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TRAVEL

5 Best Beach Hotels to Celebrate National Tequila Day

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By Travel Editor Tracey Minkin

Isn't every day National Tequila Day? I tend to think so, but the official date is Friday, July 24th, and I'm in the mood to celebrate right now. Here are some of my favorite beach bars (*cinco*, to be precise) that honor that remarkable spirit from the soul of Mexico. Sip and savor, friends.

Flights of the good stuff at One&Only Palmilla, Los Cabos

One&Only Palmilla, Los Cabos, Mexico

I was here earlier in the spring and had an outrageous tequila tasting experience. I also loved the artisan tequila in a beautiful ceramic bottle that was mine to enjoy throughout my stay in paradise. The bar at this sumptuous resort that's recently reopened elevates tequila to the place it deserves. *Read more about my visit to One&Only, here.*

Esperanza, An Auberge Resort, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

And while we're on the Baja, let's also praise the fabulous bar at this beloved and romantic getaway. The welcome margarita is worth the trip to Mexico alone. *Check out more about what's to love about Esperanza. here.*

The welcome margarita at Esperanza, An Auberge Resort, Cabo San Lucas

The Resort at Pedregal, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

Hard to leave the Baja when I'm thinking about tequila. As soon as you arrive at this post-Odile-reborn resort, you are welcomed with a traditional lime margarita as well as gifted with a complimentary bottle of tequila for your in-room use. But check this out: Pedregal's Carrot Margarita, made with fresh carrot juice and lavender. Inventive, delicious, and *good for you*.

Photo courtesy The Resort at Pedregal

Fairmont Mayakoba, Riviera Maya, Mexico

I love a good tequila tasting, but how many of us can taste tequilas *and* dried grasshoppers? Eating insects is part of traditional Mayan culture, and if you haven't tried it, don't knock it. The house tequilier pours and discusses the three basic varieties of tequila; as for the insects, you have the chance to try those dried grasshoppers, plus maguey worm, leaf cutter ant or ant eggs (come on, you know you eat caviar!). This will be a National Tequila Day you won't soon forget.

Grasshoppers optional at Fairmont Mayakoba Tequila tasting. Photo courtesy Fairmont Mayakoba

Gurney's Resort and Seawater Spa, Montauk, New York

Wild card! From Mexico to Montauk, but with good reason. This beyond-cool hangout at the end of Long Island is home to the Regent Cocktail Club, and master cocktailer Julio Cabrera. If you're within reach of this fabulous bar (are you listening, New Yorkers?), head here for Cabrera's El Santo Tiki, which combines Avian Silver tequila with mango pure, plus a dash of cayenne. You're welcome.

Tequila goes Tiki. Photo courtesy Gurney's Montauk Resort & Seawater Spa