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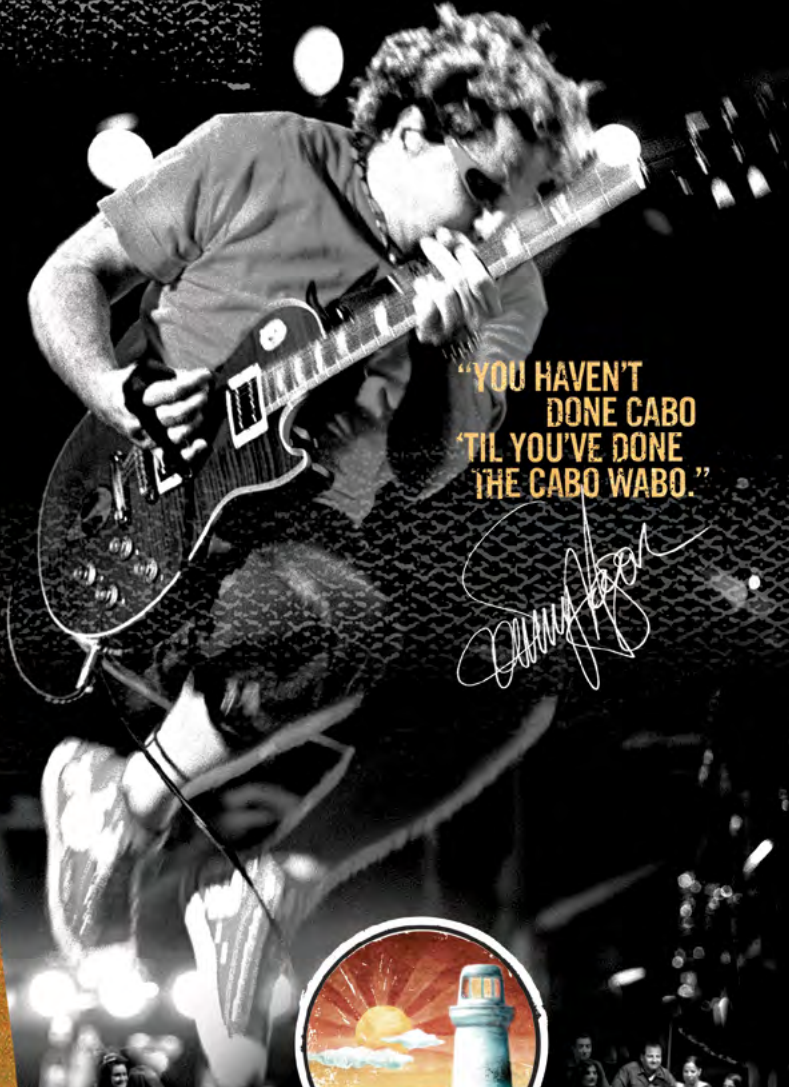
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# LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Is there anything more glorious than turning 25 in Los Cabos? That's just what we're doing! With this issue, *Los Cabos Magazine* is celebrating the big 2-5 in the only way we know how: by bringing you the very best this little slice of paradise has to offer.

It's hard to believe that it's been a quarter century since I launched *Los Cabos Real Estate Guide* (then soon renamed it *Los Cabos Magazine*).

In fact, throughout the pages of this information-packed issue, you'll find articles highlighting the region's most exciting restaurants, hotels, activities, beaches, real estate developments, and more. And all of this is brought to you through the lens of Los Cabos insiders—longtime *Los Cabos Magazine* contributor Sandra A. Berry has been here nearly as long as me.

As always, real estate expert Carol S. Billups brings you all the best and biggest "Recent Developments" (page 36). Dive master and Southern Baja native Beto Haro provides a tour of Los Cabos' best underwater adventures "Sea It to Believe It" (page 48), and Berry shares her favorite ways to entertain out-of-town guests (page 52).

And while we're stoked to be turning 25, we're only one of many Los Cabos businesses who've been around for a while. Berry introduces us to more "Living Legends" on page 64. See the restaurants that helped put Los Cabos on the map.

Want more info on Los Cabos? Follow our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/loscabosmagazine](http://www.facebook.com/loscabosmagazine)), where you can ask us questions and let us know about your favorite Los Cabos destinations.



Joseph A. Tyson

# Los Cabos

M A G A Z I N E

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#### Publisher

Joseph A. Tyson

#### Executive Editor

Ashley Alvarado

#### Contributing Writers

Julio Beltrán, Sandra A. Berry, Carol S. Billups, Michael Bobo, Beto Haro, Fernando Rodriguez, Antonio Vargas

#### Proofreader

Sandra A. Berry

#### General Manager

Lic. Perla Palomino

#### Design

Rogelio Pérez

#### Sales

Gabriela Carra

#### Administration

Gabriela Carra, Rogelio Tinajero

#### Web Development

Edgar Ruiz, Rebeca Valladares

#### Photography

Francisco Estrada, Andrik Oechler, Oscar Ortíz, Rogelio Pérez, Hugo Román, Joseph A. Tyson, Eddie Ruiz, Brian Ulloa, Rebeca Valladares, Miguel Ventura

◆

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Calle Flor de Pitahaya Mza. 7, Lote 29,  
Fraccionamiento Jacarandas,  
Cabo San Lucas, BCS México 23473

Telephone.....011-52 (624) 143-1346  
Vonage.....1 (800) 481-3905  
Facsimile.....011-52 (624) 143-2659  
E-mail.....ventas1@loscabosguide.com

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Facsimile.....(858) 333-7000  
E-mail.....vouchers@loscabosguide.com

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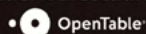


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By Solaz Los Cabos



# Just the Facts

A look at Los Cabos' impressive approach to security and how travelers are responding

By Sandra A. Berry

How do we separate fact from fiction when it comes to the startling news and misinformation surrounding travel to México? We present just the facts—acknowledging the real challenges facing México, the meaningful and effective efforts of local government and businesses, and the insights of those who call Los Cabos home.

In the past year, the public and private sector have invested close to \$50 million to upgrade security infrastructure, equipment, and personnel. There has never been such a united and intensified effort to ensure safety. As of press time, there are no U.S.-issued restrictions for travel in Baja California Sur, which includes the tourist areas of Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo.

Cabo San Lucas takes safety and security seriously. Rodrigo Esponda, managing director of the Los Cabos Tourism Board, says, "We have a comprehensive plan to make sure Los Cabos remains a safe and secure destination to visit. We understand there are many concerns when people travel. Los Cabos is a beautiful place with deserts, mountains, and beaches. The value of the product we have is superior to many other places. But we must make sure Los Cabos is a safe place to keep visiting, as it has been."

He continues, "To overcome security challenges in 2017, we launched a five-point action plan that was swift, aggressive, and multipronged with distinct pillars that includes a robust rapid response system that connects all local businesses and

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hotels to each other and law enforcement authorities, expansions of our surveillance camera network, new security training, and protocols aligned with U.S. embassy standards, a new state-of-the-art intelligence center built for the elite Mexican marines and a hotel security committee that meets biweekly to ensure the plan is continually optimized."

México's elite marine corps took command of the state and municipal police in Los Cabos in November 2017, and they are leading a cohesive security program designed to be discrete but effective with an increased security presence visible only at strategic points of interest.

Los Cabos' expanded security surveillance system includes more than 200 new cameras along the tourist corridor and at tourist hotspots. A hotel security committee was created to share best practices and ensure security protocols are in place at all area hotels; its members include the Los Cabos Hotel Association, investors, hoteliers, and tourism partners.

"This model is working," says Esponda, "because Los Cabos has taken a 360-degree approach that is organized and united to ensure the safety and security of all international travelers and the local community. The cameras act as an unblinking eye trained to monitor everyone and everything from the dock where the cruise ship passengers come ashore, all the way to the other end of the marina by the Breathless resort and the beach. They have all been connected to the same network."

In the first nine months since its implementation, Esponda says, "we have seen a dramatic 90 percent decrease in security-related incidents. We welcome close to 3 million international visitors each year—83 percent coming from the United States—so we understand that a secure travel environment is critical to our success as a world-class destination. Most importantly, tourism is the heartbeat of Los Cabos, fueling 90 percent of economic activity."

As the fastest-growing destination in México, Los Cabos is in a unique position: 70 percent of visitors are repeat guests, and 20 percent have visited more than four times. Many of them have been visiting the destination for several years and own residences here. As a result, any travel advisory's impact has been blunted by the destination's built-in resilience. In 2017, Los Cabos

recorded its strongest growth year since 2010. Nevertheless, Esponda says, "We take the challenge very seriously. Our goal is to make sure tourists know Los Cabos remains the safe and secure destination they know and love and also expand our breadth of offerings to stay competitive and ahead of the curve."

The strategy looks to be working. There are at least 4,000 hotel rooms scheduled to be built from 2018–2021. Among them: Zadun, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve; Montage Los Cabos; Garza Blanca Resort & Spa Los Cabos; The Solaz, A Luxury Collection Resort; the Four Seasons Los Cabos at Costa Palmas. "All of these hotel openings are completely connected to the increased security," Esponda says. "It gives confidence to investors who come to Los Cabos to keep investing here." ■



Los Cabos continues to attract tourists with safe waters (marina, opposite page) and new hotels (Solaz, this page).

COURTESY SOLAZ

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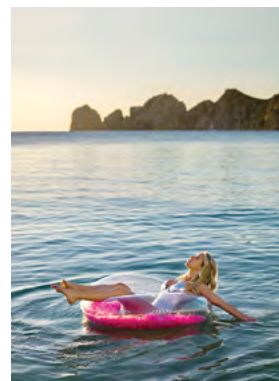
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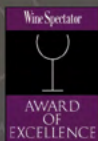


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


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# Talk of the Town

## Romeo & Julieta Opens Wine Bar

The famed downtown Cabo San Lucas Italian restaurant Romeo & Julieta has debuted a brand-new wine bar, aptly named The Wine Bar by Romeo & Julieta. As of press time, it was expected to open in December 2018, according to public relations manager Juliza Tetecatl Burdoin. The Wine Bar by Romeo & Julieta is located adjacent to Romeo & Julieta, and it will offer a premium wine list selection sure to satisfy. Open nightly from 6 p.m. until 2 a.m., The Wine Bar by Romeo & Julieta will provide soft and breezy live music along with red wine choices that include pinot noir from Cambria in the Santa Maria Valley in California; a Nebbiolo blend from Icaro of the Guadalupe Valley, México; and Brunello di Montalcino of Riservo Valdicava in Tuscany, Italy. Sparkling whites and Champagne options include Don Perignon, Veuve Cliquot, and Moët.



## Prepaid Voucher Program Offers Major Discounts

*Los Cabos Magazine's* popular prepaid voucher program allows Los Cabos visitors and residents to experience the very best of the region at unbeatable discounts. How does it work? Simply visit the website [www.loscabosguide.com/discounts](http://www.loscabosguide.com/discounts) or call (619) 793-4973 to find out which Los Cabos businesses are currently participating and in stock. From there, you identify the volume of prepaid vouchers to purchase at discounts that range from 35 to 70 percent. A member of the sales team will help facilitate your order, which can be picked up or shipped directly to you. Participating businesses include Cabo Expeditions, Wild Canyon (pictured), Mi Casa, Cabo Flyboard, and more.



## Palmilla Dunes Attracts New, Younger Residents

The high-end resort Palmilla communities are known for their spacious homes, incredible views, and wonderful amenities. The new Palmilla Dunes continues these same offerings while also attracting a younger, 40-to-55-year-old demographic. Many of these new residents are successful entrepreneurs looking to invest in the exceptional community, with its smart design, majestic gardens, exclusive clubhouse, and more. Learn all about it at [www.palmilladunes.com](http://www.palmilladunes.com).





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# Talk of the Town

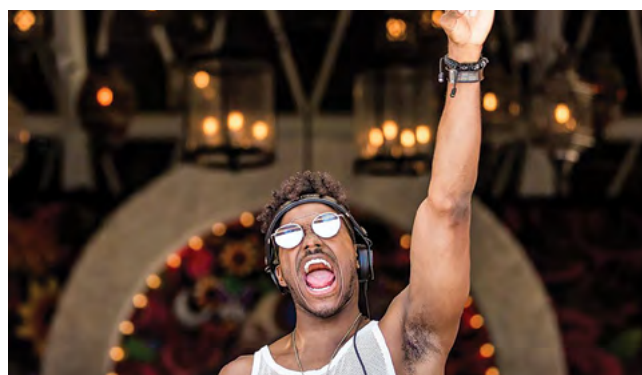
## Café des Artistes Celebrates 3rd Anniversary

For its third anniversary on November 2, Café des Artistes at the JW Marriott Resort celebrated with a spectacular five-course dining experience. The festivities at renowned chef Thierry Blouet's stunning restaurant started with signature cocktails on the upper terrace overlooking the Sea of Cortés and continued in the beautiful open-air dining room with live piano music and later mariachis.



## DJ Ruckus Rocks OMNIA

DJ Ruckus, a popular DJ who has served as resident performer at the Hakkasan, brought his skills to the OMNIA Dayclub within Vidanta Los Cabos on November 10. Described by GQ magazine as "the most sought-after DJ in the world," took a break from his busy schedule of performing at clubs like the Marquee in New York and touring the world (Bali, Dubai, etc.). To learn about upcoming OMNIA Dayclub events, visit [www.omniclubs.com/los-cabos](http://www.omniclubs.com/los-cabos).



## Los Cabos Film Festival Returns

Los Cabos rolled out the red carpet in November for the seventh annual Los Cabos Film Festival, a multiday affair that included parties, a free outdoor screening, 41 films, more than 80 screenings, appearances by A-list celebrities, and more. The festival is not only a showcase of impressive film work but also a means to facilitate the growth of global film culture, with a focus on collaborative opportunities among Mexican, Canadian, and U.S. filmmakers. Learn more at <http://cabosfilmfestival.com>.



## Splash Gets a Makeover

The downtown Cabo San Lucas gentleman's club Splash has undergone an impressive renovation, with updates to its exterior and interior. The three-story, 4,000-square-foot establishment is known for its top-notch service, cabaret, and bawdy burlesque shows. The new look underscores its singularity. The rooftop poolside addition is that of indulgent genius. It's open nightly from 5 p.m. until 5 a.m., and you can make reservations by phone (624-235-0291) or online: [www.splashcabos.com](http://www.splashcabos.com).



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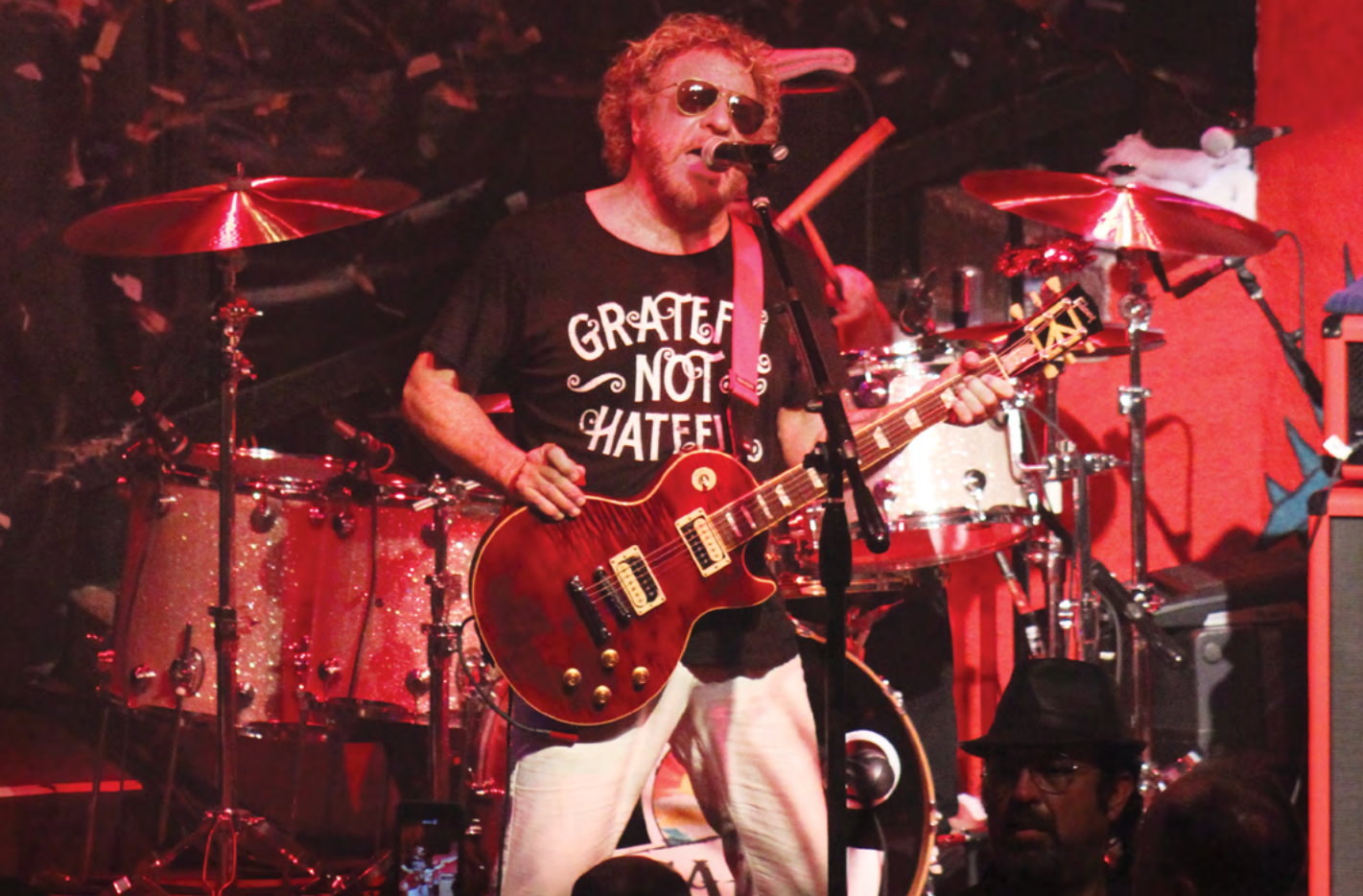
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# Inside Sammy Hagar's Birthday Bash

Fans lined up for the 28th annual celebration

By Antonio Vargas



Los Cabos legend Sammy Hagar celebrated his birthday in fashion—like always—with his 28th annual Birthday Bash in October.

