

AVENUE[®]

SAN MIGUEL

Silver
Plata

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ON THE AVENUE



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EDITORIAL

January 2015: A new year, a new editor, a new name for the magazine formerly known as El Consejo, now, AVENUE, and launch of NIKI MEDIA (see page 44 for a Who's Who). Moreover, Publisher, General Director Ulises Huerta has been at the helm of THIS and AVENUE for seven magical years with a remarkable team. Hear, Hear!

I don't usually make New Year's resolutions though 2015 may be an exception. I'm delighted to have taken on the position of editor and resolved to bring enhanced content about the best and brightest San Miguel de Allende has to offer; exciting photography (lucky to have talented photographer Luis Esteban Marquez on board) and lots of surprises of the sort, I think, are already evident in these pages. Hopefully you'll agree.

Our cover story about SILVER traces the evolution of the precious alloy created during supernova explosions— a good start to something special. I hope you'll notice new sparkle in the changes we've made— a whole new look, and layout; new sections, including, Portrait Of The Artist, featuring a harpist of sterling achievements, Angel Padilla, with an accompanying Proust Questionnaire (condensed version).

I believe there's a silver thread running through this issue tying stories together including one about the great designer William Spratling presented at YAM Gallery. The exquisite cups on the cover are his and we thought appropriate symbols of the new year and new beginnings. Another story features the Franz Mayer Museum, Mexico City, which in addition to being the best museum of decorative arts in Mexico has what is possibly the most impressive silver collection on earth. There's a two page photo collage of all things silver, and we're honored— blessed— to have a photo essay of the extraordinary, silver Camarin De La Virgen de la Candelaria, from the church and Sanctuary Of Atotonilco World Heritage Site— an auspicious presence. And I believe we're off to a good start.

Feliz Año!

Philip Alvaré
Editor AVENUE

For the Autumn edition, leather takes center stage. We discuss some techniques, and highlight where to shop for the best products. In the food section, we share with you the seven best bakeries in San Miguel. We're also excited to introduce a new section, On the Avenue. So put on your walking shoes and explore the possibilities for sensate yumminess in our amazing town!

Para la edición de otoño, el cuero toma el enfoque central. Discutimos algunas técnicas y destacamos lugares para comprar los mejores productos. En la sección de comida, te compartimos siete de las mejores panaderías y pastelerías de San Miguel. También estamos emocionados de presentar una nueva sección, On the Avenue. ¡Así que ponte tus zapatos para caminar y explora las posibilidades de sensata delicia en nuestro increíble pueblo!

Philip Alvares

AVENUE
El Conocedor

History of Silver

Historia de la Plata

Silver is produced during certain types of super nova explosions and must have arrived to earth via meteor showers. Is it just coincidence that this highly conductive substance—the most reflective metal on the planet—seems to possess the cool, brilliant white luster of starlight? In ancient times a crescent moon was used as a hallmark or symbol to identify the precious, shining substance that seems to possess an almost lunar pull that has fascinated human beings for millennia. It's been fashioned into decorative ornaments; jewelry, mirrors, and currency since the dawn of time.

The history of silver parallels human history and economics. Early evidence of mining silver dates back to 4000 BC in Anatolia or modern Turkey and it was coined and used as currency in ancient Athens. The expression "coin of the realm" that refers to something of val-

La plata se produce durante ciertos tipos de explosiones de Super-Novas y debe haber llegado a la tierra a través de lluvias de meteoritos. ¿Será mera coincidencia que esta sustancia, altamente conductiva—es el metal más reflejante del planeta—tenga el brillo claro y blanco de una estrella? En la Antigüedad, la Luna en cuarto creciente era el símbolo para identificar esta sustancia brillante y preciosa que parece tener una atracción casi lunar, fascinando a la humanidad desde hace milenios. Ha sido trabajada como parte de ornamentos, joyería, espejos y monedas desde el inicio de los tiempos.

La historia de la plata es paralela a la historia humana y su economía. Las evidencias más antiguas de la extracción de la plata van al 4,000 a.C en Anatolia (actual Turquía) y se acuñó y usó como moneda en la antigua Atenas. La expresión "moneda del reino" ("coin of the realm"), que hace



History of Silver • Historia de la Plata

ue, most likely arose in conjunction with standards and practices under imperial Roman rule. Every emperor insisted upon stamping his likeness on silver coins used in the vast territories of Rome. And the stability of Roman currency was based upon a supply of silver bullion or a silver standard.

Silver has been equated with monetary value since time immemorial. And in many languages such as Spanish; plata and French; argent, the word for silver and money are the same. A pound sterling = £ = the monetary unit of Great Britain, refers to one pound weight of "sterling" silver, a silver standard devised to regulate the purity of the metal used in trade. Silver is so soft and malleable it must be blended with other metals such as copper into alloys in order to retain its form in coinage or when crafted into decorative objects. But the term sterling may only be used to denote an alloy composed of 92.5% pure silver with 7.5% copper and will be stamped 925, along with other hallmarks or official marks of authenticity used to identify the maker, designer, and



referencia a algo de valor, seguramente surgió junto con los estándares y prácticas del Imperio Romano. Cada emperador insistía en imprimir su imagen en las monedas de plata usadas a lo largo de los vastos territorios de Roma. Y la estabilidad de la moneda romana estaba basada en el abastecimiento de lingotes de plata o bien de un estándar en plata.

La plata se ha equiparado con un valor comercial desde tiempos inmemoriales. Y en muchos idiomas, como el español (plata) y el francés (argent), el significado de plata y dinero es el mismo. Una libra esterlina (£), la unidad monetaria de Gran Bretaña, hace referencia a una libra de plata "esterlina", una unidad estandarizada de plata implementada para regularizar la pureza del metal usado en el comercio. La plata es tan suave y maleable que debe ser mezclada con otros materiales como el cobre en aleaciones que permitan mantenga su forma durante la acuñación de monedas o cuando se elaboran objetos decorativos. Pero el término esterlino sólo se puede usar para denotar una aleación compuesta del 92.5% de plata pura y el 7.5% de cobre, y lleva la marca 925, junto con otros elementos oficiales para indicar su autenticidad e identificar el diseñador, fundidor y



History of Silver • Historia de la Plata

city of origin. It pays to learn to "read" silver standards and acquaint yourself with hallmarks so you know exactly what it is you're buying.

Hallmarks and silver standards are also used in the US, where only an alloy of 90.0% purity may be stamped "silver" 900. And in Mexico, where perhaps more than anywhere else on earth, silver has played a critical role in cultural and economic history, it must be 95.0% pure to bear the mark plata 950, the highest standard of purity on earth. This is no surprise. Since the discovery of the so called "New World" in 1492 until as recently as 2010 Mexico has been and remains the leading supplier of silver, globally.

ciudad de origen. Rinde frutos el aprender a "leer" los estándares de plata y conocer las marcas y sellos para saber exactamente qué estas comprando.

