

## At Luxury Hotels, the Last Word in Showers and Tubs

Hotels have poured millions of dollars into upgrading mattresses and thread counts on sheets. Now, bathrooms are getting the same luxury treatment with bigger tubs, showers with enough nozzles to mimic a car-wash and niche brand bath products.

At the Shoreham, at 33 West 55th Street in Manhattan, fresh off an 18-month renovation, many rooms, including the penthouse, now have Vichy showers with five nozzles (right), and the penthouse suite comes with heated tile floors and a three-and-a-half-foot-wide whirlpool tub.

Jumby Bay in Antigua added outdoor rain showers to 16 rooms this month, bringing the number of rooms at the resort with outdoor bath areas to 35. "People want to be pampered," said MaryAnne De Matteo Diamante, the resort's director of sales and marketing.

Rooms at the Gansevoort South on Collins Avenue in Miami Beach will have showers with multiple shower heads and six-foot-long tubs when it opens next fall. When renovations at the Sofitel in Los Angeles wrap up in April, all rooms will have oversize showers, some with views of the Hollywood sign, surrounded by glass walls that go from



Marilyn K. Yee/The New York Times

clear to opaque with the flip of a switch. The Rihga Royal Hotel in New York is renovating bathrooms to include all Waterworks bathtubs, fixtures and linens by next fall when the hotel re-launches as the London NYC.

At some properties, the walls are absent altogether. Hotel Valley Ho in Scottsdale, which was to open Dec. 20, placed Philippe Starck-designed bathtubs in 21 of its 194 rooms — next to the bed, behind a curtain. The bathrooms in suites at the new InterContinental Playa Bonita Resort and Spa in Panama have shutters that open to the rest of the room, so guests can lounge in the tub and watch television.

Additionally, hotels are opting for popular brand bath products. Marriott Hotels & Resorts started rolling out Bath & Body Works products last summer.

Fairmont Hotels & Resorts tapped the London perfumer Miller Harris to create products for most of its guest rooms. In a few months, the line will also be sold in some of its hotel stores, but until then, Fairmont expects guests to enjoy the products at home the old-fashioned way — by slipping them into their suitcases. **AMY GUNDERSON**