The Red Rocker's annual party has become a major tradition in Los Cabos, and his 71st birthday did not disappoint. Bandmates and friends

like Jason Bonham, Michael Anthony (Van Halen), Joe Satriani, and Vic Johnson are known to join him onstage.

ANTONIO VARGAS



Tickets were sold online, appropriately available for \$71 U.S. The general public in Los Cabos was able to purchase tickets in person, and many camped out in sleeping bags on the sidewalk for a chance to get in. When we say this party is a big deal, we're not kidding: In 2012, there was such a high demand for tickets that the [www.redrocker.com](http://www.redrocker.com) website crashed. Tickets are now limited to two per purchase, and the set list is a real treat.

The three-day celebration kicked off October 9. Each evening included a concert, and there was also an option to include dinner (\$120 U.S. per person).

This year, about 500 fans turned out each night; there was a mix of locals and people from across the United States.

Hagar's fame began in the 1970s with the band Montrose; he later became a prosperous solo act in the 1980s. In 1985, Hagar joined the famous Van Halen band as lead singer and was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with the group in 2007.

Of course, Hagar helped put Cabo San Lucas on the map when he opened the first Cabo Wabo Cantina in 1990. He continues to split his time between California and Cabo.

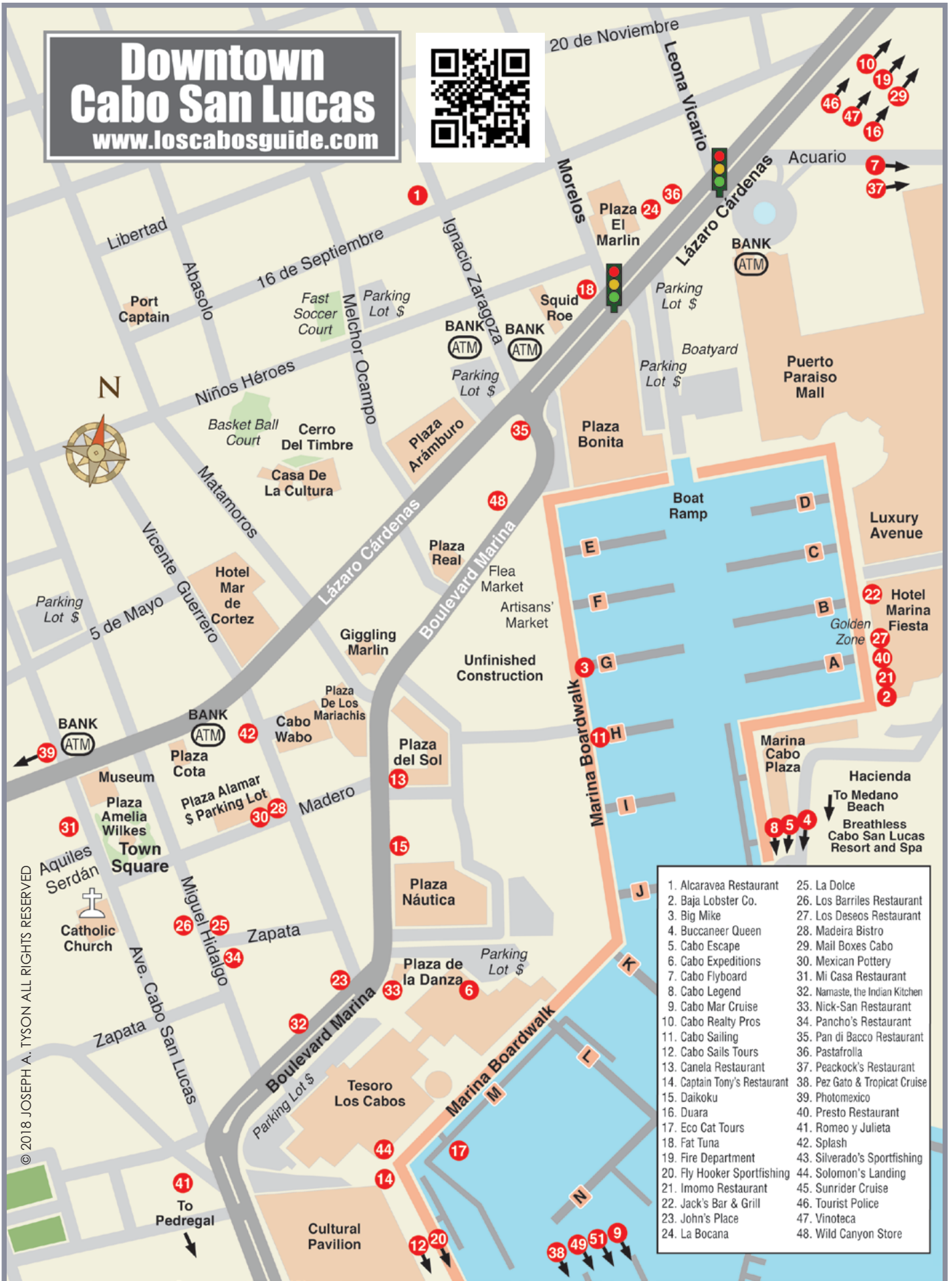
The 2019 edition will be here before you know it, and we recommend keeping an eye on the Cabo Wabo Cantina website to purchase tickets: [www.cabowabocantina.com](http://www.cabowabocantina.com). Remember: Tickets sell out quickly. 📍



ANTONIO VARGAS (3)

# Downtown Cabo San Lucas

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| 7. Cabo Flyboard              | 31. Mi Casa Restaurant          |
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| 13. Canela Restaurant         | 37. Peacock's Restaurant        |
| 14. Captain Tony's Restaurant | 38. Pez Gato & Tropical Cruise  |
| 15. Daikoku                   | 39. Photomexico                 |
| 16. Duara                     | 40. Presto Restaurant           |
| 17. Eco Cat Tours             | 41. Romeo y Julieta             |
| 18. Fat Tuna                  | 42. Splash                      |
| 19. Fire Department           | 43. Silverado's Sportfishing    |
| 20. Fly Hooker Sportfishing   | 44. Solomon's Landing           |
| 21. Imomo Restaurant          | 45. Sunrider Cruise             |
| 22. Jack's Bar & Grill        | 46. Tourist Police              |
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An aerial photograph of Los Cabos, Mexico, showing a harbor with several sailboats, a large parking lot, and buildings. In the background, there are mountains and a clear blue sky with scattered clouds. The foreground shows a sandy beach and the ocean with waves breaking on the shore.

# LOS CABOS MAGAZINE TURNS 25!

**50 ISSUES. 25 YEARS. 1 FANTASTIC RIDE  
BY ASHLEY ALVARADO**

Bill Clinton was president. Zack, Screech, and the *Saved by the Bell* gang donned their Bayside High graduation caps. *Cheers* bid a final farewell. And OJ Simpson was just an athlete-turned-actor.

Yes, times were different back in 1993, when Virginia-born entrepreneur Joseph Tyson launched *Los Cabos Magazine*—then known as *Los Cabos Real Estate Guide*.

In those days, Cabo San Lucas was still emerging as a tourism destination. Sammy Hagar's now-iconic Cabo Wabo Cantina had opened only three years earlier, and much of the Los Cabos shoreline was dedicated to local fishermen—not the five-star dining, incredible accommodations, and world-class water activities we've come to know.

Tyson had arrived a handful of years earlier to sell advertising for the original *Baja Traveler* magazine. The former jeweler and banking executive had followed his passion for adventure and photography to the southernmost point of the Baja Peninsula, more than 2,700 miles away from his hometown of West Point, Virginia.

He worked at *Baja Traveler* for two years, before it was reorganized with new management in 1991 under the new title *Baja Explorer* and then shuttered in early 1992.

The industrious Tyson did not want to let his clients down, and so he took on a new challenge: launching a magazine all his own. "When the second publisher decided to close *Baja Explorer* magazine," he told me recently, "I decided to stay in Los Cabos and produce my own publication. I was already designing brochures, postcards, and rack cards for clients."

Tyson published the first issue of *Los Cabos Real Estate Guide* on October 16, 1993. It was 40 pages and featured a model lounging poolside and gazing out at the Pacific Ocean. He printed four more editions over the next four years.

As Los Cabos continued to grow, so, too, did Tyson's role in the community. In 1994, the magazine was rebranded as *Los Cabos Guide*. And, in 1998, *Los Cabos Magazine* made its first appearance: It was now 132 pages, and some 125,000 copies were printed. Tyson Promotions, Inc. currently operates 30 websites—including the influential [LosCabosGuide.com](http://LosCabosGuide.com)—and the magazine.

Through it all, Tyson has maintained a clear goal for his company: "We aim to be the primary hub of information for tourists in the region," he says.



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It's been 25 years since Joseph Tyson (top) launched what is now known as *Los Cabos Magazine*. Médano Beach (bottom) and much of Los Cabos has changed in those 25 years.

In addition to the magazine and information websites, Tyson's company launched its signature prepaid voucher program ([www.loscabosguide.com/discounts](http://www.loscabosguide.com/discounts)) in 1999. The popular program allows people to purchase vouchers—think traveler's checks—for top Los Cabos restaurants, activities, and more at significantly discounted prices. (Learn more on page 28.)

One of the humblest people you'll ever meet, Tyson, now 63, credits his success to many—starting with those who were there at the beginning: “[México-city born] Sebastián Romo Santillán was my first landlord when we started the magazine. A very nice and friendly person.”

“Hotelier ‘Don’ Luis Bulnes Molleda was always very kind and supportive. He was an advertiser from the very start,” Tyson said.

Well-known Los Cabos-based photographer Sabrina Lear was a writer and editor at the magazine for several years,

and Tyson also stresses the support he's received from prominent community members Marco and Tracy Ehrenberg, Bob and Minerva Smith: “They have always been helpful and supportive.” Clicerio Mercado Hernández has played a critical role in popularizing sportfishing in Los Cabos, and he's somebody Tyson has known since his first days in Los Cabos.

In the 25 years since Tyson launched *Los Cabos Magazine*, the publication has covered everything from golf and sportfishing tournaments to fashion, whale shark expeditions, pro tennis competitions, and hard news. And, of course, it's known for our comprehensive guides to Los Cabos activities and restaurants.

Two of Tyson's favorite restaurants just happen to be longtime *Los Cabos Magazine* collaborators and quintessential Los Cabos spots: Romeo & Julieta in downtown Cabo San Lucas and Pitahayas on the tourist corridor.

While these two restaurants have been around a long time—Romeo & Julieta for more than three decades!—there are many new restaurants worthy of exploring. And, as Tyson points out, “With all the growth, we have access to almost anything we might need or want. In the early days here, you would need to drive to La Paz to get supplies. The four-lane highway was a major improvement over the old two-lane road to the airport. Trips to La Paz are also easier, safer, and faster.”

All of this is reflected in more recent issues of the magazine, its pages now featuring modern thoroughfares, state-of-the-art facilities (resorts, hospitals, conference centers, among them). And yet, at its heart, what first attracted Tyson to Los Cabos remains.

This is a place meant for exploring. For every trip here, you must pack your camera and a sense of adventure. As we head into winter, we prepare for whale watching season. The surfing and fishing conditions are excellent, too. Spend days discovering the nuances of each and every Los Cabos beach: Swim at Médano. Retreat to Santa María. Surf along Cerritos. Snorkel at Chileno.

Enjoy it. Grab a magazine (this one, if you like!). And relax.

After a quarter century of bringing you *Los Cabos Magazine*, that's something Tyson's working to do more of. “What's the best advice I've picked up along the way? Spend more time enjoying the area. More time at the beach, more time fishing, and more time with my children.”

We hope the same for you all, too! 📷




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# LET'S DEAL

This is a busy time of year in Los Cabos, but there are also great promotions for travel, hotels, activities, and meals.

Here's how to find them

By Sandra A. Berry



Maybe you're like me: You love to vacation but hate the planning, not to mention the cost involved before you even pack a bag. With today's travel resources, any trip, anywhere in the world can be a pleasure to plan and an experience to remember. Here are some ideas and resources to help you plan your next trip, your wish-trip, or your once-in-a-lifetime around-the-world trip.

## Flights

Knowing which one to use is the big question. Several tests have been conducted by companies such as *Frommer's*

([www.frommers.com](http://www.frommers.com)), a publication that has been in continuous publication since the 1957 debut of Arthur Frommer's revolutionary *Europe on \$5 a Day*, which changed the way the world traveled. It's one of the most trusted names in the travel industry today, so why not take its word for finding the best online travel agencies (OTA)? Momondo ([www.momondo.com](http://www.momondo.com)), a subsidiary of Kayak, was voted the best source for the lowest price in fares. While many theories exist around booking on a Tuesday to save money, the reality is there is no consistent "cheapest day." Most of the time, it is best to leave on a weekday, though this isn't always the case. Your best strategy is to get a

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quick visual of prices for a whole month to see which days are most affordable for your specific route.

**Accommodations**

Los Cabos has an abundance of choices for hotel accommodations, from bed and breakfast to the most luxurious. There are more than 14,000 rooms available with an estimated 4,000 more to be added between 2018 and 2021. During the off-season, May–September, you can find discounts up to 75 percent. The largest hotel accommodation company in the world does not own any properties. There are hundreds of thousands of places to stay in 35,000 cities in 190 countries via Airbnb (www.airbnb.com), an American company that operates an online marketplace and hospitality service for people to lease or rent short-term lodging including holiday cottages, apartments, hostel beds, hotel rooms, or even a sofa bed. I found a trick that I've used several times, especially in some of the difficult-to-book hotels in the national parks and that is to wait until the day of travel and call for reservations due to cancellations. This works if you are just a few hours away by car or air to your destination. You might consider this living on the edge, but it can work to your benefit to stay in the most popular place without waiting months on end for a reservation.

**Activities**

For cost-effective activities, your Los Cabos to-do list may include spending a day at the beach, finding a trail to hike or just enjoying the neighborhood or street life. It's a great way to get to know the area, and it's free. Contact the tourist information bureau (www.visitaloscabos.travel) in advance for free coupon books of potential ad-

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ventures. Pick up a copy of the local newspaper or *Los Cabos Magazine* or click on [www.loscabosguide.com](http://www.loscabosguide.com) for everything you need to know. You may stumble upon a local event such as a free concert. If planning to snorkel, bring your own snorkel gear to save on rental fees and it doesn't take up much space. Check the websites of mu-



Great golfing and eating are a lot more affordable than you may think.

seums or tourist sites to find out if they offer free visiting hours or discounts. Talk to the locals to get insider tips on what is happening in the community that might be of interest to a visitor, such as a fiesta, concert, wine tasting event, a street fair, or cultural event. Catch a magnificent sunset or sunrise. Visit a local market, especially outdoor markets. Check out the brochure shelf in the lobby of your hotel. Travel like the locals. Rent a bike, use public transportation. Walk as much as you can walk. Hit the street with your feet and get lost in a city or town. It's amazing what you'll discover around every corner. Share transportation costs with another traveler, a taxi, minivan, tours, etc. When there are groups of travelers, split the costs.

## Food

My best tip: Eat out for breakfast, lunch, or brunch and avoid dinner in a restaurant. Many restaurants offer lunch specials, with menu items offered for a fraction of the cost you'd pay in the evening. At Alcaravea Gourmet, for example, you can get a three-course meal available noon–4:30 p.m. with your choice of fish, fowl, beef, or pasta for approximately \$15 U.S. with all the fixings. Eat away from the tourist hotspots. Just one street over will usually be less expensive and more authentic. Have a picnic or barbecue. Purchase food in a local grocery store or market and arrange a picnic in one of the city's parks or beaches. Make self-contained accommodations with kitchen facilities a priority. Purchasing your own food and cooking it yourself can help you save big. Take along your own food on flights, buses, and trains when practical. When booking a hotel or hostel, look for one that includes breakfast. Eat street food. Besides being frugal, you're helping the locals...and know it's safe. Speak of locals, pay attention to where they're eating and what is popular. Purchase alcohol from a store and enjoy (within moderation) before going out. Take advantage of happy hours and stay away from the expensive imported stuff. Bring a water bottle. Paying for water adds up quickly.

Here in Los Cabos, we are fortunate to be able to offer prepaid vouchers for restaurants and activates at a savings of 35–50 percent of the retail cost ([www.loscabosguide.com/discounts](http://www.loscabosguide.com/discounts)).

You can always ask which specials are available for airline, hotels, and restaurants. A friend of mine says she never pays retail. You, too, can negotiate the best deals to suit your pocketbook and still have a great trip with ease of planning and, best of all, peace of mind for not blowing the budget. All it takes is a little planning and patience. The resources are at your fingertips. 📌



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# Los Cabos, 3 Ways

There's something for everyone here. Real estate expert Carol S. Billups highlights options



Sooner or later, we all come to the realization that one size does not, in fact, fit all. It doesn't work for pantyhose, and it certainly doesn't work for real estate. Clients all have unique desires, and a single cookie-cutter solution won't serve them all. Fortunately, Los Cabos has a diverse inventory with options for almost everyone's individual needs. The attributes that make one home perfect as a vacation rental may not work for someone who is retiring to México or just wants a family retreat. Let's look at all three scenarios and see the differences from the perspective of successful buyers.