Sellos y marcas también son usados en Estados Unidos, donde sólo una aleación de 90% de pureza puede ser marcada como "plata" 900. Y en México, tal vez más que en cualquier otra parte del mundo, la plata ha jugado un papel crítico en la historia cultural y económica del mundo, debe ser 95.0% pura para llevar la marca 950, el estándar de pureza más alto del planeta. Esto no debe sorprender. Desde el descubrimiento del "Nuevo Mundo", en 1492 hasta recientemente en 2010, México ha sido y continúa siendo el principal proveedor de plata a nivel mundial.



History of Silver • Historia de la Plata

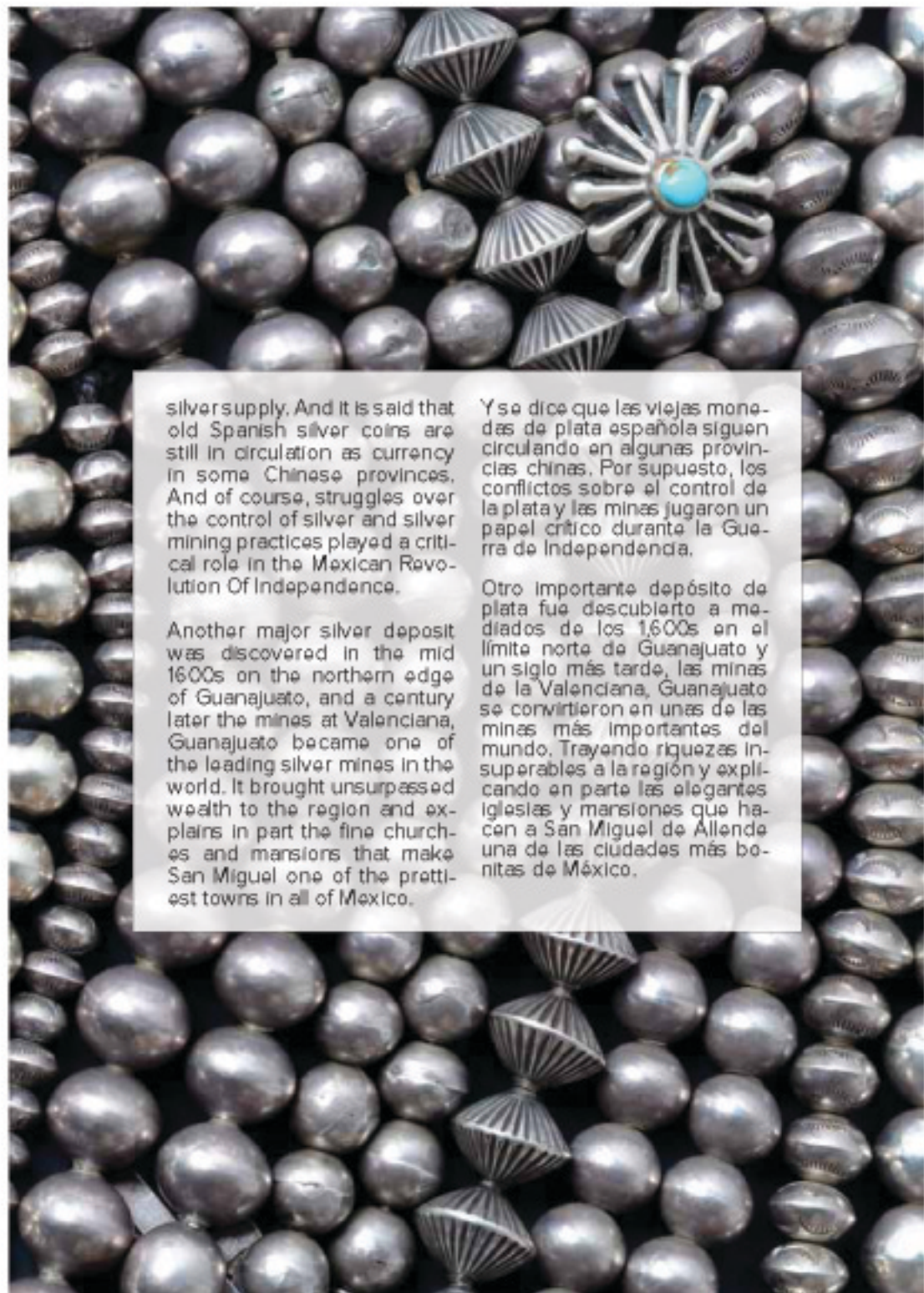


Spanish conquest in the Americas led to a scale of silver mining unlike anything that had come before in history when vast amounts of silver were stripped and commandeered by European crowns. Between 1500 and 1800 Mexico, Bolivia and Peru produced 85% of the world production and trade in silver. A mother load of silver discovered in Zacatecas in 1546, became a global commodity that fortified the Spanish empire with an international market impact. Trade and economies as far as China where silver was especially valuable, rose and fell according to Spanish

La conquista española de América llevó a la minería de plata a gran escala como nunca antes se había visto en la historia, cuando vastas cantidades de plata fueron apropiadas por las coronas europeas. Entre 1500 y 1800, México, Bolivia y Perú produjeron 85% de la producción e intercambio de plata. Una veta de plata descubierta en Zacatecas en 1546, se convirtió en un elemento de estabilidad global que fortaleció al imperio español gracias al impacto en el mercado internacional que causó. Economías tan lejanas como la china, en donde la plata es particularmente valorada, se alzaron y cayeron de acuerdo al abastecimiento de plata española.



History of Silver • Historia de la Plata



silver supply. And it is said that old Spanish silver coins are still in circulation as currency in some Chinese provinces. And of course, struggles over the control of silver and silver mining practices played a critical role in the Mexican Revolution Of Independence.

Another major silver deposit was discovered in the mid 1600s on the northern edge of Guanajuato, and a century later the mines at Valenciana, Guanajuato became one of the leading silver mines in the world. It brought unsurpassed wealth to the region and explains in part the fine churches and mansions that make San Miguel one of the prettiest towns in all of Mexico.

Y se dice que las viejas monedas de plata española siguen circulando en algunas provincias chinas. Por supuesto, los conflictos sobre el control de la plata y las minas jugaron un papel crítico durante la Guerra de Independencia.

