Meatballs and museums

Zacatecas prides itself on being a bit different

By KAREN CATCHPOLE

While my mouth was too blissfully full to respond, it was revealed to me that the meatballs are made from horse meat, a tradition in the community that now forms horse for food. A small gap opened before I managed to rework and round myself that deeply my love horses, eating them is really no more gasp-worthy than consuming the other barnyard residents. That day I played being in rural northern Mexico for nearly six months, I’d never come across horse-meat meatballs. The longer I stayed in Zacatecas, the more I realized that this lightly touredist city has something just a bit different.

The art scene in Zacatecas, for example, is an eclectic mix of collection, local heroes and emerging modern talent that delivers something other than the typical painting and sculptures of Frida Kahlo and the erstwhile predictably controversial meals of Diego Rivera that are so common in the museums in Mexico City.

The outstanding Museo Pedro Coronel is named for a local painter and sculptor who died in 1985, leaving an art collection that’s now housed in a 19th-century mansion that once was a Jewish college. The museum is impressive for its big-name (Prasse, Chapal, Mini) diversity (art from Tibet, Africa, Nepal and pre-Hispanic Mexico) and its humility Coronel produced hundreds of pieces of sculpture and paintings, often using bold traditional colors in modern contexts and shapes, and his work remains highly popular. However, only a handful of his pieces are on display in his namesake museum. Most humbling is the Museo Rafael Coronel, which houses the collection of Pedro’s brother, Rafael, who was Diego Rivera’s son-in-law and also an artist. In contrast to Pedro’s highly edited, judiciously paced collection, the exhibits in Rafael’s museum, in the crumbling remains of a 19th-century inn, can feel a bit random and slapdash. A highlight, however, is the wing displaying 3,000 or so traditional masks from throughout Mexico. Architecture also gets its due in this city whose historic center was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1995 to protect place such as the massive, domed, Baroque cathedral.

The conquistadors made Zacatecas their capital in the mid-1700s, the stone facade at its entrance is intricately carved that it looks more like a fortress than a church and completely belie the cathedral’s plain interior. The most pervasive and cherished list of Zacatecas’ personality is the city’s role in the life of revolutionary Pancho Villa, who defeated the Federation in 1914 during battle that became known as the Taking of Zacatecas. More than 1,000 died in what is believed to be the bloodiest single conflict of the revolution.

A monument to Villa, on horseback, is in the middle of the city’s traffic circle, and at Los Dorados de Villa restaurant (Dorados was the name of Villa’s army) you can get a deep soup of beans and pozole (traditional hominy and meat soup) with your Villa-mania.

The Santa Rita hotel (part of the exclusive, quality-controlled Mexico Boutique Hoteles group) is just one block from the cathedral. It represents a left combination of the city’s historical and artistic roles. The owners spent 40 years restoring the 200-year-old inn while simultaneously putting the building to make very for a thoroughly modern, yet Williams interior.

The owners have made the Santa Rita not only a top place to eat but also a great place to sleep. Each of its 35 rooms is housed in short 204 ft. square on the 2nd floor.

The reserve’s seven comfortable cabins with mini kitchens, full bathrooms, ample porches and grills for food are ideal for a change of scenery. The reserve is forested and green, and a welcome escape from the desert landscape that surrounds Zacatecas.

The outstanding Tortas Malpaso just outside Zacatecas serves one of Mexico’s more unusual sandwiches.

The most comfortable and charming hotel in Zacatecas is the Santa Rita, a top place to eat and stay. The hotel is housed in a restored 18th-century inn. The owners spent 40 years restoring the hotel while simultaneously putting the building to make very for a thoroughly modern, yet Williams interior.

The owners have made the Santa Rita not only a top place to eat but also a great place to sleep. Each of its 35 rooms is housed in short 204 ft. square on the 2nd floor. The rooms are named for famous local artists, including both Pancho Coronel and Rafael Coronel. The beds are so comfortable that you may not notice them. The hotel has a restaurant that serves a variety of dishes, including traditional Mexican meals and international cuisine. The hotel is located in the heart of Zacatecas, making it an ideal destination for those looking for a relaxing escape from the bustling city.

In Zacatecas, visitors can also enjoy a variety of outdoor activities such as hiking, cycling, and birdwatching. The reserve is home to a number of species, including raptors, songbirds, and waders. The reserve’s visitor center provides information about the local flora and fauna, as well as opportunities for guided tours. The reserve is also a popular destination for birdwatching, with a number of species found here, including the scarlet macaw and the green parakeet. Visitors can also enjoy a variety of other outdoor activities such as hiking, cycling, and birdwatching.

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