## Option 1: The Vacation Home

Ricca and Dan love Los Cabos, and their schedules allow them to come often enough that stepping up to full ownership just made sense. "Our vacation home in Cabo was the best decision for our family because we plan to retire in Cabo in the future, but, in the meantime, it is a short three-hour flight," says Ricca. The couple appreciate hav-

ing their own place to relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery, including views of the ocean and Land's End. They found a three-bedroom, single-family home in one of the "boutique" gated communities on the Cabo San Lucas side of the tourist corridor, which has turned out to be a great option for them. The community has only 27 homes; the owners are a mixture of full-time, snowbird, and vacation owners. The amenities include a large pool that they enjoy using with their young daughter, but they are not subsidizing amenities they won't use, such as a golf course or spa. Having the security of a gated community makes sense if the house will be unoccupied periodically. "I love that we can lock up, leave, and know everything will be OK when we get back," explains Ricca. "And the best part is that we're out of a crowded resort setting." The location on the corridor is convenient to the Cabo San Lucas marina; David is an avid fisherman. One key to a happy vacation home is low maintenance requirements. Many buyers think that means giving up a single-family home for a condo, but in some



gated communities the homeowners' association does all the gardening for you, making a home with a yard no more difficult to maintain than a condo.

## Option 2: Retirement Living

When Jaclyn thought about retiring, she dreamed of being on vacation...permanently. And since her favorite place to vacation was Cabo San Lucas, she thought, "Why not?" Warmer weather, a lower cost of living, and excellent healthcare all factored into the decision to make Los Cabos her retirement haven. Retiree living is a little different from vacationing, and Jaclyn wisely chose a condo a few blocks away from the tourist zone. While she can walk to most places, including favorite restaurants from her days of being a visitor, she also has the option to put the party behind her and chill out by the pool. Among the important differences between a vacation home and a retirement/snowbird home is that you are more likely to bring your pets with you. Your MLS-BCS agent can help you identify which properties are pet friendly. Although very desirable for retirees, single-story homes are rare in Cabo. It's important to consider whether you'll need stairs or elevators or trams during the purchase process. Communities with amenities like a clubhouse are great for retirees to meet neighbors and enjoy activities. Copala, Coronado, and Mavila in the master-planned Quivira ([www.quiviraloscabos.com](http://www.quiviraloscabos.com)) development offer the Good Life club with classes, activities, golf, and other sports that will help kick start an active retirement. While amenities do add to the monthly homeowners dues, as a retiree you are more likely to have time to enjoy them so the cost becomes a worthwhile lifestyle investment.

## Option 3: Rental Income Investment

For Damaris and Lewis, purchasing a rental income property in Cabo San Lucas was an obvious choice. As owners of Big Bear Property Services in California, they have a tried-and-true rental protocol honed over several years; they were

sure their successful marketing system could transfer easily to Los Cabos. They set about finding a property they could market in a similar fashion here. Without giving away too many trade secrets, Lewis emphasizes that not every rental property needs to be a stunning seven-bedroom mansion. That said, even the more modest offerings must feature one outstanding amenity. "A hot tub on the terrace, a firepit, anything that will catch the client's eye presented in such a way that they can instantly picture themselves in the property," he explains. Their new house is currently being readied for the market, adding just such a feature. Even already successful properties can benefit from this approach: Some years back, I sold a three-bedroom condo in Pedregal to a young couple who planned to use it for rental purposes. They did rent it successfully, but the unit really took off after the birth of their first child. Realizing how much stuff it took to vacation with a young child, they child-proofed and equipped the condo with all sorts of baby paraphernalia such as crib, high chair, etc. They then included the baby inventory on their online property description. Bookings for the new family-friendly vacation rental jumped overnight! And the owners benefit by knowing they were now renting to responsible families.

As diverse as these clients' needs are, Los Cabos was able to satisfy them all. At press time, there were nearly 3,000 properties actively for sale on the MLS-BCS multiple-listing online system. Whether you are seeking room for horses or an in-town pied-à-terre, there is sure to be the perfect property to suit your needs. Every one of them will suit someone's needs precisely, because one size truly does not fit all. 🏡

*Carol Billups is broker-owner of Cabo Realty Pros, a full-service real estate firm in Los Cabos. Carol has been helping clients find their perfect solution for more than 19 years and still thinks hers is the perfect job. Her website is [www.caborealtypros.com](http://www.caborealtypros.com); she can be reached at [carolbillups@hotmail.com](mailto:carolbillups@hotmail.com) or by phone at 044-624-447-7541.*



Find the property that's right for you right now (from top: Tramonti, Pedregal).

# RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

All the latest news on Los Cabos real estate

By Carol S. Billups



## Tramonti Alters Plans, Offers Unique Investment Opportunities

In response to customer demand, the developers of Tramonti ([www.tramontiloscabos.com](http://www.tramontiloscabos.com)) have reconfigured their Phase 2 ocean-view towers to include one-, two-, and three-bedroom units. The three-bedroom units have been configured so that the third bedroom can be used, rented, or sold as a lock-out studio unit. Some units are being sold “mainland style” so that the new owner can customize the interior finishes. Or, the developer will supply luxury finishes as in Phase 1. One-bedroom units are not commonly available in new construction and will allow those who want a more modest investment to still be part of a luxury complex. Prices start well below \$200,000 U.S. for the smaller units. For example, a one-bedroom unit without interior finishes is being offered at about \$145,000 U.S. for a cash transaction. Tramonti offers developer financing for up to 10 years, or cash discounts may apply. Although located on the tourist corridor, Tramonti will give owners access to the entire Quivira Good Life experience, including optional membership at the award-winning Jack Nicklaus–designed Quivira golf course, making it a great investment for avid golfers.

## Duara Announces Preconstruction Contracts for Ocean-View Condos

Duara has announced the availability of preconstruction contracts for new condominium units on the inland side of the tourist corridor (closer to Cabo San Lucas). These two- and three-bedroom units are being sold “mainland style,” which means they will be delivered ready for the buyer to finish with their own kitchens, closets, appliances, or air-conditioning. Prices starting at approximately \$180,000 U.S., meaning new owners will have plenty of funds to do a lot of customizing. Your MLS-BCS real estate agent can fully explain the details and options for preconstruction purchase.

## Coronado’s Quivira Delivering Homes

The developer has begun delivering finished homes in the new luxury development of Coronado. Located within the master-planned community of Quivira ([www.quivira loscabos.com](http://www.quivira loscabos.com)), which is also home to the Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach resort, this collection of 48 homes offers something quite rare in Los Cabos: single-story floor plans. Each of the hacienda-style floor plans includes private pool, patios, and outdoor kitchens. Inside the finishes are top

end: travertine flooring, Viking appliances, and water features. Due to the elevation, all offer expansive ocean views and some overlook the five-acre Quivira park under construction. Floor plans offer four- and five-bedroom models, with smart home technology. Owners here have access to all the Quivira privileges, including membership in the beach club and golf club. Homes are being delivered now, and financing is available through the developer. A few homes are being offered fully furnished for truly turn-key ownership, or the buyer may elect to wait for construction allowing them to fully customize all finishes and details. Prices in Coronado start at about \$1.3 million U.S. Your MLS-BCS member agent can arrange a private tour of Coronado and Quivira.

**Los Cabos Real Estate Market Continues to Shift**

The market in Cabo, as everywhere, changes consistently. You've all heard the terms "buyer's market" and "seller's market" and know how that affects the purchase process. Los Cabos is no different. The market moves slowly in Los Cabos, but it does shift consistently between the two extremes. At press time 1,131 properties had either sold or gone under contract in the prior 12 months. But, there are still more than 2,000 on the market. It appears this market is shifting from a buyer's market toward equilibrium. Los Cabos is home to the largest and most advanced multiple-listing service system in México, with a U.S.-based database and 500 member agents located throughout the state of Baja California Sur. Agents will all tell you that the way you present your offer will determine whether you move into your dream home or move on. In a buyer's market, it is customary to offer less than the asking price and hope the seller is so anxious to make a deal that he'll give you a bargain. But that is changing. Ac-



The developer has begun delivering finished homes in the new luxury development of Coronado.

ording to MLS-BCS statistics for the past three months, on average sellers have accepted between 90 and 96 percent of asking price. When deter-

mining how much you should offer on a given property, work with your agent to ensure your offer is not so low that the seller will not respond. ☒

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COURTESY CORONADO AT QUIVIRA

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| 2. Bank-ATM             | 12. Campestre Restaurant    | 22. La Bocana                   | 32. Pancho's Restaurant         | 42. Solomon's Restaurant    |
| 3. Big Mike             | 13. Canela Restaurant       | 23. La Casa De Don Juan         | 33. Pan di Bacco Restaurant     | 43. Splash                  |
| 4. Buccaner Queen       | 14. Captain Tony's          | 24. La Dolce                    | 34. Pastafrola                  | 44. Sunrider Cruise         |
| 5. Cabo Escape          | 15. Columbia Export Service | 25. Los Barriles Restaurant     | 35. Peacock's Restaurant        | 45. Tacos Gardenias         |
| 6. Cabo Flyboard        | 16. Daikoku                 | 26. Madeira Bistro              | 36. Pez Gato/Tropicat/Cabo Mar  | 46. Vinoteca                |
| 7. Cabo Legend          | 17. Eco Cat Tours           | 27. Mail Boxes Cabo             | 37. Photomexico                 | 47. Wild Canyon Store       |
| 8. Cabo Realty Pros     | 18. Fire Department         | 28. Mexican Pottery             | 38. Police (Tourist Department) |                             |
| 9. Cabo Sailing         | 19. Golden Zone             | 29. Mi Casa Restaurant          | 39. Romeo y Julieta Restaurant  |                             |
| 10. Cabo Sails          | 20. Immigration Office      | 30. Namaste, the Indian Kitchen | 40. Sea Cabo Activities         |                             |

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# 5 Activities to Get Your HEART RACING

Adventure's calling. Answer the call

By Fernando Rodriguez



More than 1.2 million people visit Los Cabos every year. Many for rest and relaxation. And still many others for seeking thrills and ways to explore this warm and beautiful desert landscape and beach paradise. The natural splendor of this year-round summer vacation getaway beckons; there's deep-sea fishing, world-class golf, and off-road adventure tours, as well as whale watching, swimming with dolphins, aerial tours, and more.

In Los Cabos, there are (at least) 16 wonderful beaches. The crystal-clear Sea of Cortés makes for a fantastic snorkeling,

kayaking, underwater diving, and swimming experience. The tranquil San José del Cabo estuary is another serene, kayaking escapade not to be missed. And for those that seek a get-your-heart racing adventure, there are several Los Cabos tours that most assuredly satisfy that thirst for ultra-excitement.

Listed here are five recommendations that would thrill even Evel Knievel. We're talking all-terrain vehicles in the rolling sandy dunes, zipping along cables high and above the mountainous canyons, and plunging out of the sky in a free falling bungee jump leap or from a small plane.



Cabo Skydive provides tandem dives distinguished by the company's focus on safety and professionalism.

**TAKE TO THE SKIES**

Cabo Sky Tours owner-operator-pilot Ernesto Magaña has three decades of flying experience and more than 7,800 hours of flight time. All of that adds up to an exhilarating and thrilling adventure for any who board his small two-person, single-engine ultralight hang glider. Once the little glider takes off, passengers can sit back and settle in to thoroughly enjoy the breathtaking views from on high. The minimum flying age is 5 years old, and the oldest guest was an 87-year-old gentleman. "Flying with Ernesto was one of the most amazing experiences of my life! It's indescribable! I felt like I could fly!" said one reviewer, and we couldn't agree more.

The sensation of flying through the sky—dipping to get closer looks at sea turtles and whales, soaring toward the clear blue of the morning—is as close to having wings as anyone can get. I'm not the only one to consider it a once-in-a-lifetime experience. What's even better? The adventures are sky high, but the prices are not. The 10-minute tour for one passenger is priced at \$100 U.S., while a 30-minute experience costs \$250 U.S. Longer flying options include a 45- and 60-minute tour available from \$350 U.S.–\$450 U.S. Note: There are weight restrictions, which should be considered before booking flights.

The ultralight gliders have the unique advantage of being able to glide without any power if necessary, so there is never any worry about getting back to the ground safely. The high-definition camera mounted to the right wing, offers photos or video of the entire adventure. Cabo Sky Tours is located in a field next to the main highway, directly across from Villa del Arco Resort and Cabo San Lucas Bay. For more information, contact its office at (624) 144-1294, by cell phone (624) 150-1000, via email caboskytours@yahoo.com.mx, or visit the website [www.skytours cabo.com/index.php](http://www.skytours cabo.com/index.php).

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At Wild Canyon, you can plunge from a glass-bottom gondola 300 feet above the ground or zip from one side of the canyon to another on its zipline course.



**TAKE A DIVE**

Now that you've explored the friendly skies of Los Cabos, now it's time to take a flying leap. The locally owned Cabo Skydive provides tandem dives distinguished by the company's focus on safety and professionalism. While

there's no specific age restriction, everyone younger than 18 years old must have a signed consent form from a parent or guardian. There's also a weight restriction; participants must weigh 225 or less. Cabo Skydive offers adventures daily, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Each dive is a 40-second free fall before the parachute opens. After that, it's a five-minute spiral flight down toward a safe and fun landing. For more information, contact (624) 110-8635 or visit <http://caboskydive.com.mx>.



**JUMP FOR IT**

In-the-know thrill seekers are very familiar with Wild Canyon, the eco-friendly adventure park that specializes in zip lining, off-road racing, camel rides, and more. One surefire way to get the blood flowing is the park's famous Bungee Bombers tour, a four-hour adventure that includes jumping from a glass-bottom gondola 300 feet above the ground. Adventurous visitors and guests are given the choice of having the safety jump harness—which surpasses industry safety standards—attached to their waist or ankles by the bungee jump tour's bilingual staff. You'll know this is a total one-of-a-kind experience; there's no other glass gondola bungee course in México. For more information, visit [www.wildcanyon.com.mx](http://www.wildcanyon.com.mx).

**ZIP ZIP**

Wild Canyon is also home to our favorite zipline course in Los Cabos. The company picks guests up right from their respective hotel resort and drives them out to the park, located in a more remote area with, you guessed it, canyons. The Wild Canyon course consists of six separate lines, each with different lengths. The longest and final zipline is more than a half-mile long, and people on it can pick up speeds as high as 55 miles per hour. Hik-

COURTESY WILD CANYON (2)



Work out some stress as you zoom across the open off-roading course at Wild Canyon.

ing is part of this adventure, so make sure to wear comfortable shoes and clothes, as you go from one zipline to another during the enjoyable two-and-a-half-hour excursion. Water is available along the trails, and there are restrooms and lockers located at the entrance starting point area. Cameras and cell phone photographs are not allowed, but a CD of professional images is offered at the end of the tour for \$30 U.S. Tours are offered three times daily: at 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m. They cost \$110 U.S. per person plus \$15 U.S. park entry fee. For more information, visit [www.wildcanyon.com.mx](http://www.wildcanyon.com.mx).

**HIT THE (OFF) ROAD**

Los Cabos is known for its beaches, but there is plenty of land to explore...and what better way to explore than a top a fast-speed vehicle. We've already mentioned the ATVs available at Wild Canyon. You can also try your hand at a motorcycle with a tour through Baja Dirt. Tours range from three hours to multiple days, and there are ones that are sure to keep your adrenaline going! Learn more at [www.loscabosguide.com](http://www.loscabosguide.com).

COURTESY WILD CANYON

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# The Perfect Sail

Cabo Sails is ready to pamper you!

Cabo Sails has been providing its guests with memorable experiences for 17 years. What really sets Cabo Sails apart from other Cabo San Lucas companies is that it offers people the opportunity to customize the experience and offers private tours so that all guests are VIPs.

In addition, Cabo Sails team members are experts in accommodating special occasion celebrations such as bachelorette and bachelor parties, engagements, birthdays, wedding celebrations, anniversaries, vow renewals, family trips, and the spreading of ashes.

Plan an amazingly fun bachelorette party aboard one of Cabo Sails' sailboats or catamaran in a safe and fun environment. After all, what better place to enjoy an awesome party with all your girlfriends than in sunny Cabo San Lucas where the fun never ends? Let the hospitable team know your wishes—perhaps, welcome drinks for the bride-to-be and her guests or some tasty tequila Jell-O shots.

Want to plan the perfect engagement? Cabo Sails has been a part of hundreds of engagements and creates a very romantic ambience for you to propose to the love of your life. Request Champagne and a bouquet of red roses to keep hidden until she says yes!

The crew takes care of every single detail for a stress-free engagement aboard your very own private boat. You both will cherish these unforgettable memories the rest of your lives, and your fiancée will love you even more!

Cabo Sails not only provides luxury private sailing, snorkeling, whale watching and sunset tours for an af-



fordable price, but it also specializes in creating memorable experiences for your family and friends.

All tours include cuisine prepared by Cabo Sails' chef. Options include delicious Mexican combination platters, fresh guacamole, tasty salsas, chips, fresh fruit and vegetable platters, as well as a premium open bar and warm Mexican hospitality. Cabo Sails takes great pride in its customer service. Let the team know if you prefer vegetarian or gluten-free or if you have any food allergies. Your drinks are served in stainless steel insulated cups to ensure your beverage of choice is always nice and cold.

