



La Résidence Phou Vao

LUANG PRABANG, LAOS

A view so stupendous that it provides its own form of meditation. Luang Prabang, a UNESCO world heritage site, is the prettiest city in South-East Asia – all shimmering temples, wats and monks, strung out like golden beads on the banks of the Mekong. An Orient-Express hotel that is loved by many, it has an intelligent, elegant spa, set like a village in its own water garden. Here, in one of four wooden rooms, soothing therapists use ancient therapies and local ingredients. Try the Mohom, a herbal compress used to soothe knotty muscles and aching limbs – its magic ingredient is indigo, prized for centuries in Indochina for its skin-healing and anti-inflammatory properties. Afterwards you'll be ready to rise at dawn and hit the town in the hotel's liveried tuk-tuk for shopping, fab food and knockout beauty. An entirely comfortable adventure.

Website residencephouvao.com. **UK reservations** Cleveland Collection (tel: 0845 450 5732). **Rates** Double, from £165.