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VILLA LA BELLA, ISLA MUJERES, MEXICO

Sweet and Low-Key

THE SIGN OUT FRONT TOUTS “BEER so cold it’ll make your teeth hurt,” but the welcome at this adults-only seaside bed-and-breakfast is as warm as Isla Mujeres’ afternoon sun. The six-room beach house is the mid-life Mexican dream of owners Curtis and Ashley Blogin, affable American transplants whose laid-back, unflappable attitude is a perfect match for the 5-mile-long island’s languorous pace.

All the villa’s rooms have ocean and pool views and are simply furnished yet boldly decorated in exuberant sweeps of pink, yellow, turquoise and orange, accented with whimsical touches such as conch-shell showerheads. Sleep well

in a pair of spacious second-floor palapa suites, where king-sized beds draped with diaphanous canopies are suspended from the rafters by skeins of heavy rope. The absence of phones, alarm clocks and televisions promises unplugged relaxation.

After exploring the sugar-white beaches and seafood restaurants nearby, relax in the breezy open-air living room illuminated by punched-tin lanterns; in an ocean-front cluster of hammocks; or at the bar, where wooden swings sub for stools. Wherever you choose, Ashley’s piña coladas, homemade and served ice-cold in a coconut shell, ensure a sweet homecoming.

— Sarah Greaves-Gabbadon



VILLA LA BELLA

Isla Mujeres, Mexico

011-52-998-888-0342; villalabella.com
From \$110 in low season (\$160 high)



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