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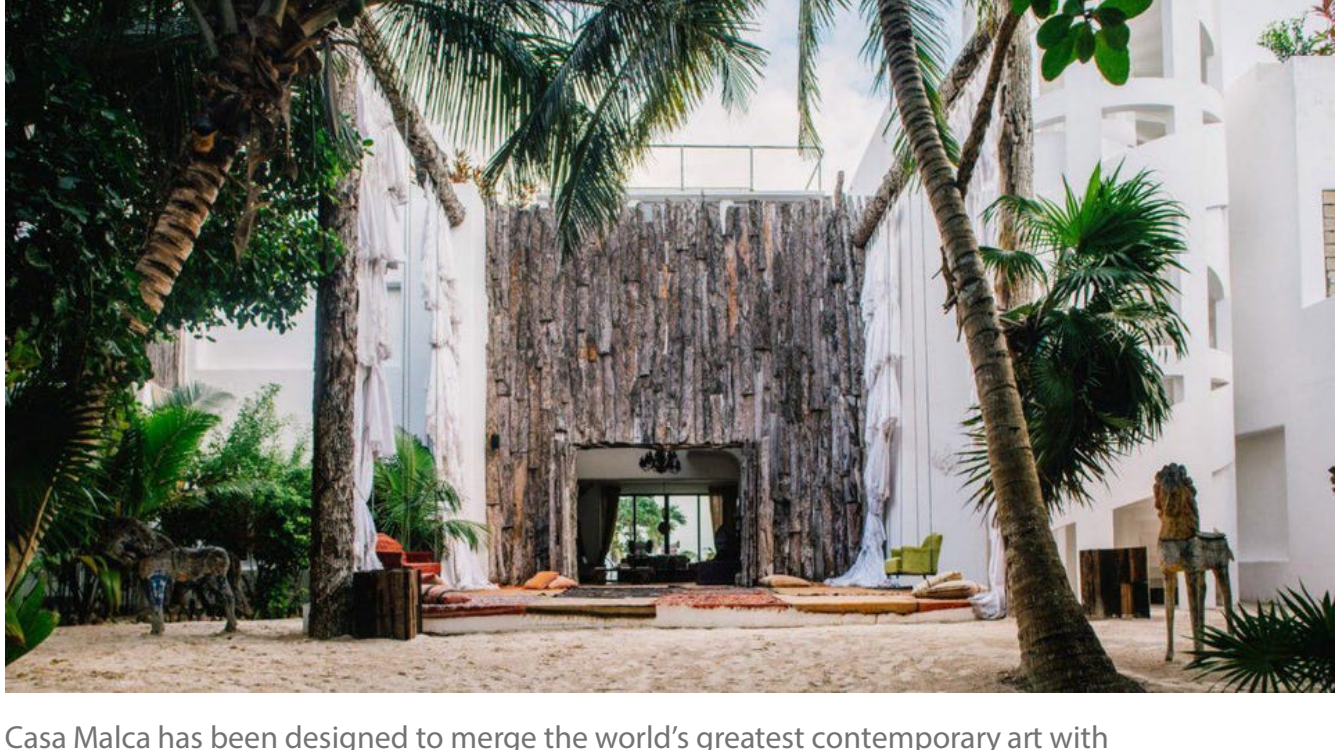
Pablo Escobar's Mexican Hideaway Is Now A Luxury Resort



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The former hideaway estate of drug lord Pablo Escobar has been transformed into a five-star hotel on the coast of beautiful Tulum, Mexico. When Escobar died in 1993, the property was abandoned, and it sat largely forgotten until 2012 when Lio Malca, the New York-based art aficionado, rediscovered it. Malca bought the mansion shortly thereafter, working feverishly to inject it with new life, and after several years of fruitful toil, [Casa Malca](#) opened to guests in 2015.



Casa Malca has been designed to merge the world's greatest contemporary art with pure relaxation and ... [+]

DESIGN HOTELS & CASA MALCA

Lio Malca made a name for himself in the New York art world through the 1990s. An avid collector of the likes of Keith Haring and Kenny Scharf, Malca quickly became the go-to connoisseur on a number of contemporary artists. To keep returning guests on their toes, Malca displays many of his current pieces at Casa Malca, turning it into a sort of rotating gallery of its own. Don't be surprised if you stumble across a Jeff Koons statue, a KAWS sculpture or a Jean-Michel Basquiat painting during your stay.

Casa Malca has been designed to merge the world's greatest contemporary art with pure relaxation and bliss. It sits on one of Mexico's most sought-after beaches, a location that never gets old. One of Casa Malca's pools sits in the shade of palm trees surrounded by an army of patient hammocks; another occupies a cool, quiet cavern. The overall ambiance, though, is that of a low-key beach house, the friend's place that always feels like home. The resort's oversized front door is made of an assortment of tree trunks; antique furniture pieces hang like swings nearby. Even after all of Malca's modern renovations, the property's roots still shine through.

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Casa Malca features 42 rooms, each of them mere steps from the resort's wide, white-sand beach. ... [+]

DESIGN HOTELS & CASA MALCA

Casa Malca features 42 rooms, each of them mere steps from the resort's wide, white-sand beach. Rooms blend a [neutral palette with regular shocks of color](#), from the deep emerald of the surrounding jungle to the bright azure of the ocean beyond. [Full-height glass doors](#) flood every room with natural light; washed concrete floors do not fear the sandy beach. Junior Suites are about 400 square feet with large terraces or direct beach access. Beachfront Master Suites offer 620 square feet of indoor space plus another 600 square feet on an outdoor private terrace, complete with hammock. Expect rainforest showers, Egyptian cotton linens and loads of art inside.



The overall ambiance at Casa Malca is that of a low-key beach house, the friend's place that always ... [+]

DESIGN HOTELS & CASA MALCA

The two restaurants at Casa Malca serve light Yucatán cuisine prepared with local ingredients—think grilled fish, habaneros, and plenty of achiote. Philosophy, the hotel's main restaurant, serves Mexican food with an international flare; tacos, huevos divorciados and fresh pescado are on the menu, but so are shrimp, pizza and beetroot risotto. The rooftop bar offers some of Tulum's most enviable sunset views, panoramic looks at the Yucatán jungle canopy and lapping Atlantic Ocean.

Though design hotels are nothing new to those of us coming from New York or L.A., in the big-box resort-dominated atmosphere of Tulum, Casa Malca is a welcome addition. Whether you compare its feeling of seclusion to [The Walled Tsingpu Yangzhou Retreat](#) in China or its art collection to [Chez Georges in Rio de Janeiro](#), there's plenty to get excited about when it comes to Casa Malca.



Casa Malca sits just south of Tulum at the northern edge of the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, a ... [+]

DESIGN HOTELS & CASA MALCA

Casa Malca sits just south of Tulum at the northern edge of the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, a natural paradise of tropical forests, mangroves and marshes. The best way to get to Casa Malca is to fly to Cancún International Airport (CUN) and then drive eighty miles south along the eastern coast of the Yucatán Peninsula. Direct flights to Cancún are available from European cities like London, Frankfurt, Madrid and Rome, as well as most major North, South and Central American cities.

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