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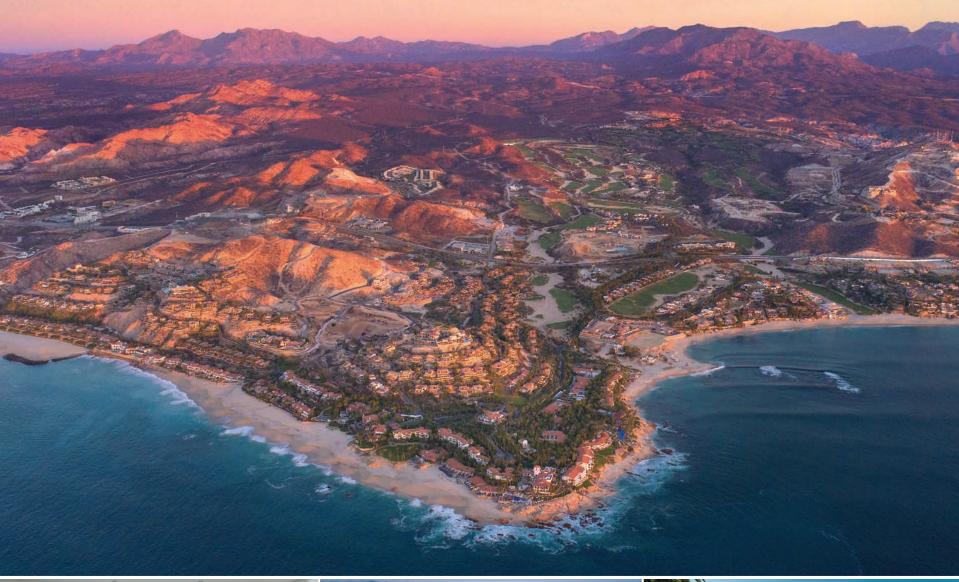
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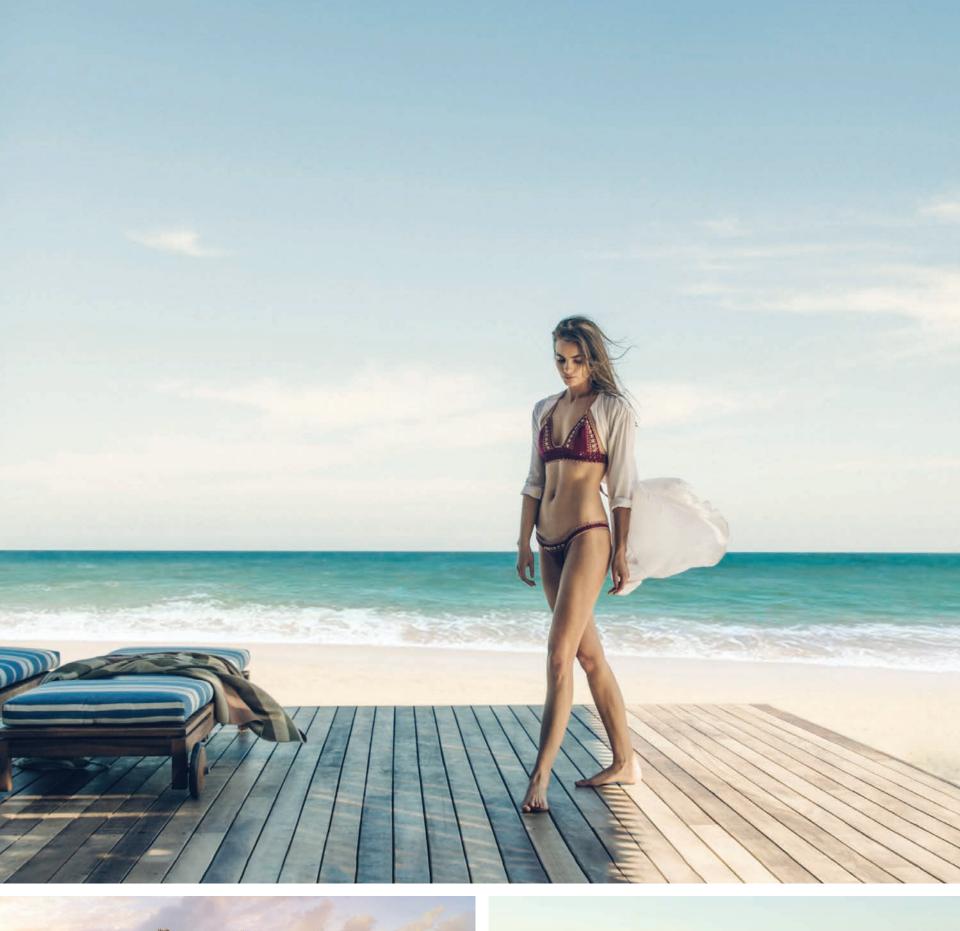
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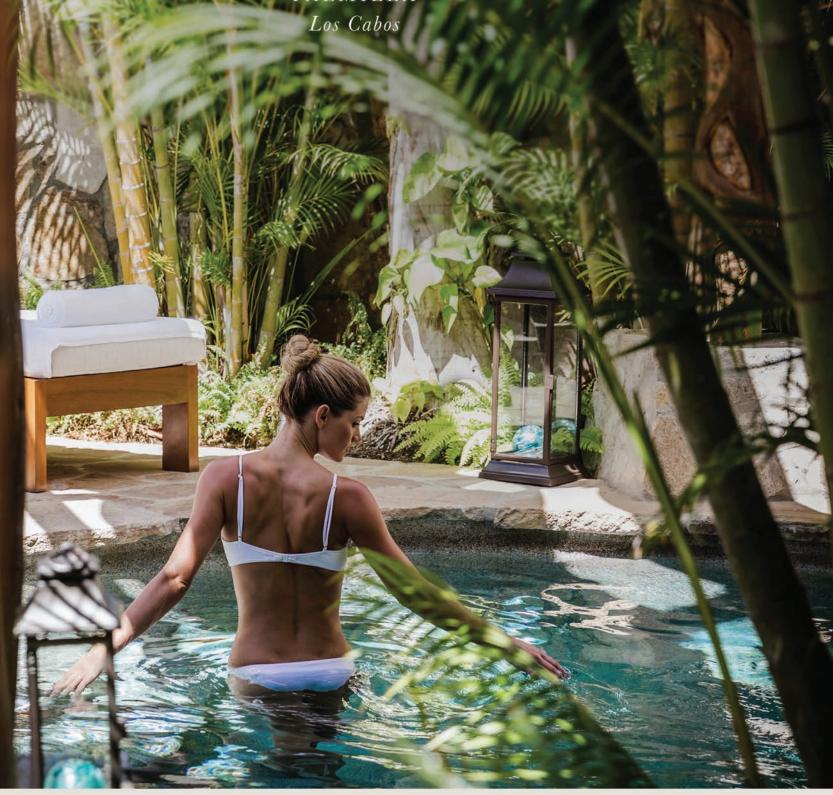
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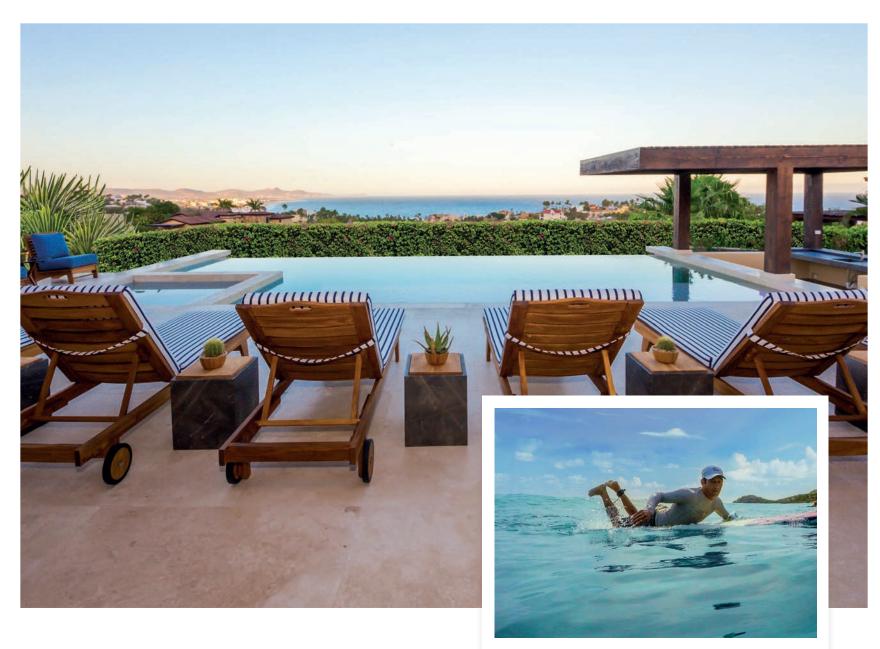
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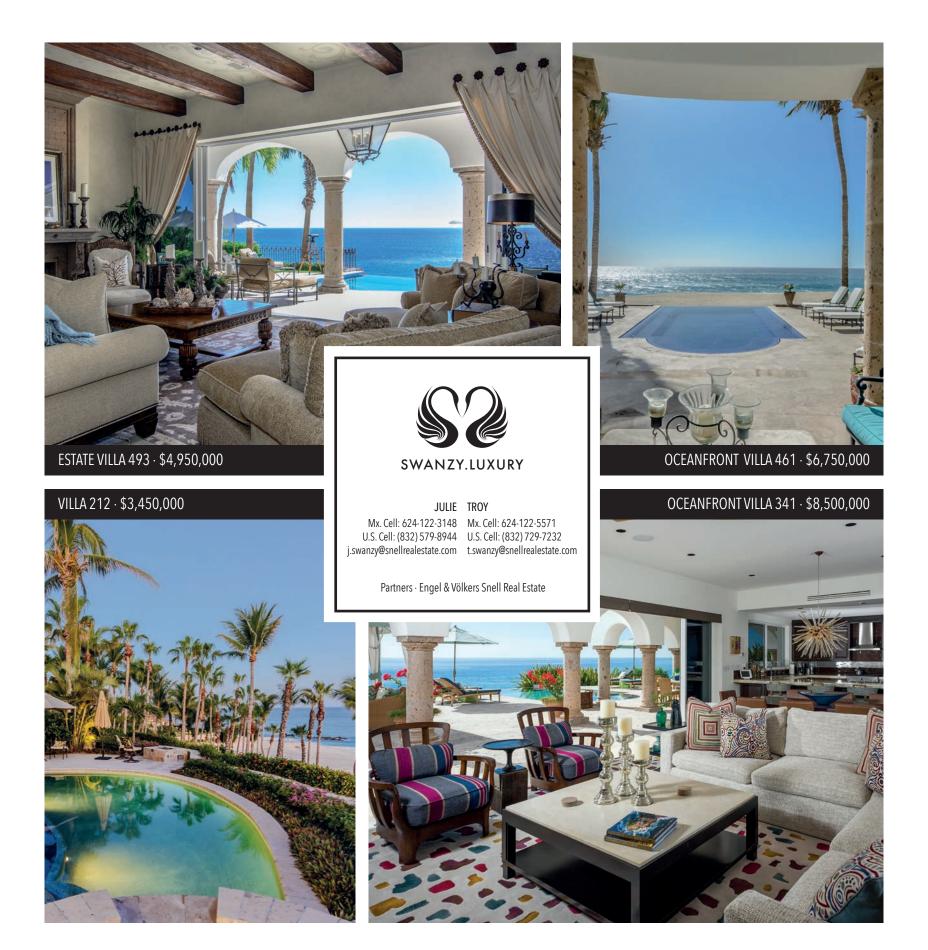
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LOCAL DATES OF INTEREST IN LOS CABOS, MEXICO

MAY 1: Primero de Mayo

This Mexican national holiday is equivalent to the U.S. Labor Day.

MAY 3: Holy Cross Day Día de la Santa Cruz

This is the time when construction workers decorate and mount crosses on unfinished buildings, and then celebrate onsite with fireworks and picnics.

MAY 5: Cinco de Mayo

This Mexican national holiday honors the Mexican victory over the French army at Puebla de los Angeles in 1862.

MAY 10: Mother's Day

This holiday is especially significant in Mexico, due to the importance of the mother in Mexican culture.

JUNE 1: Navy Day

Navy Day is an official Mexican holiday.

JUNE 24: Saint John the Baptist Day

This religious holiday is celebrated with festivities, fairs and popular jokes involving being dunked in water.

SEPTEMBER 1: Annual State of the Union

The Mexican President delivers the autumn address at approximately this time.

SEPTEMBER 16: Mexican Independence Day

This holiday celebrates the date upon which Miguel Hidalgo delivered El Grito de Dolores and announced the Mexican revolt against Spanish rule.

OCTOBER 12: Día de la Raza

This commemorative holiday celebrates Columbus' arrival to the Americas, as well as the historical origins of the Mexican people.

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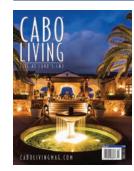
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ON THE COVER: The main fountain at Querencia's Clubhouse entrance. Photography by Francisco Estrada

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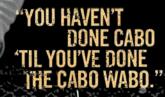
The readership speaks.

Breaking Ground by Michael Koehn

El Encanto de la Laguna: The luxury East Cape community adds to its considerable charms with a new beach club and fitness center.







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Editor's Message | April 2018 | spublishingco@msn.com







The culinary scene in southern Baja continues to exceed expectations at every turn!

Food, Glorious Food

hen we first made tracks to Los Cabos over 20 years ago, going out to an elegant dinner left few options. Today, at every turn, you can find world-class cooking in and around Southern Baja. Inspirational food from around the world. Chefs that have been trained at some of the finest places anywhere.

Their many talents shining at the dinnertable, replete with the freshest organically grown or sourced ingredients. An amazing array of meals with various price points to fit almost any budget.

To go with these increasing opportunities at award-winning food, are classic cocktails and wines from around the world.

The wines we are most excited about are Mexican grown. The wines from The Valle,

continue to get better with an increasing amount of blends. Red or white, each and every time they cease to amaze me how good they are with or without food. With price points looking much better compared to the increasing costs from Napa and Sonoma.

So, this Spring get out and enjoy some of these great hidden gems or mainstream Baja Sur restaurants. Magnifico!

Sincerely,



David H. Leathers/President/Editor







CASA OLIVER I PUERTO LOS CABOS I FUNDADORES I SAN JOSE DEL CABO I MEXICO I \$8,800,000

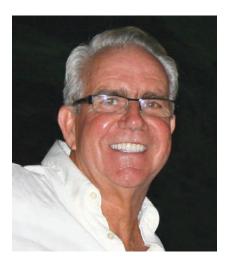
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n a brisk night in February I had the privilege of attending the 10 Year Annual Fundraiser for Casa Hogar, one of Los Cabos' leading charities providing care, housing, food and education for homeless children.

The event was held on the grounds of Flora Farms, which provided a stunning environment for the evening. It was hosted by Pat & Ed Peterson, The Casa Hogar Angels and Patrick & Gloria Greene. A special menu was created by Chef Guillermo Tellez. The food was both plentiful and amazing.

The Spirit of Giving

Jason Stirrup, Executive Director of Casa Hogar announced that evening that there are currently 40 children, 17 boys and 23 girls, living at Casa Hogar and all are registered at 12 different schools. About half are with a brother or sister. Jason emphasized how the relationship between siblings and the other children of Casa Hogar has been the main focus this past year, boys and girls living together in a large family setting.

With over 200 in attendance, the main event was masterfully orchestrated by Mike Miller and comedian John Hensen. There was a wide variety of 13 amazing packages on the auction list ranging in value from \$1,000 to \$135,000. They included a trip for two anywhere in the world, spending ten days over the holidays in a 6,000 sq. ft. house in Aspen with numerous amenities, a trip to Monte Carlo, major sporting events, golf and exquisite dining, wine country trips, etc. When all was said and done, the evening raised over \$500,000 for Casa Hogar. According to executive director Jason Stirrup, 100% of the funds will go directly into annual operations.

What a successful evening it was, great food, friends and laughter and a super cause. I applaud Casa Hogar, the Peterson family, the Greenes, Flora Farms and all in attendance for keeping the spirit of caring and giving alive for a cause and a community that we all love.

Sincerely,

instr Bob

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CABO LIVING 🐋 INBOX



Cabo Care

Hello *Cabo Living* magazine, my name is José Luis S. Musi. I am a doctor and I work in the Hospital H +. Today I received two patients who came to me thanks to reading an article in *Cabo Living* magazine (page 47, Spring 2018 issue). Thank you very much for the positive note to my work. Best regards and I remain at your service.

José Luis S Musi B.C.S., Mexico

Way-to-Go!

Thanks so much for the *Cabo Living* issue. Great issue, took me 45 minutes to get through it. Really appreciate it. *John Fagan Las Vegas, NV*

Back to the Past

I recently subscribed to *Cabo Living* magazine and wanted to know how I can order some back issues. There were a few that had a series on the founders/developers of Cabo today that I am particularly interested in. Many thanks!