Cabo Sails welcomes special requests and customizes your experience so that you may enjoy the activities you wish on your own schedule. For example, the perfect bottle of Champagne with fresh strawberries, your favorite bottle of wine, tasty cakes, and flowers.

Understanding dogs are a very important part of your family, your little dogs are welcome aboard, too. It's fun for all the family!

Parents, you are going to love this next detail because some things in life are free: Up to five children 12 and younger enjoy all tours for free! How awesome is that?

Cabo Sails very much appreciates your business and is happy to offer loyalty discounts. Sign up for its loyalty program today and enjoy amazing experiences year after year at a great price.

Cabo Sails is ready to roll out the red carpet. Prepare to be pampered!

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# Sea It to Believe It

The best beaches for underwater adventures

By Beto Haro

Every day is a new opportunity to choose your own adventure in Southern Baja. I grew up here, and there's nothing I enjoy more than getting into the water. In fact, as a tour guide for the better part of a decade, I got to know the peninsula's entire coastline: where to go for adventures (snorkeling, diving, fishing), the best beaches for casual swimming or hanging with family, surf spots, camping grounds, casual whale watching, kayaking, even romantic dates at midnight. While it's easy to get

distracted by all that Los Cabos has to offer—golf courses, beach clubs, spas, restaurants, and clubs—you owe it to yourself to set aside time and get acquainted with the waters down here.

Whether you're a novice or advanced, in great shape or only so-so, with or without vehicle, there's an option for you! Here I highlight some of my favorite beaches—and companies—for underwater adventures. Bonus tip: Don't forget to pack your waterproof camera.

## Quick Hit

You can't get any closer than Pelican's Rock, a granite formation located right off of Lover's Beach (Playa del Amor) and near the edge of Cannery Beach. The sensational snorkel spot is only a five-minute ride from the Cabo San Lucas Marina via water taxi. The Sea of Cortés is known for its calm waters, and that makes the swimming and snorkeling conditions here ideal. The kids will approve. You'll see a variety of sea life



Cabo Expeditions' Cabo Submarine is a fun way for adventurers of all ages to explore sea life without getting wet.

here, including manta rays and other large species. Once I was lucky enough to even see a humpback whale here. Not sure you want to brave the water? Cabo Expeditions ([www.caboexpeditions.com.mx](http://www.caboexpeditions.com.mx)) operates a family-friendly tour aboard its bright yellow Cabo Submarine. The 60-foot semi-submersible vessel offers beautiful views of Land's End and the beach from its top deck, then guests can go down below to peer through windows and out at the lively sea below.

### Three-Hour Tour

Have a little more time on your hands? Several tour companies offer kayaking and snorkeling tours to Chileno Bay (Playa el Chileno) and Santa María (Playa Santa María). Both offer protected swimming conditions, clear water, and up-close views of tropical fishes, starfish, octopus, and rays. During whale watching season, it's even possible to sometimes hear the songs of the humpback whales underwater. Tour providers like Cabo Escape ([www.wildcabotours.com](http://www.wildcabotours.com)), Big Mike Sea Adventure ([www.bigmikeseadventures.com](http://www.bigmikeseadventures.com)), Buccaneer Queen ([www.buccaneerloscabos.com](http://www.buccaneerloscabos.com)), Caborey ([www.caborey.com](http://www.caborey.com)), Cabo Sailing ([www.cabosailing.com](http://www.cabosailing.com)), Eco Cat ([www.ecocatcabo.com](http://www.ecocatcabo.com)), Pez Gato ([www.pezgato.com](http://www.pezgato.com)), Sun Rider Tours ([www.sunridertours.com](http://www.sunridertours.com)), and Cabo Expeditions ([www.caboexpeditions.com.mx](http://www.caboexpeditions.com.mx)) provide all the snorkeling gear you'll need. Most also offer an open bar and food, not to mention onboard entertainment.

### Solo Expedition

Ready to venture out on your own? Rent a car from 10 Car Rental ([www.tencarrental.com](http://www.tencarrental.com)), which has a large fleet of Jeep and SUV options—not to mention its "No Worries Protection Program"—then hit the road for a sometimes-bumpy ride to Cabo Pulmo in the East Cape. The beach is beautiful, and the water is nice and comfortable all year round. But the main attraction at this national marine park is the famous

COURTESY CABO EXPEDITIONS





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El Pulmo coral reef. Don't miss the opportunity to snorkel or scuba dive in one of the best spots in the world. Don't worry if you don't have the necessary equipment; there are certified companies in Cabo Pulmo that can take you scuba diving or rent out the equipment. When you're underwater here, you feel like you're inside of an aquarium—in the very best way. And it's easy to understand how the region earned its moniker as the aquarium of the world. Sea turtles also nest in the area, so bring your camera and be careful where you set up camp.

## Island Bound

The Baja Peninsula is dotted with islands, but the jewel of the Sea of Cortés is Espíritu Santo, an island archipelago off of La Paz (the capital of Baja California Sur). La Paz is located about two hours north of Cabo San Lucas, and it's home to many of the region's most beautiful beaches. It's also the jumping-off point for expeditions to Espíritu Santo, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Cabo Expeditions ([www.caboexpeditions.com.mx](http://www.caboexpeditions.com.mx)) and Sun Rider Tours ([www.sunrider.com](http://www.sunrider.com)) offer tours departing from Cabo San Lucas. The six-to-eight-hour tours are your chance to circumnavigate the entire archipelago. Stop at a sea lion colony to snorkel with the playful sea lions (pups are born each spring) and snorkel. You'll likely see brightly colored fish as well as the



Clockwise from top right: Enjoy an underwater expedition at Cabo Pulmo; find a beach all your own; sail and snorkel with friends with Cabo Escape.

sea lions that like to get between you and the rocks; don't be alarmed if they nibble on your fins. After the swim, enjoy a relaxing lunch on what is hand's down one of the most beautiful beaches in México, if not the world: Ensenada Grande.

## Grand De(tour)

Have time for a little weekend away? Loreto is located only about six hours north of Los Cabos, but its beaches are well worth the drive. The constellation of five islands that make up this national marine park are worth an exploration, especially the famous Danzante Island, home to three different beaches. The waters here are carefully protected, which means activities and access are regulated. But that also means the vibrancy of the sea and sea life are maintained. Kayak. Snorkel. And grab lots of photos!

## But Wait, There's More

Of course, this is in no way an exhaustive list of Los Cabos or Southern Baja beaches. To learn more about the stretches of sand that make this a world-class travel destination, visit [www.cabosanlucasbeaches.com](http://www.cabosanlucasbeaches.com). (You can also read archives of past articles at [www.loscabosmagazine.com](http://www.loscabosmagazine.com).) At both sites, you'll learn more about favorite spots like Playa Palmilla (Palmilla Beach), Playa Los Cerritos (Cerritos Beach), and Playa el Médano (Medano Beach). 📍



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# The Out-of-Towners

Los Cabos is home to a robust expat community.

Here's where we take our guests

By Sandra A. Berry

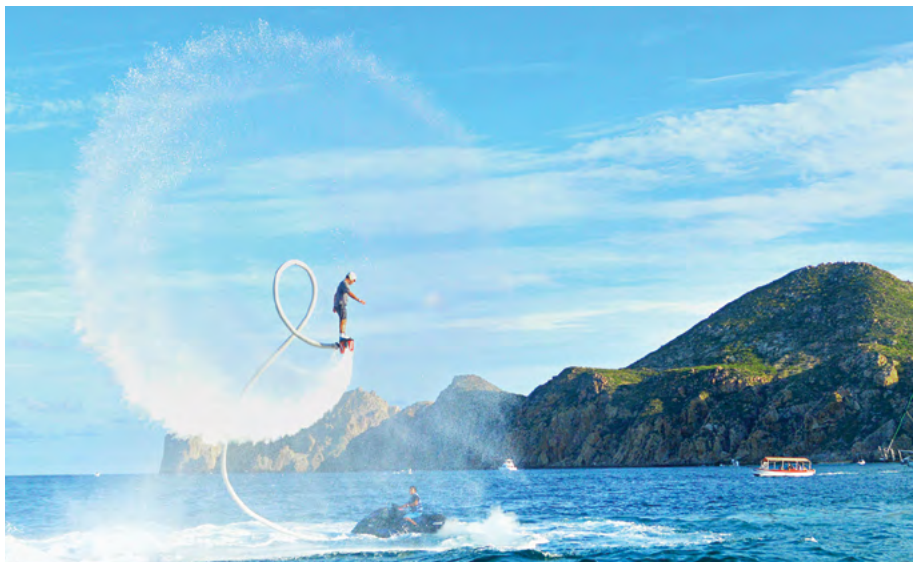


I love when guests visit me in Los Cabos. It gives me a chance to organize a tour of what is new—or old—depending on whether my friends have visited before. And organized it is. I prepare an itinerary for the days they are here, so as not to repeat activities from previous or future visits. That doesn't mean I'm inflexible, but it's a plan so that we know what we're doing on any particular day. And, there is always Plan B in case of rain.

For each visit, there is something on the water, and one of my favorite outings is the wine and jazz cruise on Tropicat ([www.tropicatcabo.com](http://www.tropicatcabo.com)). What a great way to see the shoreline and watch a magnificent sunset. Taking on some additional water activities depends on the crowd. My daughter can't get enough of swimming with dolphins. I'm sure her next visit will include one of the Cabo

Flyboard ([www.caboflyboard.com](http://www.caboflyboard.com)) activities. Snorkeling at Chileno Beach, either from shore or from a tour boat, is always a highlight.

With many different and exciting restaurants available, food is a big item on the list of activities. To give my guests a real taste of México,



Tropicat (top) offers an incredible jazz and wine sunset tour. Enjoy unique views of the Cabo San Lucas Bay with Cabo Flyboard (bottom).

Campestre ([www.restaurantcampestreloscabos.com](http://www.restaurantcampestreloscabos.com)) is a must with its abundant offerings of authentic Mexican food and flavors. I tell my guests that I take them only to the best places, and Así y Asado ([www.asiyasado.com](http://www.asiyasado.com)) is high on the list for tacos. For a taste of living on the beach, breakfast at The Office on Médano Beach ([www.theofficeonthebeach.com](http://www.theofficeonthebeach.com)) fills the bill, with a dip in one of the best swimmable beaches in Los Cabos. Sometimes my guests are surprised at the various ethnic eateries that dot the restaurant scene. From Japanese at Nicksan ([www.nicksan.com](http://www.nicksan.com)) and Daikoku ([www.daikoku.com.mex](http://www.daikoku.com.mex)), Italian at Romeo & Julieta ([www.restaurantromeoyjulieta.com](http://www.restaurantromeoyjulieta.com)), Chinese at Chin's ([www.chinscabo.com](http://www.chinscabo.com)), to Namaste India ([www.namasteindiacabo.com](http://www.namasteindiacabo.com)), I can always satisfy their taste buds. For good, old American-style, the funky Roadhouse ([www.latno2baddays.com](http://www.latno2baddays.com)) is available, full of marine memorabilia and interesting ex-pats.

Upping the scale for dining, a night at Pitahayas ([www.pitahayas.com](http://www.pitahayas.com)) or La Deriva ([www.laderivarestaurant.com](http://www.laderivarestaurant.com)) lets them know they are special and deserve to dine in style, perhaps starting with cocktails on the rooftop of The Cape, a Thompson Hotel ([www.thompsonhotels.com](http://www.thompsonhotels.com)), then dinner around the corner at Sunset MonaLisa ([www.sunsetmonalisa.com](http://www.sunsetmonalisa.com)).

If this is a first-time visit, taking a glass-bottom boat to Lover's Beach is the best way for a close-up view of the arch at Land's End. If Sunday is within the schedule, a trip to Cerrito's Beach to catch some surf waves is a great exercise, perhaps driving farther to Todos Santos to take in the magical town.

If time allows—and I always ask they allow at least a week to get a sense of what Los Cabos is all about—a jaunt up to Cabo Pulmo for the absolute epitome of snorkeling and diving. A little farther to La Paz offers swimming with whale sharks or a boat trip to Espíritu Santo.

On Thursday evenings during November-May, the Art Walk beckons in San José del Cabo; artists are in residence, the streets are closed to vehicles and many restaurants welcome art aficionados. The Ida Victoria Gallery is not to be missed, nor are the fine sculptures and paintings of world-renowned artist, Frank Arnold.

One of my friends has a good approach: She takes her guests to lunch at the legendary Cabo Wabo ([www.cabowabocantina.com](http://www.cabowabocantina.com)), including a tour of the premises, so that if they wish to take in the nightlife, they know where to go.

There's incredible shopping in Los Cabos: Luxury Avenue ([www.luxuryavenue.com](http://www.luxuryavenue.com)) astounds visitors with its upscale



Out-of-towners love visiting the iconic Cabo Wabo Cantina (top). Indulge in some shopping at Luxury Avenue (bottom).

boutiques; The Shoppes at Palmilla ([www.theshoppesatpalmilla.com.mx](http://www.theshoppesatpalmilla.com.mx)) with its trendy shops and restaurants is another option. Sometimes just taking in a movie at Puerto Paraiso ([www.puertoparaiso.mx](http://www.puertoparaiso.mx)), kicking up your feet in the Premier Salon in the Cinemex Theater (<https://cinemex.com/premium>), is a great way to relax after a day of shopping.

There's so much to see and do that a week is not really enough to do Los Cabos justice. My farewell bid is to come back soon and often. 📍

# Cruise Control

A guide to Los Cabos sunset cruises

By José Haro



You've orchestrated the perfect vacation, and now there's nothing left to do but sail into the sunset. Of course, if we're being specific, we're talking about the Technicolor sunsets that paint the Los Cabos sky a brilliant ombre: purple, red, orange magnificence.

In Los Cabos, many of our favorite companies offer sunset cruises that tour the Cabo San Lucas Bay and venture into the vastness of the Pacific Ocean, treating guests to views of landmarks (Neptune's Finger, Pelican Rock, and the arch at Land's End), expansive beaches, and impressive developments like Pedregal. Dolphins, orcas, and flying rays are spotted year round, and come winter they are joined by humpbacks, gray whales, and other magnificent migrating mammals.

Here's a look at some of our favorites. (Learn about additional activities in "The Directory," page 56.)

## Buccaneer Queen

The 96-foot black-and-yellow pirate-themed *Buccaneer Queen* ([www.buccaneerloscabos.com](http://www.buccaneerloscabos.com)) is an exact replica of an ancient galleon that sailed distant seas in search of adventure. Adventure seekers can still return to the ship for an evening of good times, pirate theatrics, and stunning vistas.

## Cabo Escape

Known for its floating nightclub, *Cabo Escape* ([www.wildcabotours.com](http://www.wildcabotours.com)) specializes in offering guests a good time. The double-decker catamaran sets sail nightly for its fajita

cruise. Enjoy yummy food, an all-you-can-drink open bar, and a gregarious crew. Be prepared to dance!

## Cabo Legend

There's plenty of booty to go around in Los Cabos, which is why we have not one but two popular pirate-themed tour ships. *Cabo Legend* ([www.wildcabotours.com](http://www.wildcabotours.com)) is a 100-foot twin-masted brig wooden sailing ship that can take up to 80 landlubbers out at a time. Its Yo Ho Ho sunset cruise features barbecued ribs, chicken, open bar, and all the pirate jokes you could ever ask for.

## Cabo Mar

The *Cabo Mar* ([www.pezgato.com](http://www.pezgato.com)) double-decker 65-foot catamaran of-



Los Cabos offers an array of ways to sail the seas. From left: Caborey, Pez Gato.

fers a smooth, family-friendly sunset cruise complete with fajitas, entertainment, open bar, and friendly crew.

**Caborey**

The triple-deck, 144-foot Caborey ([www.caborey.com](http://www.caborey.com)) catamaran offers snorkeling and whale watching, but the main attraction is its elegant dinner cruise with a fiery Argentine and Mexican floor show. Enjoy views of the picturesque Cabo San Lucas Bay as you quaff cocktails and listen to music. Then it's time to head downstairs for a multicourse dinner (entrée options include grilled lobster in a white wine cream sauce, chateaubriand, or seabass) and immersive show with mariachi music, folkloric dancing, Argentine tango, and fire.

**Cabo Sails**

Cabo Sails ([www.cabosails.com](http://www.cabosails.com)) company has been offering public and private charter options for more than 15 years. Boats range from 28 feet to 44 feet. Bonus: Children 12 and younger sail free.

**Eco Cat**

Los Cabos legend "Captain Bob" knew he wanted to do something special when he set out to travel the world to find Eco Cat ([www.ecocatcabo.com](http://www.ecocatcabo.com)), one of the world's largest sailing catamarans. It's always a smooth ride as you sail past Los Cabos' most iconic sights.

**Pez Gato**

The endless drinks and delicious eats that come with Pez Gato's sunset tour ([www.pezgato.com](http://www.pezgato.com)) may be just the ticket to pair perfectly with the outfit's legendary customer service.

**SunRider Tours**

The elegant and eco-friendly SunRider ([www.sunrider-tours.com](http://www.sunrider-tours.com)) has spacious entertainment boats available for

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**Tropicat**

Enjoy wine, jazz, and delicious appetizers on the celebrated wine and jazz sunset cruise from Tropicat ([www.pezгато.com](http://www.pezгато.com)). It's a sophisticated affair that will entertain and charm the whole family. ☑

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# The Directory

Welcome to the ultimate guide to Los Cabos activities

By Fernando Rodriguez



Get ready for adventure! Los Cabos was seemingly designed for exploration—by land, sea, and water—with a plethora of activities catering to the multitude of visitors we welcome each year. Whether you're feeling like a daredevil or craving some liquid courage, you'll find the just-right adventure for you.

