

HOLA, PARADISE!

NIZUC RESORT AND SPA FASHIONS AN UNEXPECTEDLY LUSH OASIS.

BY JOSHUA GLASS



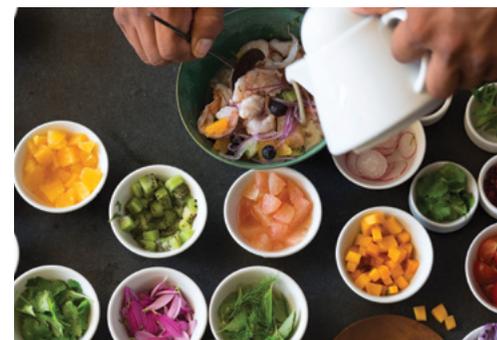
Upon first suggestion, Cancún as a seasonal getaway may conjure up the pervasive “all inclusive” phrase that once inspired spring breaks from rowdier days or budget family vacations better kept in the scrapbook, urging a bitter *next* click of the mouse on Expedia today—and it wouldn’t be wrong. The sunny, southeastern Mexican city, with its dangerously close proximity to the states, mangrove-lined beaches, and endless tequila reserves, has suffered a sabbatical stigma for decades due to tourist-mobbed days and wild, dancing on-ta-

and bright blues of the surrounding exotic climate inward. All of this is drenched in a warm shower of light which, because of the property’s layout and equatorial orientation, varies every hour of the day. Named after the region that houses it, Nizuc (“dog nose” in English) draws upon the cultural coalescence of its ancestors (Mayans, Europeans, and Caribbeans) to offer a hybrid of heritage homage and oceanside fantasy.

This swath of international allure extends from the resort’s design to its six world class restaurants—compare Ni’s Peruvian cuisine served atop minimalist Italian furniture oceanside to Indochine’s Asian crockpot of Japanese, Filipino, and Emirati spices served in a dark wood and marble space overlooking a dramatically-lit reflective pool—to its serene fitness center and spa, in partnership with British brand ESPA, and even private lessons with tennis pro and South African-born Natasha Stoop. Of course none of the attractions—though all truly spectacular—can overshadow Nizuc’s most prized amenity, of which its design works to frame-work: the secluded enclave of the Punta Nizuc, which reveals lush foliage, skies ablaze in all colors of the fiery, seafaring sun, and the white sands of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, the second largest coral colony in the world. It is this natural charm, blended with the resort’s ability to constantly surprise, that brings the destination out of the packaged deals delineation and into the sun.



bles nights. However, with the ultra-luxe Nizuc Resort and Spa all of this changes... well, maybe not the latter. Conceptualized by noted architect Alejandro Escudero, the resort takes a natural openness and subtle modernist approach to its form; a palette of earthy birch browns and cold stone grays color most of the buildings, and a fresh-air design wafts the ripe greens



JUST THE FACTS:

- City:** Cancún, Mexico
- Address:** Blvd. Kukulcan Km 21.26, Punta Nizuc
- Telephone:** 855-696-4982
- Size:** 29-acre-area with 274 rooms, six restaurants, three bars, two beaches, two tennis courts, and a 30,000-square-foot spa
- Opened:** March 2013
- Can’t Miss:** Two bedroom, 5,500-square-foot Presidential Suite Villa with an infinity pool surrounded by a private tropical garden and butler service



IMAGES COURTESY OF NIZUC RESORT AND SPA.