

Jari Jari

- A Sabahan Touch at the Spa



Datuk Karim flanked by owners Jennifer Lee (L) and Jeanette Tambakau (R)



The wellness industry in Sabah is on the rise with more and more spas being established. From exclusive five-star spas to cosy and private wellness centres, both tourists and locals are indulging in some of the best treatments in town.

But only one spa in Sabah can boast a truly Sabahan touch – Jari Jari. Located at Tanjung Aru Plaza, Jari Jari opened its doors two years ago and introduced their traditional Sabahan treatments. Instead of offering Balinese or Swedish style massages, Jari Jari gave us a taste of ethnic massages from the Lotud and Kadazandusun communities. The techniques used here cannot be learned at even the best wellness training centres — they are passed down from generation to generation. The therapists are local ladies who learned the art of massage from their ancestors and will eventually pass down the knowledge to generations to come.

Recently, Jari Jari's signature treatment, the Dusun Lotud Body Therapy, was hailed 'Best Traditional Treatment' during the inaugural Malaysia Spa & Wellness Awards 2006, held in Kuala Lumpur. The award brings great significance and gives recognition to Sabah's little-known traditional massage techniques. Assistant Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment, Datuk Karim Bujang, had high praise for such an achievement. "People only hear of Balinese, Indian and Thai massages, but an award like this puts our Sabahan touch on the map. I think it is truly wonderful that we have a spa that practises and promotes local methods," he said. Speaking about the owners of the spa, he commended them on their original idea, "We have three people who picked up the local touch and put it in the right place. I am very proud to be associated with people who recognize and appreciate their roots," he added. Datuk Karim said that the concept adapted by Jari Jari was very much in line with government policy, which is to tell the global market that Malaysia — in this case, Sabah — has a world-class local product to offer. "It is my hope that hotels will approach Jari Jari and work hand in hand to offer guests a traditional treatment," he said. The future of the wellness industry looks bright. "We are headed in the right direction — a place like Jari Jari is testament to that," he concluded.

Jari Jari is located at Tanjung Aru Plaza, 2nd floor, Block B, Lot 2.1, Jalan Mat Salleh, Tanjung Aru, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. Open daily from 10 am (11 am on Sundays & public holidays) to 10 pm.

For more information and to make appointments, please call 088-272606, e-mail sales@jarijari.com.my or visit the website at www.jarijari.com.my

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