Dr. Mark Schrader Scottsdale, AZ

Recycled Knives

When I was last in Cabo in August I read an article in one of the *Cabo Living* magazines I found at our resort. In it was an article on a family that made knives from recycled and found metal. The family lives "out in the middle of nowhere" somewhere up in the East Cape (I think). I meant to take a copy of the magazine as the article mentioned that the knives were sold in a store in Todo Santos. As things go we never made it to Todo Santos on that trip and I forgot to take the magazine. Well, here I am back in Cabo and I haven't been able to locate the correct issue of *Cabo Living*. So, hence this message to you.

Does the story ring a bell? I assume that it was an issue published in 2017, but I don't know for sure. Can you help? We come to Cabo several times a year and the knives seemed like a rather special item, especially considering the story you ran, and I would like to explore acquiring one. Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated.

Steve Saxon Los Angeles, CA

Editor's Note:

The story referenced above is "A Family Forged in Tradition," from the Spring 2018 issue of *Cabo Living* magazine. Rancho Las Animas knives can be purchased at:

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CABOLIVING Baja Pioneers THE GONZALEZ OF SOUTHERN BAJA

The 170 year legacy of Los Cabos is largely the story of a family and their businesses.

-by Michael Koehn--photos courtesy of Jesus Corral Gonzalez and the Gonzalez family-

You have to start somewhere. With the history of southern Baja it all begins with the land, the almost contradictory landscape of stark, sunbaked hills and the sparkling azure beauty of the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortez. It's a location that had existed almost as an island for centuries, isolated and primitive and virtually uninhabited, save for a few hardy souls who existed by scratching out a living by ranching and harvesting the abundant sea life of the surrounding waters.

The modern history of southern Baja goes back about 170 years, when some adventurous members of the Gonzalez family came to Baja from mainland Mexico to start a cockfighting business.

"My great-great-grandfather came to Baja from Durango," says Jesus Corral Gonzalez. "He settled in the La Paz area, and that was really the beginning of our family's history in Los Cabos. My great-grandfather was born in Santiago and had three sons – Manuel Gonzalez Conseco, Miguel Gonzalez Conseco and Valerio Gonzalez Conseco. Miguel stayed in Santiago and became a rancher, raising cattle there, and Valerio and Manuel, born in 1898 and 1900 respectively went to La Paz and San José del Cabo, and, as teenagers, started a local business, buying a warehouse there called La Voz del Sur that was centrally located in San José in front of the Palacio Municipal. That was called 'El Alto,' as it was the only two-story building in town, and that's where the original Hotel California was then. If you walk inside you can still see a sign for Hotel California behind one of the metal doors."

There were no banks in the area then, and Manuel and Valerio, in addition to operating

Continued on next page

Miguel, Manuel and Valerio Gonzalez Canseco with Manuela Canseco Cota.







(ABOVE AND FAR RIGHT) | This page: La Voz del Sur, 1936. Carlos Gonzalez wedding. Valerio, Miguel and Manuel Gonzalez Canseco, circa 1907. Opposite page: Maria Angelina Gonzalez wedding. El Tule beach, Casa del Mar. Don Manuel as a kid. Carlos Gonzalez (fishing trip). Zaragoza Street.

La Voz Del Sur as partners, also began to help local people as informal bankers and private lenders (documents of their loan activity shows meticulously recorded dates, assets and liabilities of their customers). As a result of that business, they started to acquire property throughout the area that was given as collateral for the loans. Their property inventory began to build up around San José del Cabo and toward Cabo San Lucas, which really wasn't more than a small fishing village then. "There was no term in those days for the area now called The Corridor," says Corral. Over time, the brothers, who were partners in all their businesses and very close, acquired parcels of land and ranchos that

ranged from La Playita in San José del Cabo to El Tule.

As the family began to grow and their business interests developed, Miguel decided to remain in Santiago, living the life of a gentleman rancher, while Valerio remained in Baja, handling the family business interests in San José del Cabo and La Paz, and Manuel went to Mexico City to manage other family interests, including car dealerships, insurance companies and financial institutions.

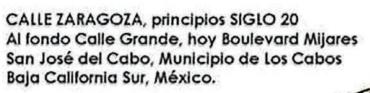
"Back in the fifties, when Manuel











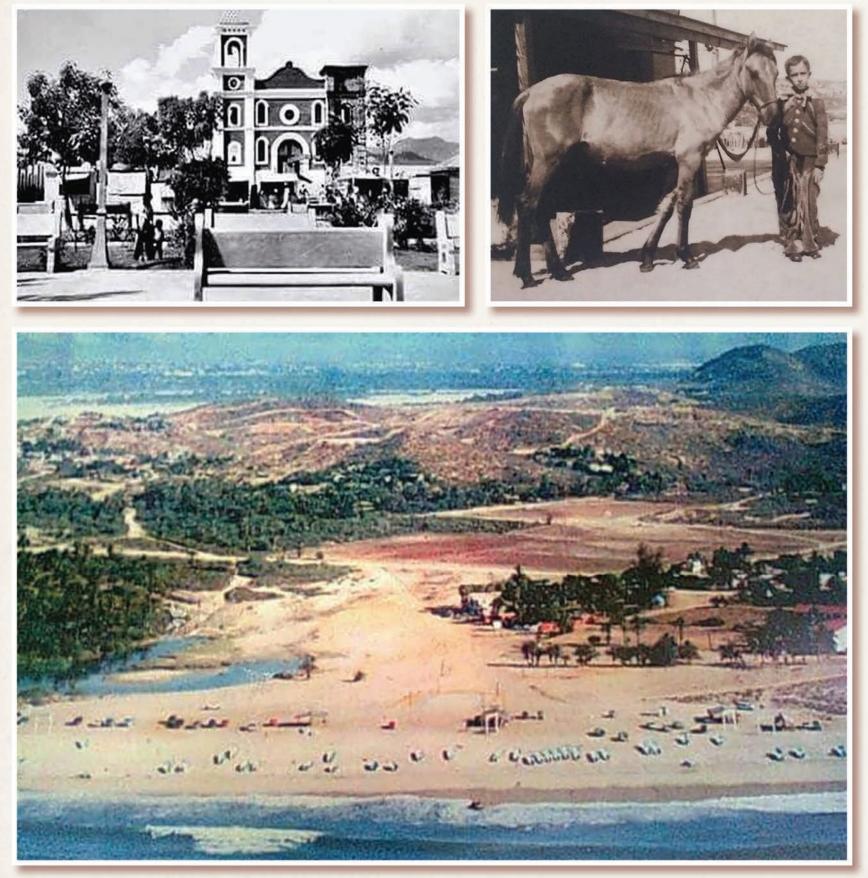


(BELOW) Church of San José del Cabo. Carlos Gonzalez at Costa Azul Ranch (where they lived for a while). Pueblo de la Playa next to the estuary.

Gonzalez Canseco moved to Mexico, he took his lovely wife Carmen Ceseña and his three daughters, Elena, Carmen, and Gloria, with him," Corral explains. "His only son, Carlos, remained in San José del Cabo, looking after the local businesses and properties like ranchos. Unfortunately, in the early sixties his wife passed away due to a diabetes-related illness. His three daughters eventually married Alonso Muñoz, Pablo Portilla, and Jesus Corral respectively."

"Don Manuel remained very active with the family businesses," Corral says. "The family's second Ford dealership in the country was opened while he was in San José del Cabo, so he was very involved with that business, as well as Club de Leones where he was treasurer for many years. His former house in Mexico City, at Londres 43, Colonia Juarez, was always a big center of family gatherings. I still remember how I used to hang around with all of my cousins; we got along very well and those were very happy years in our lives. Just as it is today, ours was a very close family then."

The modern history of southern Baja as a tourist destination really began in the late fifties with Abelardo "Rod" Rodriguez, who



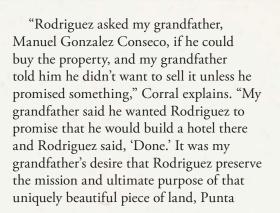






had established a small but highly regarded resort at Las Cruces south of La Paz. It was a transcendentally beautiful location, and became a luxury sportfishing haven for people like Bing Crosby, Desi Arnaz, John Wayne, corporate C.E.O.s and even president Dwight D. Eisenhower.

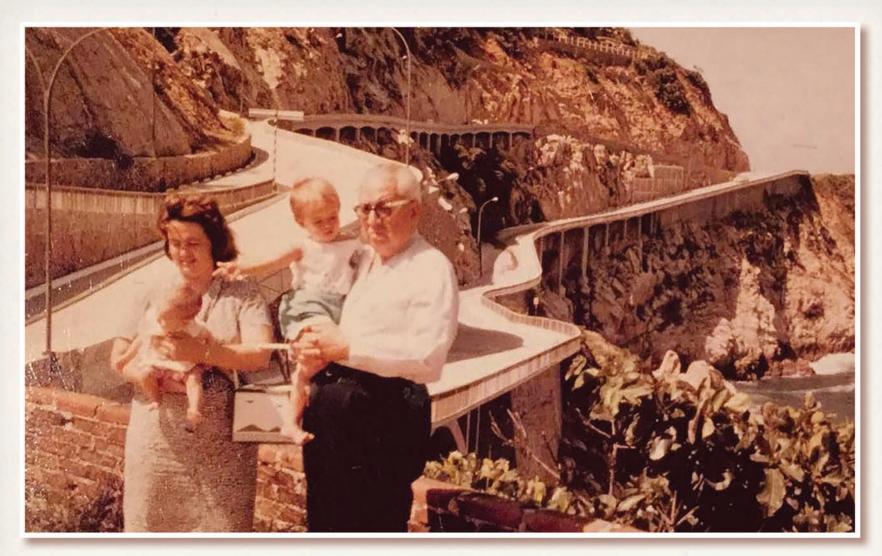
Searching for another location, Rodriguez began flying along the coastline of Los Cabos looking for an equally scenic site to build another hotel. He spotted Punta Palmilla from the air near San José del Cabo and fell in love with what he considered the most beautiful location in the area.



Continued on next page

(ABOVE) | Manuel Gonzalez Canseco, mid 20s. Jesus Corral (with suspenders) and his cousins at Londres 43. Grandparents house. Dr. Jesus Corral on a fishing trip in Palmilla around 1965. Don Manuel Gonzalez with president of Ford International. Carlos, Don Manuel and Abelardo Rodriguez.

CABO LIVING • 47





(ABOVE) | Don Manuel Gonzalez with his daughter in law. Plaque given to Don Manuel for 25 years of Ford Dealership in 1950. City Hall 1980.



Palmilla. He couldn't use it himself, so he wanted it to be used for the people of Los Cabos. Knowing the Rodriguez family and having visited Las Cruces, he knew he would create something very nice, something low key and elegant for the area that would stand for many years."

Once Rodriguez agreed, they established a price of 600,000 pesos for 400 acres at Punta Palmilla and Rodriguez bought the property in 1953. He then began to build the Hotel Palmilla, a modest project at the time designed in a classic Spanish colonial style. The hotel opened with fifteen rooms in 1957 and was completed in 1958. Once they saw the work that Rodriguez had done with Hotel Palmilla, other developers began to take an interest in the area, including the Mexican tourist development agency Fonatur.

"My family began selling property in the area, including parcels along what is now known as The Corridor," Corral says. It seems hard to believe in view of the current state of Los Cabos, but in the early days of development along southern Baja no one was really interested in beachfront property. The area was largely dominated by cattle ranches and farming. "One of the businesses my grandfather had was exporting cattle to the United States," says Corral. "They had a dock at Punta Palmilla and they would winch the cattle by their horns up and into the boats that took them to the States. But in those days, before Rodriguez came to town, the beachfront area was considered to be practically worthless, with no agricultural potential and no way to support cattle. There was no interest in developing tourism at all then."

Before the development of the Transpeninsular Highway in 1974 the only hotel properties in the area were the Hotel Palmilla, Bud Parr's Hotel Cabo San Lucas at Chileno Bay, which opened in 1961, and the property in Cabo, the Hacienda, which was owned by both Rodriguez and Parr. They were all very separated along the coastline, and eventually the Mar de Cortes was built in Cabo to house the workers in the area. The Gonzalez family sold the property at Santa Maria Bay to Parr for 300,000 pesos, the first government-owned chain hotel, El Presidente, was built in San José and the Twin Dolphin was also built

Continued on next page

(BELOW) *Mr. Fisher House (Today Don Rodrigo restaurant in San José). Manuel Gonzalez Canesco, born 1900. The power plant in San José del Cabo. Today it is known as Casa de la Cultura. Carmen Ceseña (Don Manuel 's wife).*







near Santa Maria Bay and was considered the crown jewel in the area for a while. Southern Baja was now solidly on the map as an exotic destination for adventurers and sportfishermen who came to pursue the huge stocks of marlin and gamefish located just offshore.

Soon Luis Bulnes and Luis Coppola were on the scene, building the Solmar (1974) and Finisterra properties in Cabo respectively, and the momentum was starting to build. Keith Richard's wedding at the Finisterra in 1983 drew a lot of attention to the area, including that of Sammy Hagar, and suddenly Cabo had transitioned from a dusty little fishing village into some prominence as an international destination.

"I would say we sold the bulk of our beachfront property through the seventies and eighties," Corral says. "Eduardo Sánchez Navarro had crossed paths with my family in Mexico City, and he became very involved in developing Los Cabos. The first property we sold to him was a parcel at El Tule, now known as Cabo Real where the El Dorado Golf Course is located, and then he developed the Melia property, now Paradisus and Casa del Mar, in 1990. In the eighties we sold off what I think were the most valuable properties. That was before Grupo Questro







(BELOW) | Manuel Gonzalez Canesco in Mid 60's with grandaughter, Carmen. Don Manuel Gonzalez with Adolfo Ruiz Cortinez (President of Mexico) 1952 - 1958. Gonzalez Aragon family at Villa del Mar (next to Solaz).





was formed, and my father, Jesus Corral and uncle Carlos Gonzalez, who had been chosen to represent the family in these negotiations, arranged those deals. Most of the relevant negotiations were closed with Grupo Cabo Real, today known as Grupo Questro, to develop hotels like the Hilton, Melia, Las Ventanas, Casa del Mar and Dreams.

"We also sold property up in the hills to the people who developed Querencia, about 900 hectares, to create their original residential community and golf course. El Tule ranch was a very nice piece of property," Corral says. "Nowadays several groups own it. One of the most recent properties developed there was the Querencia Golf Course. That was negotiated in the late nineties."

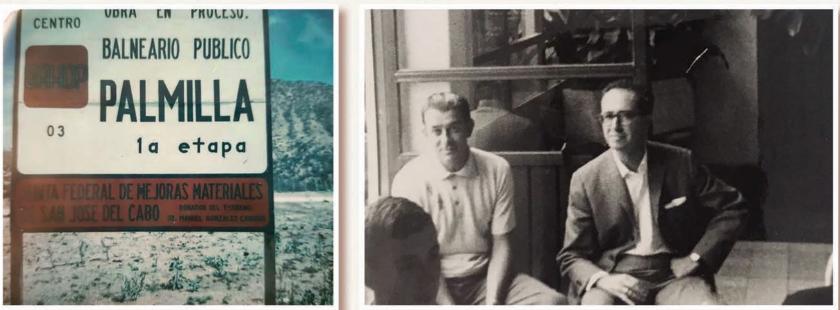
In recent years, the Gonzalez family sold off the last of their significant beachfront properties to Rubén Coppel Luken and José María Pablos González of Quinta del Golfo de Cortez to create what is now becoming Solaz Los Cabos.

Although most of the Gonzalez family

Continued on next page

(ABOVE) | Some Gonzalez Cousins at Villa del Mar for Christmas Back in the 80's. Don Manuel and his son Carlos, at Camino real circa 1930. Don Manuel Gonzalez with Gustavo Diaz Ordaz (President of Mexico) 1964 - 1970.