Otro importante depósito de plata fue descubierto a mediados de los 1600s en el límite norte de Guanajuato y un siglo más tarde, las minas de la Valenciana, Guanajuato se convirtieron en unas de las minas más importantes del mundo. Trayendo riquezas insuperables a la región y explicando en parte las elegantes iglesias y mansiones que hacen a San Miguel de Allende una de las ciudades más bonitas de México.

YAM Gallery: William Spratling



YAM Gallery inaugurated an exhibition of 20TH & 21ST Century Silver Design on 19 December that runs until 6 March 2015. Work by nationally and internationally recognized silver artists presented including: Jesse Bert, Paul Rodriguez, and most notably, Violante Ulrich.

Frequently featured at YAM, Paul Rodriguez combines engraving and jewelry techniques to create wearable works of art. Jesse Bert designs sculptural jewelry and objet d'art that incorporates recycled and found objects in his creations. Violante Ulrich is especially notable because YAM is the exclusive representative of Spratling Silver through arrangement with the Ulrich family who are the owners of Spratling Silver and continue to produce Spratling jewelry. And Violante Ulrich maintains the Spratling legacy through her extraordinary designs.

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Williams Spritlin

It would be an oversimplification to say the work of Violente Ulrich is influenced by and in continuation of the style of modernistic forms created by the great silver designer William Spratling. Better to say the work resonates with the spirit and vision of a man whose profound interest and love of the pre-hispanic history and contemporary culture of Mexico was an important link in the development of 20TH century modern design. Spratling immersed himself in the local life and customs of his beloved Taxco and applied his profound study of pre-hispanic objects to the designs for his pieces.

Universal, timeless, Ms Ulrich's designs and forms echo and transcend antiquity and arrive brilliantly into the 21ST century. She deservedly won the Bienal Franz Mayer 2013 (see photo) and has a distinguished curriculum vitae. Her gallery and the Spratling Silver offices are located in Taxco, Guerrero Mexico on calle Las Delicias where William Spratling first set up a workshop in the late 1920s.

William Spratling's achievements as designer and manufacturer of silver jewelry are undeniable. But there are so many dimensions and facets to his character and accomplishments, it is almost impossible to render a fair portrait of the man who became known as the father of modern Mexican silver design and industry in this limited space. His creations are recognized internationally and can be found in major museums and private collections throughout the world. He was a gifted architect



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Williams Spritlin

and artist specializing in architectural drawings and accomplished writer publishing two books; one in collaboration with famous novelist William Faulkner. In addition, he designed furniture in leather and wood as well as decorative and utilitarian pieces for the home. He also amassed an important collection of pre-hispanic art and objects that deeply influenced his work.

Spratling was remarkable. And maybe one of the most remarkable things about him was that by the time of his demise in 1967, he was highly regarded by Mexicans and considered a "Taxacaño who happened to be born in New York." He established workshops, techniques, an apprentice system as well as a model for the artistic development and growth of the silver

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Williams Spritlin

industry in Taxco that had national if not international economic impact that continues to thrive to this day.

Spratling Silver was retailed by Neiman Marcus, Saks 5TH Ave., Tiffany's and other fine stores, and attracted celebrity buyers as famous as Marylyn Monroe. Uncommon achievements for a boy born in Upstate NY in 1900.

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Fate may have played a part in the evolution of his character and extraordinary trajectory of his career. His mother, then, sister died from tuberculosis and he and his



from tuberculosis and he and his father moved to Auburn Alabama where he studied architecture. Bad luck seemed to turn good when he eventually landed in New Orleans to teach architecture at Tulane University. In the 1920s, New Orleans, espe-

father moved to Auburn Alabama where he studied architecture. Bad luck seemed to turn good when he eventually landed in New Orleans to teach architecture at Tulane University. In the 1920s, New Orleans, especially the Old French Quarter was an

Williams Spritlin

Mexico for the first time. Like in the US, Mexico in 1920s was a time of great social change and progressive ideas about society. Letters of introduction from New Orleans cognoscenti and his own remarkable talents as well as an invitation to teach at UNAM gave Spratling access to a heady set in Mexico. He moved in the highest circles with leading artists and intellectuals of his time, including Diego Rivera, Raphael Valle, José Clemente Orozco, Rufino Tamayo and others that prompted him to write about the Muralist Movement for the Museum Of Modern Art NYC and additional prestigious publications.

He engineered Diego Rivera's first show in the US that eventually led to a show at MOMA and a sizable commission for which Spratling received a generous percentage. He was able to purchase a small house from the proceeds and fully realize the life for which he was destined.

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Ancha de San Antonio
Tel. 415 152 4990

Hotel El Palomar

Gazing down from the highest point of the historic center, Hotel Palomar may possibly have the best views in San Miguel. The stunning panorama includes the Parroquia as well as the domes and belfries of every major colonial structure. The former apartment building was completely remodeled and transformed in a tasteful, contemporary style with fine attention to detail. Only two years old, this boutique hotel boasts six sumptuous accommodations on five levels including a roof top terrace with a bar and infinity pool and that intoxicatingly beautiful vista. We toured the master suite where subdued colors and elegantly rusticated textures of cantera stone, mesquite, and clay tile reign as counterpoint to luxe touches. The ultra-spacious, two bedroom, two bath, accommodations are appointed with king sized beds, tastefully plush furnishings, the finest linens, robes and towels tempting to the touch against polished concrete surfaces in super modern bathrooms, softened by the occasional antique accent piece. The commodious living room includes a dining area, and a balcony with that enviable view.



Ubicado en el punto más alto del Centro Histórico, el hotel Palomar bien puede tener una de las mejores vistas de San Miguel. El impresionante panorama incluye la Parroquia así como los domos y campanarios de cada una de las estructuras coloniales. El antes edificio de departamentos fue remodelado completamente y transformado con un estilo contemporáneo elegante y de mucha atención a los detalles. Con tan sólo dos años, este hotel-boutique presume seis suntuosas acomodaciones en cinco niveles que in-



cluyen una terraza con un bar, una piscina de cascada infinita así como esa vista intoxicantemente hermosa. Visitamos la master suite donde los colores suaves y texturas elegantemente rústicas de cantera y mezquita, así como las lozas de cerámica actúan de contrapunto a los toques de lujo. Las acomodaciones ultra-espaciosas de dos habitaciones y dos baños incluyen camas King-size, muebles de muy buen gusto, las mejores sábanas, batas y toallas que tientan a tocarles, contrastan con las superficies de concreto pulido y baños súper modernos, suavizados por la ocasional antigüedad. La cómoda sala de estar incluye área para cenar y un balcón con una vista envidiable.

