

spa business

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ARIANNA HUFFINGTON

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Natural cenote, temazcal experiences star at upcoming Mayan spa

Amy McDonald, owner and CEO of Under a Tree Health & Wellness Consulting, has created a spa which has been inspired by Mayan traditions for the upcoming Chablé Resort in Mexico.

Operated by Hamak Hotels, The Chablé Resort opened in November in Chochola, Yucatan, and features 38 glass-fronted casitas and two villas designed by Jorge Borja of Grupo BV.

"Although it is really high-end luxury, it is thoughtfully infused with local culture and nature," says McDonald. "The rooms are completely surrounded by glass – you are *in* the jungle."

The 3,022sq m (32,530sq ft) spa blends ancient mysticism with modern curiosity, and features a naturally formed cenote as well as three temazcal experiences.

The cenote – seen as a healing force in Mayan culture – is central to the spa and guests can even bathe in it.



The natural cenote is central to the spa, with treatment rooms located around it

The spa features 12 single treatment rooms, one double and one spa suite – all situated around the cenote.

McDonald hired Bonnie Baker, owner of Mexico-based spa consultancy Satteva, to collaborate on all aspects of the spa. This includes a wide selection of Naturopathic and Body Bliss signature treatments, which are focused around one of three themes: Fountain of Youth, Tree of Life and Heaven on Earth.

For guests looking for a deeper connection with nature and a "rebirth to a state of higher consciousness",



“We really want people to come and experience a modern interpretation of traditional Mayan rituals”
Amy McDonald

Chablé features three temazcal rituals, each inspired by a different tradition.

The spa also has a hydrotherapy journey that includes sauna, steamroom, whirlpool, hot and cold plunge pools, swimming pool, salt room and floatation.

Read more: http://lei.sr?a=j6D3G_B



The Chablé Resort has just 38 casitas

Asia Pacific Spa & Wellness Coalition returns with new board members

Industry body the Asia Pacific Spa & Wellness Coalition (APSWC) has relaunched and the new board, led by chair Andrew Jacka, is planning a roundtable in Bangkok from 16-17 March, 2017.

The organisation went through a period of "uncertainty" in 2014 and 2015, says Jacka, and the board at the time said it had decided to wind down the activities of the coalition.

A new, paid membership model has emerged, where individuals or organisations

“This change is no different from what other national spa industry associations have experienced across Asia, and while some have come out the other side stronger, some have yet to find a meaningful role for themselves” Andrew Jacka



can sign up directly for a US\$50 (€45, £40) joining fee and US\$100 (€91, £81) annual membership, or can join with no fee through their national spa associations.

Former chair Rhett Pickering has moved to a more "behind the scenes" role and Jacka – who headed up the organisation for four years before him – was approached to take up the reins once more.

The APSWC aims to be a united voice for the region and to encourage industry development by sharing resources, supporting national spa bodies and establishing standards.

The first annual roundtable set for March will culminate in a white paper homing in on industry issues and the APSWC's philosophy.

More: http://lei.sr?a=4m2H9_B