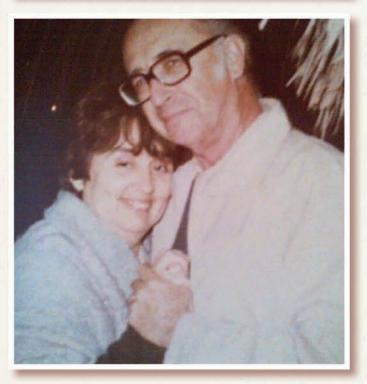


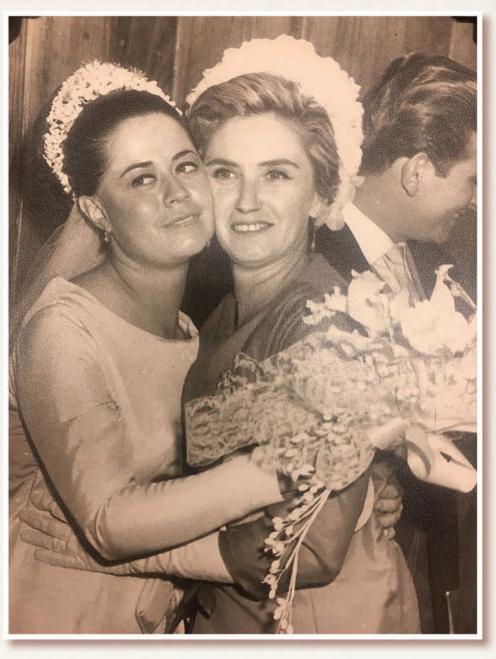
(ABOVE AND FAR RIGHT) | This page: Don Manuel with his three daughters Elene, Gloria and Carmen receiving a diploma. Palmilla beach balneary donated by Don Manuel to the people of San José, work in progress. Carlos Gonzalez and Pablo Portilla at Londres 43. Opposite page: Carlos Gonzalez at San Carlos ranch (El Tule). (Now Solaz development. Maria Angelina Gonzalez with Gloria Gonzalez (Jesus Corral's mother). Carlos Gonzalez and his wife. City Hall (San José del Cabo). members were born and raised in Mexico City, the vast majority of them have settled into Los Cabos or La Paz and have active lives in the local economy. "Some of my family are still involved in real estate, while others are in the business of trading, hospitality or are working independently," Corral says. His remaining siblings, Carlos, Gabriel, and Luis as well of the rest of the Gonzalez relatives and their families, are still very involved in the area, with businesses and activities relating to the lifestyle in Los Cabos.

"My family has been in the area for about 170 years and managed to develop many businesses here in Los Cabos," says Corral. "We are fortunate that the land that was acquired was in relatively large tracts around the area, consisting mainly of ranchos. This allowed development in the area to be more spread out and with lower density, unlike some other tourist destinations in Mexico where the developers worked on very thin slices of land stacked up against each other. Those large parcels of land were a big advantage in the development of southern Baja."

It's hard to imagine what the three original founding brothers would think









(BELOW AND FAR RIGHT) | This page: Acapulquito beach house, circa 1965. Now Hotel Cabo Surf. Don Manuel Gonzalez with Luis Echeverria Alvarez (President of Mexico) 1970 - 1976. Social gathering in México city. At the table are : Don Manuel González Canseco. To his left; Pato Cobian, Gloria Gonzalez de Corral, Jesus Corral, Carlos Gonzalez. To his right: Carmen Gonzalez de Portilla, Pablo Portilla. Opposite page: Several Gonzalez family members at Palmilla Plaque installation. Rancho San Carlos, today Hotel Solaz Los Cabos. Don Manuel at Christmas in his house (Londres 43) with some grandchildren about 55 years ago. San José del Cabo old post office in a downtown space donated by Gonzalez family. Almacenes Goncanseco after la Voz del Sur, circa 1990. of the area that Los Cabos has become now. From a time when the area resembled something like the American Wild West, where beachfront property was worthless, to the current state where the scenic beauty has made the area one of the world's most desirable luxury destinations, the story of the development of Los Cabos is largely the story of a family business. As the Gonzalez family was in the beginning, they are still actively on the scene in Los Cabos today, continuing to contribute to the area's ongoing progress and its future.

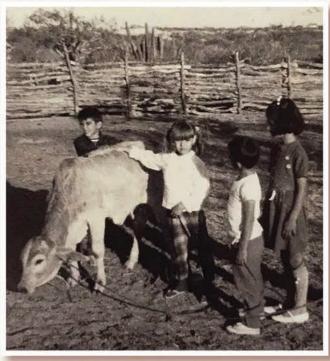
"We all feel very proud of *mi abuelo*," says Corral, "I remember him always

joking with his unforgettable smile, very wise, always willing to help and always giving a good piece of advice. He was a great example to all of us. There is no way I would close this conversation without giving respect and recognition to his big heart. He donated the land where the Red Cross and fire department are located in San José del Cabo, as well as Hospital General and el dispensario de las monjitas, Escuela Secundaria Antonio Mijares and of course that beach club at Palmilla where Pepe's Restaurant used to be, an area he always said "belongs to the people of San José del Cabo." El Fin!



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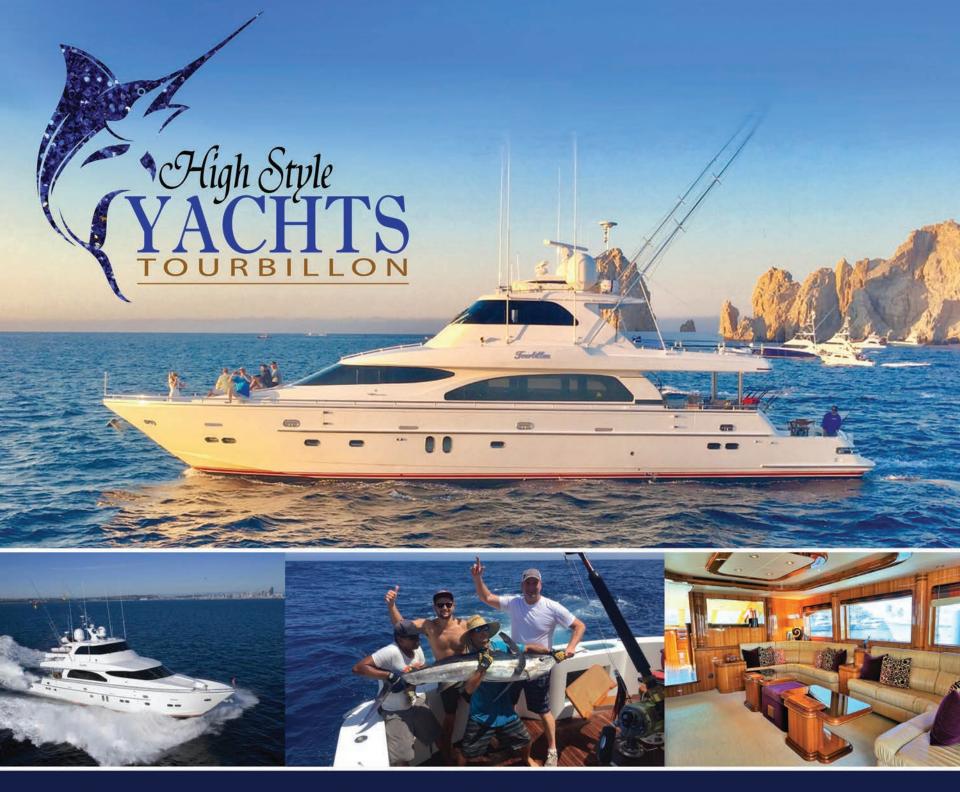
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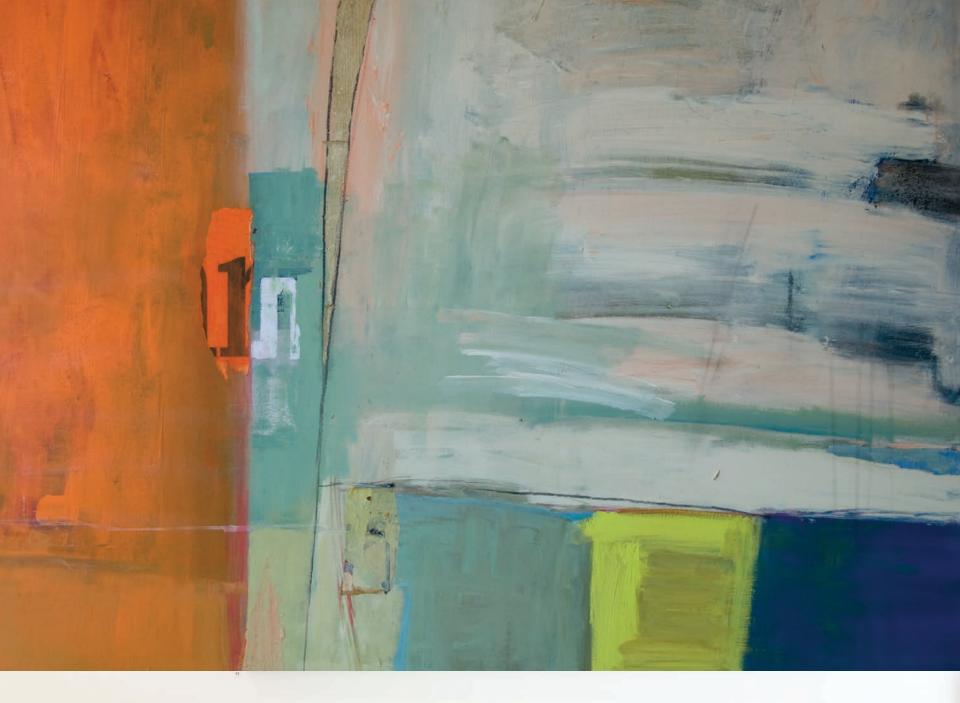


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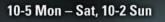


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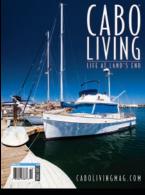
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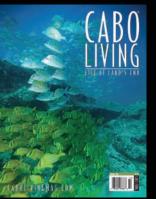


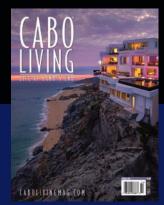
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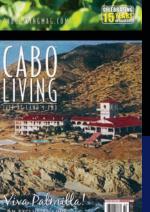


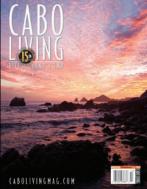


















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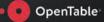
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-story and photos by Paul Papanek-

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It was halfway through the day when I looked down at my camera and saw that it was encased in a thick protective layer of super-fine dust. I wasn't too concerned for a couple of reasons. First – my camera and lenses are tightly sealed against the elements (a selling point that was being severely tested). Second, but more importantly, I was just having way too much fun to care!

Continued on next page







(ABOVE AND FAR RIGHT) | This page: A mile off the highway, this is the entrance to the ranch. My buddy Larry eventually wrestled the wheel away from me. Just some of the scenery we experienced on our adventure. Opposite page: Inside the cantina. Todd Clement. Wide Open Adventures – Todd's old company – uses the ranch as a starting-off point for their tours of the Baja. One of Horsepower Ranch's horses grazing on a hill above the shop. The ranch with its 50-room hotel, cantina, pool, and 100 acres.

I was behind the wheel of a highly customized Polaris RZR – one of a fleet owned by Horsepower Ranch and Horsepower Adventures in Ensenada – and I, along with my more than willing buddy Larry who was strapped tightly into the passenger seat, was out with owner Todd Clement and several other drivers to not only see the start of the SCORE Baja 500 off-road race; we were out to drive part of the course after the last of the trophy trucks ran through. We were somewhere between Ensenada and Ojos Negros, instructed to stay just far enough behind each other so as not to inhale their entire dust cloud, racing at up to 50 miles per hour on tracks through the forest and across wide open fields. And we were having the time of our lives.

How did we get here?

The story starts – as many stories about Ensenada and off-road racing do - with Todd Clement. Oh – and just maybe Al Capone. Yes – *that* Al Capone. More about that later.

Todd's passion for off-road racing began as a 9-year old, when his mom took him down to Ensenada to watch his uncle Joe race in the Baja 500. Todd was really enthralled,

Continued on next page











though, by racing legend Parnelli Jones who, at the time, was running his "Big Oly" Ford Bronco. Jones won that race, as it happened, crossing the finish line going backwards because of multiple mechanical problems. As Todd tells it, "He was a hero to me because he crossed the finish line in reverse! I was pretty well fixed at that point!" His passion for off-road racing had been ignited.

By the time he was 16, and wanting to emulate his hero Jones, Todd was looking for his own Bronco to race and found one languishing in a guy's overgrown backyard. And to close the Parnelli Jones circle, it





turned out that that Bronco had been built at the same shop that built "Big Oly." After some late night wrenching, Todd was driving it to school the following week.

At 19, he finally entered his first race – the Barstow 250 – and he and his team took 4th place. That led to moving up to the mini truck class and then, with substantial sponsorship, to the pro truck class. He and his team went on to win the Baja 1000 and 500 in their class, gaining quite a bit of notoriety in the process, and making just enough money to put gas in their pre-runners. But out of this came an idea. On a fishing trip to Alaska, it occurred to Todd that just maybe, the guys he was fishing with would have a better time spending their money driving the Baja 500 course in pre-runner vehicles. He figured that if the cars were simple enough, you wouldn't have to be a pro-level driver in order to get a real taste of legendary Baja off-road racing. That was the beginning of Wide Open Baja. With a business plan in hand, Todd designed and

Continued on next page

(FAR LEFT AND BELOW) | Opposite page: One of the customized RZRs in their shop. The HPR logo is branded into their equipale chairs. Todd hunts classic Broncos that are good candidates for restoration. This one is next in line. This page: Horsepower Ranch is close to the vineyards of Valle de Guadalupe. Here we are taking a spin by one of them. A stack of spare RZR tires. A view across Horsepower Ranch's beautiful valley.









(ABOVE AND FAR RIGHT) | This page: Three of Horsepower Adventure's RZRs lined up in front of the cantina, ready to go! Applying the chrome Bronco logo will be the final step. A few tools in the fabrication shop. Opposite page: If you see this, you're on the right dirt road heading to the entrance of the ranch. The Horsepower Adventure logos are displayed on all of their Polaris RZRs. One Horsepower Adventure's RZRs blasting down a dirt track.





built a fleet of 46 race cars – a little stronger and more comfortable than anything on the market. It turned out that his cars were so durable and reliable that militaries from around the world began buying them. And - they were added as an official class in the Score races, too.

The adventure tours Todd began hosting for corporate groups from around the world were an instant success. His emphasis was always on safety first, and he would take considerable time to teach every participant how to drive and how to communicate from car to car. Some of the adventures would last as long as eight days and cover up to 1400 miles – Ensenada to Cabo and back - with tented camps and meals being prepared ahead of their arrivals along the way. Todd was having the time of life – as were his clients.

Several years later, he got a call from a guy who owned an historic 80-year old ranch a few miles outside of Ensenada. On its 100 acres were a cantina, huge swimming pool, and a small hotel. The guy wanted to sell, and thought that it would be a perfect place for Todd to base Wide Open Baja – which had





become a pretty big operation by then. Todd says that when he showed up to see it, "...it had beautiful bones but was really decrepit. Roofs were falling in, there was no greenery, and it was in a general state of disrepair. And it was perfect." It also came complete with ranch manager Rodrigo, who was born on the property. The apocryphal story that Al Capone

once owned it and used it as a secluded





getaway from his Riveria Casino in downtown Ensenada provided great intrigue and promised fun dinner and beer-fueled conversation for years to come.

Right away, Todd saw it as a potential utopia for people who race the Baja. He immediately named it Horsepower Ranch and, within a few months, they were hosting guests. Paul Newman, on his first visit, called it a "dude ranch for petrol heads." He was right on the money. The ranch quickly became the epicenter of pre-race parties and events for the Baja 500 and 1000 races,



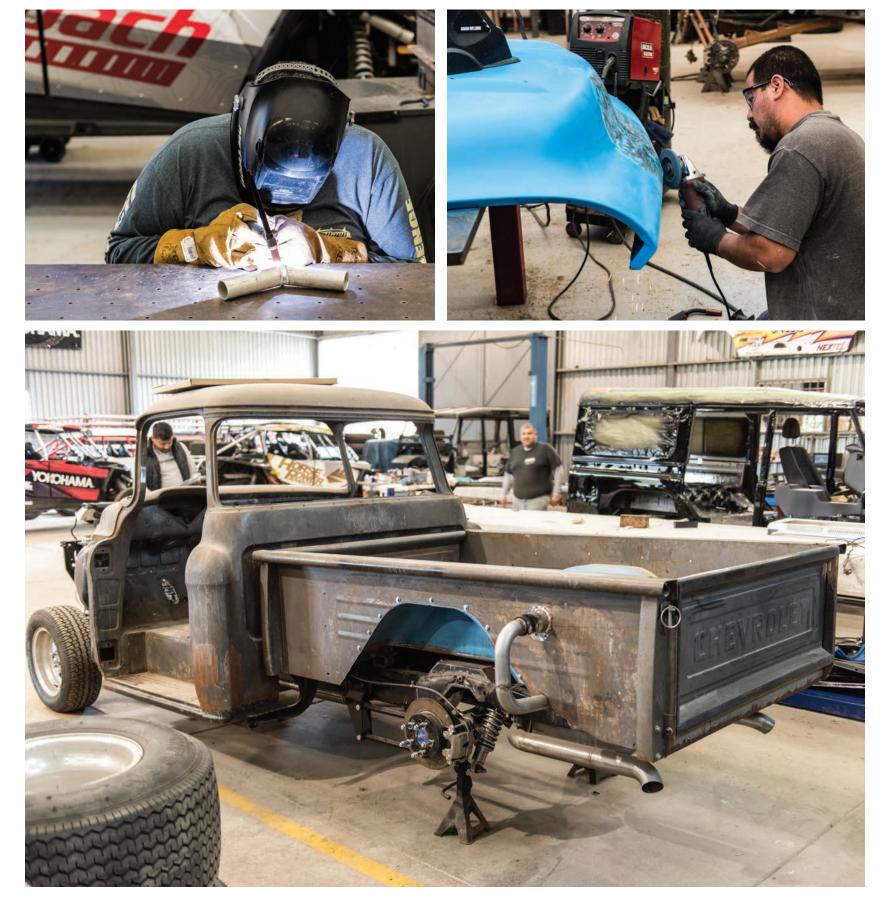
as well as the Legends Rally. And off-road motorcycle tour companies used it as a jumping-off venue for trips down the Baja, as well. Movie stars and famous racers flocked there to hang out with Baja off-road racing crowd including Sandra Bullock, Jesse James, Patrick Dempsey, Mario Andretti, Walker Evans, Ivan Stewart, and many others.

