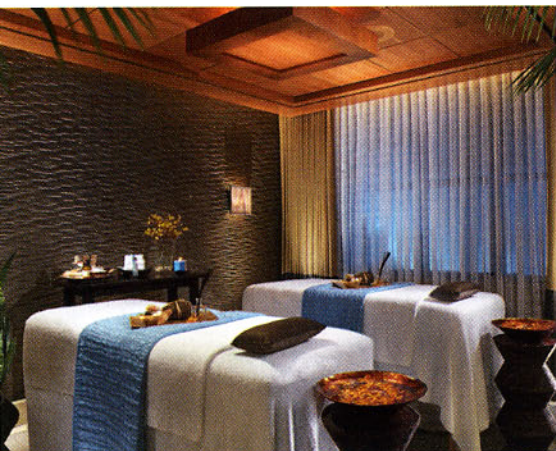
In Jane Austen's early 19th century novels, Bath, England (which has a history that dates back to Roman times) was a bustling social center. And it's now making a comeback, thanks to new modifications that honor the city's historic charm. Past the Gothic spires of Bath Abbey, I entered the recently built Thermae Bath Spa. Shimmering inside and out, the modern, 42,830-square-foot space is a four-story glass cube set amidst Georgian colonnades. Once inside the watery playground, I was free to soak, steam, shower, and swim. Additional options — Pevonia facials and body treatments, massage, Watsu, Pilates, and dry flotation — can be added to the \$40 entry fee. After indulging, you can tour the adjoining Roman Baths (now a museum), built for Caesar's legions in the first century B.C. You'll realize how little our spa rituals have changed; the same steamy springs still supply heated mineral water to soak away winter chill. Definitely sense and sensibility at its best. **B. ISAAC**

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RACHEL NEAL



LAS VEGAS RENEWAL

Ensnconced from the manic momentum of the strip, the recently opened Qua Baths & Spa at Caesars Palace celebrates the social component of well-being. Offered in both the women's and men's area and large enough to hold a group of friends each, the 98-degree Trepidarium with revitalizing jets, 104-degree Calidarium, and refreshing 72-degree Frigidarium inspire cathartic communing. Group spa-ing continues in the Laconium Room, Cedar Wood Dry Sauna, and Herbal Steam Room and ends with cooling relief in the serene and seemingly improbable Arctic Ice Room, in which snow falls from the ceiling. Though grand in scale — an impressive 50,000 square feet — an essence of intimacy pervades throughout the 51 treatment studios, where indulgence still reigns in opulence. **VIJU MATHEW**

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