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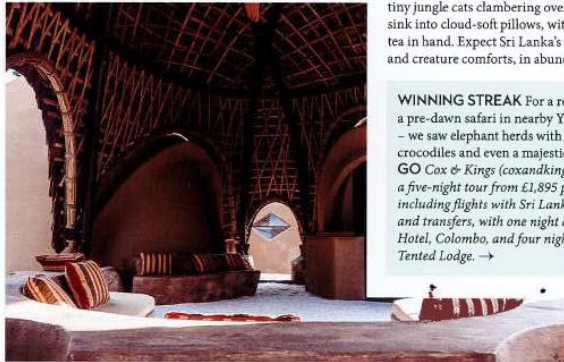




### Chablé Resort and Spa MEXICO

A restored 19th-century *hacienda* and clutch of *casitas* in 750 acres of jungle just outside of Mérida, Chablé is the game-changing retreat causing a stir in Mexico's Riviera Maya. Gardens stuffed with palms and exotic blooms provide the backdrop for boho-chic *casitas*, discreetly divided by lush vegetation – meaning midnight lantern-lit dips in private infinity pools beckon. So far, so tropical. What's so special? Here, wellness takes centre stage: the spa is one of the few in the world built around a natural spring-fed cenote – a cave system filled with fresh water, considered sacred by the Mayans. Treatments harness ancient techniques and are ideal for post-wedding rejuvenation. There's a steam room, salt cabin, flotarium, whirlpools and meditation sessions, too. But it's not just for spa junkies; hotshot chef Jorge Vallejo of Mexico City's renowned Quintonil oversees the food: hello, breakfasts of avo toast topped with Tabasco pepper, and a *la cazuela* eggs in pea cream and local cheese. Whether chilling in pillow-stuffed 'nests' hanging from ceiba trees, exploring Mayan ruins or sipping tequila at Ixi'im bar (it has one of the world's largest selections – more than 3,750 varieties), hedonist honeymooners of all varieties are catered for in style.

**WINNING STREAK** Chablé is a true wellbeing wonder, where you can try everything from shamanic rituals, chakra therapy and sound cleansing to t'ai chi, Qi Gong and hammock yoga. **GO** Chablé Resort ([chableresort.com](http://chableresort.com)) offers *casitas* from £835 per night, B&B. Aeroméxico ([aeromexico.com](http://aeromexico.com)) offers return flights from London Heathrow to Mérida, via Mexico City, from £548.



Midnight lantern-lit dips in private infinity pools beckon




### Wild Coast Tented Lodge SRI LANKA

Not only is this offbeat lodge on Sri Lanka's southern coast a design-lover's dream, with steampunk-style 'cocoon' that look like they've been stitched together with 6ft needles – but you'll also find a menagerie of wild animals quite literally on your doorstep. Rooms have huge four-poster beds, opulent jewel-toned rugs and private decks overlooking busy watering holes, plus a vast copper bathtub to wallow in from the birds' dawn chorus until the frogs pipe up at sundown. Keep your eyes peeled for langur monkeys peering into your porthole windows during indulgent in-room ayurvedic massages, head to the open-air restaurant for sour and spicy seafood soup, surf'n'turf (local shoe lobster and Tasmanian tenderloin steak) and tapioca crumble, or sip sundowners as the stars come out and the waves crash softly on the beach nearby. The Wild Martini (vermouth, local rum and pineapple) made us feel all warm and fuzzy. At bedtime, listen out for tiny jungle cats clambering over your tent as you sink into cloud-soft pillows, with a cinnamon iced tea in hand. Expect Sri Lanka's wildest creatures, and creature comforts, in abundance.

**WINNING STREAK** For a real adventure, take a pre-dawn safari in nearby Yala National Park – we saw elephant herds with suckling infants, crocodiles and even a majestic male leopard. **GO** Cox & Kings ([coxandkings.co.uk](http://coxandkings.co.uk)) offers a five-night tour from £1,895 per person, B&B, including flights with Sri Lankan Airlines and transfers, with one night at the Galle Face Hotel, Colombo, and four nights at Wild Coast Tented Lodge. →





**NEW**

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