And some amazing things happened. Todd tells a story about engineers from Ford coming down to the ranch for a pre-race event and how they examined his adventure tour cars with a fine tooth comb. A year later, they came back to the ranch to unveil the Ford Raptor – heavily inspired by the design of Todd's cars. That really solidified their place on the racing map!

Around that time, Todd and his partners built the shop – all 10,500 square feet of it, including a complete fabrication building – so he would have a place to store and work on his fleet, and to build more of them. In 2010, with Wide Open Baja and the

Continued on next page

(FAR LEFT AND BELOW) | Opposite page: Serious work goes on inside this building. A stack of fabric samples for a restoration. The punch list for a Defender being modified in the shop. Flaco's low-rider hiding in the body shop. One of the shop's own classic pickups. This page: One of the crew working on a part in the fabrication shop. Smoothing out the dents in the hood of the pickup truck. A classic pickup truck that's been completely stripped for a ground-up restoration, almost ready for the paint shop.





(ABOVE AND FAR RIGHT) | This page: After the new motor and dash have been installed in the red Bronco, the guys start working on all of the hook-ups. One of two blue Broncos currently in the shop. The crew installing a dash in the red Bronco. Note the custom air conditioner vents installed across the bottom! Opposite page: Flaco's low rider which he drives every day to and from his house on the ranch. One of the Horsepower Adventures support trucks that goes out on every trip. The next steps on a blue Bronco just out of the paint shop. One of the crew prepping one of the pickup's fenders for paint. Two of the Broncos in the shop undergoing ground-up restorations. hotel in full swing, they stopped building cars for the adventure tour business. Todd says "...we didn't want to saturate Baja with our race cars. Every time we went down the peninsula, we wanted the locals to be happy we were coming through and throw rose petals instead of rocks."

Feeling like they had taken the adventure tour business as far as he could, Todd sold Wide Open Baja in 2007, and with all the space in that huge shop now available began doing restorations and resto-mods. He put together the core of a great crew – a couple of incredibly talented paint and body guys from East LA – Pete and Flaco – an upholsterer from Guadalajara, and a few local craftsmen and mechanics. Friends from southern California would come in and lend a hand. It started out slowly, finding trucks and cars here and there, and taking in the occasional outside job. But then they started to focus. They realized they that they liked pickups, Bronco, Camaros, Land Rover Defenders, and early Porsches and Mustangs, so Todd





NATHAN'S BLUE PRONCO

- BODY F PAINT : 1. FRONT GRILL INSERT & HEADLIGHT RINES "WHITE" 2. ROLL BAR PAINT BLUE TO MATCH BODY... BODY & PAINT:

- 3. FEB BUMPERS "BLACK" 4. EXTERIOR MIRRORS, EMBLEMS, NIPERS, F S. FORD LETTERING ON TAILGATE BLACK

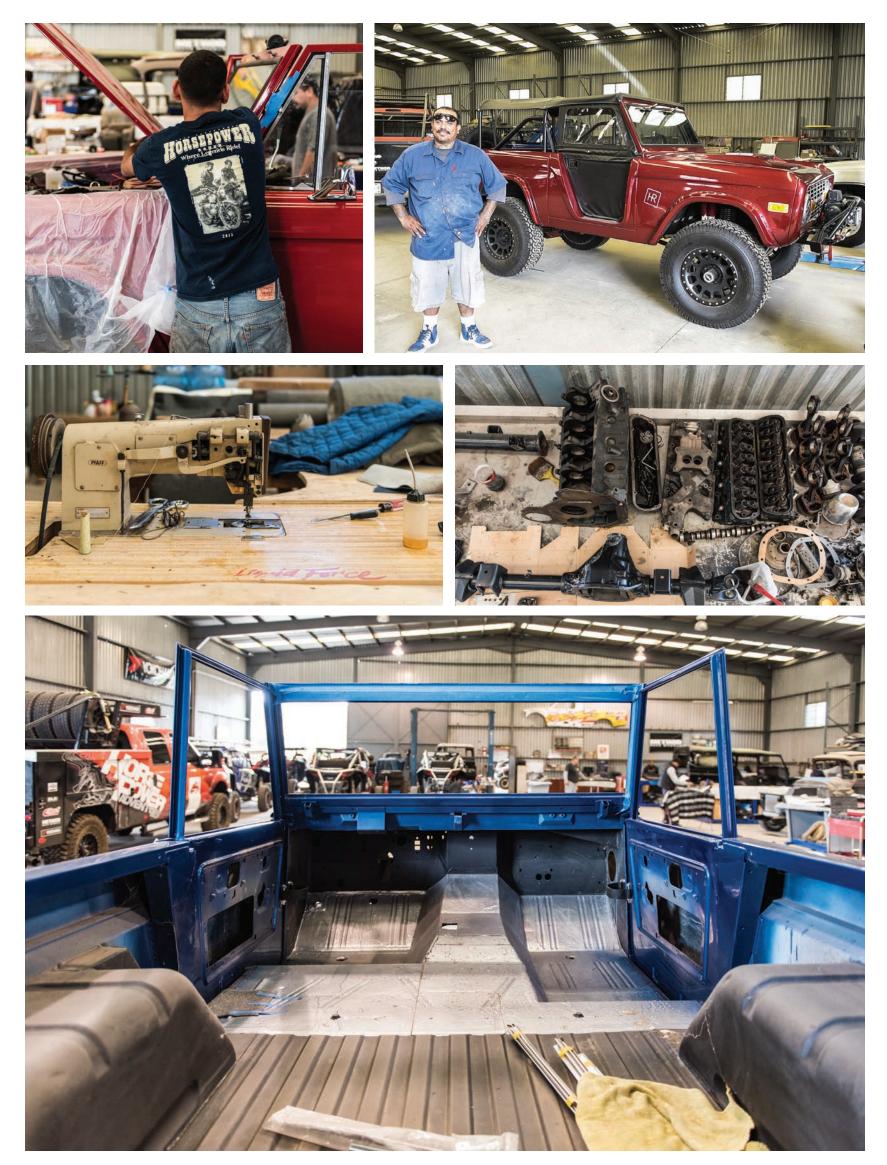
- 8. EVIL DYNAMAT 9. KICK PANEL FIBERGLASS SPEAKER MOUN 3.



began combing the want ads and following leads to find good candidates for restoration or modification. Now, about 50 percent of the projects in house are cars that they find themselves, and the other 50 percent are cars that people bring in.

Todd is always on the hunt. On any given day, he might be found driving his big Ram pickup towing his flatbed trailer behind



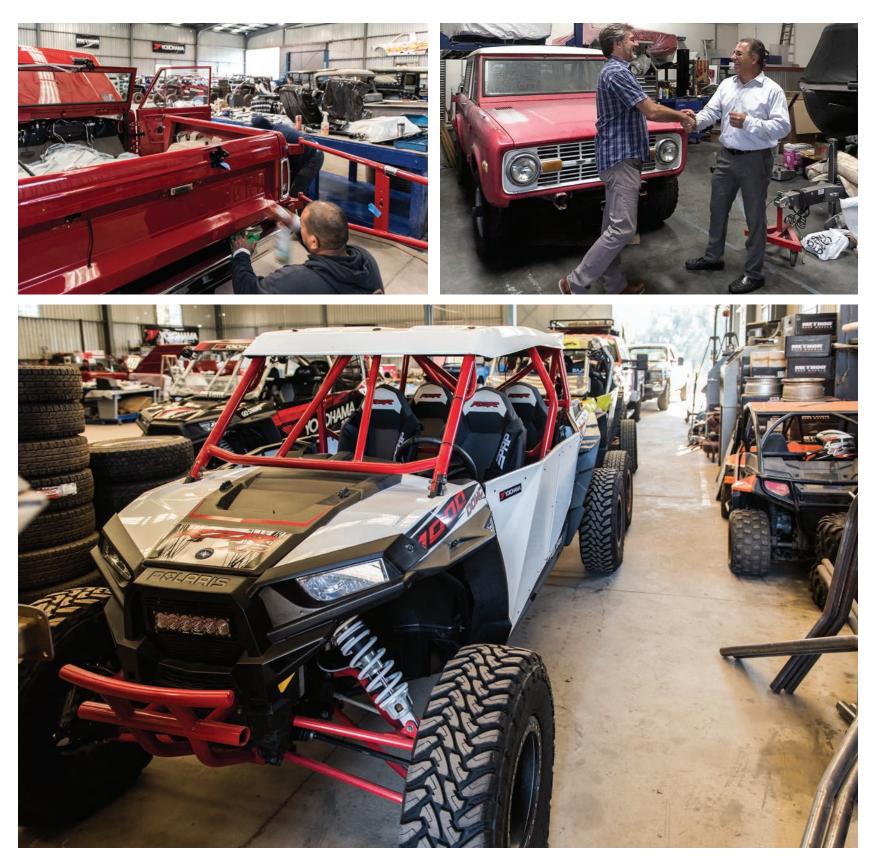


with, perhaps, the carcass of a rusty early '70's Bronco strapped to it. In a few short weeks, a gleaming Bronco would roll out of the shop and you'd be hard-pressed to know it was the same one that went in.

When I asked Todd what the difference was between a custom shop in the US and one in Ensenada, he told me that, first and foremost, it's the passion of the people he has working for him. Many of them live on the ranch or close by (every day after closing, you can see Flaco driving his beautiful low-rider up the dirt track to his house on the hill above the ranch. It's quite an incongruous sight!), and everyone loves coming to work. They make sure that work is fun, and as Todd tells it, "...we work and sing and have a great time and if there's a mistake, we just do it over again. There's never a time when someone says, "that thing has to leave right now. It's not done! We don't have anymore time!" We always have time here!" Pete, the paint and body master from East LA, wandered by at that point and added "And no other custom shop I know of in the States has a swimming pool, volleyball court, a 50room hotel and a cantina!" As you can tell, morale is incredibly high here!

Continued on next page

(FAR LEFT AND BELOW) | Opposite page: The guys working on the red Bronco. Pete, the body and paint guru, stands in front of a recently completed Bronco. The shop has their own full-time upholsterer, and this is where the magic happens. A Bronco motor waiting for its rebuild. While Horsepower Ranch works on just about anything, they specialize in classic Bronco restorations and restomods. This one has recently come out of the paint shop and is awaiting the next steps. Opposite page: Pete, the body and paint guru, is about to apply white lettering to the Ford logo. Todd, always on the hunt for old Broncos, buys one that he found in a warehouse. A new RZR waiting to be customized for Horsepower Adventures.







(ABOVE) | Just outside the cantina, a large grassy area hosts parties, volley ball games, and bonfires. The cantina, outside and inside. Todd is incredibly proud of his collection of collector-item sombreros. These are just a few.

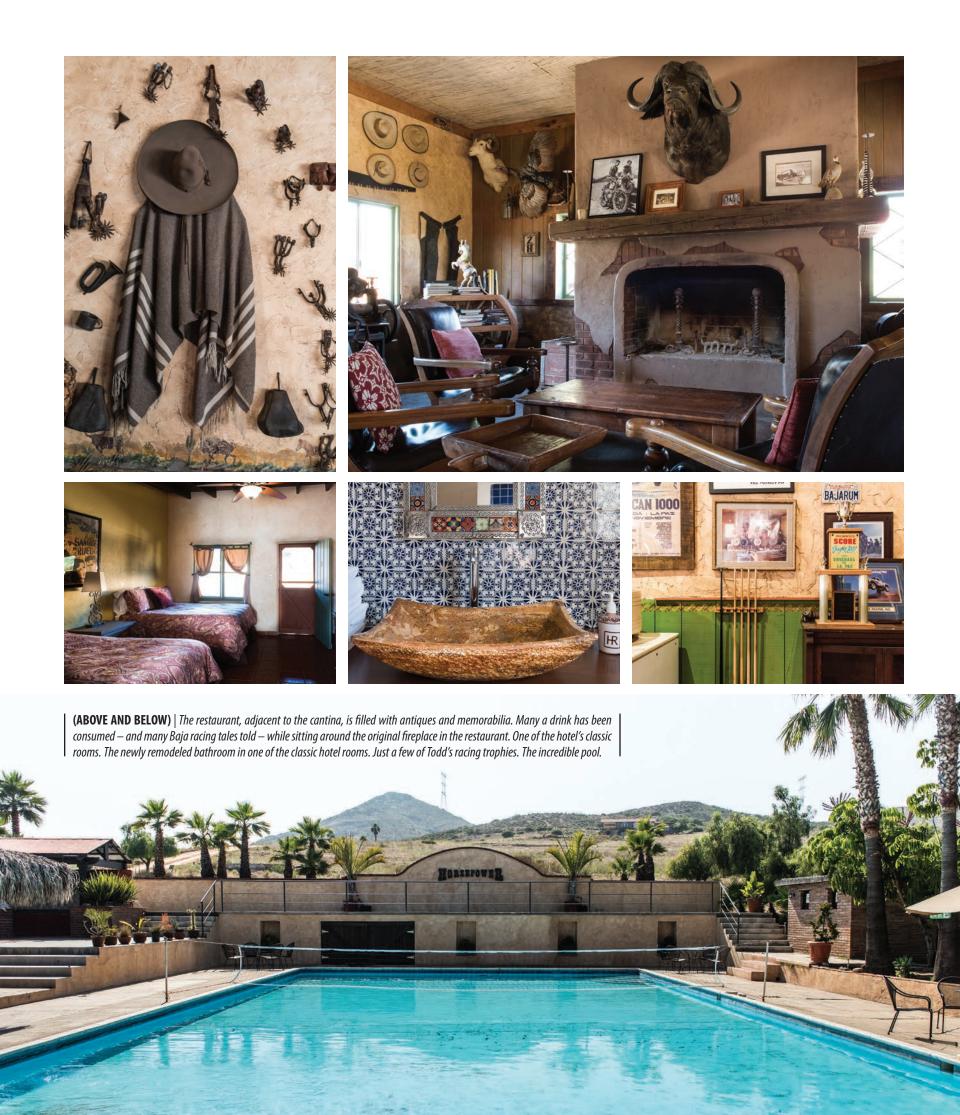


And it shows. When I was there last, the team – expanded to handle the number of vehicles in the shop – was busy installing a dash on a candy-apple red Bronco, and at the same time, working on a custom interior for Defender and massaging dents out of a classic pickup truck that had been stripped down to bare metal in preparation for going into their own paint booth. The place was humming – literally – with Banda music playing on a boom box and many of the guys singing along. Everyone laughs together,



and the work gets done – flawlessly. Their attention to detail is unmatched. Todd, with his encyclopedic knowledge of mechanics and off-road racing – coupled with his sense of humor and love of what he's doing – is the glue that keeps it all together.

A couple of years ago, Todd got restless and decided to jump back into the adventure tour business, calling it Horsepower











Adventures. This time, he customized a small fleet of Polaris RZRs - adding a center seat in the back, tweaking the suspension, installing GPS and communication gear, and making them go faster. Way faster. Which brings us back to my camera being covered in a layer of dust.

There were a few guests staying at the ranch who had booked a one-day adventure tour (which anyone can do, by the way), and Larry and I got to tag along. It just so happened that it was the day of the Baja 500 so we were doubly excited. And we were not disappointed!



Exhausted and dusty as we pulled back into the ranch just before sunset, we made our way directly to the cantina to have a shot of tequila to toast the day. Sitting at the bar with Todd as he told us crazy stories about the ranch and the races, we were like a couple of goofy guys from LA having come down to Ensenada to hang out with Baja pro racers. Todd made us feel good about that. And it was great.

For more information, explore online: www.hprbaja.com www.horsepoweradventures.com

(FAR LEFT AND ABOVE) | Opposite page: Todd and the crew. Signs on the 1-mile dirt road point you towards the entrance to the ranch. This page: A brief stop for a chat with other quests while out on our adventure. Running through the countryside near Ojos Negros – not too far from the ranch. The cantina - complete with a rock 'n mariachi band - plays host to pre-race parties.



