



MEXICO

Hotel review: Chablé Resort, Yucatan, Mexico

Atlas magazine's Katie Gatens checks into Chablé Resort, on Mexico's Yucatan peninsula

Katie Gatens | August 2017



The king villa at Chablé

The stats

38 casitas and two villas with individual pools
750 acres

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Three restaurants and spa

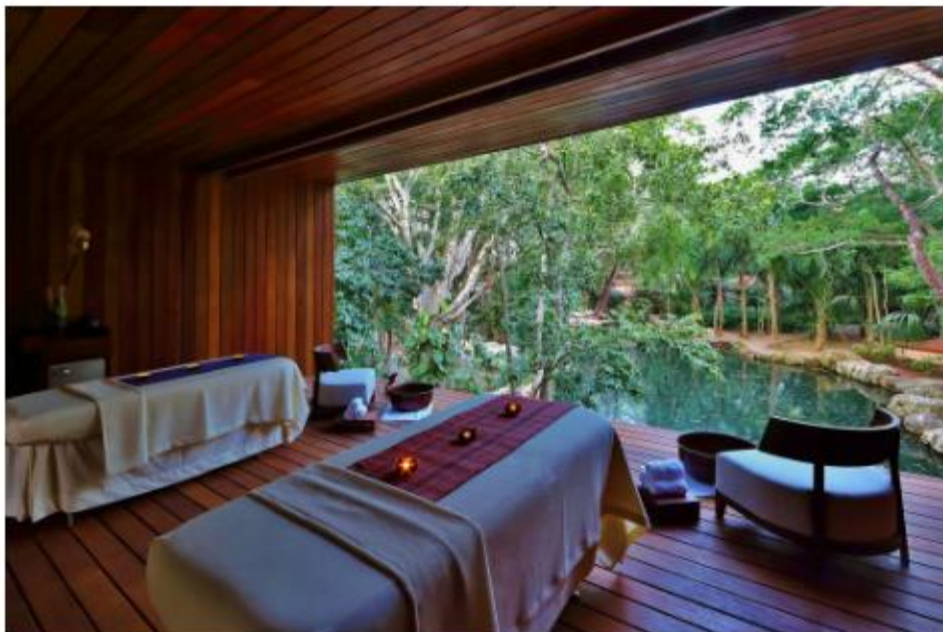
25 minutes from Mérida

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chableresort.com

The back story

Back in the 19th-century, the Yucatan peninsula flourished with hacienda plantations, specialising in the production of the henequén plant making products (namely rope) out of sisal. Due to the production of artificial fibres, these grand country houses faded from glory and the huge manor houses fell into disrepair. Chablé resort is based around a restored hacienda, decked out with modern Mexican design interiors with an emphasis on wellness – the limestone cenote in woodland taking centre stage.



the teak treatment rooms overlooking the cenote

The location

In the town of Chokolá, just 25 minutes outside of the "White City" of Mérida, the capital of the Yucatan. This rough and ready city is one of the oldest cities in North America, being founded by the Spanish conquistadors in 1542. Take a day to tour the Ruta Puuc, touring the Mayan ruins of Uxmal and stopping off to bathe in crystal-clear cenotes.

The USP

It's one of the most luxurious hotels in Mexico and one which does accommodation, food and spa perfectly individually. As well as a cigar bar where you can craft your own, there's the largest tequila collection in the world at Ix'im, the bottles glinting in display cabinets that cover the walls and even a restored chapel, used for private mass.

Staying in

There's not much reason to leave the resort, and chef Jorge Vellejo who heads up the hotel's fine-dining restaurant Ix'im was recently voted 22nd best chef in the world by 50 Best Restaurants.

Ingredients used are from the hotel garden including venison, which they rear themselves and is a Yucatean speciality. Spend the daytimes relaxing by the curved pool on a plush white sunbed or at the spa, where you can do morning yoga by the cenote, treat yourself to a shaman-inspired ritual followed by a sage-infused massage or take a bike ride of the grounds.

The clientele

Those looking for something a little more refined and under-the-radar than the well-trodden resorts of the Riviera Maya.

Design notes

A fusion of traditional Mayan and modern touches. The luxe casitas, designed by architect Jorge Borja are tucked into the overgrown jungle hidden from the main path and feature their own infinity pool complete with draped hammock over the water and an indoor and outdoor shower overlooking umbrella plants. The villa is kitted out with iPad-controlled sound system and widescreen TV. Colour-popping Mexican tiles deck the veranda, channelling modern Mexican cool.



The tequila-lined dining room of lx'im