

ALASKAN INSPIRED CUISINE—HALIBUT IS ON THE MENU!



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LOS CABOS, MEXICO

BAJA CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'

Sun, sea and fun await at the Marquis Los Cabos • by Adrian Quiroz

IF I TOLD YOU THAT I FOUND MYSELF STANDING IN FRONT OF AN ENORMOUS ARCHWAY FRAMING A BREATHTAKING VIEW OF THE DEEP BLUE SKY AND SEA—IT MAY SOUND MUCH LIKE A DREAM. I was in fact standing in the larger-than-life

lobby of the Marquis Los Cabos, an all inclusive resort and spa, located near the southern tip of the Baja California Peninsula in Mexico. Los Cabos is an extraordinary place where the desert meets the sea in the most beautiful way.

TAKE IN THE VIEWS

I literally could not get over the lobby area; I felt like I had wandered into the set of a big production movie in a remote exotic corner of the earth. I was welcomed with a frozen beverage and a cool washcloth. The adults-only resort features 235 deluxe suites with several options to suit your stay. The best part—all suites face the ocean. The larger master and casita suites offer a private pool and accommodations for large parties.

After check-in, I was shown to my suite on the top floor. I was so impressed by the view that I almost overlooked all the amazing amenities and beautiful furnishings. I made a mental note to try the Jacuzzi bathtub and dig into the snacks and beverages in the complimentary mini-bar. The signature “Marquis wake-up” is the perfect way to start your day; sweet rolls and hot coffee are placed in a special delivery door ready for you to enjoy when you wake up.

From my private balcony, I could see no end to the ocean and the three infinity pools wrapped around the resort. The property is a serene playground and at times all you can hear is the sound of the waves as you explore every corner. The off-white Spanish stucco finish throughout the resort is the perfect backdrop for the beautiful artwork and meticulously arranged greenery. The walkways are literally accented with real turquoise stones throughout the resort. Every corner is picture perfect or as we know it today Instagram ready. I could definitely see why couples choose to get married in this picturesque oasis.

I quickly donned a bathing suit and made my way to one of the infinity pools to lounge and enjoy the sun. The expansive pool areas allow you to find a spot to splash, read a book or even bask in the shade for a while. You will want to dig your feet in the sand and take a stroll along the beautiful beach. There is a special area allocated for those who wish to safely swim in the ocean. The one thing you will not get tired of is the view.

AT RIGHT: THE INCREDIBLE OPEN-AIR LOBBY LOOKS OUT TO THE OCEAN HORIZON





SAVOR THE MOMENT

As a foodie, I was excited that the resort hosts five different restaurants including classic Mexican, Asian cuisine, local seafood and even a Mediterranean option. Each restaurant has its very own identity within the resort and needless to say, each a very delicious experience. As you relax by the pool or the beach you are able to order food and of course a cocktail or two. You must try one of the ceviche options as a fresh snack and pair it with a rum infused version of their welcome drink—you will be glad you did! You can also customize your ceviche dish as you please which I really appreciated. Be sure to stop by the grab-and-go Espresso Cappuccino Cafe to fuel up for your daily adventures. Accustomed to late night cravings? No worries as room service is available 24-hours a day.

For a very special evening, you must make a reservation to enjoy prix-fixe dinner at the gourmet French restaurant Canto del Mar under the supervision of Maitre Cuisinier de France Executive Chef Thierry DuFour. If you are on a romantic getaway this is not only a must, but a great opportunity to dress up and make it a memorable night. It is the only restaurant in the resort with a fee, but it is totally worth it. The restaurant offers a very intimate setting, four course meal with various wine pairings and is truly a luxurious experience.

I loved hanging out at the Suspiros Lounge and Outdoor Bar, it's right in the middle of the resort and a great spot to watch the sunset. In all honesty, it does not matter where you are on the property, you can enjoy the sunset, but it's better with a drink in hand and enjoying some music next to the DJ booth. This is a great opportunity to mingle with other guests and socialize. Remember, this is an adults-only resort! Treat yourself to an adult beverage - you deserve it!

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RELAX AT THE SPA

It is not a hard decision to opt in for a spa treatment when you are already being pampered 24/7. Spa Marquis is a beautiful 13,000 square feet space surrounded by artwork and soothing water features. It houses a state-of-the-art fully equipped gym, beauty salon and oceanview treatment rooms. Indigeneous natural ingredients are utilized in the holistic full-spa service menu.

There are locker room areas that feature private showers and large steam rooms. Anything you could possibly need is made available, including standard toiletries and the cherished spa slippers. I chose to treat myself to a deep tissue massage and a hand scrub. Unfortunately, just prior to my spa appointment, I may have basked in the sun too long without sunscreen. Yes, I got a mild sunburn! The staff was very accommodating and worked with me to make sure I was still able to enjoy the services I had originally requested. I was impressed and had an amazing massage in one of the rooms overlooking the ocean.

I sat in the steam room for a while and then made my way to one of the hot tubs available only to guests receiving spa treatments—and if it is not predictable by now—they also are facing the ocean! A cold pool is also available and you are welcome to come back and use the private tubs. A truly remarkable experience especially considering my individual situation.

WHY NOT?

If you are anything like me, you will find yourself fully basking in the scenery and tranquility as you lounge by the water. However, should you want to try an activity, the resort has an array of options to suit your taste. You might be in the mood to try archery by the beach, cooking lessons or even attend one of the weekly themed parties. After dinner, I happened to walk into the casino-themed night by the Suspiro Lounge and guests were seated at poker tables enjoying card games. For an additional fee, you can also sign up for a guided tour of San Jose's art walk or even a bar hopping tour in San Lucas.

OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM: CASITAS HAVE A PRIVATE PLUNGE POOL WITH AN OCEAN VIEW; THE WATERFALL FEATURE RIGHT OUTSIDE OF THE LOBBY AT SUNSET; THE MARQUIS LOS CABOS IS RIGHT ON THE BEACH

ABOVE: THE MAJESTIC INFINITY POOL'S VIEW BLENDS SEAMLESSLY INTO THE OCEAN.

VENTURE OUT

Depending on your mood here are three of my favorite adventures that are guaranteed to enrich your Cabo experience. They're only a short distance away from Marquis los Cabos.

THE ARCH OF CABO SAN LUCAS

"El Arco" as it is locally known, is a natural rock formation at the tip of the Baja California Peninsula - a must see! Arrange for a scenic sailing tour to get a close up view of the iconic landmark that is emblematic of Cabo. You will also enjoy a glimpse of Lovers Beach and the sea lion colony. Take a dip or simply enjoy the views. San Lucas is also where the nightlife is always buzzing.

SAN JOSE DEL CABO

You must make a stop at old town San Jose and pop in on one (or all) of the many colorful artisan shops. You are sure to leave with a unique memento to cherish and remember your time in Cabo. This is the spot to take a stroll and enjoy the town's colonial charm. Be sure to stop by the Gallery District and check out the inspiring art scene.

HUERTA LOS TAMARINDOS RESTAURANT

Located atop the desert hills in San Jose del Cabo, Tamarindos Restaurant offers a unique farm-to-table dining experience. Dinner is served in an adapted brick house restaurant dating back to the 18th century that overlooks the 17-acre farm where your meal is sourced from. Fresh takes on a new meaning as you try any of the delicious dishes that change seasonally depending on the fruits of the crop. Be sure to try out their signature cocktails, including a tamarind concoction infused with their very own in-house mezcal.



NEXT STOP:
PLAYA DEL CARMEN, MEXICO