

## —*The Water that Boils*

In the early evening, a day's ride from Oaxaca City, I come over the top of a hill to encounter these natural pools. Herve el Agua, "The Water that Boils," is one of those places that is usually shared by many tourists and visitors. I figured it would be a much better experience to camp at the site and be the first to touch the mineral water before opening times, so I pitch my tent nearby. The night is dense and dark and quiet. Before sunrise, I hike down to the pools. Warm colors unfold on a silky smooth horizon, without a breath of wind. The pools are created by freshwater springs that contain calcium carbonate and other minerals, which produce the white residue at their perimeter. I spend some time in the morning sun, enjoying the solitude and silence, and let the worries from Mexico City slide off.