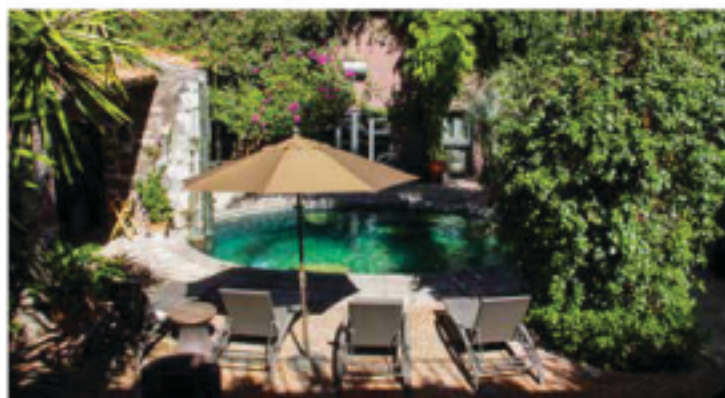
Salida a Querétaro, Centro

El Mesón



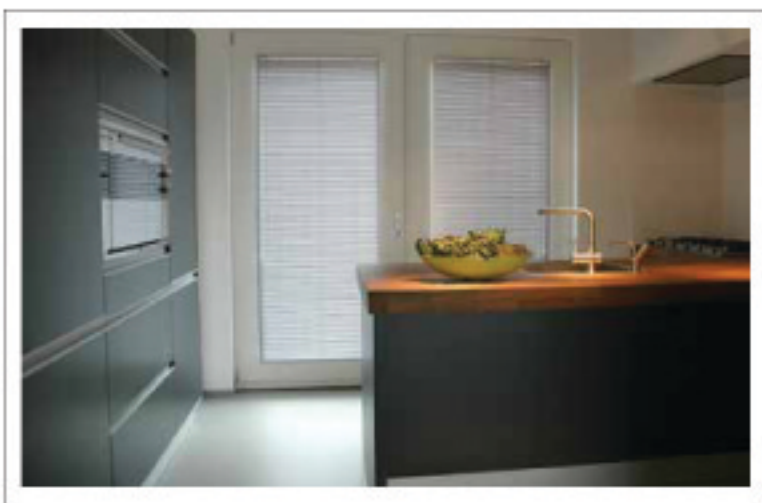
El Mesón (or inn) has held a significant place in the history of San Miguel de Allende since the 18th century sheltering travelers along the gold and silver routes to and from Zacatecas. Fast forward to 1970: the ancient place was remodeled, then again in 2009 when current owners transformed it completely and brought it into the 21st century. With fashionable foresight they preserved the 70's furniture (now painted sophisticated matt-silver) and restored appointments to create a hip, eclectic style that seamlessly blends the ancient with the stylish. Enter through the ultra chic Mesón restaurant into the hotel's courtyard where you'll discover an understated oval pool as focal point that strikes an elegant and serene note. We toured the Master Suite: a spacious two bedroom, two bath accommodation with a living room grand enough to include a dining table. There's a terrace, and media room as well as all the accoutrements: bathrobes, plush towels, fine linens, lotions and potions. Just what you'd expect from a fine hotel.

El Mesón (o posada) tiene un importante lugar en la historia de San Miguel de Allende desde el siglo XVIII, albergando viajeros a lo largo de los caminos reales del oro y de la plata, yendo y viniendo a Zacatecas. Adelantémonos a 1970: el antiguo lugar fue remodelado y, de nuevo en 2009, cuando los actuales dueños lo transformaron completamente y lo introdujeron al siglo XXI. Con una gran visión conservaron los muebles de los 70's (ahora en un sofisticado color plateado mate) y restauraron los acabados para crear un estilo actual y ecléctico que se mezcla perfectamente lo antiguo con las tendencias actuales. Entrando por el restaurante ultra-chic "Mesón" al patio interior del hotel donde descubrirás una discreta piscina ovalada como el punto focal que le da una nota elegante y serena. Visitamos la Master Suite: un amplio espacio de dos habitaciones y dos baños, con una sala de estar lo suficientemente grande como para acomodar una mesa para cenar. Hay una terraza, una sala de medios así como todos los detalles adicionales: batas de baño, mullidas toallas, telas finas, lociones y pociones. Justo lo que esperarías de un muy fino hotel.



Canal, Centro

Veronica Van der Neut



Veronica Van der Neut specializes in Interior Architecture and received an Architectural degree in the Netherlands. Her cosmopolitan perspective, and specialized technical qualifications allow her to work from existing blueprints to reevaluate designs. She assess environment and interior circulation to insure a balanced, human-scale, living space while keeping an eye on the sun— a critical consideration in Mexico— to determine window scale and orientation and create a balance of light and space, beneficial color interaction, and textures in harmony with nature.



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In Europe as in San Miguel, ancient structures and historic buildings present special challenges for which an interior architect is best qualified to insure the efficient and safe use of limited space. Not fixed in a particular school, or style, she draws from international sources to achieve timeless, enduring designs reflecting individual tastes. In addition, from expertise gained through work at a museum in Amsterdam, she's able to offer delightful, restored, and painted antique Mexican furniture.

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Hospicio 37 Int. 2, Downtown
www.vcninteriorarchitecture.com



Frank Mayer Museum



The Franz Mayer Museum houses the finest collection of decorative arts in Mexico. It is located in an elegant eighteenth-century building facing the Plaza de la Santa Veracruz at Hidalgo 45, Centro Histórico, México City. Temporary shows of design and photography are also presented. An extensive library, as well as cooperative exhibitions with other museums and institutions throughout the world round out the mission of the museum to promote educational excellence and cultural experiences— to discover, appreciate and value fine and decorative arts and design. They do so with aplomb. Mission accomplished.

El museo Franz Mayer alberga la colección de piezas de artes aplicadas más fina de México. Ubicado en un elegante edificio del siglo XVIII en la plaza de la Santa Veracruz (Hidalgo 45, Centro Histórico, Ciudad de México). Exhibiciones temporales de diseño y fotografía se presentan regularmente y cuenta con una extensa biblioteca así como exhibiciones cooperativas con otros museos e instituciones alrededor del mundo, siendo la misión del museo el promover la excelencia educativa y las experiencias culturales – descubrir, apreciar y valorar las artes aplicadas y el diseño-. Y vaya que lo hacen con aplomo. Misión cumplida.

Desde el instante en que entras al museo, que-

Frank Mayer Museum



From the moment you enter the museum it is clear that a keen eye and high level of connoisseurship is present. Fine renovations and the especially elegant main patio that houses a chic café, reflect something as extraordinary as the man who bequeathed the museum and collection. Franz Mayer was born in Mannheim Germany in 1882 and as a young man moved to London and afterwards to the US where he worked for the Merrill Lynch Stock Exchange Company. This was the start of an unusually successful career as a gifted financier. He later moved to Mexico and eventually became a Mexican citizen. His love of Mexico and Mexican culture is evident in the collection.

