

An Artistic Escape to Enchanting San Miguel de Allende

Hotel Matilda Brings Contemporary Luxury to Mexico's Colonial Crown Jewel

By Zack Simon



The cobbled lanes of colonial jewel San Miguel de Allende and Hotel Matilda's edgy, hip environment firmly rooted in 2011 are separated by half a millennium and are as different as night and day. But together they become the perfect complements for an exciting and inspiring getaway.

San Miguel de Allende's entire center is a UNESCO World Heritage site. In its most recent "World's Best" survey, Travel + Leisure named San Miguel de Allende the #1 city in Latin America, and #4 in the world. From iconic bell towers and ornate churches to splashing fountains, the spectacular colonial architecture and Old World charm remain virtually unchanged from the days of Spanish rule.



While every other hotel here immerses guests in the colonial theme, newly opened Hotel Matilda celebrates today's lifestyle to the fullest. Innovative twists on the latest trends give the small, boutique hotel its own distinct buzz. In the sophisticated scene with a cool, casual vibe and subtle service from an attentive staff, visitors from Mexico City sample the Red Mole Rack of Lamb in the restaurant, weekenders from Texas experience the Turkish-style hammam in the spa, and local artists and expatriates (thousands live in San Miguel because of the tranquil lifestyle and ideal climate often described as "eternal spring") sip artisanal tequilas at the bar.

The clean-lined, contemporary decor feels distinctly like an art gallery – and it is art, dazzling and dramatic works, that set the tone of Hotel Matilda. Several of Mexico's hottest contemporary artists were specially



commissioned to create the larger sculptures that define the main public areas. The hotel was actually named for a portrait of a young lady named Matilda by renowned artist Diego Rivera.

The suite is a study in refined living with 400-thread-count linens, plush robes, wet bars, Malin + Goetz bath amenities, and a terrace to take in the dramatic skyline and rainbow sunsets.

Imagination fills the pots at Restaurant Matilda. Classic Continental and Latin American cooking has been reinvented by Chef Bernie McDonough with new combinations, flavors and textures. It's a menu of intensely flavorful, irresistible surprises, from Grilled Romaine Hearts with orange caper and anchovy vinaigrette to Sheep's Milk-Ricotta Tortellini and Red Snapper Veracruzana with caramelized onion polenta.

Sexy Bar Matilda on the second-floor is the hot new spot in town. The barman, Pablo, is shaking and blending up special concoctions all evening. His Margarita tasting – prickly pear, guava and tamarindo – was the talk of the place.





Spa Matilda



Spa Matilda

It's no surprise that Spa Matilda was the only spa in Mexico named to Conde Nast Traveler's 2011 Hot List. This is an intimate haven of comfort and sophistication where your spa experience is completely personalized, including custom-mixed products just for you from the Apothecary of natural and artisanal ingredients.

Hotel Matilda is in the heart of the old center, so the sights and pleasures of San Miguel are just steps away in a town made for walking. Have a drink in one of the many cafes around El Jardin, the leafy and intimately sized main square, taking in the scene of hawkers pitching wares and bands playing. San Miguel's numerous festivals take place here, or at least pass by El Jardin. On Saturday nights, a dazzling light show emblazons La Parroquia, the parish church that looks like it was designed by a Disney animator. Travel + Leisure's top ranking of San Miguel was undoubtedly fueled by the fantastic shopping, particularly handicrafts, antiques and art - there are galleries galore. Don't miss the Artisans Market or more upscale La Aurora with its many unique boutiques and artists' studios.

After a lively day of shopping and sightseeing in San Miguel, it's a delight to return to Hotel Matilda to relax and enjoy the comforts of the new world.

For more information and reservations, call toll-free 855-MATILDA (855-628-4532), or log on to www.hotdmatilda.com.