

MEXICO WAY

One of a burgeoning empire of resorts, Coqui Coqui in Tulum, Mexico, marries the simple beauty of Mayan design with a European standard of luxury.

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NICOLAS MALLEVILLE'S INVITING COQUI COQUI HOTEL, VIEWED FROM THE BEACH IN TULUM, MEXICO. OPPOSITE: A RUSTIC YET SOPHISTICATED BEDROOM SUITE. TADELAKT WALLS AND FLOORS AND BILLOWING SHEER CURTAINS BRING A COOL AESTHETIC TO THE ROOM, OFFSETTING THE WARM THATCHED ROOF. ABOVE THIS ARE SOLAR PANELS THAT SUPPLY ENOUGH ENERGY TO RUN THE ENTIRE PREMISES – NOT ALTOGETHER SURPRISING GIVEN THE DELIBERATE ABSENCE OF AIR CONDITIONING, POWER OUTLETS AND THE INTERNET.

STORY: WWW.TAVERNE-AGENCY.COM/STELLA.WILLING





An atmosphere that welcomes, inspires, delights and relaxes, from the indolent hammocks in each room to the scent of perfume in the air



LEFT: TRAVELLERS SOAK UP THE COASTAL CARIBBEAN RAYS ON THE BEACH IN TULUM, ON MEXICO'S YUCATÁN PENINSULA. **ABOVE:** COQUI COQUI'S SIMPLE AESTHETIC DRAWS ON MAYAN TRADITION AND MALLEVILLE'S ARGENTINIAN HERITAGE. **RIGHT:** TWIN BATHS AND AN ORNATE CHANDELIER MAKE BATHING AN INDULGENT EXPERIENCE. **BELOW:** NICOLAS MALLEVILLE AND FRANCESCA BONATO. **OPPOSITE:** THE OUTLOOK FROM THE LIVING AREA.



IN TURNS SEDUCTIVE, sophisticated and old-world with a European edge, Coqui Coqui resort and spa in Tulum, Mexico, marks a new phase in Argentinian entrepreneur Nicolas Malleville's professional life – and the culmination of his love affair with Italian Francesca Bonato, now his wife, who he met in a chance encounter at a nearby beach. With the construction of Coqui Coqui already underway when they met, the pair soon became an item and are now joint proprietors of their “love project” – a boutique luxury resort which has since spawned a sister hotel in Valladolid, Mexico, where they live, and works-in-progress Coqui Coqui Cordoba, in Argentina, and Coqui Coqui Grimaldi, in Italy.

Coqui Coqui Tulum, on Mexico's Yucatán Peninsula, is one of the smallest of their properties and totals just seven rooms behind its rustic stone facade. Staffed by Bonato and by Malleville's sister, cousin and childhood nanny, the hotel has a correspondingly intimate, familial ambience, part of its charm and a sure-fire key to its success. It's a credit to the former top model, who travelled the world with fashion houses Burberry, Gucci and Tod's, that he has taken from his constant jetsetting a keen appreciation of good accommodation and the need for a luxury hotel to serve as a home away from home. Subsequent careers as a landscape architect and, now, simultaneously, a perfumier, have only enhanced Malleville's talent for creating an atmosphere that welcomes, inspires, delights and relaxes, from the indolent hammocks in each room to the scent of perfume in the air.

Malleville originally intended the property as a private retreat for himself and his family, after purchasing the stretch of beachside land for a mere US\$170,000 in 2001. He was soon convinced to offer the home to paying guests, initially to cover maintenance costs, and finally to cater to the increasing interest in Coqui Coqui as a world-class luxury hotel, resort and spa. Today, he spends most of his time looking after his burgeoning empire; the birth of Malleville and Bonato's son, Leon, in 2009, marks the start of another chapter in the couple's lives and a symbolic conclusion to a period of immense inspiration. As a private residence, Coqui Coqui Tulum would have been extraordinary – as a hotel, its unique atmosphere can be shared. **VL**
For more information, visit <http://coquicoquispa.com>.