Through years of study and acquisition often under advisement of specialists and connoisseurs in different fields of art, Franz Mayer assembled what is possibly one of the most important collections of decorative arts and design in Mexico if not Latin America.

da para la presencia de una gran habilidad y estilo. Cuidadosas modificaciones y el particularmente elegante patio principal, en el que se encuentra un cafecito de lo más chic, reflejan algo de la extraordinaria personalidad del hombre que cedió el museo y la colección. Franz Mayer, nació en Mannheim, Alemania en 1882 y siendo un joven se mudó a Londres y más tarde a los Estados Unidos donde trabajó para la Merrill Lynch Stock Exchange Company. Éste fue el inicio de su sorprendentemente exitosa carrera como un financiero dotado. Más tarde se mudaría a México donde eventualmente adquiriría la nacionalidad. Su amor por México y su cultura son evidentes en la colección.

A lo largo de años de estudio y adquisiciones, frecuentemente bajo la tutela de especialistas y conocedores de distintos ramos del arte, Franz Mayer constituyó la que posiblemente sea una de las más importantes colecciones de artes aplicadas y diseño en México, sino que en Latino-América.

Frank Mayer Museum

There are more than [10,000] pieces in the collection, divided into rooms categorized by epoch and theme from the 16th to the 19th century. Wandering the galleries provides and enormously valuable educational experience that charts the influences, techniques, artisans as well as noting the importance of the development and production of ceramics, furniture, silverware, and textiles in Mexico especially during the colonial period. Though the greatest share of the collection is comprised of Mexican fine and decorative arts there is also an impressive array of art and decorations from Europe and Asia including Spanish paintings most

Existen más de 10,000 piezas en la colección, distribuidas en salas categorizadas por época y tema desde el siglo XVI hasta el XIX. El pasear por estas galerías ofrece una experiencia educativa enormemente valiosa, describiendo las influencias, técnicas, artesanos y destacando a su vez la importancia del desarrollo y producción de cerámica, muebles, platería y textiles en México, particularmente durante el Virreinato. Si bien la gran mayoría de la colección está compuesta por artes aplicadas mexicanas, hay un impresionante despliegue de arte y decoraciones de Europa y Asia, incluyendo pinturas españolas particularmente de José Ribera y Francisco de Zurbarán. A través de este des-



notably by José Ribera and Francisco de Zurbarán. Through this unfolding, and evolution of decorative arts and design various periods, styles and fashions are brought to life in high relief. Objects of every day use, both utilitarian and beautiful speak volumes about the tastes of different eras as well as the cultures and people that produced them.

The silver collection is especially impressive, and is of particular interest to us because of the theme of this issue of *On The Avenue: PLATA*. Consisting of nearly 1300 pieces, the collection at the Museo Franz Mayer is recognized as one of the largest and most important in Mexico. Most of the pieces are ecclesiastic and

doblamiento de la evolución de las artes y el diseño a través de varios periodos, estilos y modas son revividos con gran detalle. Objetos cotidianos, tanto utilitarios como bellos nos hablan volúmenes enteros de los gustos de las distintas épocas así como de las personas y culturas que los produjeron.

La colección de platería es particularmente impresionante y es de singular interés para nosotros ya que el tema de esta edición de *On The Avenue: PLATA*. Constando de casi 1,300 piezas, la colección del museo Franz Mayer es reconocida como una de las más grandes e importantes de México. La mayoría de las piezas son religiosas y fueron utilizadas con fines litúrgicos por la

Frank Mayer Museum



were used for liturgical purposes in the Catholic Church. Many are the finest examples of their kind. From censers, chalices, lamps and candlesticks to ciborium, crosses, monstrances and tabernacles, the highest level of craftsmanship and the art of silver is in evidence.

The survival of these precious items is due to the fact that have been reverently preserved with the

iglesia católica. Muchas de estas piezas son los más logrados ejemplos de su tipo. Desde incensarios, cálices, lámparas y candelabros hasta relicarios, cruces, sagrarios y tabernáculos, el más alto nivel artesanal y del arte de la platería quedan en evidencia.

La supervivencia de estos preciosos artefactos se debe al hecho de que han sido reverentemente conservados con el más grande detalle y cuidado, considerados sagrados por su naturaleza. Los ob-

Frank Mayer Museum

utmost care and conservation and are considered sacred in nature. The extraordinary liturgical objects dazzle with the sheer impact of scale and quantity of the precious alloy. Masterfully crafted, the intricacy of embossing, exquisite carving, sgraffito, filigree, and inlay of gold, semi-precious gemstones and enamels will impress even the most jaded eye.

In addition, there is a vast array of non-liturgical objects in the silver collection; jeweled cigarette cases, cutlery, plates, trays, various utensils and other decorative objects among which a silver skull from Guatemala may be the most unusual. These objects of great beauty and sacred legacy, reflect a significant part of national history and attest to an extraordinary tradition and high level of silver artistry that has prevailed throughout Mexico for five centuries. If you're a serious aficionado of decoration and design, collector or connoisseur, a visit to the Franz Mayer is de rigueur.

jetos litúrgicos deslumbran con el puro impacto de su tamaño y la cantidad de metal precioso. Hábilmente elaborados, lo intrincado de sus grabados, los exquisitos esgrafiados, filigranas y el repujado de oro, piedras semi-preciosas y barnices impresionan incluso al ojo más curtido.

Además, hay una gran selección de objetos no litúrgicos en la colección de platería; cigarreras incrustadas de joyas, cubiertos, platos, charolas y varios utensilios y objetos decorativos entre los que destaca un cráneo de plata de Guatemala. Estos objetos de gran belleza y legado sacro reflejan una parte significativa de la historia nacional y atestiguan la extraordinaria tradición y el gran nivel de maestría en el trabajo de la plata que prevalece en México desde hace cinco siglos. Si es usted un serio aficionado a la decoración y al diseño, coleccionista o conocedor, una visita al Franz Mayer es de rigor.



Ángel Padilla



Ángel Padilla

Portrait Of The Artist: Ángel Padilla Crespo - Harpist

AVENUE introduces Portrait Of The Artist, a salute to creative artists and individuals residing in San Miguel de Allende. In each edition we'll feature a personality of notable talent with an accompanying photograph and condensed version of the Proust Questionnaire.

Who better to start with in an issue devoted to SILVER than Harpist Ángel Padilla Crespo, internationally renowned for his sterling achievements. Born in Mexico City, graduated from the Royal College of Music, London and given recitals all over the world and solo performances with London, Kremlin, Chicago and every major orchestra in Mexico— just to name a few. In addition to conducting master classes and garnering a host of awards internationally, including the Andrés Segovia and José Miguel Ruiz Morales (in Spain), he's cut two CDs.

