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September 2008

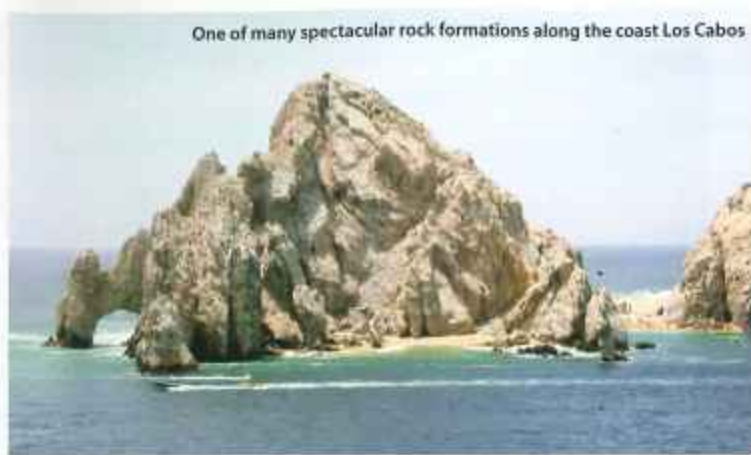
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WORLDLY TRAVELS

# The Luxury Side of Los Cabos

By *Danielle Cuintero*





One of many spectacular rock formations along the coast Los Cabos

## The Marquis, a member of the Leading Hotels of the World, provides every imaginable amenity.

San Jose del Cabo—located on the southernmost point of the Baja Peninsula—where the Pacific Ocean meets the Sea of Cortez, is culturally worlds apart from the spring break feel of Cabo San Lucas. A more sophisticated and luxurious counterpart, San Jose makes for an idyllic vacation spot whether you seek total relaxation, water sports and sailing, desert adventure, or premium golf courses. San Jose provides all these options in a charming colonial town setting nestled between the deep-blue waters of the Pacific and the desert terrain of the Sierra Mountains.

There are wide-ranging hotel and resort options in San Jose, but for the ultimate in location, luxury, and pampering, the Marquis Los Cabos (in the "Cabo Real" section of town) is unmatched. From the moment you enter the Marquis, you are instantly greeted with the impeccable service and luxury that is to be expected from a five-star resort. The check-in process is literally a breeze in the open-air lobby, where a welcome tropical drink and the incredible views of the 36-foot cascading waterfall and the Pacific Ocean instantly relax you and define your vacation mindset. Gardens comprised of native flora such as cacti, agave, and aloe vera line the winding paths of the resort that lead to your guest suite or Casita, an ocean-front house with private terrace, plunge pool and hammock.

The Marquis, a member of the Leading Hotels of the World, provides every imaginable amenity, including Bulgari toiletries, Frette sheets, hydro-massage bathtubs, reversible soft or firm mattresses, and a light breakfast delivered every morning to a private alcove adjacent to your front door. The resort maintains its



Image courtesy of the Marquis



Casita interior

Cabo Real Golf Course



Mexican roots in every imaginable detail, from its incorporation of Mexican elements in the architectural design to the use of local materials and stone. Artwork fills the hotel, including beautiful bronze sculptures that adorn the lobby and restaurants and original paintings that can be found in every guest suite.

For golfers, sea-lovers and those simply seeking an escape from the stresses of everyday life, San Jose del Cabo is an ideal destination. The Marquis is perfectly situated between two

premium courses, the Cabo Real Ocean Course, designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. and the Cabo del Sol Ocean Course, designed by Jack Nicklaus and spanning 1.5 miles of oceanfront. The resort's private 40-foot schooner, *Tu Enamorado*, is available for private charter, along with a full crew that will sail the boat on the Sea of Cortez, called the "world's aquarium" by Jacques Cousteau. The Sea of Cortez is a perfect spot for snorkeling, kayaking, swimming, and sailing. Other water sports include scuba diving, swimming with sea lions, and parasailing.

The 15,000 square-foot Spa Marquis, a member of the Leading Spas of the World, is a full-service spa offering the ultimate in pampering and relaxation. The signature aromatherapy massages are guaranteed to instantly relax even the most stressed-out guest. The spa, like every other aspect of the resort, takes full advantage of its location by incorporating local Cactus oils, agave, sea-salt, and seaweed into its decadent treatments.

San Jose boasts an emerging restaurant scene with several fine dining options including Don Emiliano, a family restaurant run by

executive chef Margarita C. de Salinas. A Mexican-born chef with training from such esteemed culinary institutes as Le Cordon Bleu and The Culinary Institute of America, Salinas infuses traditional family recipes with unexpected flavor combinations and a love of Mexican cooking and culture. The restaurant, located in a flower-filled, shady courtyard in the center of town, features traditional Mexican cuisine served with Chef Salinas' gourmet flair. Not to be missed items include the Sopa Morena, her grandmother's recipe, and the Crepas de Pollo con Mole de Pistache, a delicious chicken dish with a pistachio mole sauce.

Dining options at the Marquis include everything from casual poolside al fresco meal service to the indulgent and intimate setting of Canto del Mar, the Marquis' ultra-exclusive 20-seat restaurant run by Michelin-pedigreed executive chef Thierry Dufour. Dufour seeks out the freshest produce from two organic farms located in Los Cabos and creates a unique (and thus unprinted) menu which changes every four days. The *maitre d'* expertly pairs each course with a perfectly selected wine, including several wines from Baja, an emerging wine destination. Canto del Mar has received several notable honors, including the Five Star Diamond Award by the American Academy of Hospitality Sciences.

For shopping, the Marquis Boutique exclusively offers items from well-known Mexican designer Pineda Covalin, who

incorporates traditional Mexican designs into bold patterns and colorful prints, thereby combining tradition and style to create fashionable, wearable pieces. The colorful scarves, handbags, neckties, and glasses are perfect souvenirs of your Cabo vacation. The boutique also sells original artwork by many of the artists featured in the resort, including Agustin Castro, Fernando Garrido, and Jorge Marin.

More steeped in history and tradition than other resort towns, San Jose's sense of culture is apparent in the numerous art galleries, boutiques, and restaurants that line the streets of the historic town plaza. The Church of San Jose, with its dual spires and colonial architecture, founded by Franciscan monks in the 1700s, serves as the Plaza's focal point. The Plaza is also sprinkled with numerous art galleries and boutiques selling local artwork, handcrafted jewelry made from silver and local semi-precious stones, and other traditional Mexican crafts and souvenirs. Mijares Boulevard, located near the Plaza and known for its large, flowering trees which line the streets, providing shade and floral breezes, is another perfect spot for shopping, fine dining or an evening stroll. Whatever it is you are seeking, whether a romantic holiday, a weekend of pampering, or a sports adventure, a trip to San Jose del Cabo and a stay at the Marquis is bound to exceed any expectation you may have of a Mexican resort vacation. SA

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Casita Pool