



FROM TOP: THE SPA AT CHABLÉ YUCATÁN IS ANCHORED BY A SERENE CENOTE; AN OUTDOOR RAINFALL SHOWER IS JUST ONE ELEMENT OF EACH VILLA'S STUNNING BATHROOM.

QUICK TRIPS

MAYAN MAGIC
At Chablé Yucatán, discover a modern wellness retreat steeped in Mayan culture, Mexican history, and SELF-REFLECTION

By Paul Rubio

Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula is best known for its prolific sparkling beaches, but some of its greatest treasures lie inland. Case in point: Chablé Yucatán, a stunning, 40-villa, 750-acre wellness retreat on the grounds of a former sisal plantation in the blink-and-you-might-miss-it Mayan town of Chocholá.

Born from the ruins of a nineteenth-century hacienda, the high-design hotel mingles glass elements with archaeological remains alongside colorful, colonial-inspired structures.

Chablé's freestanding casitas and family villas are emphatically modern and minimalist, framed by limestone and dark woods and homing in on the beauty of the surrounding natural foliage. Lush gardens and crystal walls foster an impression of jungle immersion indoors, especially within the expansive bathroom, where double sinks and rainfall showers appear to nurture the earth from which the plants grow. Outdoors, a white linen hammock sways over each casita's private swimming pool and a



SOAK IN CHABLÉ YUCATÁN'S GREEN MARBLE INFINITY POOL (LEFT AND BELOW CENTER) OR RELAX IN THE PRIVACY OF YOUR EN SUITE POOL (ABOVE). SIP RARE TEQUILAS AND OGLE OLD-MEETS-NEW ARCHITECTURE AT IXI'M (BELOW).

shaded daybed offers respite from the blazing Mexican sun.

At the property's core lies a jungle-clad cenote (limestone sinkhole) around which a world-class spa has been erected. With 14 treatment rooms, a full-scale fitness center, a temescal (traditional Mayan sweat lodge), an advanced hydrotherapy circuit, and an exquisite marble infinity pool, the Chablé Spa comprises the heart and soul of the property's wellness philosophy. Treatments and ceremonial rituals are rooted in Mayan tradition and the healing powers of the sacred cenote. Between these culture-infused experiences, meditation sessions, sunrise yoga classes, and other endeavors in holistic healing, physical rejuvenation, and mental cleansing, it's not uncommon for guests to visit the spa twice or thrice daily.

Contrasting the contemporary casitas and fashionable spa, property grounds are strewn with vestiges of the site's nineteenth-century incarnation: Original rock-hewn archways remain, as do remnants of stone buildings, many now overgrown by snaking tree roots. The dramatic juxtaposition of old and new climaxes at Ixi'im, Chablé's signature restaurant helmed by acclaimed chef Jorge Vallejo, whose Mexico City restaurant, Quintonil, was named one of the world's best. At Ixi'im, glass panes complete an original hacienda building, embedded in unfinished stone, illuminated by high-tech lighting and a subterranean firepit at the entrance. Inside, the 200-year-old, black-and-white-tiled floors have been restored to their original grandeur, while decorative sisal ropes hang from the ceiling, nodding to the past, and shelves



showcase the restaurant's 3,000-plus vintage tequila bottles spanning centuries. (This is, in fact, one of the largest private tequila collections in the world.) The cuisine incorporates Mayan techniques and ingredients, Michelin-star prowess, and a health-conscious slant resulting in memorable dining experiences that are a testament to chef Vallejo's global fame.

Other meals at Chablé are enjoyed primarily at Ki'ol, a more casual poolside restaurant that Vallejo also oversees. Of course, you could leave the premises to dine or engage in other activities; Yucatán's historic capital city of Mérida, its international airport (served by direct flights from Miami), and archaeology headlines like Uxmal are an average of an hour away. But the sublime food, zen vibe, and enticements of the hacienda make it difficult to justify ever leaving the property. Plus, the entire point of Chablé Yucatán is to escape the world outside and discover—or rediscover—your personal mental and physical best. (chablehotels.com) ◀◀