AVENUE salutes you, Ángel!

Perfil del artista: Ángel Padilla Crespo, arpista.

AVENUE presenta: Perfil del artista, un saludo a los artistas y creativos residentes en San Miguel de Allende. En cada edición presentaremos la personalidad de un talento notable así como su fotografía y la versión condensada del Cuestionario Proust.

Y ¿quién mejor para iniciar con una edición dedicada a la PLATA que el arpista Ángel Padilla Crespo, reconocido internacionalmente por sus brillantes logros. Nacido en la Ciudad de México y graduado del Royal College of Music, Londres, ha dado recitales a lo largo del planeta con presentaciones en Londres, el Kremlin, Chicago y con las orquestas más importantes de México — sólo por mencionar algunos. Además de impartir clases magistrales y reunir una gran cantidad de reconocimientos internacionales, incluyendo los premios Andrés Segovia y José Miguel Ruiz Morales (España). Ha grabado 2 discos compactos.

¡AVENUE te saluda, Ángel!

Ángel Padilla

Proust Questionnaire - Condensed Version: Angel Padilla Crespo

Which quality do you admire most in a person?

Compassion

What do you most dislike about yourself?

Being so obsessive with perfection.

What is your idea of happiness?

Being happy with myself first, then all that surrounds me. Good company, good food, wine and of course good music. Beauty makes me happy.

If you could come back as another person or animal, who or what would that be?

I feel very happy with who I am but maybe a panther; I love the movement, the beauty, how it observes and calculates the attack.

Who is your favorite composer?

Impossible to answer, so many and so different, I could go from a range from Scarlatti to Richard Strauss, to contemporary composers. It is like food, with so many different qualities and flavors.

Who is your favorite artist, your favorite literary figure?

Again I feel trapped in this question, there are so many I could mention like Ballet stars, virtuoso players and painters, sculptors, poets, writers. But all of them have some thing different to offer that makes them so attractive and so diverse.

What character in history do you most admire?

Napoleon.

What natural talent would you like to be gifted with?

A privileged opera voice, as I think it is the most expressive and beautiful instrument that could ever exist.

For which human fault do you have the most tolerance?

Impatience.

What is your favorite motto?

El respeto al derecho ajeno es la paz - Benito Juárez

Cuestionario Proust – Versión Condensada: Angel Padilla Crespo

¿Qué cualidad es la que más admira en una persona?

Compasión

¿Qué es lo que más le disgusta de sí mismo?

Ser tan obsesivo con la perfección

¿Cuál es su idea de la felicidad?

Ser feliz conmigo mismo primero, luego con todo lo que me rodea. Buena compañía, buena comida, vino y por supuesto buena música. La belleza me hace feliz.

Si pudiera regresar como otra persona o algún animal, ¿Quién o qué sería?

Me siento muy contento con quien soy, pero quizás una pantera. Me encanta el movimiento, la belleza, la forma en la que observa y calcula su ataque.

¿Quién es su compositor favorito?

Imposible contestarlo. Hay tantos y tan diferentes, podría ir de un rango desde Scarlatti hasta Richard Strauss hasta los compositores contemporáneos. Es como la comida, con cualidades y sabores tan distintos.

¿Quién es su artista o figura literaria favorita?

De nuevo, me siento atrapado en esta pregunta. Hay tantos que podría mencionar como estrellas del Ballet, músicos y pintores virtuosos, escultores, poetas, escritores. Pero todos ellos tienen algo diferente que ofrecer que los hace tan atractivos y tan diversos.

¿A qué personaje histórico admira más?

Napoleón

¿Qué talento natural le gustaría haber tenido?

Una privilegiada voz de ópera, ya que pienso que es el más expresivo y hermoso instrumento que jamás podría existir.

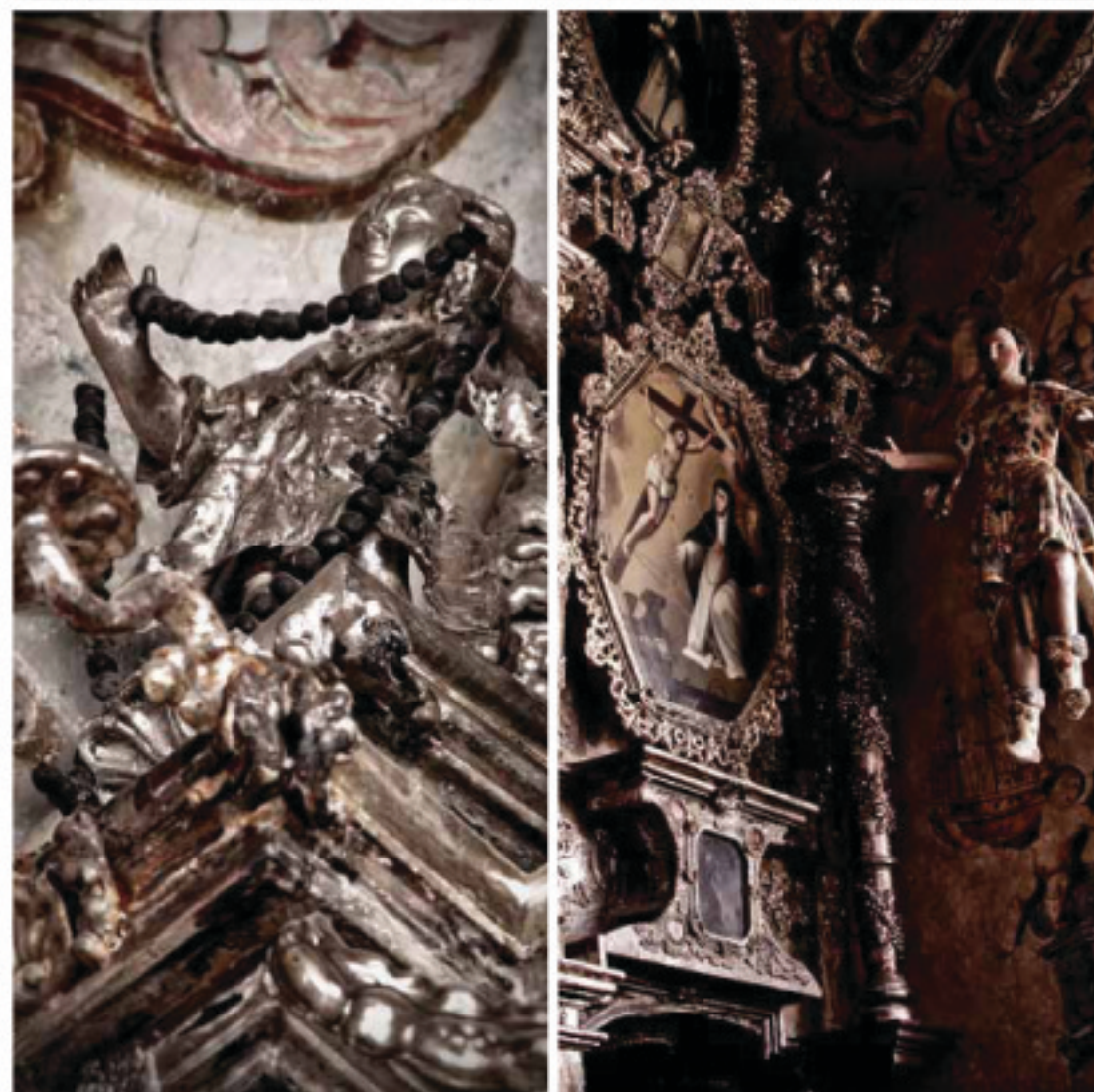
¿Para qué falla humana tiene usted más tolerancia?