For an even more complete listing of activities, please visit [www.loscabosguide.com](http://www.loscabosguide.com). And to find out which businesses participate in our discount prepaid voucher, visit [www.loscabosguide.com/discounts](http://www.loscabosguide.com/discounts).

For now, read on to choose your own adventure and find what's most suitable this vacation.

## BUNGEE JUMPING

Get your thrills as you jump from a glass-bottom gondola 300 feet in the air! Wild Canyon also offers round-trip transportation from hotels. Wild Canyon ([www.wildcanyon.com.mx](http://www.wildcanyon.com.mx))

## CABO PULMO EXPEDITIONS

The natural marine park reserve located about 60 miles northeast of Cabo San Lucas is home to one of only three living reefs in North America. Whether you're snorkeling or diving there, expect to see many of the 300-plus fish species that earned the region its reputation as the world's

aquarium. Cabo Expeditions ([www.caboexpeditions.com](http://www.caboexpeditions.com))

## CAMEL RIDES

A favorite for families, Wild Canyon's Camel Quest features a tour through the El Tule oasis. It was designed especially for families (children 4 and older can participate), and there are dedicated camels for wee riders. Plus, small groups can pet, feed, and interact with the gentle and friendly animals. Wild Canyon's Camel Quest ([www.wildcanyon.com.mx](http://www.wildcanyon.com.mx))

## DOLPHINS

The San José del Cabo Dolphin Discovery excursion is an unforgettable activity for children of all ages and adults: Wade in and interact with dolphins in their own saltwater cove. Professionally photographed memento images are immediately available at the end of this heart-warming experience. Dolphin Discovery ([www.dolphindiscovery.com](http://www.dolphindiscovery.com))

## SUNSET DINNER CRUISES

The beauty of a Los Cabos vacation is how unique the experience can be for each visitor, but if there's one activity we would recommend to everybody it's a trip around the Cabo San Lucas Bay. Check out landmarks like Pelican's Rock and

the arch at Land's End. There are different types of sunset cruises that cater to different folks' preferences: wine and jazz on Tropicat, fajitas on Cabo Mar, five-star dining on Caborey. Read on for more options. Cabo Escape ([www.wildcabotours.com](http://www.wildcabotours.com)), Cabo Mar ([www.pezgato.com](http://www.pezgato.com)), Caborey ([www.caborey.com](http://www.caborey.com)), Cabo Sails ([www.cabosails.com](http://www.cabosails.com)), Eco-Cat ([www.ecocatcabo.com](http://www.ecocatcabo.com)), Pez Gato ([www.pezgato.com](http://www.pezgato.com)), Tropicat ([www.pezgato.com](http://www.pezgato.com)), SunRider Tours ([www.sunridertours.com](http://www.sunridertours.com))

## FISHING

With three of the world's most famous deep-sea fishing tournaments held every October in Los Cabos, the Baja Peninsula offers the most incredible fishing area in North America. First time anglers and seasoned fishing professionals are guaranteed a memorable time in Los Cabos from any outing aboard these crews. Gaviotas Sportfishing ([www.gaviotassportfishing.com](http://www.gaviotassportfishing.com)), Silverados Sportfishing ([www.silveradosportfishing.com](http://www.silveradosportfishing.com))

## FLYBOARD, HOVERBOARD, AND JETPACK

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no time. Children ages 7 and older can participate. Cabo Flyboard ([www.caboflyboard.com](http://www.caboflyboard.com))

## KAYAKING

The calm waters of the Cabo San Lucas Bay plus the scenic surroundings and year-round good weather make kayaking in Cabo an absolute must. Paddle out to Lover's Beach for a daylong adventure. EcoCat ([www.ecocatcabo.com](http://www.ecocatcabo.com))

FROM LEFT: COURTESY CABOREY; COURTESY GAVIOTAS SPORTFISHING



Enjoy dinner, a fiery show, and sunset views atop the Caborey (left). Find your own catch of the day with Gaviotas (right).



Cabo Escape (top) offers the perfect escape. There's not one but two pirate ships in Cabo San Lucas—Cabo Legend and Buccaneer Queen (both pictured, bottom).

## MOTORCYCLE ADVENTURES

Southern Baja California's mountainous terrain, desert-like sand dunes, river beds, trails, and scenic routes are all the reasons one needs to hop on a motorcycle and visit the ghost towns and abandoned gold mines in the nearby historic towns of the Los Cabos-La Paz area. Baja Dirt ([www.bajadirt.com](http://www.bajadirt.com))

## OFF-ROAD RUNNERS

The Honda 450 quad-runners available with Wild Canyon are a thrilling joyride of adventure, zooming around the popular eco-park with rugged desert terrain, canyons, and mountains, following their professional guides. Wild Canyon's Off-Road Runners ([www.wildcanyon.com.mx](http://www.wildcanyon.com.mx))

## PARASAILING

Get a bird's-eye view of the arch and Lover's Beach. You'll fly like an eagle, lifting off from the back of a boat, either single or tandem, and you don't even have to get wet. Cabo Expeditions ([www.caboexpeditions.com.mx](http://www.caboexpeditions.com.mx))

## PARTY BOATS

Like the sunset cruises, the Los Cabos party boats are all about fun, fun, fun. Ideal for bachelor and bachelorette soirees. An always-exhilarating wild and boisterous time with DJ music, plenty of alcoholic beverages, and tasty hors d'oeuvres treats aboard a classic pirate ship. Buccaneer Queen ([www.buccaneerloscabos.com](http://www.buccaneerloscabos.com)), Cabo Escape ([www.wildcabotours.com](http://www.wildcabotours.com)), Cabo Legend ([www.wildcabotours.com](http://www.wildcabotours.com))

## PIRATE SHIPS

Cabo San Lucas sports two antique pirate ships: the Buccaneer Queen black-and-yellow-painted galleon and the 100-foot twin-masted brig known as the Cabo Legend. Their two-and-a-half-hour ocean tour is great fun for all ages. Buccaneer Queen ([www.buccaneerloscabos.com](http://www.buccaneerloscabos.com)), Cabo Legend ([www.wildcabotours.com](http://www.wildcabotours.com))

## SAILING

The ideal opportunity for any sailing enthusiast, whether an avid pro or for those enjoying their first time. Private and overnight charters available. Cabo Sailing ([www.cabosailing.com](http://www.cabosailing.com)), Cabo Sails ([www.cabosails.com](http://www.cabosails.com))

## SNORKELING

Explore the Sea of Cortés with snorkeling tours at Santa Maria and Chileno Bay. It's a great opportunity to see the dizzying array of beautiful underwater life, hidden reefs, and 600 dazzling species of marine life (eels, manta rays, puffers, angelfish, blowfish, and florescent fish, among them). Big Mike Sea Adventure ([www.bigmikeseadventures.com](http://www.bigmikeseadventures.com)), Buccaneer Queen ([www.buccaneerloscabos.com](http://www.buccaneerloscabos.com)), Cabo Escape ([www.wildcabotours.com](http://www.wildcabotours.com)), Caborey ([www.caborey.com](http://www.caborey.com)), Cabo Sailing ([www.cabosailing.com](http://www.cabosailing.com)), Cabo Sails ([www.cabosails.com](http://www.cabosails.com)), Eco Cat ([www.ecocatcabo.com](http://www.ecocatcabo.com)), Pez Gato ([www.pezgato.com](http://www.pezgato.com)), SunRider Tours ([www.sunridertours.com](http://www.sunridertours.com))

## SUBMARINE RIDES

A 60-foot semi-submersible yellow submarine takes guests underwater to witness the interesting underwater sea life. Great for all ages. Cabo Expeditions ([www.caboexpeditions.com.mx](http://www.caboexpeditions.com.mx))

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From left: Say "I do" aboard SunRider's beautiful entertainment boat; enjoy peak whale watching from the comfort of EcoCat.

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**SCUBA DIVING**

The uninhabited Espíritu Santo Archipelago in La Paz is fabulously famous for not only scuba diving but snorkeling, swimming and kayaking. Cabo Expeditions ([www.caboexpeditions.com.mx](http://www.caboexpeditions.com.mx)), SunRider Tours ([www.sunridertours.com](http://www.sunridertours.com))

**WEDDINGS AT SEA**

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**WHALE SHARKS ADVENTURES**

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**WHALE WATCHING**

Known as the most spectacular whale watching destination in the world, with more than 10,000 annual visitors, Los Cabos offers an up-close-and personal look at the mammoth-sized gentle creatures during their mating and birthing season December 15–April 15. Buccaneer Queen ([www.buccaneerloscabos.com](http://www.buccaneerloscabos.com)), Cabo Expeditions ([www.caboexpeditions.com.mx](http://www.caboexpeditions.com.mx)), Cabo

Rey ([www.caborey.com](http://www.caborey.com)), Cabo Sailing ([www.cabosailing.com](http://www.cabosailing.com)), Cabo Sails ([www.cabosails.com](http://www.cabosails.com)), SunRider Tours ([www.sunridertours.com](http://www.sunridertours.com))

**ZIPLINES**

Whether solo or in tandem, ziplining from peak to peak at Wild Canyon over scenic canyons is an unforgettably thrilling adventure. The Monster Zipline is the longest. Wild Canyon ([www.wildcanyon.com.mx](http://www.wildcanyon.com.mx))



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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: COURTESY SUNRIDER; COURTESY ECO CAT; COURTESY WILD CANYON

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7. Casa Dahlia Art Gallery
8. Casa Don Pablo Gallery
9. Corsica Art Gallery
10. Cuervo's House
11. El Armario Art Gallery
12. El Lunario Gallery
13. Frank Arnold Gallery
14. French Riviera
15. Ida Victoria Gallery
16. Indira Gems/Victoria Icaza
17. Ivan Guaderrama Gallery
18. Jazmin Restaurant
19. La Dolce
20. La Panga Antigua
21. Mata Ortiz Gallery
22. Mi Casa Restaurant
23. Mi Cocina Restaurant
24. Muvezi African Art
25. Old Town Gallery
26. Organic Market (on Season)
27. Paquime Gallery
28. Plaza Artesanos
29. Silvermoon Gallery
30. Soraya Gallery
31. Wentworth Porter Gallery

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# LIVING LEGENDS

As *Los Cabos Magazine* celebrates 25 years, we salute the restaurants that have also stood the test of time

By Sandra A. Berry



## D I N I N G

As *Los Cabos Magazine* celebrates its 25th year of publication, we wanted to take a moment to honor the transformation this region has undertaken and the restaurants that have made it what it is: a spectacular destination with world-class dining.

One Los Cabos favorite that's been around since before the magazine debuted is **Baja Cantina** ([www.bajacantinamarina.com](http://www.bajacantinamarina.com)) on the Cabo San Lucas Marina. It's where we used to go in the old days when the power would go out across town (frequently), and it's where I would stop for a light meal from the bar menu after taking salsa lessons at Mambo Cafe in what is now called **Tesoro Resort** ([www.tesororesorts.com](http://www.tesororesorts.com)).

A favorite then and a favorite now, **Romeo & Julieta** ([www.restaurantromeoyjulieta.com](http://www.restaurantromeoyjulieta.com)) is in its 33rd year in business and still a go-to place for authentic Italian cuisine in a romantic setting.

Back in the old days, you'd go to the Trailer Park if you were looking for a romantic night out. Yes, that was its name. Now it's known as **La Golondrina** ([www.lagolondrinarestaurant.com](http://www.lagolondrinarestaurant.com)), and it's known for huge servings of whole lobster and more than 100 items on board menus, all of which are served in the courtyard under twinkling lights hanging from century-old trees. When I first arrived in Cabo San Lucas in the early 1990s and was told that the restaurant to go to was The Trailer Park, the name made me hesitate. I went. I loved it and have been a fan ever since.

**Peacocks** ([www.peacocksrestaurant.com](http://www.peacocksrestaurant.com)) is part of the Mi Casa group of restaurants, and it has a wonderfully European flair. Around since 1990, it may get less attention than its sister spots, but it's an incredible spot for farm-to-table deliciousness. Its eye-catching sister restaurants **Mi**



Opposite page: We've been fans of *The Office* for years; we took this pic back in 1992. This page, from top: Baja Cantina has long been a favorite on the marina; El Squid Roe was one of Cabo's first nightclubs.

**Casa** ([www.micasarestaurant.com.mx](http://www.micasarestaurant.com.mx)) are worth visiting just to witness the history in painted murals on the walls in both the Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo locations.

**The Office** ([www.theofficeonthebeach.com](http://www.theofficeonthebeach.com)) is synonymous with Los Cabos...and it's another spot I hesitated to visit because the name threw me off, but I succumbed because it was highly recommended. It's now a place I recommend whenever friends and family come to visit. Sitting on the sand, watching water activities—that what it's all about.

**Cabo Wabo** ([www.cabowabocantina.com](http://www.cabowabocantina.com)) arrived on the scene in 1990

at a time when Cabo San Lucas was still known as a sleepy fishing village. Rocker Sammy Hagar had a dream to open a tequila bar with a small stage so that he could perform when in town and other musicians could take advantage of it, too. What resulted was way before its time, but Los Cabos has risen to the occasion and since grown in proportion to this iconic spot, which has become a landmark for Cabo and is on every visitor's must-visit list—if only to take a tour, a photo, or indulge in some great cantina food and tequila. Other nightclubs of that era include **El Squid Roe** ([www.elsquidroe.com](http://www.elsquidroe.com)), a raucous place where you could (and still can) party like a rock



Two of Los Cabos' most famous restaurants are also two of its longest-standing spots: Peacocks (left) and Mama's Royal Café.

star, and **Giggling Marlin** ([www.gigglingmarlin.com](http://www.gigglingmarlin.com)), which debuted during the 1980s and is known for its fun and wild show. Food is ancillary to the action at either place, but the offerings are satisfactory and necessary when downing straight shots of tequila poured into open mouths.

What was known as Latitude 22 back in 1988 is now The Roadhouse and located in a new spot. It's still a hangout for expats and still serving what owner Mike Grzanich calls Croatian specialties; think comfort food such as roast prime rib, chicken fried steak, meat loaf, and fried chicken. The marine memorabilia is worth a visit all its own.

**Gardenias** ([www.tacosgardenias.com](http://www.tacosgardenias.com)) has long been a favorite for tacos. And it offers a huge variety, with everything from traditional fish or steak tacos to less-common finds like *cochinita pibil* and *nopales*. **Villa Serena** ([www.villaserenarestaurant.com](http://www.villaserenarestaurant.com)) on the tourist corridor is known for its \$19.95 U.S. lobster dinner. Can you believe it was once only \$9.95 U.S.?

I remember sitting on the beach in the early 1990s with my toes in the sand at **Casa Cascadas** ([www.casacascadas.com](http://www.casacascadas.com)) for a lovely moonlit dinner within a few yards of the lapping shoreline. That impression is still heavy on my mind, and Casa Cascadas is still a spot I love to visit throughout the week, especially for Sunday brunch.

**El Coral** ([www.loscabosguide.com/item/el-coral](http://www.loscabosguide.com/item/el-coral)) opened in 1975. Located across from Tesoro Resort, the restaurant—now bigger and remodeled is still in the running for most authentic Mexican fare.

**Mama's Royal Café** ([www.mamasroyalcafeloscabos.com](http://www.mamasroyalcafeloscabos.com)) has a reputation for having the best French toast, and I can't disagree. This is where many yacht people hung out back in the days, leaving messages for one another due to lack of any sophisticated telecommunication.

**Nick-San** ([www.nicksan.com](http://www.nicksan.com)) made its debut a quarter-century ago and was widely recognized as the best Japanese fare on the entire western coast. It is still a big draw. Not everyone comes to México to eat Mexican food only. A second location was later opened in the Shoppes at Palmilla, and both are thriving.

What Mary and John Bragg started more than 25 years ago with **Pancho's** ([www.panchos.com](http://www.panchos.com)) is still one of the liveliest spots to go for great food. Boasting nearly 600 labels of tequila, this is the place to get educated on tequila and earn a certificate while enjoying different tastes and brands of México's native distilled beverage.

San José del Cabo has its memorable restaurants like **Tropicana Inn** ([www.tropicainn.com.mx](http://www.tropicainn.com.mx)). Back in late 1980s and early 1990s, it's where everyone went for details on approaching storms and hurricanes; it was the only place that had TV service. Many used the public phone service to communicate to the outside world because there wasn't telephone service in the area.

Los Cabos is just a baby compared to dates on edifices in other parts of the world—and mainland México. Reminiscing about 25 years ago is a trip down memory lane to those of us who have experienced the growth of Los Cabos. It's the way it was, and we remember how we laughed away the hours. Those days were magical. We're happy to share that with you. ☒

# JOHN'S PLACE DEBUTS NEW FEATURES

Read on to find out  
what's new


Just when you think John's Place can't get any better, the downtown favorite goes and adds sushi to the menu! Among the new items on the menu are the crispy John's Roll and tuna sashimi.


Of course, that's not all owner Daniel Palomino and his wife, Magda, have done this fall, a time of year when many restaurants turn their attention to renovations. Visit the open-air spot this fall and winter to enjoy its brand-new outdoor grill is where you'll get to dine on late-night, wallet-friendly street tacos (think al pastor and carne asada). John's Place used to close at 11 p.m.; it'll now extend hours to 2 a.m. on some nights.

