

PRIVATE AIR

LUXURY HOMES

A NEW FORCE
IN THE ART WORLD
KELLY YING

**CHRISTOPHER
MARTIN**
A 20 YEAR
RETIROSPECTIVE

#RICHKIDS
ROXY SOWALTY
ON DESIGN & LUXURY

JAY BIALSKY
REDFINING
ÜBERLUXURY
DEVELOPMENT

Volume 4 | Issue 2

Collaborating with Nature

The Graham Greene Designed
Contemporary Estate Built on the
Most Dramatic Site in Dallas

As Truman Capote was once quoted as saying,
“Venice is like eating an entire box of chocolate
liqueurs in once go”. It’s a deliciously desirable,
intoxicatingly intriguing slice of la dolce vita
and it’s waiting for you to discover.
– Belmond’s Cipriani, page 202

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DEPARTURES





MAGICAL MAHEKAL

Hidden amongst the lush, green foliage of the Riviera Maya lies Mexico's newest resort and one of the jungle's true buried treasures: **Mahekal Beach Resort**.

Having recently undergone a multi-million dollar re-imagination, this oasis of luxury is finally opened to guests, bringing with it an exciting new hotel concept that fuses quiet, modern luxury with the look and feel of Mexico's traditional past.

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Situated on Playa del Carmen's largest stretch of beach, spanning 800 pristine feet, Mahekal Beach Resort was the very first property in Playa del Carmen; still known today for its unique ability to combine Mexico's sandy shores and tropical verdure. Prefaced by tree-lined streets and cobblestone walkways, the hotel entrance – its elegant, open-air lobby – is almost unnoticeable given its intention to blend into the trees that surround it. Walk to the other side, and get lost in the heart of the resort: a Swiss Family Robinson-style setting with lush vegetation, colorful bougainvillea and hidden stone pathways winding throughout. As you meander past the hotel "tienda," through the outdoor bar, across the pool and towards the turquoise waters, 122 individual thatched-roof bungalows peek out at every turn. With each casita offering impeccable views, private hammocks and outdoor terraces – some even home to a personal plunge pool – Mahekal is truly one of a kind in Playa del Carmen; a personal Paradise that's nothing short of a fairytale.

Inspired by the book, "GypSet Style" by Julia Chaplin -- which profiles the unconventional lives of artists, designers and bon vivants embracing their love of wanderlust – Mahekal Beach Resort's interior design scheme is the meeting point of playful Mexican hues and bohemian-gypsy chic. Eclectic, brilliant accents range from Missoni-esque fabrics adorning the hotel lobby and fire-feature seating area, to bright orange Ping-Pong tables and cobalt blue billiard tables in Boli's bar. Wind your way to your bungalow, and watch as this subtle eccentricity takes on a whole new level. From its thatched, Tiki hut-style roof – found nowhere else in the region – to its cement floors, each bungalow interior is fitted with chic white walls and neutral furniture; coming to life with brightly-colored throw pillows, striped fabrics, whimsical ceramics and local, Mayan art. Boasting a tranquil ambiance reflective of the Ancient Mayans' simple appreciation for nature and the fibers it produced, these vibrant textiles – seen

across the entire property, and often handmade by generations of Mayans still living in the area – add an air of elegance expected of the world's top ultra luxury resort destinations, but in a way that is truly Mahekal.

So, what do you do in a place this magical? Simple: anything you want. Wake up early to watch the sunrise over the Caribbean Sea, and head to Cocina for a traditional, mouthwatering breakfast of Mexican and Latin American fare. Don't feel like rolling out of bed? Order room service with a twist, and a member of the hotel staff will deliver your breakfast on a vintage bike with a woven rattan basket.

For a taste of true culture, take a ceramic painting class on property with Juliana, a master of her craft, or walk to the famed Quinta Avenida – a bustling pedestrian walkway located one block inland from the beach – lined with hundreds of well-known shops, bars, lounges and multinational cuisine. Want more adventure? Catch a taxi to Tulum to explore the ancient Mayan ruins, or spend the whole day at Xcaret! – where you can swim through underwater caves, take a boat down Paradise River, get up close and personal with jaguars and manatees, swim with sharks or dolphins, tour Mayan wineries, watch traditional Mayan dances, or if you're daring, even get a local massage on the sand with a catch: a Cobra on your back.

However you choose to spend your days, Mahekal Beach Resort promises an authentically enchanting and exclusive retreat. Giving guests an "unplugged" vacation experience – one with WiFi and special service-focused telephone systems, but no TVs in the guestrooms – true relaxation is name of the game. Would you expect anything less from Paradise? ➤

For more information about Mahekal Beach Resort, visit www.mahekalbeachresort.com

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