La impaciencia

¿Cuál es su lema favorito?

El derecho al respeto ajeno es la paz - Benito Juárez

Altar Sagrado de Plata



San Miguel Patio Decor



Whatever the weather, entering San Miguel Patio Decor is like a blast of Spring air. A collage of colors from a chorus of brightly painted bird houses greets the visitor like so many enthusiastic friends at a fiesta. You can almost hear them chirping. The concept is exterior space and how to decorate it, and the people here are experts at helping you envision your oasis. That's probably why they've garnered prestigious clients like Rosewood Hotel (all their outdoor furniture is from San Miguel Patio Design) Orient Express Hotels/Sierra Nevada, and La Puertecita.

San Miguel, is blessed with nearly perfect weather most of the year and the design and creation of outdoor living space, where we spend a good part of our lives, is important. Whether you have a grand patio, tiny garden, or elegant rooftop terrace you'll find great ideas and solutions at San Miguel Patio Decor. Emphasis is on the Landgrave Line of custom, cast aluminum, patio furniture. This sophisticated assortment of light weight, yet

Cualquiera que sea el clima, entrar a San Miguel Patio Decor es una explosión de aire primavera. Un collage de colores de casitas para aves brillantemente pintadas le dan la bienvenida al visitante como animados amigos en una fiesta. Casi los puedes escuchar cantar. El concepto es sobre el espacio exterior y cómo decorarlo, y las personas que trabajan aquí son expertos en ayudarte a visualizar tu oasis. Tal vez esa sea la razón por la que tienen tan prestigiosos clientes como el Hotel Rosewood (todos sus muebles de exteriores son de San Miguel Patio Design), el Hotel Orient Express/Sierra Nevada y La Puertecita.

San Miguel tiene el don de un clima casi perfecto todo el año y el diseño y creación de espacios y muebles exteriores, en donde pasamos buena parte de nuestras vidas, es importante. Ya sea que tengas un gran patio, un pequeño jardín o una elegante terraza, encontrarás ideas y soluciones fabulosas en San Miguel Patio Decor. Hay un énfasis en la línea Landgrave, de muebles para patio de aluminio fundido. Estos muebles de aluminio, ligeros, resistentes pero muy sofisticados vienen en una impresionante variedad de estilos, formas y tamaños – mesas, sillas y sillas



Patio Decor

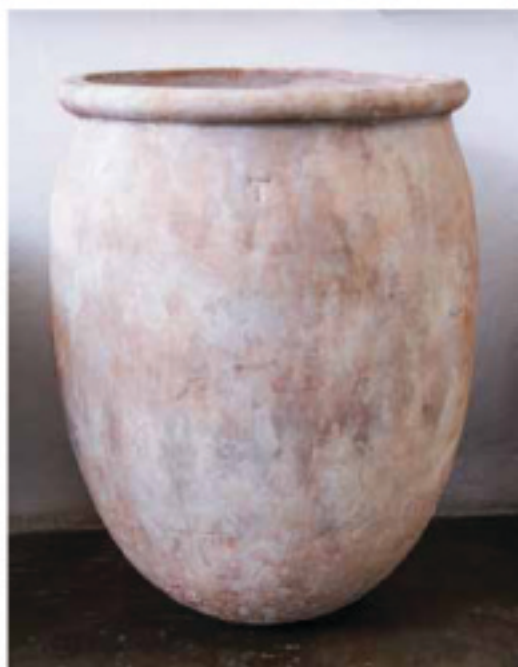
sturdy aluminum furniture is available in an impressive array of forms and styles— tables, chairs and lounges from classical to contemporary. The pieces can be powder-coated in a variety of weatherproof colors and finishes then paired with an exciting selection of Sunbrella upholstery fabrics for perfect cushions and pillows.

In addition to the birdhouses (some are actually for butterflies and one model looks like an apartment house for beneficial bugs) there's a delightful assortment of accoutrements for your outdoor space. Whimsical enamelware place settings, wine racks, decorative elements (why not put a flock of ceramic doves on the lawn?) and other appointments for al fresco dining round out the of-



ferings. There's also an impressive selection of fine terra cotta pots in a variety of colors, shapes and styles suitable for the smallest succulent to a stately laurel.

And if you happen to be in the market for a pair of palatial scale terra cotta pots, this is the place to select from assortment of hand built beauties with monumental heft and scale suitable for the portal of a grand hacienda.



desde lo clásico hasta lo contemporáneo. Las piezas se pueden recubrir en una gran variedad de colores a prueba de agua así como diversos acabados los cuales, son emparejados con la amplia selección de telas Sunbrella, para alcanzar así los cojines y almohadones perfectos.

Además de las casitas para aves (algunas, de hecho son para mariposas y un modelo parece un condominio para bichos benéficos), hay un encantador surtido de arreglos y detalles para tus espacios exteriores. Ingeniosa pose- platos de lacas, estantes para vinos, elementos decorativos (¿porqué no una pavadá de palomas de cerámica para tu jardín?) y otros acabados redondean una agradable cóna "al fresco". También hay una impresionante selección de finas macetas de terracota en una gran variedad de colores, formas y estilos apropiadas para la más pequeña suculenta hasta el más digno laurel.

Y si sucede que estás buscando macetas de una escala más palaciega, este es el lugar donde escoger dentro de una serie de bellezas hechas a mano y con escalas y maza monumentales, apropiadas para el portón de una gran hacienda.