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Casa Bonita

One of the real treasures in the area, Casa Bonita Home Décor is an interior design emporium tucked away in the middle of retail enclave between Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo. It's owned and operated by Marsha and Jorge Flores, who first opened for business in Los Cabos in 2008, inspired by the success of their original retail location at the Lake of the Ozarks in Central Missouri, which they had opened in 1998.

"We had a lot of customers in the States who had second homes in Cabo, and they kept asking us, 'Why are you in Missouri? You should be in Cabo," says Marsha Flores, "That included Dave Leathers, who came by to drop off copies of *Cabo Living*. Since the merchandise we sold was all handcrafted in Mexico, we decided to pay a visit, and once we saw the place we decided it would be great to have a second store there."

Opening Casa Bonita in Los Cabos, Jorge and Marsha filled the original 1,500 sq. ft. location with beautiful, unique handcrafted décor and furniture sourced from various locations in Mexico. "We've traveled all over the Mexico mainland and have had working relationships with artisans in places like Michoacán and Puebla for almost twenty years," Marsha explains. "At the same time we were able to introduce well known American brands here. We brought in La-Z-Boy, for instance, and all of the patio furniture, umbrellas and area rugs come from the States."

The configuration of the plaza where Casa Bonita is located has allowed them to grow over the years, and recently they have been able to expand their display space almost four-fold, increasing to more than 5,000 sq. ft. that includes space on the patio fronting their store. With the additional display area, customers can expect to find a dazzling array of custom designed wood furniture, lighting, sofas, handcrafted pottery, wrought iron chandeliers, wall décor and garden accessories.

Specializing in home decor created by artisan craftsmen, Casa Bonita offers a unique collection of designs for discerning homeowners. Each piece is decidedly sophisticated and elegant, usually one-of-akind creations designed to complement the highest standards of home interior design. An appreciation for the raw materials used to create these pieces is evident, whether it's a lamp made of Onyx Stone, a framed section of tree bark paper, or the character of distressed wood used for a custom dining table. Walking through the various rooms at Casa Bonita, there is almost a museum-like feeling to the displays, where each piece is a treasure, solid and substantial, the kind of designs that become the center of attention in a room. The unique charm of the décor items here is testimony to the creativity of Mexican artisans who take pride in bringing out the natural beauty in each piece.

With its expansion, Casa Bonita is able to offer a large and varied stock of inventory, and also works with custom orders when desired by a customer. "We have the ability to custom order fabric for our sofas, for instance," Marsha explains. "We encourage people to come in and really sit and make themselves comfortable, and once they find something that suits them, if they prefer a different covering then we can have that made to their specifications. We also specialize in creating custom designed cabinetry to accommodate any interior configuration."

Customers at Casa Bonita also enjoy the consistency of their staff and how each customer is treated like family. "Most of our customers have become friends over the years and they enjoy stopping by just to say hello," Marsha says. "We also take a great deal of pride in the level of customer service we offer. Oliver has been with us for six years and a customer recently wrote to tell us they could not have asked for better service. Addressing Oliver, they said: 'How lucky we were to come in this morning and you showed us just the right wrought iron base with the right top to meet our needs so well. Thanks to your creativity, patience, flexibility



and knowledge, you sold us a table that we can be very proud of for years to come. We think we will call it Oliver's Table."

The patio has become a key addition to Casa Bonita's operation, as it allows them to display sculptures, ceramics, colorful high-fired pots and a collection of outdoor furniture and umbrellas. It's also allowed for the recent addition of a coffee bar, which has become a welcome amenity, where people can enjoy a great cup of coffee and some artisan breads and pastries. It's called Cha la la, which is Spanish for "chatting," and has become a favorite place for visitors to relax and enjoy the world-class view of the Sea of Cortez.

"When we decided to add the coffee bar, it became important to offer more than just a regular cup of coffee, since we're a

destination where people have come to expect great taste and quality," Marsha explains. "Jorge and I found a coffee that we liked in Chiapas, and he spent some time there, learning the techniques needed for proper extraction. We wanted people to be able to come and visit and enjoy great organic coffee and some very delicious European-style pastries, which we get from a local pastry chef who is originally from Barcelona."

Casa Bonita holds two events each year, one in winter and one in the spring, for customer appreciation, so if you're there at the right time you'll be able to enjoy flamenco dancers, cocktails and some of that great coffee from Chiapas. And while you're wandering around the diverse and colorful collection of art and home décor items you

will most likely stumble upon something special, something that you will proudly display and cherish in your home, a unique creation that could become one of your alltime favorite pieces of art.

Casa Bonita Home Décor

- KM 17.5 Carr. Transpeninsular Int. Glass Factory Plaza Col. Lomas del Tule Los Cabos, BCS 23400 624-144-1500 Mexico 573-552-4009 US Vonage www.casabonitahome.com
- Stover/Lake of the Ozarks, MO 100 E. 4th St. (Corner of Hwy 135 S. & 52 E.) Stover, MO 65078 PH: (573)-377-2805









<u>CABO LIVING</u>°

CREATING the BEST POSSIBLE YOU

One&Only Palmilla is partnering with Wanderwell, offering a new comprehensive & multifaceted wellness program.

-by Michael Koehn | photos courtesy of One&Only Palmilla-

One&Only Palmilla is well known for its ongoing commitment to the highest standards of luxury and services, which has earned it accolades as one of the top-ranked luxury resorts not only in Los Cabos, but in the world.

As part of the process of continually adding amenities and value for its guests, the resort has recently added some new programs and facilities that would be of interest to any of its guests who are interested in achieving an ultimate state of well-being. For 2018, One&Only Palmilla has introduced a new wellness program in partnership with Wanderwell, which offers a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to health and wellness. Created by highly-regarded wellness professionals Cait Fraser and Vitina Blumenthal, its been designed, in short, to create the best possible you. As many of the wellness programs relentlessly tell us we need to improve our physical fitness, eat better and be more mindful or present where we are in order to live a more fulfilling lives. The problem often comes from a lack of discipline as resolutions lapse and gym memberships go unused, which is why the program at One&Only Palmilla is so key to improving lives. On top of the world-class services that guests have come to expect at the resort, Palmilla's wellness program is designed to be personally customized and curated for each guest's specific needs.





(BELOW AND FAR RIGHT) | *This page: The central courtyard at One&Only Palmilla's Spa and Fitness facility. Opposite page: Entrance and reception area at the Spa and Fitness facility at One&Only Palmilla. Attention to detail and comfort is a trademark at One&Only Palmilla.*

It all begins when guests arrive at the resort and are greeted by a wellness concierge, who provides a consultation that helps the team design a specific program based on individual goals and specific needs. This takes into account many personal considerations to determine the most effective way to reach desired results. A custom itinerary is created, with appropriate classes and activities. These can include anything from boot camp exercises, yoga, Pilates and stretching to pain management, sleep therapy and targeted spa treatments. The program also includes healthy dining options at the resort's restaurants. "This is not a one size fits all program," Blumenthal explains. "Everything we do here is customized for your specific needs, and it's what we call a 360-degree program. If you're on property and interested in a wellness experience, you can simply request an upgrade to start participating."

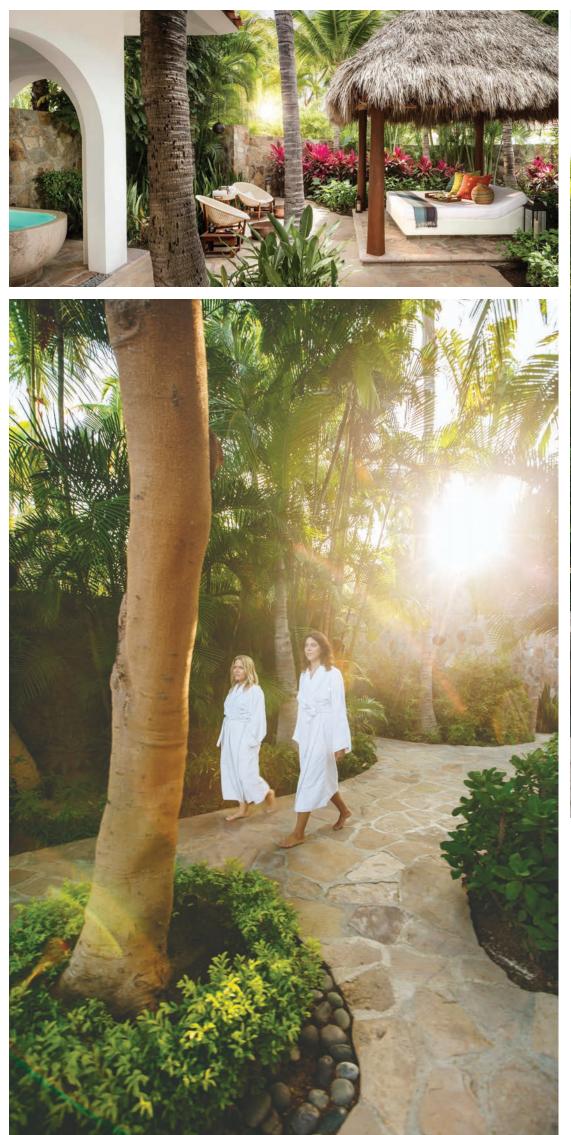
As guests quickly find out, the program is so comprehensive, that, if they look for a soft drink in their mini bar on arrival, they'll find that they have been replaced with healthy refreshments like coconut water,







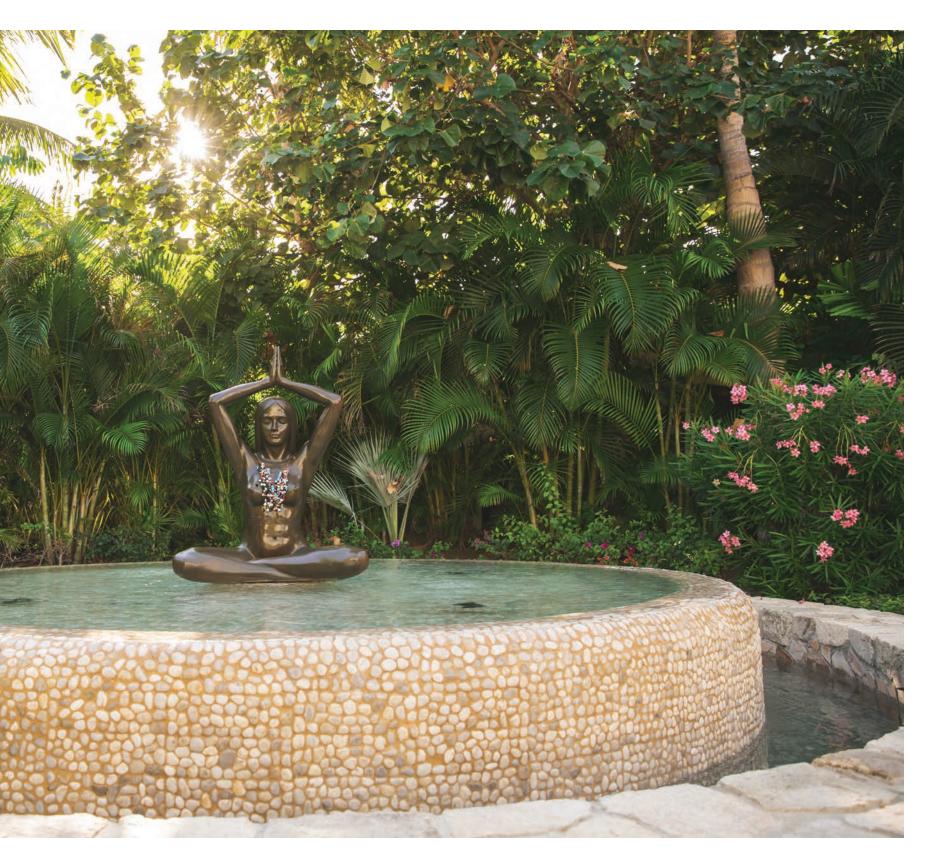






cooling mint/green tea and agua de jamaica (hibiscus) beverages (though high quality tequila remains on hand).

The Wanderwell program is built around what they describe as a Five Pillar program. "The Five Pillars to comprehensive wellness include Nutrition, Movement such as yoga or watersports, Self-Care which can be a luxurious spa and aromatherapy treatment, Connection, which involves connection not only with yourself but also with others through mindfulness and Discovery, a travel aspect to experience other cultures, something that could be called transformational travel," Blumenthal says. "Education is also a huge part of what we do; we want people to understand why



these things are important. We're also aware that there's a lot of information out there on health and well being, but many people aren't sure how much of it is to be believed or how it applies to them."

Since diet is one of the key components of health, the Wanderwell team works with nutritionists to create meal plans and healthy dining options. "Food is your best medicine," Blumenthal explains. "We worked with Executive Chef Larbi Dahrouch and each restaurant on the property to create menus that include vegan, vegetarian and pescatorian fish dishes, and also offer some chicken dishes, many with a Mexican flair. This area is also a mecca for organic markets and all the produce provided is local, organic and in season. There's also a beautiful herb garden here on the property and we use the herbs and spices from that to add flavor and appeal to the menu."

The Movement pillar component befits from the world-class location of One&Only Palmilla, and guests can explore the pristine local waters of the Sea of Cortez through surfing, stand-up paddleboarding, snorkeling or just going for a leisurely refreshing swim.

In addition to the wellness benefits offered, One&Only Palmilla's Spa Director Skarlette Castro is also proud of a recent addition that, although new to the property,

Continued on next page

(FAR LEFT AND ABOVE) | Opposite page: An oasis of tranquility at One&Only Palmilla. Cait Fraser and Vitina Blumenthal of Wanderwell explore the tranquil grounds at One&Only Palmilla. This page: Anajicondi, the goddess of beauty, love, peace and wisdom at One&Only Palmilla. Based on local legend, Anajicondi celebrates the beautiful seas, stars, moon and magnificent sunsets of Los Cabos.







utilizes ancient healing therapies for hotel guests. "Our Temazcal is something that is based on very old healing practices as practiced in Mexico, and is set into the earth and the dome is heated using volcanic rocks gathered locally from the state of Baja California Sur. There our guests will experience an ancient purification ritual first practiced by the people of Mexico and Central America prior to the introduction of Spanish culture," Castro says. "It's also a way of connecting with Mother Earth."

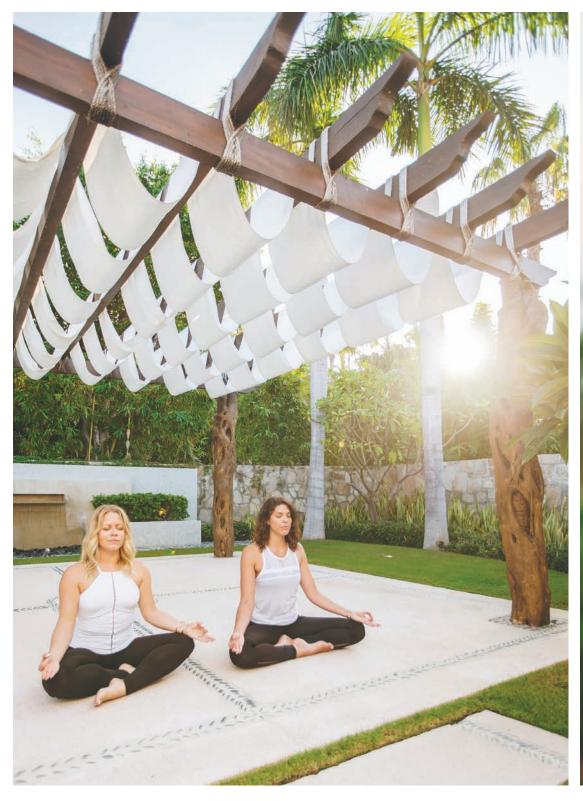
The Temazcal (the word comes from the native Nahuatl "temazacalli" which translates to "house of steam") is built to accommodate smaller groups of six to eight people, and combines traditional medicinal herbs, heat, steam, indigenous music and copal incense to create an intense healing experience to detoxify the body and purify the mind.

With its entrance facing east to symbolically greet the sunrise, it is intentionally built low to the ground so that you have to lower your head, ceremonially humbling yourself to enter the sacred interior. Exiting is again symbolic, with your head low in a symbolic act of restoration and rebirth.

Continued on next page

(FAR LEFT, ABOVE AND BELOW) | Opposite page: The lushly landscaped grounds at One&Only Palmilla are unparalleled in Los Cabos. This page: Above, Inspired by ancient designs, One&Only Spa's Temazcal is set into the earth, built in a circular shape and heated using volcanic rocks gathered locally from the state of Baja California Sur. Temazcal practices combine traditional medicinal herbs, heat, steam, indigenous music and copal incense to create an intense healing experience to detoxify the body and purify the mind. Below, One&Only Palmilla provides many serene locations for meditation and relaxation.







