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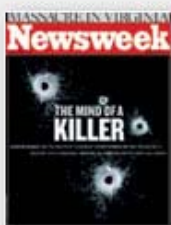


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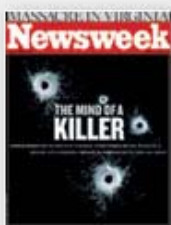
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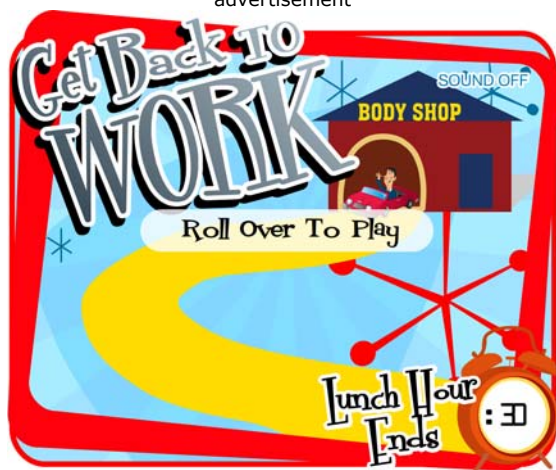
Super Soaks

By **Vanessa Whiteside**
Newsweek International

April 9, 2007 issue - Mother Nature sure has a winning formula. Unlike some of the world's most luxurious spas—which can be a bit sterile—natural hot springs offer spectacular views along with the mineral-rich waters that promote healthy skin, toned muscles and improved circulation. No wonder so many resort hotels are keen to capitalize on them.

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Simple Pleasures: In the heart of the Costa Rican rain forest, the Tabacón Grand Spa and Resort sits near the Arenal Volcano on the banks of the Tabacón River

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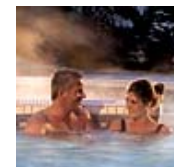
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Styled to resemble a Scottish Highlands castle, the Fairmont Banff Springs Resort in Alberta is nestled in the Canadian Rockies, among the largest concentration of glaciers south of Alaska. It offers unrivaled views (from \$216; **fairmont.com/banffsprings**) and is only a short distance from the tranquil waters of Upper Hot Springs (\$6.50 per person; **hotsprings.ca**).

The charming Dunton Hot Springs Resort in Colorado boasts five

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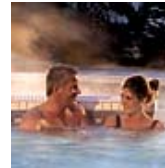
natural hot springs and authentic 19th-century wood cabins recently restored by local Native American craftsmen. Other facilities include a bathhouse with indoor natural hot springs, a library and a chapel (from \$300 per night; duntonhotsprings.com).

In the heart of the Costa Rican rain forest, the Tabacón Grand Spa and Resort sits near the Arenal Volcano on the banks of the Tabacón River. Couples can enjoy an exclusive romantic dinner with a personal chef and waiter. Guests also have free access to the nearby hot springs, where they can soak surrounded by lush green vegetation (from \$215; tabacon.com).

The Solitaire Lodge on Lake Tarawera in Rotorua, New Zealand, is renowned for its gourmet local cuisine and offers breathtaking views of the waterscape and surrounding mountains (from \$475 per night; solitairelodge.co.nz). The Polynesian Spa, just a short drive away, offers 27 hot mineral pools (from \$8.50 per person; polynesianspa.co.nz). Now, that's a water cure.

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