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Four-star spas in Florida The Ritz-Carlton Members Club Spa, Sarasota. SOURCE: Mobil Travel Guide

Article published Apr 27, 2005

Ritz spa shapes up well in Mobil survey

By [Kevin McQuaid](#)

SARASOTA -- The Ritz-Carlton Sarasota's "effervescent marine plunge" and "Le Renovateur body polish" spa treatments are among the tops in the nation, according to a ranking from a prestigious rating guide.

Mobil Travel Guide's second annual survey of America's best wellness facilities bestowed four stars upon the local Ritz-Carlton spa -- open only to members and paying guests of the 266-room luxury hotel.

The guide's appraisal makes the Ritz-Carlton Members Club Spa, Sarasota one of only eight Florida hotel spas so designated, and one of 46 in the nation.

In 2004, the spa survey's inaugural year, just 28 of 48 rated spas received four stars. This year, Mobil spa visitors evaluated more than 100 facilities across the country. Sixty-nine made the cut, achieving at least three stars on a five-star scale.

Only one resort, the Spa Montage at Montage Resort Laguna Beach, in California, received five stars.

"The Ritz-Carlton spa echoes the elegance found throughout this exceptional hotel," the Mobil guide noted.

"The spa combines state-of-the-art design with European elan. Water is a guiding force here, where a healing waters area includes whirlpool, sauna, steam and showers."

Ritz-Carlton spas in Orlando and Miami also received four-star designations from the guide.

The Mobil guide, from ExxonMobil Corp., has been ranking hotels and resorts in the United States and Canada for the past 45 years.

Its spa ratings are based on more than 450 criteria, including cleanliness, guest comfort and convenience, sense of luxury, physical facilities and staff courtesy.

Ritz-Carlton Sarasota officials said they were "thrilled" with the designation.

"It's a great confirmation of what we're trying to accomplish, especially since the ratings are so selective," said James McManemon, the Ritz-Carlton Sarasota's general manager.

"We're trying to be the best. That's our goal, so we're going to keep pushing. Our next step is to make it a five-star."

The Ritz-Carlton Sarasota's 15,000- square-foot spa debuted in September 2003, nearly two years after the opening of the \$100 million hotel and condominium complex.

The spa offers 90 health, beauty and wellness treatments, ranging from a "Tropical Sugar Glow" body scrub to an "Atlantic Marine Algae Wrap." Prices range from \$20 to \$630.

Members pay a minimum entry fee of \$75,000, plus annual dues of \$3,300 and treatment costs, to use the

spa.

The Mobil rating marks the latest in a series of premier designations for the 17-story resort hotel. In February, Zagat named the Ritz-Carlton Sarasota one of the nation's top 50 resorts.
