

TEXAS



LIFESTYLE & TRAVEL MAGAZINE

Special Travel Issue 2019

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GRAND VELAS LOS CABOS

All-Inclusive Luxury in Pacific Paradise

By Dana Kent Maass and Brian Maass

Imagine yourself in the most luxurious beach resort possible, fully escaping from reality and surrounding yourself with the panoramic beauty found at the tip of Mexico's Baja Peninsula. Ideally situated between the capes, or "Los Cabos," of Cabo San Lucas and San Jose Del Cabo, Grand Velas Los Cabos is one of the region's newest all-inclusive five-diamond resorts in the luxury travel category.

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Lined with bright flowering bougainvillea, each private suite has an ocean view.



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◆◆◆◆◆ EASY ACCESS AND A WARM WELCOME

Most major airports in Texas now offer convenient two-hour flights into the San Jose Del Cabo airport, a short half-hour ride from the resort. Arranging round-trip transportation to and from **Grand Velas Los Cabos** is just one of the many attractive perks offered by this full-service establishment. On the open-air veranda you'll find beautiful pieces of modern art, while the most cordial and professional Grand Velas staff promptly offer glasses of sparkling wine, a variety of fresh caviar samples, and a relaxing massage for your weary neck and shoulders. Instantly, you know this picturesque place is special, and ready to wash over your soul like waves onto the nearby sandy shores.

◆◆◆◆◆ FIVE-DIAMOND SERVICE

With each spacious suite of at least 1,100 square feet overlooking the azure Sea of Cortez, you will have plenty of room and opportunity to rest and relax. Feeling like brunch overlooking the ocean or maybe watching the sunrise, without leaving the room? Order a complete meal and fresh coffee with Tequila creme, delivered by your own personalized 24-hour butler concierge. Take a dip in your private patio plunge pool, at the perfect temperature, requiring no acclimation. After a full day at the resort, freshen up for dinner under your spa-like rain shower, or sink into a warm and generous jacuzzi, located right in your bathroom. The **Ambassador Suite** is fully stocked with a mini bar, all included. A bottle of premium Mezcal is available to mix your own drinks.

Guests wanting to create more of a spa experience may opt for the **Wellness Suite**, complete with fitness equipment, organic snacks and freshly squeezed juices. Outside these suites, you can enjoy the spacious fitness center overlooking the ocean and burn off a few calories.

One key feature of Grand Velas is their high staff ratio, with three staff members for every guest. You won't have to wait more than a minute for someone to politely offer you a drink, a table, or assistance for the smallest of daily requests. Your butler provides you with a mobile number for questions or emergencies, 24/7.

Central to the property are three pristine infinity swimming pools, all with a view of the deep blue ocean delivering the sound of soothing waves. One of the pools is reserved for adults only and includes a swim-up bar. These oceanview pools are ideal for spending time in the water, since the undertow of the ocean is too strong at the property for safe swimming. If going into the sea is your goal, only a mile away you can find calmer waters for taking a dip.

The grounds of Grand Velas resemble a lush garden, with perfectly manicured palm trees, vegetation, and bright pink bougainvillea with the sweet aroma of plumeria along the walkways. Hammocks and cabanas invite you to lounge, catch a nap, or breeze through a few chapters in your book.

Bringing the family along? Special suites are available to accommodate those traveling with children. Kids and Teen Clubs on-site offer plenty of supervised and age appropriate activities, while the adults may opt for aquaerobics, yoga or pilates classes. Pingpong, darts and horseshoe tournaments often take

place in the afternoons. Interested in golfing, or traveling with a golfer? Three world-class **golf courses** are easily accessible from Grand Velas, and the views are no less than spectacular.

◆◆◆◆◆ DRINK AND DINE ALL DAY

With six restaurants and four bars on-site, Grand Velas has no shortage of both fine and casual dining. **Azul Cocina Internacional** is open for breakfast and lunch, with an attractive spread of organic cuisine in a buffet-style presentation. Around 11 am, the lunch dishes begin to emerge, so you might choose this golden hour to enjoy the best of both worlds.

