

002 houston

hip.current.cool

art business entertainment events fashion health maps movies real estate restaurants sports
February 08 volume 10 issue 110 free

Barry
Blumenthal

RADICAL BUSINESS

LEE AND JOE JAMAIL SKATEPARK



Joann
Esposito

● A SURPRISE SUCKER PUNCH

● LITTLE LOVELIES FOR YOUR PETITE CHERIE!

● SAVVY ENTREPRENEURS



hotel marquis lobby



junior suite | baja outback hummer expedition

I have long been known to enjoy my beach vacations. Those perfectly long days of languishing oceanside savoring the moment, taking in the heat, the sound of the waves breaking within feet of my chaise, the indiscernible color of the water and the taste of the perfect piña colada, perfected by the lack of a schedule. **BUT CABO WOULD NOT BE THIS KIND OF TRIP. A FIRST FOR ME.**

This would be an adventure and I was excited.

From the moment I arrive at the Cabo airport, I already sense this is a different beachside destination and the drive to the Marquis Resort confirms this. **SWEEPING VIEWS OF MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS LUSH WITH LIFE, GREEN DUE TO THE RECENT RAINS ON ONE SIDE QUICKLY CONTRADICTED BY DESERT PANORAMAS ON THE OTHER SIDE,** leading to the famous waters worshipped by surfers.

The resort is located in Cabo Real, an area of Los Cabos on the Sea of Cortes eighteen miles from the airport and only six miles away from the town of San Jose de los Cabos. The ocean in Cabo is known for its rough waters and although the hotel has a fantastic chunk of beachside property, realistically you can't get in the water. But if the ocean is an important factor to you (which it is to me), just a short walk away, next door at the Hilton, is a cove with friendlier waters.

Now, this particular hotel has long been known as a romantic destination but that is the nice thing about Cabo. **It's everything.** Most destinations are all about lazing and relaxing, but after about three days I get restless. This destination has something for everyone. Those that want to relax can, those that want to learn how to surf can do that, and children can learn about the environment – you can even take photography classes.

AS WE ARRIVE AT THE MARQUIS, WE ARE GREETED IN THE LOBBY, WHICH IS PERCHED ABOVE THE RESORT OVERLOOKING INFINITY POOLS THAT SEAMLESSLY DISAPPEAR INTO THE OCEAN'S HORIZON. The 237-suite resort boasts golf; a spa with a very well-executed exercise room overlooking the ocean; casitas; three restaurants presided by Executive Chef Thierry Dufour, who has a pedigree of a two-star Michelin restaurant in France; over 40 pools; and even a major Latin American art collection.

That sounds like a huge resort, but you never feel like it's huge. **I NEVER FELT LIKE THE FACES AROUND ME WERE UNRECOGNIZABLE, RATHER I BECAME FAMILIAR WITH THE STAFF.** I think what helps Marquis achieve such a welcoming atmosphere is the fact that the hotel is owned and operated by Hoteles Marquis, a completely Mexican-owned company based in Mexico City (where they have another hotel called Marquis Reforma). And the staff treats the property as if they own it, proud to show visitors its treasures.

The three restaurants are very well-rounded. **There's the elegant French Canto del Mar, which is only open for dinner and is truly a stage for Chef Dufour to shine.** Vista Ballenas serves more casual fares including amazing breakfasts, while Dos Mares is the poolside kitchen where we enjoyed some of the best ceviche and fresh salsas. I particularly loved the open air, art-filled El Suspiro bar. It's the ideal spot for a pre-dinner drink to watch the sun set.

THERE IS A REASON THE MARQUIS IS A MEMBER OF LEADING HOTELS OF THE WORLD. General Manager Elsa Messerli leads the award-winning resort and its staff with her vast experience in the hospitality industry. **UPON OUR VISIT THE HOTEL HAD RECENTLY CELEBRATED THE DISTINCT HONOR OF T CERTIFICATION FROM THE TEQUILA REGULATORY COUNCIL IN MEXICO – THE FIRST HOTEL.**



IN BAJA TO RECEIVE THIS HONOR. Marquis celebrated with the launch of a new \$1,700 premium tequila, Clase Azul Ultra from Tequilas Premium.

If adventure is what you're looking for you can explore Cabo via a Hummer trek (www.bajaoutback.com) through the outback. **WE TOURED THE ZORRA CANON, A NATURAL WATERFALL REQUIRING A HIKE THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS TO GET TO.** The hike is not a difficult one, but it's not for everyone. The end result is a chunk of mountain with an awe-striking waterfall falling into a natural spring. You can also learn how to surf at Cabo Surf (www.cabosurfhotel.com). They promise no experience is necessary and they guarantee you'll stand up and surf. We were a group of about ten and almost all of us stood up at least once. Once you stand and actually ride a wave, it's addictive! I have dreams about it. I won't lie, having the real surfers waiting to catch a wave around us and doing it so effortlessly can be a little intimidating.

San Jose de los Cabos, the town, offers a variety of cafes and restaurants as well as an impressive number of galleries where you can shop local art as well as world-renowned Latin Art located in the Art District. The District features 14 galleries and holds Art Walks as well. There are smaller hotels in town as well, like the Casa Natalia (www.casannatalia.com), a small boutique hotel with a fantastic restaurant.