

FOR THE WEEKEND

THE HOTEL REPORT

A host of openings and reopenings across Latin America offers opportunities for the perfect escape

BY CHRISTINA BEISCHL

EL SECRETO BELIZE



Just off Belize's northeast coast, accessible only by multiple flights and at least one boat ride, **El Secreto** lives up to its name, a perfectly secluded paradisaic hideaway. With 13 thatched beach villas and stunning surrounds, the only difficulty for guests is choosing between island rituals at the Ikal spa, abundant watersport opportunities, expeditions to ancient Mayan cities or romantic dinners on the beach. *From US\$450, elsecretobelize.com*

Nestled among impossibly beautiful blossoms and trees in the Morelos Valley, the 24-key Cuernavaca-set **Flor De Mayo** Hotel and Restaurant was unveiled in November. Taking its name seriously, the floral theme is omnipresent, including in chef Victor Olvera's Asian-infused Mexican cuisine, where edible flowers make frequent appearances. Guests can enjoy treatments in the in-house spa or relax by the idyllic pool, where Arriba Bar offers cocktails as well as views of Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl volcanoes. *From US\$185, flordemayo.mx*

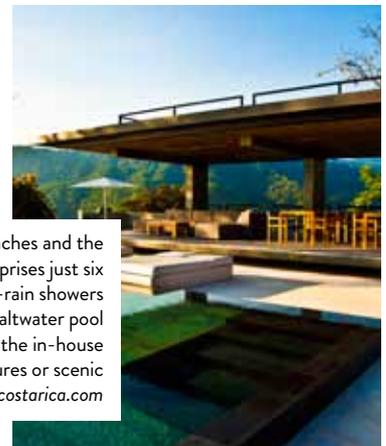


GRACE CAFAYATE

When it debuts later this year in Argentina's picturesque Calchaquí Valley, **Grace Cafayate** will comprise a 52-room hotel accompanied by 20 private villas, a spa, swimming pool, fine-dining restaurant and a wine and cigar bar. Part of the 506ha residential and sporting development La Estancia de Cafayate, guests and villa owners will have full access to the estate's vineyard, polo fields and clubhouse, as well as Argentina's largest golf course. *gracecafayate.com*

A 17th-century convent in the heart of UNESCO World Heritage Site Cartagena de Indias is now home to the **Sofitel Santa Clara**: a 139-room property uniting the ultimate French-inflected comforts with beguiling historical charm. Soothing treatments await in the expansive 800sq m spa, while culinary delights are on offer at six restaurants and bars. *From US\$407, sofitel.com*

Set on a mountain ridge between unspoiled beaches and the Costa Rican rainforest, **Kurà Design Villas** comprises just six spacious state-of-the-art villas, which feature double-rain showers and private terraces as well as a communal infinity saltwater pool and spa. Costa Rican fusion dishes please palates at the in-house restaurant, ideal recuperation from jungle adventures or scenic whale-watching excursions. *From US\$540, kuracostarica.com*



Following a two-year, \$10m revamp, the iconic Jalisco hideaway **Hotelito Desconocido** opened its doors again last year. Sitting amid a nature reserve, it now consists of 27 palafitos and three villas, each individually styled with Mexican folklore themes and art. With a Huichol-inspired spa specialising in thalassotherapy treatments, a tennis court, farm animals, saltwater pool and two restaurants, the tranquil self-sustaining getaway has everything needed for an idyllic escape. *From US\$555, hotelito.com*

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