The bar will also stay open late till 2 a.m., serving all the beers and alcoholic beverages you could imagine. What's even better is the price point: Domestic and imported regularly run only \$3 U.S. here, but John's Place also offers a two-for-one special that knocks that price down to \$1.50 U.S. The two-for-one deal extends to margaritas, so sip quickly on the quintessential México cocktail, which here comes in strawberry, mango, and lemon.

Baja Peppers fans will be happy to know that chef Sergio Salgado Nava recently joined the John's Place team. The lunch and dinner menus were already packed with delicious entrées, but he's managed to bring even more flavor to its famous two-for-one pasta plates, the succulent all-you-can-eat pork ribs, and the "Real Deal" breakfast choice that consists of scrambled eggs, hash browns, bacon, toast, and mixed fruit for only \$4.50 U.S.

"Before we came to Cabo, one of our friend's raved about how good the food was at John's Place was, and he told us about how affordable the prices were. Once we arrived, we went to see for ourselves and would definitely recommend John's Place to everyone we know that might vacation here soon," says Rita Guerrero Hernandez of Ceres, California. She adds, "We have so enjoyed





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our second visit to Cabo and really like the fun, happy vibe at John's Place, with their friendly service and the rock-bottom menu prices."

The Palomino family restaurant has been at its popular location since it first opened in 2014. The corner spot has a devout following of Los Cabos residents, who appreciate the delectable breakfast, tasty lunches, and delicious dinner options as well as the nice, affordable menu item prices.

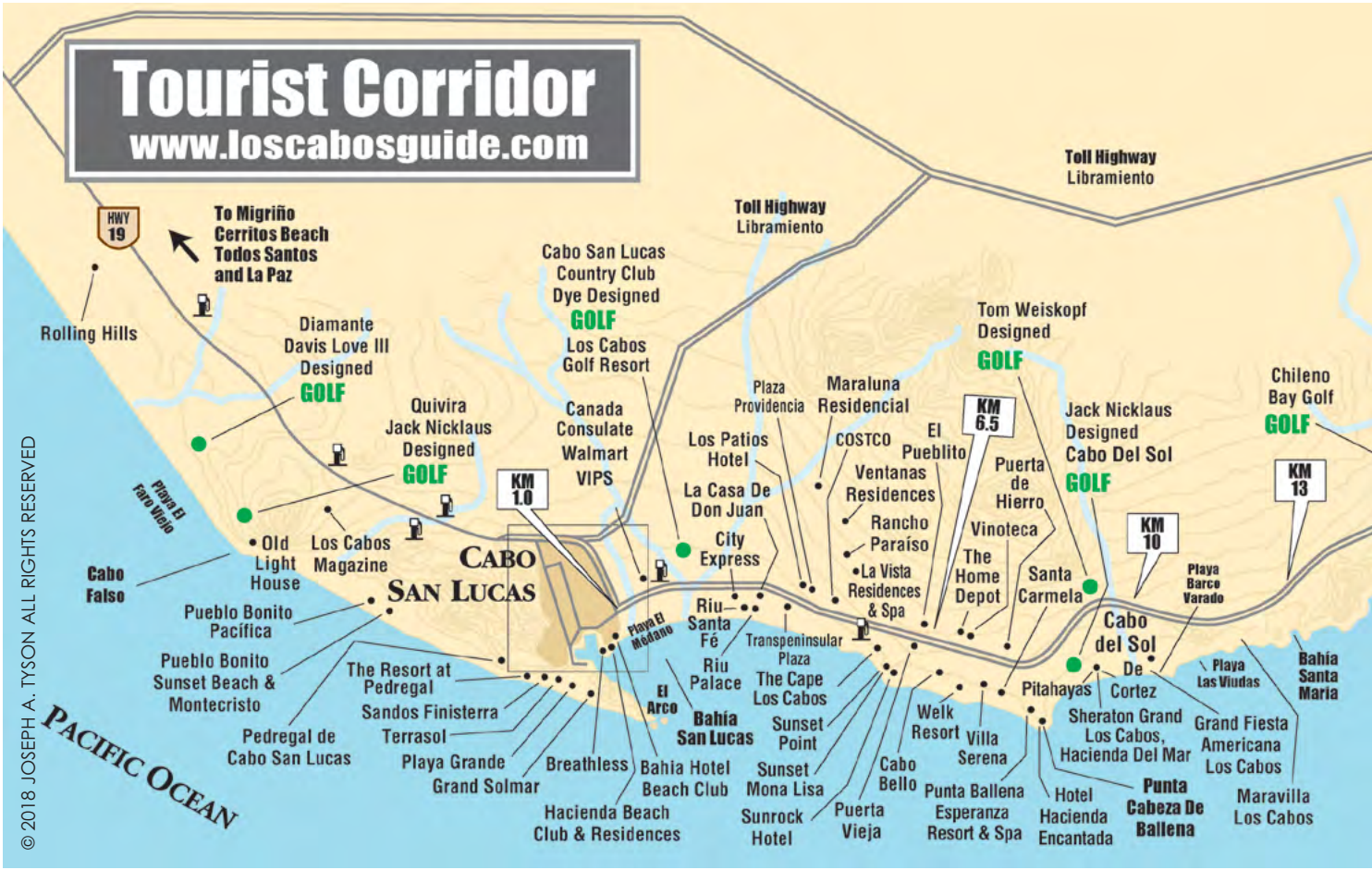
"Before we recently moved, when I used to work across the street at our real estate offices, I would stop in here at least three times a week," says Marty Ochoa, who originally hails from Orange County, California, and has lived in Cabo San Lucas since 2009. "I've had everything from their tortilla soup, clam chowder, flank steak with mushrooms and baked potato, shrimp scampi, the chicken enchiladas, chicken molé poblano, shrimp ceviche, the deluxe burger with fries, and the Willard club sandwich on several occasions."

John's Place is located at the northeast corner of Marina Paseo Boulevard and Vicente Guerrero Street, in front of Tesoro Hotel. All major credit cards accepted. Open from 7 a.m.–2 a.m. daily For more information, please visit [www.facebook.com/johnsplacecabo](http://www.facebook.com/johnsplacecabo) or call (624) 105-0381.

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# THE DINING GUIDE

By Ashley Alvarado, Julio Beltrán, Sandra A. Berry, Michael Bobo,  
Dana McLoughlin, Fernando Rodriguez, and Antonio Vargas



**Alcaravea Gourmet**

Discover Mediterranean at its finest—and for unbeatable prices at Alcaravea Gourmet. Chef-owner Enrique Diaz Gerard's downtown darling has grown from a four-table hole-in-the-wall to a full-fledged and much-beloved restaurant, complete with a cult following that includes locals, expats, and in-the-know travelers. The lunch specials here offer an incredible deal: A three-course meal is available noon–4:30 p.m. with fish, fowl, beef or pasta for approximately \$15 U.S., all inclusive. A choice of crispy salad or soup is offered along with refillable iced tea or lemonade, followed by a choice of entrée. Each day there is a different dish, like seabass topped with pesto or top sirloin beef with marsala wine sauce and mushrooms, chicken breast with eggplant baked in tomato sauce, or pasta in butter with tomatoes and olives. A petit dessert comes with the meal; it might be a chocolate brownie with a dollop of vanilla ice cream or a square of mango and yogurt mousse topped with a mixed fruit compote and whipped cream. All entrées are served with the choice of seasonal vegetables or a swirl of pasta with red or white sauce. If you're coming for dinner, try not to fill up on the stuffed mushroom starter; they're so delicious and filling that you may not have room for an entrée. Best to share and then order the Mediterranean-style catch of the day baked with sun-dried tomatoes and accompanied with pesto and Parmesan on a mirror of Gorgonzola sauce. S.A.B.

- 📍 Ignacio Zaragoza and 16 de Septiembre, Cabo San Lucas
- ☎ (624) 143-3730
- 🌐 [www.facebook.com/alcaraveagourmet](http://www.facebook.com/alcaraveagourmet)
- 🕒 Mon.–Sat. noon–11 p.m.
- 💳 All major credit cards and vouchers accepted \$–\$\$\$

**Baja Lobster Co.**

The king of crustaceans gets central billing at this fantastic Cabo San Lucas Marina mainstay, but there's a lot to love here. Enjoy the breeze on the cantilevered deck-bar as you dine on appetizers like ceviche, raw chocolate clams (named for their color, not flavor), tuna tartar, or oysters on the half shell. Cool winter evenings call for a steaming bowl of creamy lobster bisque. You can't go wrong with any of the lobster entrées. Other favorites include the bacon-wrapped shrimp stuffed with cheese, battered shrimp, and paella. If seafood isn't your thing, opt for the filet mignon, vegetable lasagna, or baked Rock Cornish hen. A.A.

- 📍 Marina Golden Zone, Cabo San Lucas Marina, Cabo San Lucas
- ☎ (624) 145-6011
- 🌐 [www.goldenzonecabo.com](http://www.goldenzonecabo.com)
- 🕒 Daily noon–11 p.m. (Kitchen closes at 10:30 p.m.)
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Opposite page: Pastafrolla knows Mediterranean (pictured: Spaghetti aglio e olio). This page: a decadent chocolate dessert at Alcaravea Gourmet.

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From top: Lobster is king at Baja Lobster Co.; you can expect good, down-home barbecue at Black Smoke Barbeque.

### Black Smoke Barbeque

Yes, you can enjoy your favorite down-home barbecue flavors while in the paradisiacal conditions of Cabo San Lucas. After a day of fun activities, cool down with the must-try Soul Train cocktail, which is made with tequila, grapefruit, and lime juice. It's the perfect complement to appetizers that include bone marrow served with crisp toast, stuffed Caribe poppers, chicken wings, and jalapeño poppers. If reading this description is making your cholesterol rise, know that there are lighter options like an asparagus salad with portobello mushroom. This is a great destination not only for food but also fun

and games; check out the darts, table games, and pool table. S.A.B.

📍 Calle Miguel Hidalgo, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 247-0564

🕒 Daily 2:30 p.m.– 11 p.m.

💳 MasterCard and Visa accepted \$\$

### Cabo Wabo

'Tis the season to celebrate, and there's no bigger party destination in Cabo San Lucas than the iconic Cabo Wabo Cantina. Red Rocker Sammy Hagar helped put this once-sleepy fishing village on the map when he opened the club nearly three decades ago. We'll admit being partial to the restaurant, which is

FROM TOP: BRIAN ULLOA; FRANCISCO ESTRADA



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## DINING



The kitchen at Cabo Wabo Cantina offers many delicious surprises.

open for lunch and dinner daily. Start with the pan-seared scallops served with Cabo Wabo tequila butter. The chile-and-cream-cheese-stuffed mushrooms are another favorite starter. For the main course, opt for the famous lobster tacos or the Waburrito, a huge burrito stuffed with chicken, tomatoes, and cheese. The lobster burrito is sautéed lobster, onion, tomato, and garlic and deglazed with white wine and finished with heavy cream. Other standout main course options include jumbo shrimp in a cilantro-honey glaze and the pan-seared beef tenderloin. A.A.

📍 Vicente Guerrero and Lázaro Cárdenas, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 143-1188

🌐 [www.cabowabocantina.com](http://www.cabowabocantina.com)

🕒 Restaurant: Daily 11 a.m.–11 p.m. Patio bar: Daily 8 a.m.–1 a.m. Club: Nightly 8 p.m.–1 a.m.

💳 All major credit cards accepted \$\$–\$\$\$

### Café des Artistes

There's a masterful artistry that infuses every aspect of the Café des Artistes experience—from the decor to the food to the service. It's been three years since chef Thierry Blouet first introduced his inspired marriage of French cuisine and Mexican ingredients to Southern Baja gourmets, and the restaurant continues to be a standout...even as we are seeing culinary renaissance in the region. Start with mezcal cocktail paired with the fresh tuna tartar topped with pickled vegetables and avocado. On cool winter nights, you'll crave the signature prawn and pumpkin cream soup. Stellar entrées include roasted duck leg, rack of lamb, short ribs, fresh tuna with peanut crust, broiled octopus with spinach

FRANCISCO ESTRADA

## DINING

gratine make for a difficult choice. They're all excellent. A tasting menu might help in the decision-making, with or without wine pairing. Vegetarians will enjoy a veggie symphony or risotto with *huilacoche*, a corn mushroom delicacy. The restaurant hosts various special promotions throughout the year, such as an artisanal cheese tasting, or special chef's dinner with wine pairing. S.A.B.

📍 JW Marriott Resort, Puerto Los Cabos, San José del Cabo

☎ (624) 163-7600

🌐 [www.cafedesartistescabos.com](http://www.cafedesartistescabos.com)

🕒 Tues.–Sun. 6 p.m.–11 p.m.

💳 All major credit cards accepted  
\$\$\$–\$\$\$\$

### Campestre Restaurant Bar

Here's a restaurant that is so good that you almost don't want others to know about it. Lines often form to get in here, but the excellent staff at Campestre Restaurant Bar works speedily to get you in the door and ready to enjoy the home-style, authentic Mexican food that has made this spot a darling among locals and in-the-know visitors. Every dish is prepared with traditional ingredients and the love and knowledge that have made Mexican food such a favorite worldwide. Come in the mornings for green *chilaquiles* topped with steak. Or later in the day to enjoy one of the colorful plates of enchiladas with red or green chile sauce, a chile relleno with shredded chicken and cheese covered in a rich tomato sauce, or fajitas of chicken, beef, or fish served with rice and beans. A.A.

📍 Salvatierra, corner of López Mateos and Camino al Faro, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 143-8830

🌐 [www.restaurantcampestreloscabos.com](http://www.restaurantcampestreloscabos.com)

🕒 Mon.–Fri. 7:30 a.m.–9 p.m., Sat. 7:30 a.m.–4 p.m., Sun. 7:30 a.m.–2 p.m.


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You'll find what you're craving in Los Cabos. From top: Campestre Restaurant Bar specializes in authentic Mexican flavors; discover the bounty of the sea with this dinner for two at Captain Tony's.

## Captain Tony's


The Cabo San Lucas Marina comes to life early each morning as anglers and fishing crews make their way to their boats and the sea. It's no surprise, then, that Captain Tony's—a favorite of anglers and locals alike—also opens bright and early at 6 a.m. daily. Come by early to grab a boxed lunch for your day on the water then return come evening time to enjoy your catch prepared just about any way you like it. Captain Tony's is famous for fresh seafood (try the grilled fish burger), but there are also plenty of salads, pizzas, and grilled choices to satisfy the whole family. Starters include baked mushrooms stuffed with ri-


cotta and Parmesan, dynamite shrimp, popcorn shrimp, nachos, barbecued ribs, guacamole prepared tableside, ceviche, tuna tostados, sashimi, and *curricanes* made with crab and avocado. Still hungry after noshing on any of the above? Go for the whole red snapper or any of the chef's specials such as coconut shrimp or Captain Tony's shrimp stuffed with crab. S.A.B.

 Cabo San Lucas Marina (behind Tesoro Los Cabos Resort), Cabo San Lucas

 (624) 143-6797

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FROM TOP: REBECA VALLADARES; FRANCISCO ESTRADA



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The Hatate Roll at Daikoku is a work of art. Enjoy it along with a variety of Japanese favorites.

**Chin's**

This Shoppes at Palmilla restaurant brings the polish and theatricality of Las Vegas and pan-China flavors to Southern Baja. Guests can expect a menu that dances about Cathay, Cantonese, and Szechwan dishes while also demonstrating a clear sense of place. Take, for example, the ginger margarita or the martini made with avocado, vodka, sake, lemon, and agave syrup. Steamed crab wontons awaken the palate with a bit of a kick of garlic, ginger, cilantro, and habanero sauce. Moo shu pork is wrapped in a crepe prepared tableside and topped with a special hoisin sauce. Entrées include traditional favorites such as sweet-and-sour pork, walnut shrimp with a special mayo sauce; wok-prepared Mongolian beef; spicy chicken with red chile peppers; and lemon chicken, a favorite of many. And there are always fried rice dishes with various additions as well as egg rolls. Treat yourself to an espresso martini, made with Baileys, Frangelico, and espresso or one of the sumptuous desserts such as tempura fried ice cream. Takeout service is available. S.A.B.

- 📍 Shoppes at Palmilla, km 27.5 on the tourist corridor, San José del Cabo
- ☎ (624) 144-6060
- 🌐 [www.chinscabo.com](http://www.chinscabo.com)
- 🕒 Daily 12:30 p.m.–10:30 p.m.
- 💳 AmEx, MasterCard, and Visa accepted \$-\$\$\$

COURTESY DAIKOKU



Missing home? The grilled cheese and tomato soup at District MX is even better than what Grandma used to make.

**Daikoku**

When you enter Daikoku, you will think you have been transported to Japan. You cross over a small bridge, and you're magically cast into a Japanese garden setting. There are two tables where water runs through the tops of the tables and then two small waterfalls that cascade into a Koi pond. A water wheel adds to the ambience that you're next to a small stream in the forest. There are two teppanyaki grills in the outside garden area. As you walk up a small flight of stairs and enter the restaurant, the floor you're standing on is made of thick glass with a Zen garden below. You usually go to a restaurant for the food, but Daikoku throws in a spiritual experience along with the food, and has a very warm and hospitable staff, and air-conditioning. There are many sushi restaurants in Cabo, but Daikoku is one of a kind. To my knowledge, it's the only one to offer bluefin tuna, the emperor of the

ocean. The best cuts are from the belly, and from a 400-pound tuna, you may get only a couple of kilos. If you love tuna, you must give this a try and you will not be disappointed. If you're a meat lover, try the filet mignon, which is cooked on the teppanyaki grill and served with assorted vegies. The menu also includes chicken and shrimp and other exotic things to choose from. If you're into sake, Daikoku has a variety of sakes from Japan. M.B.

