

## Get Away for the Holidays! *Give her the Magic that she Deserves*

By Sue Mayfield Geiger



*There is a tropical island nearby loaded with holiday surprises. You don't need plane tickets, you can pack light – or better yet – pack ultra light. Because on this trip, it's not going to be about what you wear, but how you feel when you get there. Attire is casual, amenities are immeasurable and the end result can only be summed up in one word: outstanding!*

*If you are looking for the incomparable gift for the counterpart in your life or just need some getaway time with your family, your best partner or the fragile spirit that resides within, there are three exceptional places calling your name this holiday season.*



### **The Hotel Galvez & Spa**

About to celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2011, Galveston's only historic beachfront hotel will be aglow this season with lighted palm trees, festive holiday décor and the annual gingerbread replica of the hotel created by Executive Chef Jerry Helminski. Holiday packages during December\* offer discounts to downtown merchants with complementary shuttle service, two tickets to Moody Gardens Festival of Lights, 15% discount on holiday-themed spa treatments and 20% discount at the award-

winning Bernardo's Restaurant. Enjoy live entertainment, specialty drinks and complimentary bicycles to pedal around town.

New spa-inspired rooms on the sixth floor and fully renovated suites on floors seven and eight are luxurious and inviting, offering plush robes, Italian bedding and a tranquil rain shower. But, the most enticing part of this package are The Spa services.



Dubbed “a coastal sanctuary for the senses,” The Spa at the Hotel Galvez list of choice services is only equal to the hospitality of its staff. Housed on the lower level, this extraordinary refuge is a true escape haven with colors of rich walnut and warm ivory. Upon entering, the Meditation Garden is a “must” to unwind,

refresh and breathe in the sea air. Once your services are established, don your comfy robe and slippers and leave the world behind as you enter the Relaxation Room where you can recline, relax, read, and unwind. Cool lemon water to drink and fresh cucumbers for your eyes. Blankets to cozy up in. Soft lights and meditative music. Warm neck wraps full of lavender, chamomile and rosemary sooth away the stress.

The Spa offers numerous sensational enhancements (from floral body scrubs to hydrotherapy baths to an array of massages) including facials, hydrating pedicures, and manicures. Try a four-hands massage (only available at the Galvez) or bring your partner for a couples massage. A complete salon is also at your disposal with makeup and hair services. La Bella Donna makeup, Phytomer and Yonka are just a few of the premier products used at The Spa and are also available for purchase. (Check out the array of aromatic bath salts, emollient creams and lotions, romantic candles, jewelry and books.)

Special holiday packages include: 80 minute Christmas massage with complimentary peppermint foot scrub; Winter Wonderland pedicure (natural peppermint and rich eggnog Shea butter); Champagne body scrub (with extract of Caviar and Algae); Transformational Facial (Ultrasonic dermabrasion); and the Galvez Warm Stone Massage. [www.WyndhamHotelGalvez.com](http://www.WyndhamHotelGalvez.com).

### **The Tremont House**

Want to spend some time shopping and browsing in small, village-like shops without the hassle of traffic and crowds? Take advantage of The Tremont House located in Galveston's Historic Strand District.

This elegant hotel, housed in a 130-year-old building with marble floors, plantation shutters, rooftop bar and fully equipped gym, is the heart of downtown. The historic the lobby is not only impressive but a people watch and soak up the ambiance European décor. Enjoy cocktails while crooning of singer Nina Kay (Friday and



nestled right in Toujouse Bar in great place to of the post-Ike listening to the Saturday).

The Tremont Café serves up gourmet curry chicken mango salad, as well as sandwiches, soups and delicious desserts. the Rooftop Bar will give you a dazzling view of the city. Perfect for larger groups, the Belmont Suites (located on the east side of the hotel) feature a sitting area, guest bath, dining table and bar in each parlor.

delights like flatbread pizza, For star gazers,

Holiday packages for the month of December\* include discounts to downtown merchants, two tickets to Moody Gardens Festival of Lights, 20 percent discount at Tremont Café and 15% discount on holiday-themed treatments at The Spa at the Hotel Galvez.

Catch a holiday show at The Grand 1894 Opera House or the ETC Theatre (patrons receive a special offer on show nights). [www.WyndhamTremontHouse.com](http://www.WyndhamTremontHouse.com).

### Harbor House

Kick back and get casual at the nautical Harbor House. Small, quaint and located right on the edge of the harbor, this hotel is the perfect place to watch the ships, take a stroll, dine at Olympia The Grill at Pier 21 and tour the Tall Ship Elissa. Other great sites: Texas Seaport Museum, The Great Storm Theater, and a variety of retail shops and restaurants. Complimentary Continental breakfast is served daily. Guests at Harbor House receive a 10 percent discount at the nearby



Tremont Café and Bernardo's Restaurant at Hotel Galvez. [www.harborhousepier21.com](http://www.harborhousepier21.com).

(\*Excludes Dec. 4-5. For reservations at any of the above, go to [www.wyndham.com](http://www.wyndham.com))