Fábrica La Aurora, Local 3 A-1
Tel. 52 (415) 150 7392 · www.sanmiguelpatioddecor.com
sanmiguelpatioddecor.com/shoponline

Olio Fino



Olio Fino celebrates the art of fine olive oils and presents their products in a charming, old-world environment reminiscent of tasting rooms found in the best European vineyards. An impressive selection of freshest virgin oils from recognized producers range from purest, first press different olive varieties, to those infused with precious gourmet flavors like truffles, as well as citrus, herbs and spices to delight the most seasoned gastronome. In addition, a superb collection of both light and dark aged balsamic vinegars from Modena Italy is available. The precious bulk liquids are stored in stainless steel casks arranged on shelves. Sampling encouraged! Once you've decided (there are too many wonderful choices though guided tastings are available) your oil or vinegar will be decanted into a specially designed glass bottle to ensure freshness. Additional culinary delights: fine chocolates, herbs and accoutrements like mini-casks, cruets and flasks, tempt the most sophisticated eye and pallet.

Olio Fino celebra el arte de los aceites de olivo finos y presenta sus productos en un cautivador ambiente reminisciente del Viejo Mundo, evocando salones de cata encontrados en los mejores viñedos europeos. Una impresionante selección de los más frescos aceites vírgenes de reconocidos productores yendo desde las más puras variedades de prensas extra-virgenes de distintas variedades de oliva hasta aquellas infusiones de deliciosos sabores gourmet como trufas, cítricos, hierbas y especias diseñadas para encantar al más avezado gastronómico. Además cuentan con una magnífica colección de vinagres balsámicos, claros y oscuros añejados de Modena, Italia. Los líquidos preciosos están almacenados a granel en barriles de acero inoxidable, acomodados en estantes y se recomienda mucho la cata. Una vez que has elegido tu aceite o vinagra (hay muchísimas opciones maravillosas aunque también cuentan con guías de catas), éste será decantado en una botella espe-

cial de vidrio para garantizar su frescura. También hay delicias culinarias adicionales: chocolates finos, hierbas y complementos como mini-barriles y ánforas, que tientan al más sofisticado ojo y paladar.



Codo 2, Centro
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www.sanmiguel-realty.com

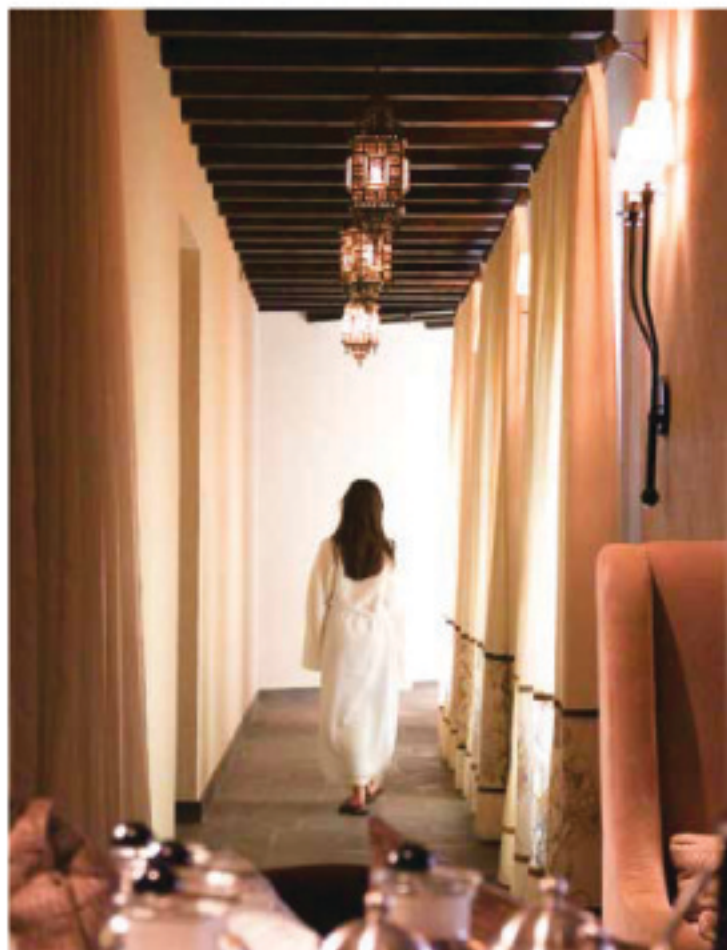


Sense Spa: Rosewood

The exclusive SENSE Spa on the top floor of the Rosewood Hotel with spectacular views of the historic center of San Miguel de Allende is everything you'd expect from a spa in a fine hotel— and more. It goes without saying that luxury and attention to detail can be expected at Rosewood— SENSE. A Rosewood Spa, surpasses those expectations.

From the minute you enter the reception area there's a sense of harmony and well being and an attractive and attentive staff to greet you. SENSE lives up to its name— as in delighting all five of them; a sanctuary for body, mind and spirit. Lavender wand sachets, essential oils and lotions produced exclusively for the SENSE line PRIORI are beautifully packaged and offered with other temptations at the stylish boutique.

A deeper sense of tranquility prevails upon entering the actual spa itself that has been tastefully designed in a softened contemporary style



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Sense Spa: Rosewood

pleasing to the eye. All is plush organic fibers in muted tones, subdued lights. Fine architectural details in cantera and honed marble tastefully echo the heritage and colonial architecture of San Miguel de Allende. The air is redolent with herbal scents. The only sense of sound a blessed quietude. SENSE offers an impressive array of therapies and beauty treatments to please all 5 senses in 5 categories. And there are eight luxury treatment suits, with separate facilities for men and women with private saunas and steam baths to insure the utmost in discretion. A gymnasium with classes offered in a Yoga and Pilates studio enhance the experience.

Whether you choose massage, facial, hand, body, skin or foot care, or a bit of each, every therapy incorporates a harmony of ancestral techniques with organic ingredients, many of which are produced by local artisans in conjunction with fair trade growers like the Lavender Project, and Hacienda Purisima who supply ingredients for the delicious light fare menu and beverages offered at SENSE. Everything has been carefully designed to rejuvenate positive energy, restore



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Sense Spa: Rosewood



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An impressive roster of therapists expert at understanding and designing individual client needs are available. You can also select your therapeutic course from the extensive spa menu— a la carte— or choose one of the special packages combining massage, aroma therapy, mineral baths, reflexology or thermal stone therapy. If you can't decide, there's an additional "tapas" menu that offers mini-sessions so you can sample a bit of everything. Another package is designed especially for couples that could be the perfect Valentine's Day gift for

your partner. And there's one especially for young people. The choices are endless.

Memberships to SENSE Spa are offered in a variety of packages on a monthly or yearly basis at different levels and combinations of access to the spa, pool, gymnasium and classes. Highly recommended.



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