(ABOVE AND FAR RIGHT) This page: One&Only Palmilla has tranquil spaces for group meditation and wellness practices.Opposite page: Vitina Blumenthal, co-founder and wellness curator of Wanderwell at One&Only Palmilla. Refreshing and healthy libations and meals are part of the Wanderwell wellness program. Designed and managed by One&Only Palmilla's resident shaman, Raul Retana, the Temazcal offers curative ceremonies that have been honored in the region for over a thousand years. Retana, who is a member of the Sonoran Mayo tribe, personally creates all the products and scrubs used during this holistic wellness experience. He has spent his life developing treatments using indigenous medicine created from natural herbs, clay and energy. An expert in natural medicine, holistic massages, neuromuscular stretching technics, bio-magnetism and bioenergetics, Retana has been specifically trained to share the benefits of his tribe's ancient traditions.

We've all come to expect so much from One&Only Palmilla, and with their comprehensive new spa and wellness programs, they have again raised the proverbial bar for excellence in the wellness world. As we left the property, after having enjoyed the experience of talking with Skarlette and Vitina, we felt better for having been there, enjoying the serenity of the environment and learning about the new programs, but guests who choose to participate in these new activities will certainly find themselves refreshed, invigorated and renewed in ways they might not have ever expected.

One&Only Palmilla 7.5 Km Carretera Transpeninsular, 23400 San José del Cabo reservations@oneandonlypalmilla.com +52 624 146 7000 +52 624 146 7001 +866 829 2977 (Within USA) +954 809 2726 (Outside USA)





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What accounts for this ongoing attraction? Why do nine out of ten American adults choose to spend so much time with an unabashedly analog medium?

One enduring truth: people of every age love the experience of reading a magazine, even when the same content is available online. So curl up, get comfortable and enjoy the rest of this magazine.



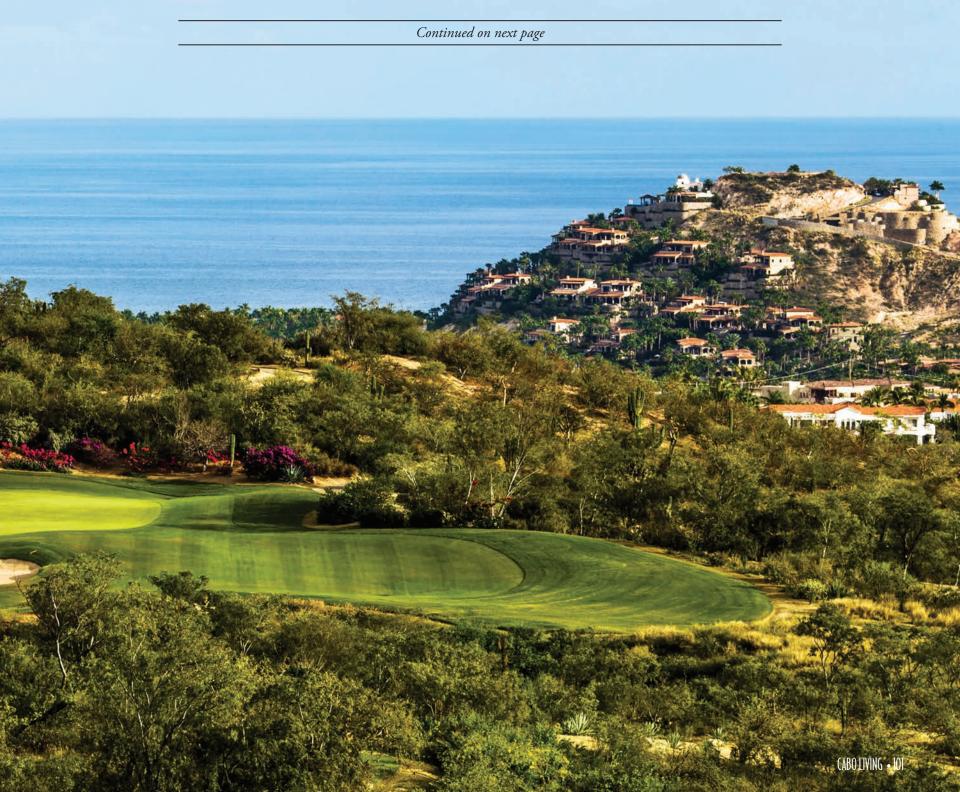
<u>CABO LIVING</u>°

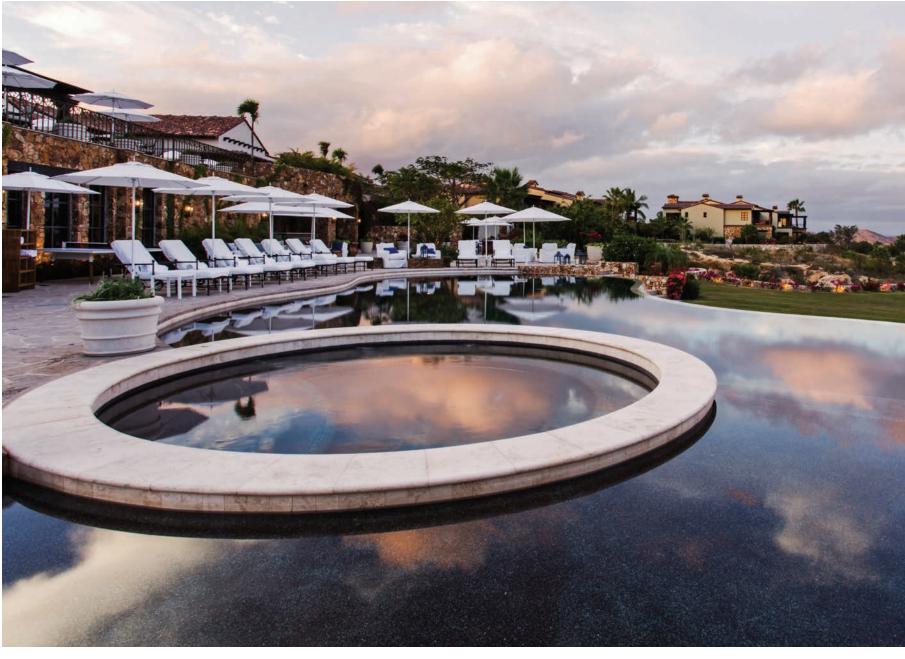
The Reemergence of QUERENCIA

One of the world's most desirable luxury residential destinations.

-by Michael Koehn | photos by Francisco Estrada & courtesy of Querencia-

Querencia, a luxury community spanning nearly 2,000 sun-kissed acres located near San José del Cabo, has been established as one of the world's most desirable residential retreats. Translated as *a place where one feels safe and at home, a place from which one's strength of character is drawn*, Querencia is home to Tom Fazio's first (and best) golf course in Latin America. Weaving through the colorful landscape and complemented by dramatic ocean views, the Querencia Golf Club is a golfer's course, and is completely private. Along with its oceanfront amenities and endless activities for the whole family, Querencia is a hidden gem at the tip of the Baja peninsula.







(ABOVE AND FAR RIGHT) | This page: Pool and water features reflect the scenic beauty of the surrounding environment. At Querencia, the Sea of Cortez is part of the lifestyle, with plenty of activities and a new beach club coming in 2018. Opposite page: The 18 holes over 300 acres are laid out over deep arroyos and plateaus bordered by native plants, desert cacti and palm trees. Design at Querencia combines traditional old world architecture with innovative accents and features. Now, Querencia is beginning a new era under a committed and passionate family of owners. Bonnie and Tom McCloskey began a broad refresh on many of the community's already established and generous amenities, bringing a more authentic and luxurious Mexican paradise feel to the property. The McCloskeys, who have long been actively involved in the Aspen Institute, are also bringing a holistic approach to the programming, adding both cultural and physical pursuits that will establish Querencia not only as a luxury destination, but also as a place that offers a platform for

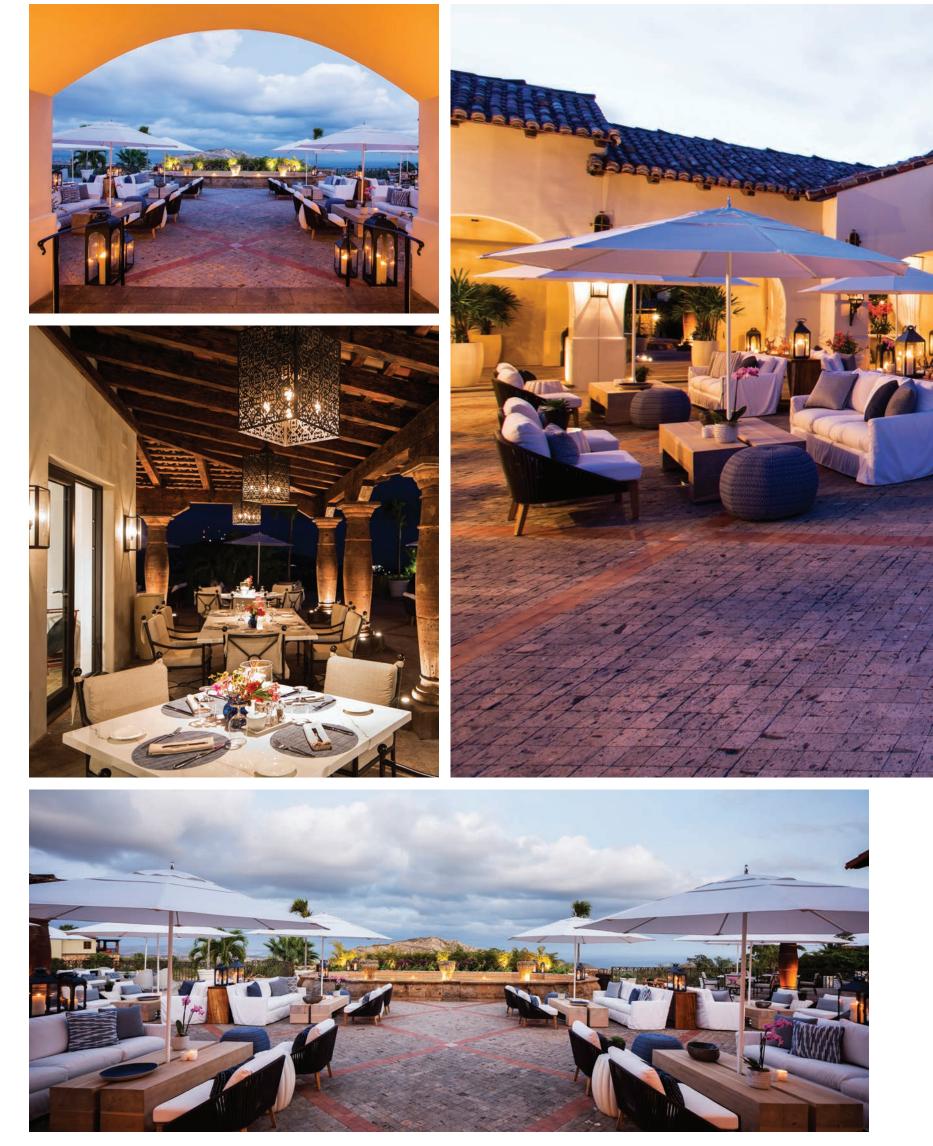
enlightening discussions and adventurous experiences. It is a welcomed new path for the community of homeowners already making Querencia their home, and for those looking for a place embracing the best that Los Cabos has to offer.

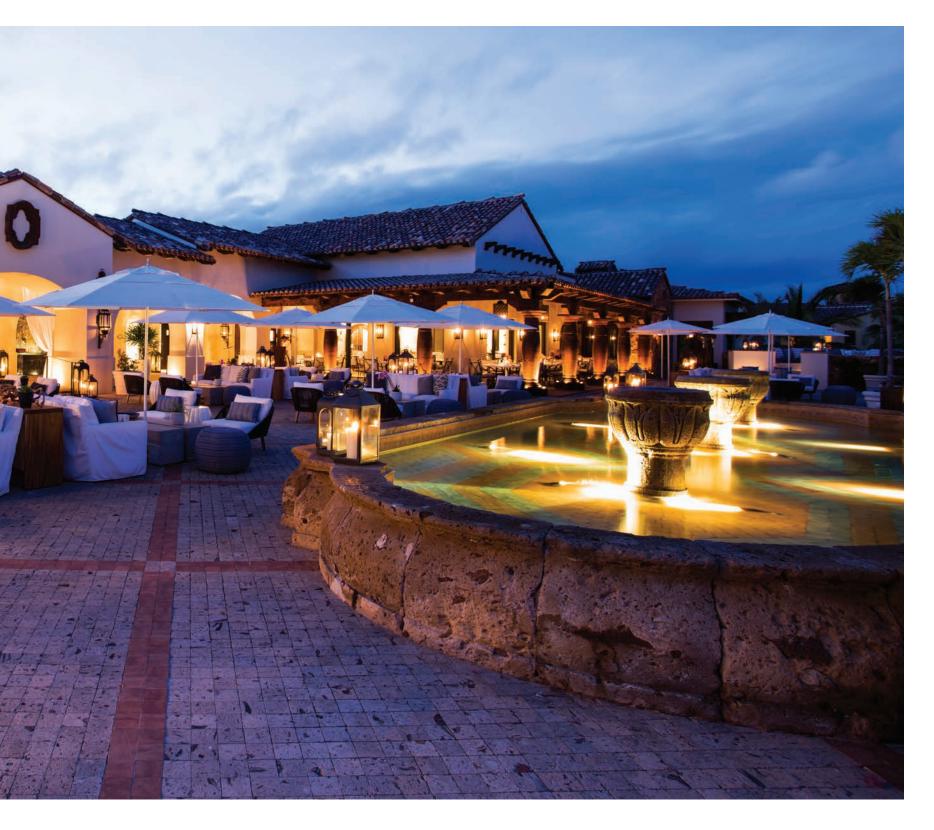
Renovations to the breathtaking 58,000 square foot clubhouse—home to three diverse restaurants, a tranquil spa, state-of-the-art fitness center, an area for kid's arts, crafts and games, and multiple











architecturally interesting pools—were completed in February. The Tom Faziodesigned golf course, which is rated among Mexico's best by *Golf Digest*, *GOLF* Magazine and *Golfweek*, has also recently benefitted from a substantial financial investment.

The larger vision for the community is to become one of the most forward-thinking properties in Los Cabos. CEO Jorge Carrera is on-site to make sure that vision is implemented. In addition to the cosmetic improvements to furnishings and layout at the Clubhouse campus, the menus at the restaurants have been updated as well, offering both authentic and international cuisine. A new multipurpose room has been built for the continuation of the McCloskey Speaker Series – started in Aspen – and will host other events including movie night and opportunities for lively discussions. A yoga pavilion rounds out the clubhouse campus with daily classes to expand mindfulness through movement and meditation.

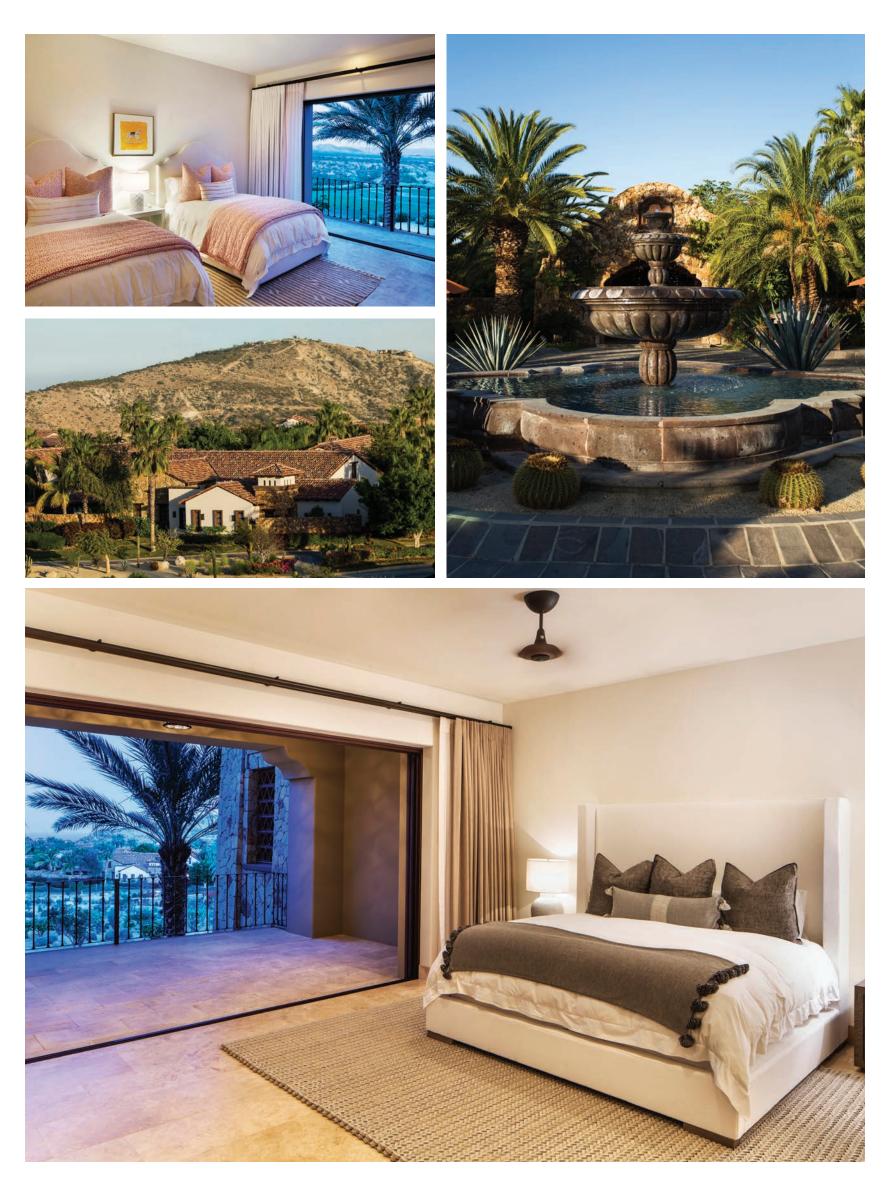
This being southern Baja, Querencia is fervently a place that celebrates the outdoor lifestyle, which goes far beyond golf. The Club is working with a renowned mountain bike trail designer to add over 6 miles of new mountain bike flow trail and singletrack terrain to the already 5+ miles of established trails. The new trails will appeal to both thrill seekers as well as those looking to improve their skills and confidence on two wheels, and will also welcome hikers and trail runners. This trail system will be **(FAR LEFT AND ABOVE)** | Opposite page: Graceful architecture frames the inviting outdoor spaces and surrounding natural beauty. Outdoor dining at one of the newly-revamped restaurants. The lifestyle at Querencia draws one outdoors, where there are numerous places to relax and socialize. This page: The elegance of Querencia is captured at the golden hour of twilight.

