

101 HOTELS DESIGN



NEW

THE SILO

CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

This is Africa's hottest opening, the hotel everyone's been banging on about for years. So what's the verdict? Well, the decor isn't for everyone: owner Liz Biden has employed her usual flamboyant flair – citrus-hued velvet sofas, mirrored furniture, sparkly chandeliers, gilded picture frames. And the restaurant serves run-of-the-mill bistro fare, despite having a waiting list as long as your leg. So why the fuss? Two words: Thomas Heatherwick. THE architect of the moment, who designed this dazzling building, with its soaring ceilings and bulging windows, out of an old grain silo. And that's the ace up its sleeve: the views. Take in 180° eye-balls of Table Mountain from your bed and ignore the TV completely as you stare out over the grid of the City Bowl. Simply extraordinary – and well worth the fuss. *Africa Travel* (africatravel.co.uk; 020 7843 3580) offers four nights from £3,250, including breakfast, flights and transfers. **AND ANOTHER THING** The brand new, sensational Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa (MOCAA) is laid out below and next door; the hotel can organise out-of-hours tours.



CHABLE RESORT & SPA

YUCATAN PENINSULA, MEXICO

Chocholá, a nowhere town 45 minutes from Yucatán's capital, Mérida, seems an odd place for a set-the-bar hotel. Until you see Chablé, a renovated 19th-century hacienda. It's a step back in time, but inside all is modern and arty: a cool, quiet library, a gleaming bar with edgy Day of the Dead skull artworks. The jungly casitas are spacious, with rough local limestone, outdoor showers and a dreamy private pool with a hammock from which to watch rainbow-coloured motmot birds. There's a Mayan garden and cool woven pods that hang from the boughs of ancient trees – just the place to swing and sip mezcal. The spa is set right on a mysterious natural cenote (freshwater pool) and the food in the three restaurants is extraordinary, especially in glassy Ixi'im – do NOT miss the chocolate cassoulet. *Double, from £835, including breakfast* (chableresort.com; 00 52 55 4161 3085). *Virgin Atlantic* (virginatlantic.com) flies to Cancun from £606 return.

AND ANOTHER THING Try the Temazcal experience in the sweat lodge – a shaman guides you through chanting, tea-drinking and, yes, profuse sweating.

NEW