- 📍 Plaza Nautica, Blvd. Marina, Cabo San Lucas
- ☎ (624) 143-4038
- 🌐 <http://loscabos.daikoku.com.mx/en>
- 🕒 Daily noon–11:30 p.m.
- 💳 AmEx, MasterCard, and Visa accepted \$\$–\$\$\$

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Your catch will taste even better in the hands of Eco Bar's talented chefs.

creature comforts, and here you can relax and take in Baja's best audiovisual entertainment and international sports. There are booths, a VIP area perfect for conversations or parties, and a deck for drinking and soaking up the sun. The excellent gourmet-casual North American menu is infused with international flavors, and the District's food is expertly created with high-quality, guilt-free ingredients. Beer lovers can enjoy a great variety of draft and craft beer (guaranteed the coldest in Baja). Enjoy weekend brunch and build your own masterpiece with the Bloody Mary-Caesar kart. There's live entertainment with musicians and DJs Thursday through Saturday, happy hour daily, as well as games for children and adults. D.M.

📍 Plaza Peninsula, km 29.5 on the tourist corridor, San José del Cabo

☎ (624) 688-6818

🌐 [www.districtmx.com](http://www.districtmx.com)

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💳 Major credit cards accepted \$–\$\$\$

### Eco Bar

Whether you're returning from whale watching, saddling up to watch a football game, or just real hungry, Eco Bar is an incredible destination on the Cabo San Lucas Marina. The family-friendly restaurant has a robust menu—there are great options for kids—as well as seven flat-screen TVs and a full bar. You'll have plenty to nosh on while you're watching games: Eco Bar offers loaded quesadillas (try them with shrimp), veggie burritos, spicy wings, fish and chips, and ceviche. The sports helpings include NBA, MLB, NHL, NFL, college, or other games.

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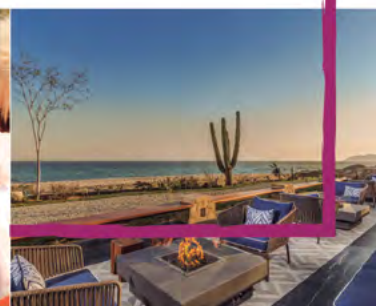
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# DINING

Returning from a day of fishing the abundant seas that surround Cabo San Lucas? For just \$9 U.S., the capable kitchen crew will prepare your catch either blackened, grilled, fried, or in a tasty fresh seafood-sashimi style. A bonus: Eco Bar offers one hour validated parking at the nearby Tesoro Los Cabos resort. F.R.

📍 Cabo San Lucas Marina, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 157-4685

🕒 Daily 7:30 a.m.–11:30 p.m.

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## Fisherman's Landing Bar

Few restaurants embrace the rhythms of Cabo San Lucas life more than Fisherman's Landing, which opens before daybreak to feed hungry anglers on their way out to sea. Each evening, it welcomes them and others with meals worthy of a king. This is a restaurant for the true seafood aficionado. Starters include curricanes with avocado and tuna. Main course items will blow you away. Choose any combination of lobster with lime butter, perfectly prepared filet mignon, jumbo shrimp on skewers with citrus sauce, yellowtail, or sea bass blackened Rockefeller style. Other items include a cheese tortilla with crab meat, oysters on half shell, shrimp cocktail, and entrées of lots of shrimp dishes fixed the way you like them, seafood chiles rellenos, and pastas. Ask for the special margarita: It comes in a bowl. A nice ending to a fully satisfying meal is a plate of churros with caramel dipping sauce, and maybe a Baileys and espresso coffee. Satisfaction guaranteed. S.A.B.

📍 Paseo de la Marina, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 143-7275

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By land or by sea, you'll find the dinner that's right for you. From top: Fisherman's Landing; Jack's Steak House.

## Jack's Steak House

Here's one of those rare spots that will delight the whole family—young and old. The pirate-themed restaurant is deliciously kitschy but also boasts a menu that would satisfy the pickiest palate. Jack's Steak House is a wonderful lunchtime destination, especially if you're looking for casual comfort and delicious fare. The signature Jack's nachos come loaded with refried beans, grated cheese, salsa, jalapeños, and sour cream. Calamari gets a twist with

a chipotle sauce. If you're hungry after a morning of activities, opt for the Jack's Burger topped with cheese, bacon, mushrooms, and caramelized onions or the grilled Angus flank steak with enchiladas, refried beans, and guacamole. All entrées include a choice of sides—nopales (cactus salad), baby carrots, grilled onions, sautéed mushrooms, and baked potatoes, to name but a few. Kids love pirates, so there are also plenty of lunch and dinner offerings geared toward the little ones. C.S.

# DINING

📍 Marina Golden Zone, Cabo San Lucas Marina, Cabo San Lucas

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🌐 [www.goldenzonecabo.com](http://www.goldenzonecabo.com)

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## John's Place Restaurant & Sports Bar

Get ready to enjoy a lot more of your favorite downtown restaurant and sports bar. This fall, John's Place debuted a brand-new outdoor grill, sushi menu, and extended hours (till 2 a.m.!). You'll love the selection of \$3 U.S. beers, as well as the two-for-one margaritas, mojitos, daiquiris, and piña coladas. The deals don't end there. Enjoy all the barbecued ribs you could possibly eat for \$16.95 U.S.; a ginormous "Real Deal" breakfast of eggs, hash browns, bacon, toast, and mixed fruit for only \$4 U.S.; and two-for-one on pastas every night. For a real Mexican experience, opt for the *buachinango* (red snapper). You'll get to enjoy all of these while watching sports; John's Place has all the NFL games, basketball, and more. F.R.

📍 Boulevard Marina and Vicente Guerrero, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 105-0381

🌐 [www.facebook.com/johnsplacecabo](http://www.facebook.com/johnsplacecabo) and [magda.sojogmail.com](mailto:magda.sojogmail.com)

🕒 Daily 7 a.m.–2 a.m.

💳 Major credit cards accepted \$-\$\$\$

## La Bocana

This downtown Cabo San Lucas spot is deliciously relaxed with a menu that exhibits a just-right amount of culinary wanderlust. Come for lunch to enjoy a hamburger with wedge-cut fries, then return for piquant *sashimi serranitos* (think fish carpaccio), coconut shrimp, or sushi. (Sushi, by the way, is available at a cost of three plates for the price of two on Thursdays). La Bocana also serves a variety of Mexican and artisanal beers that include Minerva (pale, Viena dark, and stout) at a three-for-two price. Seating at La Bocana consists of the street-view front patio area and the quieter and serene table setting in the back, which includes two large plasma TVs for sports and a large pool table. During the week, live musicians perform acoustic and mellow tunes, while on weekends a live band brings the audience a nice brand of harmonious rock and roll, blues, and jazz that covers entertainment. F.R.

📍 Lázaro Cardenas/Leona Vicario and Calle Morelos, Cabo San Lucas

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John's Place features many Mexican favorites on its menu in addition to dishes like all-you-can-eat ribs and two-for-one pastas.

### La Casa de Don Juan

When La Casa de Don Juan moved to its new location on Calle Ignacio Zaragoza, it brought with it all of our old favorites and introduced some new ones, too. The breakfast menu made La Casa de Don Juan an instant success in Los Cabos when it debuted a handful of years ago. It's that menu that keeps folks coming back, especially with the introduction of evening taco hours that go till midnight. More of a morning person? *Café de olla* is the perfect pairing for breakfast items that range from *buevos divorciados* (two eggs, one with red sauce and the other with green) to *menudo* (tripe with white or red sauce with cilantro, onion, oregano, and lime) and *chicharrones* (fried pork skin) served in a red sauce. In the last year, La Casa de Don Juan extended its schedule to include lunch (and an early dinner). Come for the the prix fixe lunch meal, which includes the soup of the day or green salad, two choices of sides such as baked potato, vegetables, pasta, Mexican rice,

or beans; and an entrée (the fish of the day either grilled or batter fried, shrimp fixed in a similar manner but with a spicy *diablo* sauce, chicken breast stuffed with spinach, chicken or fish fingers with French fries, chiles rellenos, *taquitos*, a popular pork dish called *cochinita pibil*, or two beef dishes for less than \$15 U.S. A.A.

📍 Calle Ignacio Zaragoza, between Revolución 1910 and V. Carranza, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 105-9339

🌐 www.facebook.com/casadonjuan cabo

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### La Dolce

Northern Italian cuisine is shaped by a convergence of cultures and ingredients. The culinary influence of France and Austria results in rich, buttery dishes that we can't get enough of. At La Dolce—which has

EDGAR RUIZ



You've got to try the breakfasts at La Casa de Don Juan, a favorite of locals. Come back and try its lunch menu, too!

locations in Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo—owners Stefan Miotto and Juan Calderoni serve up decadent sauces, more beef, and homemade pastas. There's a lot to choose from on this menu. Start with antipasti like thinly sliced fish carpaccio in La Dolce's secret sauce or trifolati misto (shrimp and calamari sautéed with garlic, capers, red pepper, and white wine with Pomodoro). The lasagna is made with Bolognese sauce and a béchamel with mozzarella and Parmesan. La Dolce also serves an excellent beef tenderloin with Gorgonzola and mushroom sauce. You can't leave without trying the tiramisu. A.A.

📍 Cabo San Lucas: Miguel Hidalgo and Zapatas. San José del Cabo: Miguel Hidalgo and Zaragoza

📞 Cabo San Lucas: (624) 143-4122. San José del Cabo: (624) 142-6621

🌐 [www.restauranteladolce.com](http://www.restauranteladolce.com)

🕒 Cabo San Lucas: Nightly 5 p.m.–midnight. San José del Cabo: Tues.–Sun. 1 p.m.–11 p.m.

💳 MasterCard and Visa accepted \$\$–\$\$\$

### La Panga Antigua Restaurant & Bar

For a peek into Old México, make sure to venture into San José del Cabo's historic central district, which is dotted with restaurants, art galleries, and a lovely old church. La Panga Antigua, though, is one of our very favorite stops. The 150-year-old mansion has long housed the restaurant, charming with its design and menu. Lush

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tropical foliage surrounds several levels of adobe walls, rock walkways and enchanting seating areas. At the far end is an antique *panga*, a roughly hewn wooden boat for which the restaurant is named. The staff scurries about taking drink orders, such as a refreshing mojito made with hibiscus, and dishing up incredible farm-to-table fare such as appetizers of three-cheese ravioli in a squash blossom sauce; tuna with sesame seed crust and cilantro aioli; baby octopus; or sea scallops with a citrus vinaigrette. Entrées worth every bite are grilled rib eye with rosemary, red wine, and bacon-wrapped asparagus or the grilled catch of the day with a pumpkin seed crust and grilled asparagus. Dessert choices include house-made flan, crepes, and the restaurant's signature chocolate tamal baked in a corn husk. S.A.B.

📍 Zaragoza No. 20, San José del Cabo  
 ☎ (624) 142-4041  
 🌐 [www.lapangaantigua.restaurant.com](http://www.lapangaantigua.restaurant.com)  
 🕒 Daily noon–10:30 p.m.  
 💳 All major cards accepted \$–\$\$\$

## Los Barriles

The whole family will love Los Barriles, a downtown Cabo San Lucas restaurant with a menu that darts about the globe and offers a fair share of fusion, too. Here you'll find Sevechimi (a blend of sashimi and *ceviche*), oysters on the half shell, tuna tartar with sesame oil, ginger, soy sauce and avocado listed as appetizers, but any could serve as a light lunch. Seriously, they have pastas,



Clockwise from top left: La Dolce's northern Italian menu features rich, creamy dishes like this *filete a la gorgonzola*; Los Barriles is a charming spot in downtown Cabo San Lucas; enjoy amped-up traditional Mexican favorites at Los Deseos.

authentic Mexican fare including a mixed molcajete of flank steak, shrimp, and cactus; and even fall-off-the-bone barbecued ribs slow-baked for seven hours. Pair your dish with cocktail concoctions such as pineapple or mango mojitos are a great start any time of day. A favorite on the dinner menu is the red snapper served whole or butterfly cut. A highlight of a special dinner are

## DINING

the flamed dishes prepared at your table. In fact, there's a whole lot of flaming going on here from seafood—including lobster, shrimp, and tuna steak—to USDA Choice steak and even desserts. S.A.B.

📍 Miguel Hidalgo S/N, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 143-1619

🌐 [www.los-barriles-cabo.com](http://www.los-barriles-cabo.com)

🕒 Daily 7 a.m.–11 p.m.

💳 All major credit cards and vouchers accepted \$-\$\$\$

### Los Deseos

Every meal at Los Deseos is a celebration of México's diverse culinary traditions. Open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, Los Deseos serves everything from pan dulce to mesquite-style marrow and old-fashioned *mole*. You can't go wrong with anything on the menu. Here's our go-to plan: Start with the three-cheese queso fundido. Three cheeses and tequila are flamed in a molcajete and served with fresh tortillas. Follow with a pumpkin flower soup, especially if you're visiting Los Deseos at night with a cool breeze over the marina. The chile en nogada is a beloved tradition; essentially, it's a poblano pepper stuffed with minced pork, beef, and dried fruits topped with a nut and pomegranate sauce. For dessert, pair a traditional cinnamonoy café de la olla with a coconut flan; it's a specialty of the house. A.A.

📍 Golden Zone, Cabo San Lucas Marina, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 145-6011

🌐 [www.goldenzonecabo.com](http://www.goldenzonecabo.com)

🕒 Daily 7 a.m.–11 p.m.

💳 Major credit cards accepted \$\$-\$\$\$\$

### Los Riscos Mesquite Grill

It's hard to imagine anything that would compete with the views from Los Riscos Mesquite Grill, the on-site restaurant at the family-owned Hacienda Encantada resort. The traditional design of the restaurant perfectly complements the natural wonder of the Baja's southern tip. The menu here nevertheless impresses just as much as the vista. Start with the *callos garra de león con cremoso de aguacate* (scallops with avocado dip) or shrimp and mushrooms sautéed with butter, garlic, and guajillo chile. There are fresh fish specialties such as sea bass stuffed with seafood or pastor-style shrimp marinated with achiote and served over a slab of grilled pineapple drizzled with hibiscus sauce. A nice Italian sparkling prosecco rosé goes well with most dishes and is a refreshing option. Multilevel terraces are candle lit with exquisite glass globes and protected from the wind by large glass



## DINING

panels. Private dining areas are perfect for a romantic evening, made all the more special with the sound of waves crashing below. An international buffet is served on Saturdays. S.A.B.

📍 Hacienda Encantada Hotel, km 7.3 on the tourist corridor

☎ (624) 163-5550

🌐 [www.haciendaencantada.com](http://www.haciendaencantada.com)

🕒 Mon., Wed.–Thurs., Sat.–Sun. 6 p.m.–10:30 p.m.

💳 All major credit cards accepted  
\$\$–\$\$\$

### Madeira Bistro

The Brazilian barbecue at Rodrigo Aensa's Madeira Bistro is so good you'll be licking your fingers and dancing the samba. The menu includes plenty of à la carte options, but it's the all-you-can-eat *rodízio*-style barbecue from chef Misael Le-

Garia that brings us back time and again. We're talking about perfectly marinated, mesquite-fire-cooked meats paired with red wine for \$29 U.S. The meal includes basil-flavored mashed potatoes, sweet and tasty cabbage coleslaw, two small

chicken wings, and three sweet potato slices. The dizzying array of sliced meats, served round after round include *arrachera*, rib eye, spicy Mexican chorizo hot links, top sirloin, turkey wrapped in bacon, brochette, barbecued ribs, and lamb. Looking for something a little lighter? That à la carte menu we mentioned earlier also features salads, pasta, fish, and shrimp entrées. F.R.

📍 Vicente Guerrero Street and Francisco I. Madero, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 150-5089 and (624) 175-3593

🌐 [madeirabistro@gmail.com](mailto:madeirabistro@gmail.com)

🕒 Tues.–Sun. 4 p.m.–11 p.m.

💳 MasterCard, Visa, and vouchers accepted \$–\$\$\$

### Mama's Royal Café

Take one bite of the French toast at this Cabo San Lucas institution, and you'll be saying, "Ay, Mamá!" There's a reason Mama's Royal Café has persisted since 1991 and become known for serving the "World's Best French Toast." The breakfast classic here comes stuffed with rich ricotta and cream cheese, loaded with fresh fruit, and flambéed in orange liqueur—is the restaurant's signa-



From top: The colors of Christmas (and México) shine nearly as brightly as the flavors at Mi Casa; Misaky offers tasty sushi conveniently within the Puerto Paraíso shopping center.

## DINING

ture dish. Try traditional eggs Benedict, sample Mexican specialties like the *buevos rancheros chorizeros*, or order a custom three-egg omelet. The King Kong omelet contains enough nutrients to meet your recommended daily allowance of almost everything. It's made with bacon, cheese, mushrooms, mild chiles, tomato, avocado, bell peppers, onions, spinach, and herbs. C.S.

📍 Calle Hidalgo, between Zapata and Madero, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 143-4290

🌐 [www.mamasroyalcafeloscabos.com](http://www.mamasroyalcafeloscabos.com)

🕒 Daily 7 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

💳 MasterCard and Visa accepted \$–\$\$

### Mi Casa San José

With outposts in Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo's historic arts district, Mi Casa is a delightful destination to enjoy Mexican decor, cuisine, art, and culture. You'll love the murals and strolling musicians, and just outside the restaurant's doors in San José you'll find the historic mission church and charming art galleries. The rich aromas of traditional dishes like chicken *mole* and *carnitas* waft through the outdoor setting. Start dinner with a tortilla soup or shrimp cocktail. The salads feature farm-fresh produce, and the vegetarian chile relleno and mushroom enchilada are two more dishes that impress. So does the chicken *chile en nogada*. For dessert, try the wonderful pairing of the Tijuana microbrew La Fauna dark beer with chocolate cake. La Fauna is considered México's version of Guinness. \$–\$\$\$ F.R.