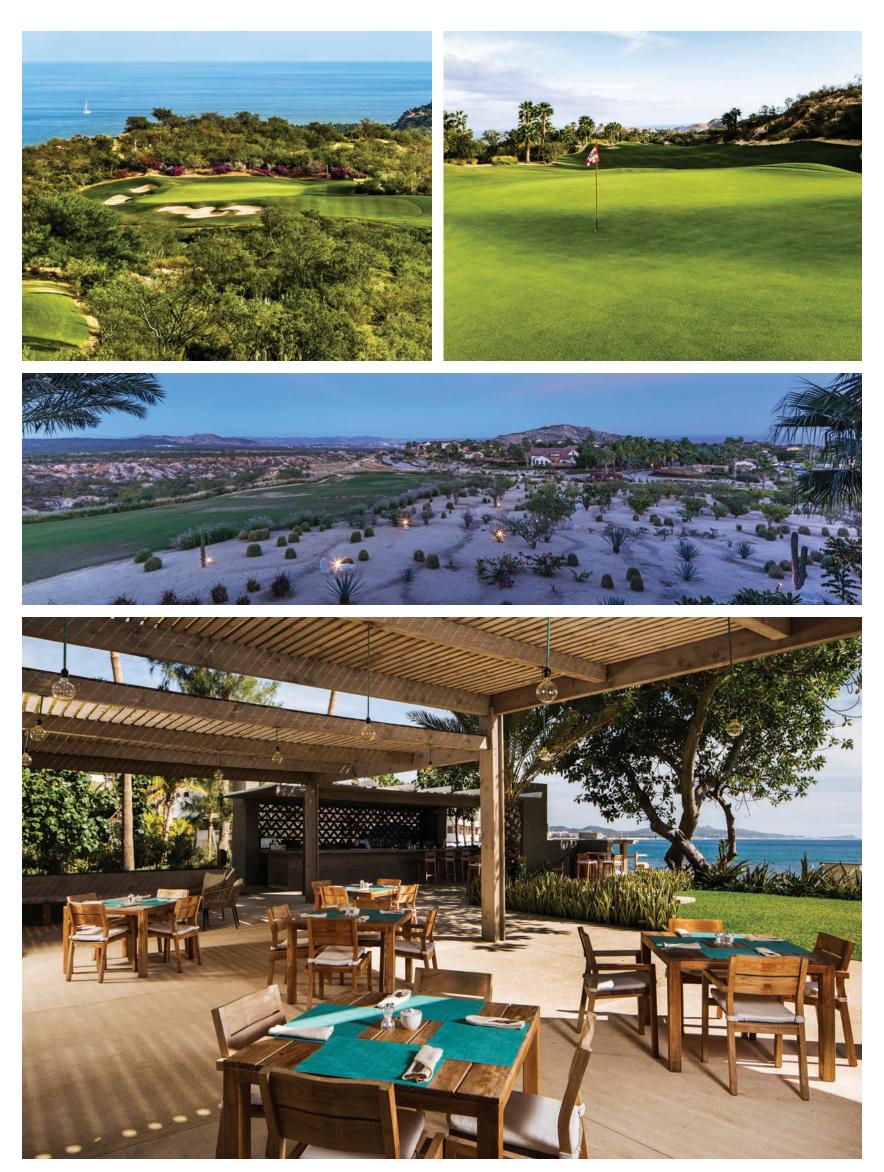
(BELOW AND FAR RIGHT) | This page: Homes incorporate the most modern appliances and finish details. Expansive doors open to vistas that bring the outdoors inside. Tasteful interior décor reflects the natural environment and the waters of the Sea of Cortez. Opposite page: Elegant interior design is part of the luxury lifestyle at Querencia. Classic stone architecture and design elements are part of the charm at Querencia. Homes designed in a classic hacienda style blend in with the natural landscape. Muted earth tones are part of the elegant décor and luxury lifestyle at Querencia. something truly unique in the area, and expectations are that these expanded trails will be completed by July. There are also future plans to add playing fields for soccer, a park, and an expanded organic farm to supply produce to the property's restaurants.

There's no greater amenity in Los Cabos than its majestic shoreline, and Querencia is taking full advantage with the addition of 1.5-acres of oceanfront on Acapulquito Beach, one of the most popular surfing spots in southern Baja. The Querencia Beach Club has become a favorite spot for members and their families to relax in the cabana, lounge chairs and hammocks and take part in beach activities and games. There is an existing beach bar with a grill and the "Surf Shack" is well supplied with ocean toys of every variety, from boogie boards to fishing rods and everything in between. The Director of Water Sports, Carlos Mediola, also known as "Charlie," assists members and families with surfing, stand-up paddleboarding, snorkeling, and fishing to name a few. He can easily be found in the water leading a fleet of kids on surfboards and teaching them the mechanics of wave riding at one of the best surf breaks in southern Baja. "My vision for the Ocean Club is that all the members come to see it, respect it and enjoy it as much as I do," Charlie says. "Come to

Continued on next page







the beach, relax on our lounge beds, enjoy the fish tacos and fresh margaritas."

As it exists today The Beach Club is a favorite spot of the owners with its daytime oceanfront activities and evening events like full moon dinners and a weekly 'Sunset Sessions' cocktail hour. The future vision for the Beach Club and Residences will be even better and the unveiling will occur later in 2018.

Owners Bonnie and Tom McCloskey are bringing fresh thinking to the programs available to Querencia members. Their involvement with the world-renowned Aspen Institute has inspired them to start a similar program at Querencia. "Our members are sophisticated like-minded individuals who have traveled and experienced the finest things in life," says Tom McCloskey. "Our goal here is to still exceed their high expectations with thought provoking programs to enrich their lives." Starting in 2018, a variety of Ted Talk-like programs will be curated for members, bringing in influencers, philanthropists and experts in a variety of fields from traditional Mexican culture and cuisine to the value in reading classic books, enhancing the lives of the members at Querencia and offering a chance to give back. This ambitious new program is designed to evolve into a robust series allowing Querencia to become a world-class destination for think tank-type activities.

During our visit we met with Alejandra Marentes, who was in the middle of preparing for the first of Querencia's cultural outreach programs, this time a trip for members to explore the charms of Mexico City. As Social Director, she devised this new program so that interested members could travel off-site to other places of interest for stays of 3-4 days. Plans for travel in 2018 include trips to swim with the whale sharks in

Continued on next page

(FAR LEFT AND BELOW) | Opposite page: One of the golfing gems in Baja, Fazio's course is a celebration of nature, a challenging but also casual experience of subtle breaks, contoured fairways and uniquely shaped bunker stations. Querencia's expansive location offers miles of scenic landscape for walking, hiking and biking. Food and beverage service have been optimized to take advantage of the magnificent views surrounding Querencia. This page: Creative mixology and exemplary bar service means they'll have your favorite beverage ready before you can order it. The perfect margarita (or mojito) is always ready to refresh at Querencia. There's no better place to take in the sights and relax than this spot overlooking the coastline and Sea of Cortez.





(ABOVE AND FAR RIGHT) | This page: Querencia's unique location offers expansive views that include San José del Cabo and the Sea of Cortez. Shown above, the National Museum of Anthropology, in Mexico City, visited during the first of Querencia's cultural outreach program trips. Opposite page: Classic old world architecture and the outdoor dining area overlook panoramic views of the surrounding area. Striking water features highlight the architectural beauty of Querencia. The heart of Querencia is the 58,000 square foot clubhouse offering multiple dining venues, infinity pool and Jacuzzi, fitness center and a yoga pavilion.

La Paz and a visit to Mexico's wine country, the Valle de Guadalupe in northern Baja.

The property puts being social and incorporating family as primary ideals for their membership. "We are a family friendly club and we've attracted families small and large, with parents and grandparents seeing this place as something their family will enjoy for generations," says Ryan Elston, McCloskey's son-in-law and President of Real Estate. "Querencia uses vertical memberships that enable siblings, children and grandparents to be full members of the club. Whatever we can do to make it easier for families to come

together is a good thing." Membership is associated with purchasing real estate at Querencia, with homes ranging from \$1.5 million to over \$5 million.

Querencia has always been a revered and unique residential community, but the transition to the next phase that's underway under the McCloskey family's direction is truly exciting. New things are happening at Querencia and they're happening fast. We look forward to seeing the enhanced new facilities and programs as Querencia continues to evolve and develop as one of the area's leading luxury residential properties.

To find out more, visit www.qcabo.com. Querencia

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Tim Laman *for* National Geographic

The state of magazines is sticky, 43 minutes per issue sticky.

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EL ENCANTO DE LA LAGUNA

The luxury East Cape community adds to its considerable charms with a new Beach Club and Fitness Center.

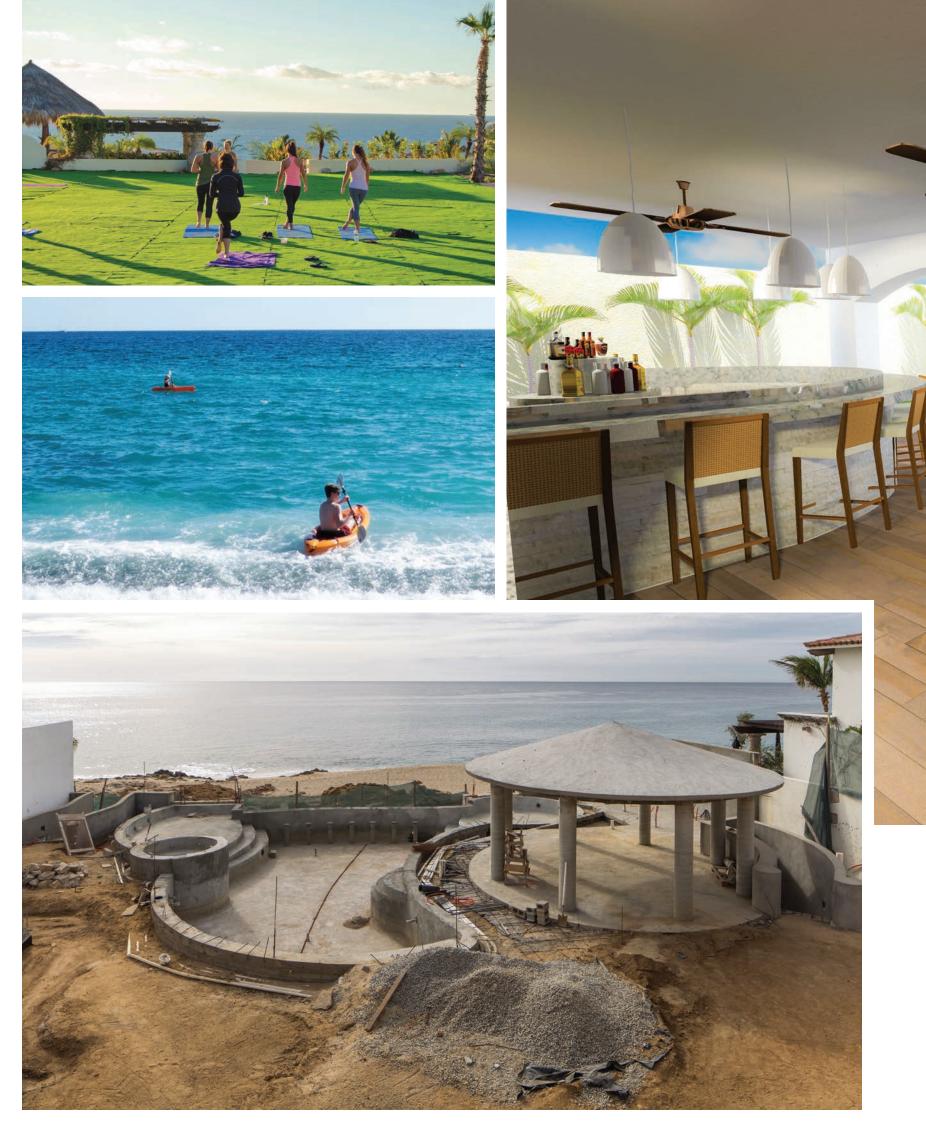
-by Michael Koehn--images by Francisco Estrada and courtesy of El Encanto de la Laguna-

El Encanto de la Laguna has become a well-established, beautifully conceived luxury beachfront community situated on one of the most pristine locations in southern Baja, just past Puerto Los Cabos outside San José del Cabo. It's a true oasis, an enclave of serenity that caters to those who are looking for a residential community offering all the amenities and infrastructure of a top tier luxury community, but away from all the hectic to and fro that can sometimes characterize the lifestyle of Los Cabos.

Continued on next page









El Encanto is designed to be developed in phases, and the latest addition to the community is now well under way, a Beach Club and Fitness Center that will become the centerpiece for the community when it opens this year. When complete, the complex will offer a full array of amenities for homeowners including a large beachfront infinity pool and Jacuzzi, a palapa bar, outdoor dining and kitchen areas for entertaining, an owner's lounge and game room with big screen television area, the Bar & Grill, as well as a state-of-the-art private fitness center, private lockers, a beach garage with beach toys. In short, the new Beach Club will become a central location and hub for the community offering all the activities and services that a luxury beachfront community should located just a short walk away from any of the residences.

With an additional business component, the concept of the Beach Club and Fitness Center also includes a central location for onsite property management and administration to provide a base for community operations, including concierge service, vacation rentals, maintenance and

Continued on next page

(FAR LEFT AND ABOVE) | Opposite page: Yoga and kayaking at El Encanto de la Laguna. This page: Beach Club at Playa Encanto.



(BELOW AND FAR RIGHT) | *This page, below: Front view of Playa Encanto condo. Opposite page: Playa Encanto. Playa Encanto condo kitchen.*

administration, conveniently combining all of El Encanto's lifestyle services onsite.

One of the great advantages of ownership at El Encanto is the excellence of those property management services. It's a beautifully maintained, picture perfect community, and homeowners receive exceptional value in HOA fees, which include comprehensive maintenance of the property, 24-hour security, satellite, Internet and phone services.