What better way to sample the freshest catch of the day than stopping by the **Cevicheria**? Ready for a more formal dinner of seafood and steak? **Velas 10** delivers the finest selections from land and water, amidst serene ocean views, marble floors and lush tropical vegetation. Offering eight to ten courses with wine pairing nightly, **Cocina de Autor** is the resort's finest dining establishment, with creative culinary selections to stimulate all the senses in a single meal. (Soon after opening, **Cocina de Autor** was named among the best new restaurants by CNN.) Each dish is an artful masterpiece and a feast for the eyes, as well as the palate.

The food experienced here is reflective of the resort's emphasis on art. Before dinner, be sure to stop by the art gallery. Complementing the resort's million dollar art collection on show throughout the property, the gallery features fine Mexican art.

After perusing the gallery, step into **Tequila**

& **Mezcal** bar for the finest of distilled agave and more. Here, you can sample some impressive Mexican wine in a customized flight. A beautiful red blend of syrah, grenache and mourvedre can be found in a bottle of D'Poncelis, hailing from Valle de Guadalupe and bearing the namesake of **Don Pedro Poncelis**, master sommelier at Grand Velas. Developing his craft over several decades, he poured us a glass of his wine while sharing a contagious passion for the vineyards of Mexico. Two other on-site dinner options are **Lucca**, for family-style casual Italian, and **Piaf**, where classic French food is served in a more formal setting and children must be at least twelve years of age.

◆◆◆◆◆ SE SPA: RELAX AND REFRESH

The 35,000 square-foot aquatic mecca on the exceptional grounds of Grand Velas exceeds all expectations. **SE Spa's** hydrotherapy journey includes a series of optional steps. A personal spa valet will guide you through the process, which lasts for about an hour before your scheduled treatment.

Step into the generous indoor central pool, as you sit on a carved-stone chaise lounge.

At the push of a button, built-in jets will massage your tired leg and back muscles. Drift through the peaceful water to explore other subtle buttons and activate the pulsating water jets. Then, try out the polar pool for an invigorating blast of cryotherapy. Turn up the temperature on a heated lounge, scented steam room, or soothing sauna. Guests are strategically scheduled at staggered times, to minimize noise and distractions.

While not included with the nightly rate, the spa package is strongly recommended. Consider the ancestral stone massage, which incorporates ancient grains and therapeutic minerals into your treatment. Hot stones will balance the energy of your chakras, with a nod to practices developed by pre-Hispanic cultures of Mexico. Used to make tequila, the blue agave can also help you unwind with a candle massage consisting of hot wax.

◆◆◆◆◆ OFF-SITE ADVENTURES AND ART

Whether diving into the ocean or into the towns of San Juan Del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas, you can personalize your own adventure on land or in the water.

Contact your concierge to arrange a snorkeling excursion by the famous stone arch, located at the tip of the peninsula. We enjoyed our boat ride to the arch with **Rancho Tours**, conveniently providing transportation to and from the resort. Our private tour guide hopped into the water with us and pointed out various fish and sea animals while we snorkeled. Holding a puffer fish was an unforgettable moment, as much as touching the bottom of the ocean ten feet below us in the refreshing cove. **Cabo Adventures** is the place to book your day trip to travel a little deeper, including swimming with dolphins, catapulating down a zipline and more.

If you are in search of the quiet, more artsy side of Cabo, catch an Uber into San Jose Del Cabo. At the center of town is a beautiful church, reminiscent of the city's history as a mission. November through June, you can attend a Thursday evening Art Walk, the perfect opportunity to experience this community of gifted artisans. Dozens of small shops line the narrow and charming streets, where shop owners are often the artists, eager to discuss the details of the art and jewelry with customers.

Photos above: (left to right) Featuring French cuisine, wine pairings, and a luxurious atmosphere, Piaf is one of several fine dining options guests can experience at Grand Velas Los Cabos. // Make sure to visit the El Arco Del Cabo San Lucas ("The Arch"). Get up close to the landmark with a boat or snorkeling excursion. // Grand Velas Los Cabos features extensive wine selections with labels from all over the world. Order fine wines at each restaurant, or try a Mexican wine flight at the Tequila & Mezcal bar. // Lose yourself in shades of blue at one of three infinity pools while casting your gaze over miles of ocean. // All photography Brian Maass.

Dana and Brian Maass are married and living in Round Rock, Texas. When not traveling, writing, and taking photos, they can be found exploring the Hill Country, serving the community, following sports, or catching a live performance. Follow them on Instagram at @dana_maass_adventures and @brian_maass_adventure.