📍 Alvaro Obregón 19, art district, San José del Cabo

☎ (624) 146-9263

🌐 [www.micasarestaurant.com.mx](http://www.micasarestaurant.com.mx)

🕒 Nightly 4 p.m.–10 pm.

💳 AmEx, MasterCard, and Visa accepted

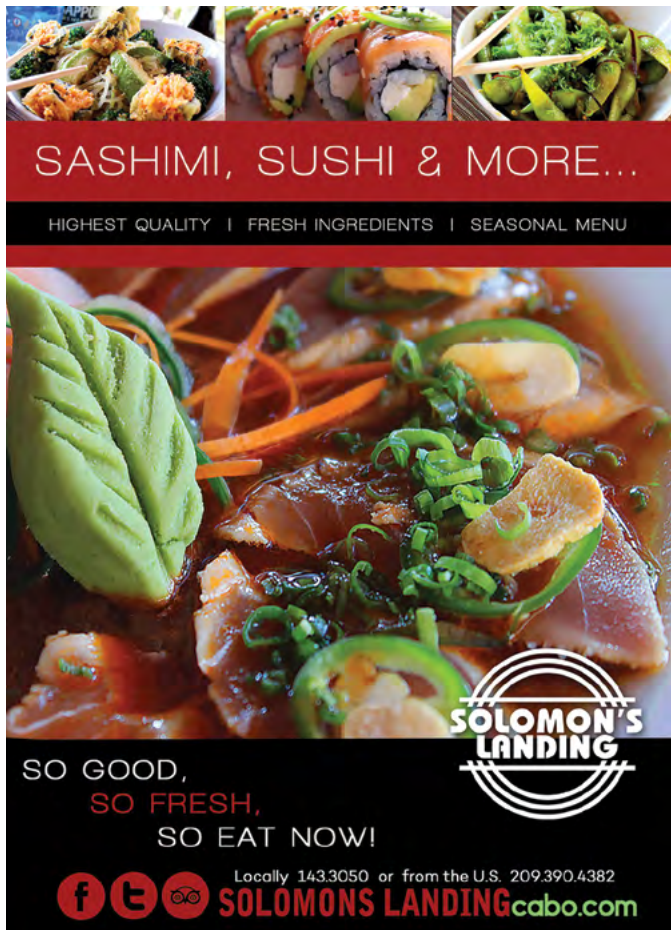
### Misaky Sushi & Salad

Tucked within the Puerto Paraiso food court, Misaky offers a delightful selection of sushi. A closed-circuit menu board offers colorful photos of the various dishes offered with the name of the dish. Featured selections by locally trained chef and manager Javier Pérez include Tostadas Won Tong with tuna and avocado; Tuna Tatakya with cilantro, orange, and *serranito*; a Cosmo Roll with cream cheese; a Volcano Roll; a Sake Roll with fresh salmon; Hil Roll with mango and kiwi, various sashimi, and the favorite of most, *curricanes*, all at very reasonable prices. Salads include an interesting combination of tempura shrimp and veggies, lettuce, white rice and teriyaki sauce. The



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## DINING



Namaste India brings made-to-order Indian to Cabo San Lucas.

food court is large, clean, and well lit with many tables available for patrons, including a terrace for outdoor eating overlooking the harbor. Misaky is part of a family of restaurants that includes Black Smoke Barbeque and Fisherman's Landing Bar. S.A.B.



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📍 Puerto Paraiso, upper level, Boulevard Lazaro Cardenas, Cabo San Lucas  
☎ (624) 144-3958  
🕒 Daily 10 a.m.–9 p.m.  
💳 MasterCard and Visa accepted \$

### Namaste India

The family-owned Namaste India serves made-to-order Indian fare like *biryani*, *naan*, *palak paneer*, and chicken *tikka masala*. Start with a crispy *samosa garbanzo chat* followed by spinach *palak paneer* and the chef's special mutton *korma*. All main dishes have various spices that are actually medicine for the body, and each dish is made with fresh and healthy ingredients. Dishes are made here with fresh produce, infused with homemade Indian spices. Raj Kothapalli and his wife, Jean, will make certain your visit meets your expectations. Catering is available for up to 100 people; this is a great option for a wedding. Looking for something sweet? There's nothing more refreshing or satisfying than a freshly made mango *lassi*. Finally, you can end your visit with a cup of *chai*—the Indian tea. S.A.B.

📍 Camino Real, near Avenedi del Pescado, Cabo San Lucas  
☎ (624) 218-0810  
💻 [www.namasteindiocabo.com](http://www.namasteindiocabo.com)  
🕒 Daily 10 a.m.–10 p.m.  
💳 MasterCard and Visa accepted \$\$

**Nick-San Cabo San Lucas**

You have to try Nick-San more than once. This is not only the best sushi and sake that Los Cabos has to offer, but you get to enjoy it in a beautiful setting right here in México. This is your chance to taste and explore the vastness and richness of Japanese cuisine and to appreciate the uniqueness of what Nick-San brings to Japanese food—Mexican ingredients and innovative twists. For more than two decades, Nick-San has introduced people to just these flavors. Guests are invited to discover Nick-San’s delicious recipes and be surprised by its extensive menu. The best-known culinary contribution from Japan is, of course, sushi. But you may be surprised to know that Nick-San does not take its cues from what’s trending but rather in the ancient traditions. Here you’ll find dishes that are fried, boiled, and boiling over. Some are marinated. Some are raw. There is a variety of seafood—mackerel, sierra, wahoo, snapper, tuna, lobster—as well as chicken and steak, and the food is expertly executed with great technique under the guidance of experienced chef and Nick-San founder Ángel Carbajal. Nick-San owners invite you to taste its menu not just once but many times. The surprises here never end, with dishes’ flavors, textures, and presentations. Celebrate your special occasions here. There’s a reason so many visitors come back time and again. Japanese cuisine is more than sushi, and the Nick-San experience can’t be relegated to just one visit. (One hour of free parking available at adjacent Tesoro resort.)



Japanese traditions and Mexican ingredients prove a winning combination at Nick-San.

**Nick-San Palmilla**

On our last trip to Nick-San Palmilla, we started with a Champagne cocktail

from the Champagne Bar at the Garden to get ourselves into the ambience. The chef sent an amuse bouche of whitefish sashimi served with truffle



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 Home delivery [www.namasteindiacabo.com](http://www.namasteindiacabo.com) [NamasteIndiaCabo](#)

COURTESY NICK SAN

- 📍 Boulevard Marina L10–L2, Plaza de la Danza, Cabo San Lucas
- ☎ (624) 143-2491
- 🌐 [www.nicksan.com](http://www.nicksan.com)
- 🕒 Daily 11:30 a.m.–10:30 p.m.
- 💳 Discover, MasterCard, Visa, and vouchers accepted \$\$–\$\$\$\$

oil. And we continued with a jicama tartar made of seabass, jicama, *chasoba*, and a refreshing citrus dressing. Try this dish with the house sauvignon blanc so you will be able to appreciate even more the fruity sides of the wine and of the dressing as well. We then continued with the Negi Roll, made with whitefish, crab, shrimp, thin caramelized onions, and a touch of truffle oil. One of our favorite dishes was the crab ravioli, a special dish currently available exclusively at the Palmilla location and consisting of delicious ravioli stuffed with softshell crab and shitake and

served with a creamy yuzu sauce. This visit to Nick-San Palmilla was totally different from previous trips; the restaurant was completely remodeled by French architect Jacqueline Perrot, and there is now also a lovely Zen vibe in the Garden Lounge Bar as well as in the terrace facing the sea. Come for a visit and enjoy great service, unbelievable dishes, and a unique ambience, whether it's for lunch, dinner, or for a special occasion. Nick-San Palmilla also offers its Beyond catering service. Pair the most exclusive setting in Los Cabos with incredible flavors and service.



The Oyster Bar (top) offers cantilevered views of the Cabo San Lucas Marina. Pastafrolla (bottom) serves an international menu with a Mediterranean emphasis.

📍 Area privativa Ap-15, Shoppes at Palmilla, San José del Cabo

☎ (624) 144-6264

🌐 [www.nicksan.com](http://www.nicksan.com)

🕒 Daily 2 p.m.–11 p.m.

💳 Discover, MasterCard, Visa, and vouchers accepted  
 \$\$-\$\$\$\$

**The Oyster Bar**

Each afternoon, from noon till 6 p.m., Baja Lobster Co. on the Cabo San Lucas Marina operates as the alfresco Oyster Bar with its incredible selection of fresh local seafood and marina views. Enjoy a mix of raw and prepared seafood creations—all expertly executed, all delicious. Shellfish highlights include oysters Rockefeller, an Acapulco-style shrimp cocktail, oysters on the half shell, San Carlos-style scallops, and that distinctive Baja California Sur specialty item, chocolate clams. The ultimate option, however, is an El Patrón platter featuring a dozen each of oysters, shrimp, clams, and mussels. White wines are the preferred pairing for shellfish, and the Oyster Bar menu includes an international selection of premium wine selections by the glass or bottle. For dessert, dig into decadent slices of cheesecake or caramel flan, or share a bananas and strawberry flambé for two. C.S.

📍 Marina Golden Zone, Cabo San Lucas Marina, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 145-6011

🌐 [www.goldenzonecabo.com](http://www.goldenzonecabo.com)

🕒 Daily noon–6 p.m.

💳 All major credit cards and vouchers accepted \$\$

**Pastafrolla**

No, it's not just another Italian restaurant. This new addition to the downtown restaurant scene in Cabo San Lucas has some surprises in store for those seeking good food and excellent service at reasonable prices. The

FROM TOP: COURTESY THE OYSTER BAR; FRANCISCO ESTRADA

## DINING

menu offers a global cuisine at the whim of executive chef Antonio Mendez, starting with the specialty of the house of bruschetta perhaps with brie and Serrano ham, salmon and capers or prosciutto and Parmesan, or items such as tuna tartar, Carpaccio of beef and calamari. Soups include bouillabaisse, tortilla and even clam chowder. The house bread comes with a peanut sauce. Pastas are house-made and might include a special of the day of ravioli stuffed with duck or spinach with chicken, while entrees include fish, lamb, veal, chicken and steaks. A variety of pizzas are available as is traditional hamburger. The premises include the main level that houses a welcoming long bar and seated tables in air-conditioned comfort. The kitchen can be seen behind a glass wall, allowing a bird's eye view to what's cooking on the way up the staircase to the open area overlooking the main street with lots of night-life activity. S.A.B.

📍 Lázaro Cárdenas Boulevard, between Leona Vicario and Morelos, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 115-2316 and (624) 247-0408

🌐 [www.facebook.com/restaurantepastafrolla](http://www.facebook.com/restaurantepastafrolla)

🕒 Daily 1 p.m.–midnight

💳 MasterCard, Visa, and vouchers accepted \$–\$\$\$

### Pitahayas

At the Sheraton Grand Los Cabos Hacienda del Mar's signature restaurant, under the expert guidance of chef Volker Romeike, blend Mexican and Asian flavors. Romeike demonstrates his inventiveness with dishes like smoked pork *tamal* with yellow *mole*; jicama *taquitos* with shrimp and char siu; and seafood tortilla soup. The fresh octopus salad is a revelation, while the tuna *poke* is a delightful summer bite: fresh tuna is paired with watermelon, jalapeño, Tajín, and taro. Give yourself over to the chef's eclectic yet unerringly delicious combinations: Filipino-style *lumpia* spring rolls with Mexican pork *carnitas* and Southeast Asian Kaffir lime, for example, or jalapeño-and-honey-glazed pork belly plated with sweet potato plantain mash, Hawaiian barbecue sauce, and Asian ratatouille. For a special occasion, consider the La Cava de Santiago wine cellar, which houses more than 400 wines. A variety of music is offered nightly. The Pitayitas bar offers Social Fridays, with limitless drinks for \$550 pesos. A.A.

📍 Km 10 on the tourist corridor, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 145-8010

🌐 [www.pitahayas.com](http://www.pitahayas.com)

🕒 Nightly 5 p.m.–11 p.m.

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Clockwise from top left: Pitahayas pairs excellent views and an inventive menu; Presto offers fast-casual Italian right on the marina; Romeo & Julieta is a Los Cabos institution.

### Presto Italian Ristorante

Presto is a delightful little bistro on the Cabo San Lucas Marina, which offers fast-casual Italian along with marina views. Chef Roberto Macciadris's menu is made up of timeless Italian favorites—pastas, pizzas, focaccia, soups, and salads—with the occasional Cabo twist. At Presto, you'll love the added je ne sais quoi cream cheese (here sometimes known as "*filadelfia*") brings to dishes like salmon carpaccio and pizza; the Viale features bacon, spinach, mozzarella, and cream cheese. The Caprese salad is a celebration of fresh, quality ingredients (tomato, mozzarella, basil, balsamic vinegar, and olive oil), while the Caesar uses the original recipe that was created in Tijuana, México, several decades ago. Each is a perfect accompaniment to the bruschetta appetizer. Can't resist those pasta cravings? The Marinara spaghetti is a fantastic showcase of the sea's bounty: It comes topped with shrimp, mussels, and squid. Ask your server for suggested wine pairings. A.A.

📍 Marina Golden Zone, Cabo San Lucas Marina, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 145-6020

🌐 [www.goldenzonecabo.com](http://www.goldenzonecabo.com)

🕒 Daily noon–11 p.m.

💳 Major credit cards accepted \$–\$\$\$

### Romeo & Julieta

Three decades in, and iconic Cabo San Lucas restaurant Romeo & Julieta just keeps getting better. This December, it debuted The Wine Bar by Romeo & Julieta next door. Learn more about The Wine Bar on page 16. And

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FRANCISCO ESTRADA; COURTESY PRESTO; COURTESY ROMEO & JULIETA

## DINING

the restaurant continues to operate on all cylinders. Much of that can be attributed to Italian-born chef Matias Forte, who has been with the restaurant for eight years now. Everything is made fresh, and greens must be organic. Forte says he feels responsible for the health of his patrons, and he makes only periodic changes to the menu; try the pasta alla Norma, a popular Sicilian recipe. The fish is always fresh because Forte checks the whole fish before purchasing in order to see the eyes and gills. A favorite is local tuna, encrusted with sesame seeds and seared to perfection. When in season, fresh mussels in white wine or a delicious tomato blend are a great appetizer. Classic Caesars prepared tableside are a must. Not only is the food artistic, but the surrounding walls and alcoves of the restaurant are adorned with powerful works of art, including sculpture, by Hector Herrera whose original works shown were inspired by the restaurant. S.A.B.

📍 Boulevard Marina and Camino del Cerro, Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 143-0225

🌐 [www.restaurantromeoyjulieta.com](http://www.restaurantromeoyjulieta.com)

🕒 Mon.–Sat. 4 p.m.–11 p.m., Sun. 2 p.m.–10 p.m.

💳 AmEx, MasterCard, and Visa accepted \$\$–\$\$\$\$

### Solomon's Landing

What began as a small taco bar has grown into a sprawling Cabo San Lucas Marina restaurant with an international following and a menu so large it should have a table of contents. Solomon's Landing is a great spot to grab a beer and a burger and watch some football or a big fight. Come on date night to nosh on creative, flavor-packed sushi and quaff a potent elixir. Or, do as Guy Fieri of the Food Network's *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives* did, and come for breakfast. On his show, Fieri raved about the strawberry-banana French toast on an episode of his hit show, and for good reason. It's divine. But it's only one of many must-try items in the six-page breakfast menu. The *chilaquiles* were also featured on *Diners, Drive-Ins, and Dives*, and we can't get enough of the green version. A new addition to the breakfast menu, the drowned eggs (*buevos ahogados*) are served in juicy black beans with *queso fresco*, jalapeños, and chopped nopales. Have a sweet tooth? Try the cinnamon apple waffle that comes topped with warm apple compote and fresh whipped cream. A.A. 🍷

📍 Cabo San Lucas Marina (behind Tesoro resort), Cabo San Lucas

☎ (624) 143-3050

🌐 [www.solomonslandingcabo.com](http://www.solomonslandingcabo.com)

🕒 Daily 7 a.m.–11 p.m.

💳 Discover, MasterCard, Visa, and vouchers accepted \$–\$\$\$

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# Overview Map

## La Paz - East Cape - Los Cabos

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Designed by Thierry Blouet, Cafe des Artistes Los Cabos reinterprets the finest Mexican cuisine with French influences. Proposing dishes of subtle textures, and a large orchestra of flavors, designed to delight the senses in an elegant Mexican atmosphere, overlooking the Sea of Cortez. Open Tuesday to Sunday, from 6 pm to 11 pm

PHONE: (624) 163 7600, ext. 2016  
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[opentable.com](https://www.opentable.com)



## Nak Grill

Enjoy the casual atmosphere of our outdoor pool side restaurant with a selection of 100 different beers and an exquisite menu with grilled sea food, prime fine cuts, and our special "Catch of the day" while listening to our Live Musicians. Open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 6 pm to 11 pm.



## Niparaya Bar

Experience our extraordinary Niparaya JW Bar offering the most delectable sushis, tapas, tequilas, mezcales and classic cocktails. Bar is open daily from 05 pm to 01 am. Live music Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 8 pm to 10 pm.



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