While the new Beach Club will be the centerpiece for the El Encanto community, it's not the only project currently under construction at the development. A planned offering this year will be ten new condo units, Playa Encanto, with 2 and 3-bedroom floor plans constructed to the same exceptional standards as the community's luxury homes in a three-story condo "hotel" that is attached to the Beach Club. The condos provide the same fully managed ease of ownership status as other properties at El Encanto de La Laguna and full access to the amenities at the Beach Club. The 10 units are being offered on a fully deeded, fractional ownership basis, and can be used to generate

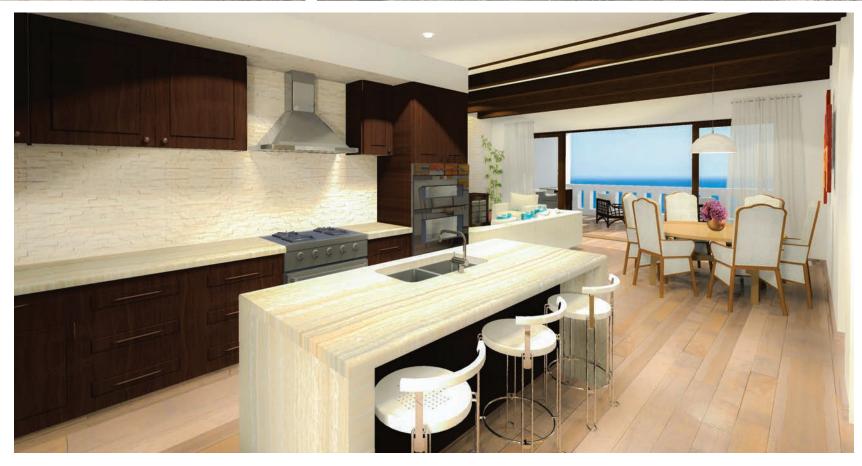
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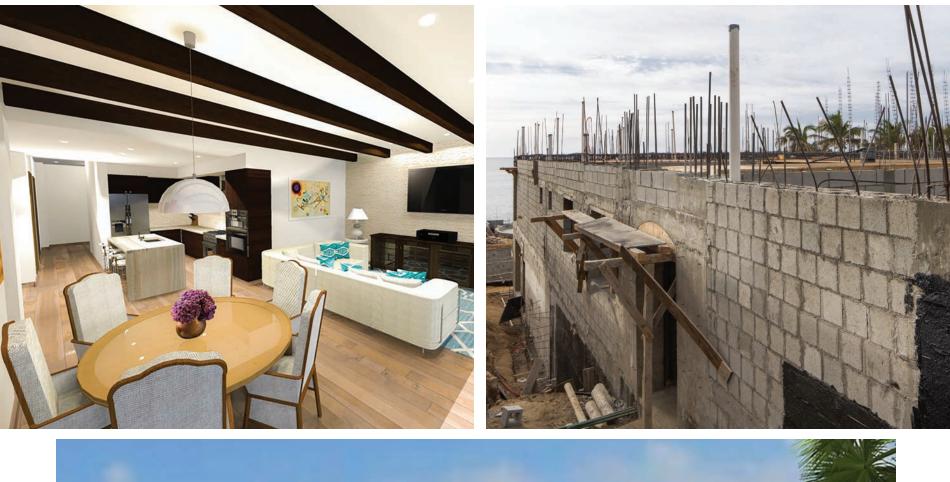
















rental income when not in use. Owners can also exchange any of their weeks through El Encanto's 3rdHome.com affiliation for thousands of properties around the world.

As the most significant luxury housing development in an area that offers convenient access to the cultural charms of San José del Cabo, the marina at Puerto Los Cabos and the JW Marriott, local dining favorites like Flora's Farm Field Kitchen, Acre and Buzzard's Bar & Grill (where they'll cook your catch if you've had a good day on the water), El Encanto de la Laguna continues to develop in a way that provides significant added value for its homeowners. It's a unique community providing new residential options for people who want to be part of the pristine natural landscape and white sand beaches of the Sea of Cortez and also explore the many attractions of the surrounding area. With new developments and improvements coming to this part of southern Baja, El Encanto de la Laguna is now well positioned to serve as the cornerstone, an evolving luxury residential oasis, for whatever progress is coming along the roads leading out of San José del Cabo, out past Zacatitos toward Cabo Pulmo and the East Cape.

El Encanto de la Laguna Camino a Cabo del Este, Colonia la Playa, San José del Cabo Sur 23403 www.elencantoloscabos.net 866-556-1386 • 624-105-8858 info@elencantoloscabos.net El Fin! **(FAR LEFT)** | *Opposite page: Top: Playa Encanto condo front view. Bottom: Playa Encanto condo front view.*

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The Imported Flavors *of* Cabo!

These four restaurants bring international culinary variety to Los Cabos!

-story and restaurant photos by Diane O'Byrne-

Food, glorious food! The sensual tastes of the Baja is what draws so many to Los Cabos. Our chefs are world renowned as they use the abundance of local ingredients from fresh fish to succulent fruits and vegetables with the spices of Mexico. Yet several local restaurateurs take those same local "gifts" and offer the foods of their homeland. Why would anyone move here from distant lands and open a restaurant serving the cuisine from their home country? We asked several successful owners and enjoyed their varied responses. One common denominator is their love and passion for Cabo and their exuberance for food.



Waleed Sabir Kadir left Arbil, Iraq, at the tender age of 18 to study English in London and leaving his war-torn country. For 24 years, he worked in several restaurants around the world, even spending six months in Cyprus learning to cook Greek food. A chance meeting and he fell in love with a woman from Mexico who had also come to London to study. The two married and moved to Cabo where Waleed worked as a private chef at Palmilla and then worked as a chef for Punta Ballena. In 2004, he decided to open his own restaurant, El Grill, in San José, offering Greek and Mediterranean food.

"I'm happy here," effuses Waleed. He enjoys a circle of friends he's made from the restaurant "regulars," mostly expats living in Cabo. Waleed says the secrets to his 14 years of success is the consistency and freshness of his food. He doesn't buy in big quantities and will add menu items as ingredients are available. His menu includes many Greek favorites like dolmas, humus, pita bread and lamb. Customers agree it's a perfect escape from the tourist path. To Waleed, his life in Cabo is "just perfect!"

Rahim Mawji is a native of Canada but his family roots are deeply Indian. He came to Cabo for a friend's wedding and fell in

Continued on next page



"Cook with love and passion. I get lost; I have fun! My mum always told me to be the best at whatever I do..." love with the area. He opened a cross-fit gym and soon added a restaurant with a pastry chef. That pastry chef, Aiysha Desai, a native of Mexico, would soon become his devoted partner in business and life. Aiysha and Rahim opened Petit Masala in downtown San José three years ago and Aiysha quickly perfected the blending of Indian and Mexican flavors.

The aromas of curry seep into the streets of downtown San José and tempt customers to come in to try the authentic small plates. Aiysha modestly admits her mother-inlaw initially taught her family recipes and now asks Aiysha for HER recipes. Intent on sharing Indian food, Aiysha expertly prepares dishes with attention for the highest level of freshness and flavoring. Cooking the traditional Indian street food can be a challenge in Cabo as many of the spices aren't readily available. Petit Masala's signature cocktails are also a key draw for the restaurant as she infuses drinks with creative twists on customers' favorites.

Aiysha's favorite comments are from her Indian customers who joyfully enjoy her cuisine and return again and again. Her secret? "Cook with love and passion. I get lost; I have fun! My mum always told me to be the best at whatever I do...I have to be the





best!" Her customers would likely agree: she is the best!

WARM.....your initial thought entering La Forchetta. The flaming heaters on the patio greet you first, the aromas of Napoli tease you as you enter and you're greeted with an engaging smile and "welcome" from one of the restaurant's owners. Pablo Portilla and his nephew, Juan Pablo Iturbide who joined him as a partner two years ago, joyfully engage with every customer and ensure they're enjoying their dining experience.

Pablo was born in Mexico City with Baja lineage; his mother was born in San José. He married, divorced and met Daniela, his children's kindergarten teacher. Pablo proposed and asked her to move to Cabo with him. Daniela's father is from Italy and was a chef on a cruise ship in the early 80's and ultimately opened a successful Italian restaurant in Mexico City. Pablo and Daniela married in 2005, and returned to Cabo where Pablo had a number of restaurants including the Red Bar in Cabo and San José as well as Paolis Pizza and an Argentinian restaurant. His true love has always been his wife's native food, and in 2012, decided to

Continued on next page

(FAR LEFT AND ABOVE) | Opposite page: Secret

ingredient to Aiysha Desai's delicacies at Petit Marsala?

Love! This page, above: Petit Marsala offers dining on the

patio as well as a private room for a larger group inside.

Rahim Mawji is proud of his wife Aiysha's authentic

Indian creations at Petit Marsala. Below, co-owners of La

Forchetta, Juan Pablo Iturbide and his uncle Pablo Portilla

graciously welcome dining guests as family.





open La Forchetta, an Italian restaurant with a Mexican twist.

Smiling, Pablo shares his cooking secret: "Fresh ingredients and add love to it; you don't need to add anything else." He adds that he's a strong believer in service. Staff and customers are all treated like family. As a result, employee turnover is low and customers come back again and again. Pablo and Juan Pablo insist on updating the menu constantly but are sure to keep diners' favorites. Juan Pablo adds they have a short but excellent wine list and have now added a mixologist to the team who presents customers with innovative concoctions.

Handmade, tossed but never rolled, pizzas are classic Italian but Pablo and Juan Pablo often add a Mexican twist fusing the two country's flavors delighting his local customers as well as tourists. What is constant is the warm feel of family and friends at La Forchetta where all are welcome. Cio!

The wave of their signature soft yellow

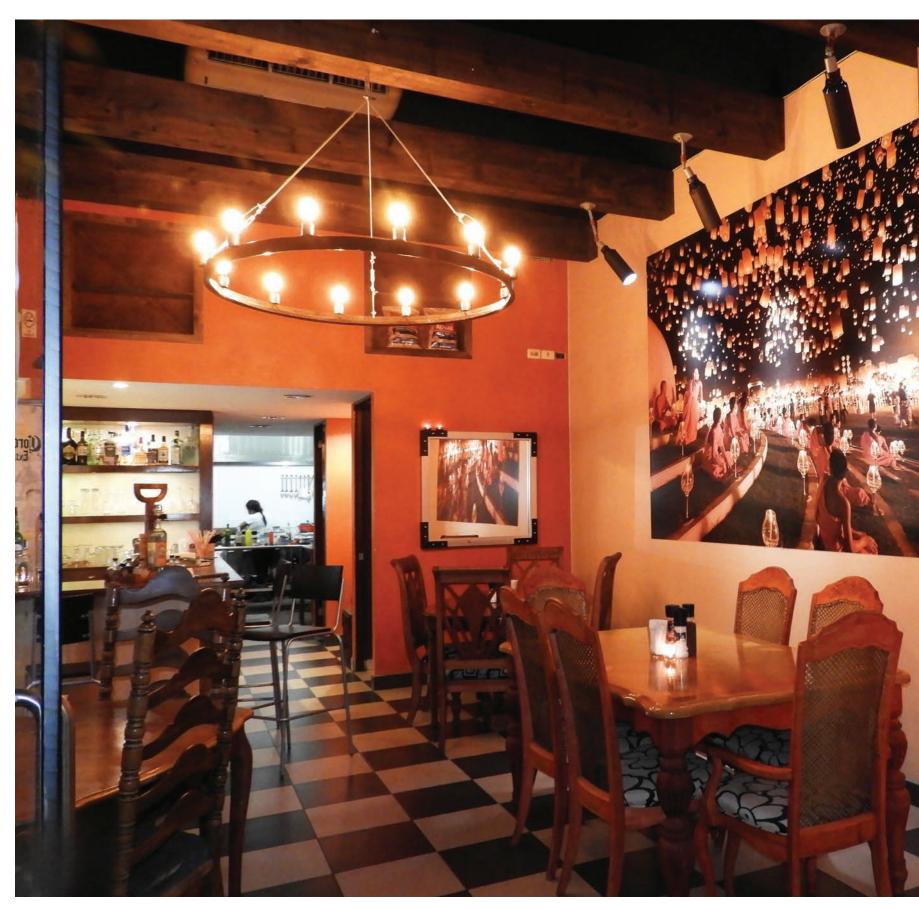
(FAR LEFT AND ABOVE) | *Opposite page: Always save room for La Forchetta's signature dessert: Volcano di dolce de latte. It's an explosion of chocolate flavor! A full-time mixologist now offers signature cocktails at La Forchetta. La Forchetta co-owner Pablo Portilla stops by each and every table to welcome guests. This page: Chef and co-owner Joris Haazen enjoys the newly remodeled bar at Bistro d'Anvers.*

(BELOW AND FAR RIGHT) | *This page: Bistro D'Anvers features seating inside the restaurant as well as on an outside patio. Opposite page: You'll be pleasantly surprised at the quality of your dining experience nestled in the corner of a mall. Bistro D'Anvers offers dining guests an eclectic menu of both Thai food and Belgian favorites.*

curry sauce hits you first; then you see the sign for Bistro d'Anvers, a Belgium restaurant. The menu reads of Thai offerings and Belgium delights. Soon you'll be greeted by one of the two partners, Rudolf (Rudy) Smets or Joris Haazen.

The two met 35 years ago in their hometown of Mechelen, Belgium. Rudy was a customer of the pub where Joris worked. The two became good friends and in 1996, decided to escape the Belgium winter and picked the Isla de Margarita in the Caribbean Sea off the coast of Venezuela for a three week holiday. Six months later, they made the permanent move to the island. After several different business starts, the two decided to open a restaurant. Joris had attended culinary school in Belgium and Rudy had grown up watching his grandfather cooking for the family throughout his childhood and experimented with Thai food while living in LA, using a Thai cookbook the two still use today.

The two opened their restaurant in Margarita offering a menu very similar to what they offer now in San José del Cabo.



They had immediate success as the island of more than 75,000 loved the flavors. Two events threatened their success; landslides in 1999, that cut off all tourism and Hugo Chavez was elected president. They survived both events for six months before closing the restaurant. By the end of 2000, they were back in business at a beach hotel restaurant with a staff of 50 people, seating as many as 350 diners a night.

Continued on next page







(ABOVE) | *At Bistro D'Anvers, either Rudy or Joris will always be there to greet you and ensure you're enjoying your expertly prepared creations.*

The two worked 10 a.m. to 3 a.m. every day, managing three shifts of staff.

Rudy made the decision to leave the island a year later with his now wife and worked first as a hotel manager and sold time shares. Joris joined him in San José and in November of 2015, opened Bistro d'Anvers. In February of 2017, Rudy joined him full time in the restaurant. "People are amazed by our food, " says Joris. "We just don't cut corners in the preparations."

Customers often tell the pair they've never tasted Thai food that's so authentic.

Smiling, Joris admitted one customer gushed, "This is how my mom makes it in Bangkok!" Customers enjoy the spicy flavors of the Thai curries along with the decadence of their Belgium chocolate desserts.

Although all of these restauranteurs profiled have different stories of how they ended up in Cabo, all will eagerly admit their passion for the Baja, their passion for cooking and their passion for expanding the palates of those lucky enough to experience the imported flavors of Cabo!

El Fin!

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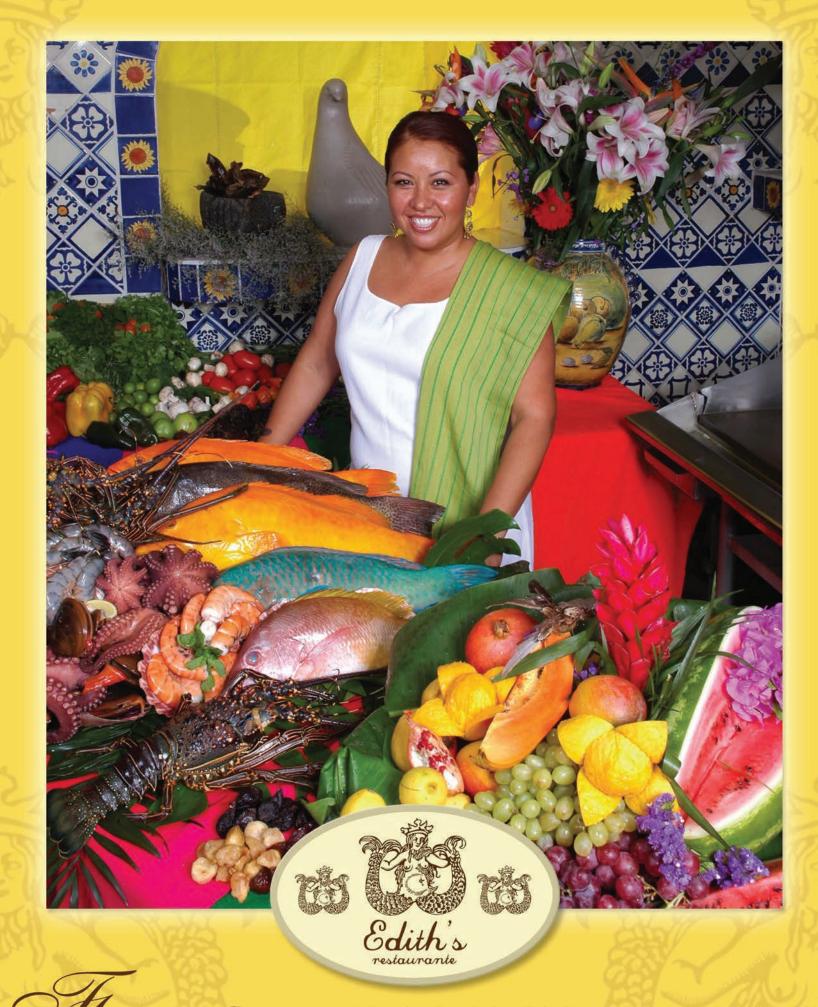
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