

PRESERVING PUEBLA SPIRIT



In Mexico at Rosewood Puebla a deluxe room is equipped with two four-poster beds. A spacious bathroom, separated from its adjoining bedroom by panes of blown glass, is outfitted with a brushed-nickel soaking tub and an ornate wooden vanity stationed against a feature wall of Talavera tile.

Founded in 1532, Puebla, Mexico, is a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its Baroque architecture, blue-and-white Talavera tiles, and *mole poblano*. Examples of each abound at the recently opened **Rosewood Puebla**

(rosewoodhotels.com; from \$250), a 78-room hotel comprised of historic buildings and a private courtyard near the Zocalo, the city's main square.

Architect Eric Meza Leines capitalized on the opportunity to conserve elements of old houses on

the property by creating 12 Mexican-style guest rooms distinct from the rest of the hotel. "These rooms feature old walls, finishes, and materials that are integrated with the old architecture, respecting the essence of the place while also providing an elegant

Mexican style," Leines says.

Rosewood Puebla offers cooking classes, seminars on Mexico's regional wine-making traditions, and an artisanal market with local crafts. The hotel is less than nine miles from the Great Pyramid of Cholula, the largest pyramid in the world.

CELEBRATING CULTURE IN NAPA VALLEY



Charlie Palmer Steak restaurant (left) extends into the Archer Hotel lobby. The hotel (below) exhibits works by local artists such as Marvin Humphrey, creator of *Faux Magritte* (bottom, left).

When curator Deborah Goodman Davis visited Napa to research local art, she stumbled upon a bookstore in St. Helena that had three small paintings she loved. The artist turned out to be Marvin Humphrey, a retired postman from the town, and she commissioned him to make 60 more of the oil paintings, which she compares to the works of René Magritte.

Humphrey's works hang salon style in the recently opened **Archer Hotel Napa** (archerhotel.com; from \$239) at First Street Napa, a new complex of shops and restaurants downtown. "When you go around Napa, you see a lot of photos of grapes and harvests," says Davis, who wanted her selections for the hotel to be thought-provoking and surprising. Of the Humphrey collection, she says: "It feels more like a contemporary art collection and less like showing scenery from the area."

The hotel, home to Charlie Palmer's first California steak house, offers a fitting base from which to explore the seventh annual Napa Valley Arts in April (artscouncilnapavalley.org/artsinapril), a monthlong cultural celebration that features more than 40 events at wineries, museums, galleries, and other venues. ♦



GUEST ROOM AND BATH: COURTESY OF ROSEWOOD PUEBLA; BAR AND EXTERIOR: COURTESY OF ARCHER HOTEL NAPA