

PLUS HONEY, HONEY: SWEET NEW RECIPES

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BEAUTIFUL BATHS

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MAY 2015

Finding the by NEAL MCLENNAN QUIET in CABO

SOUTHERN B.A.M. KNOWS
HOW TO PARTY, SURE. BUT
THERE ARE SURPRISING
POCKETS OF TRANQUILITY.
IF YOU KNOW WHERE
TO LOOK.

I'm on the street in downtown Cabo San Lucas and the carnage is jaw dropping. No, I'm not talking about the aftermath of last fall's Hurricane Odile—the city has bounced back nicely from that, thank you very much. I'm talking about an early-morning scene outside Cabo Wabo—the mega-bar owned by erstwhile Van Halen singer Sammy Hagar. This bricks-and-mortar ode to all things bro is the type of establishment that begins each day with a literal hosing down of the previous night's festivities, and to be honest, before I arrived I assumed that getting blitzed on cheap tequila and *muchas* Coronas was standard operating procedure for a trip to the tip of Baja. Cancun has all-inclusives. Acapulco has, well, crime, and Cabo is all about party, party, party.

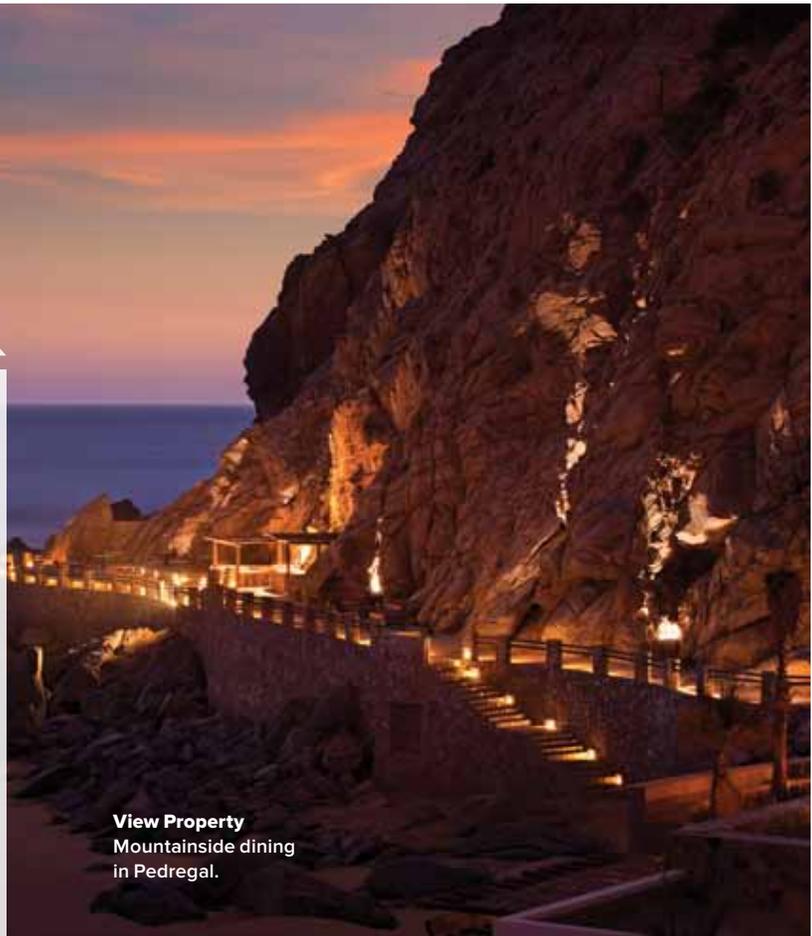
What I didn't expect was that scattered among the beer-pong pavilions and vendors hawking serapes with Edmonton Eskimos logos, there exist moments of serene beauty: empty beaches and vistas over the Sea of Cortez that you can have all to yourself if you just know where to look. For every pod of frat boys, there's a pod of migrating humpback whales; for every all-you-can-eat hotel buffet, there's a small producer crafting handmade food for the pilgrims who are willing to seek it out.

DRAMATIC DINING

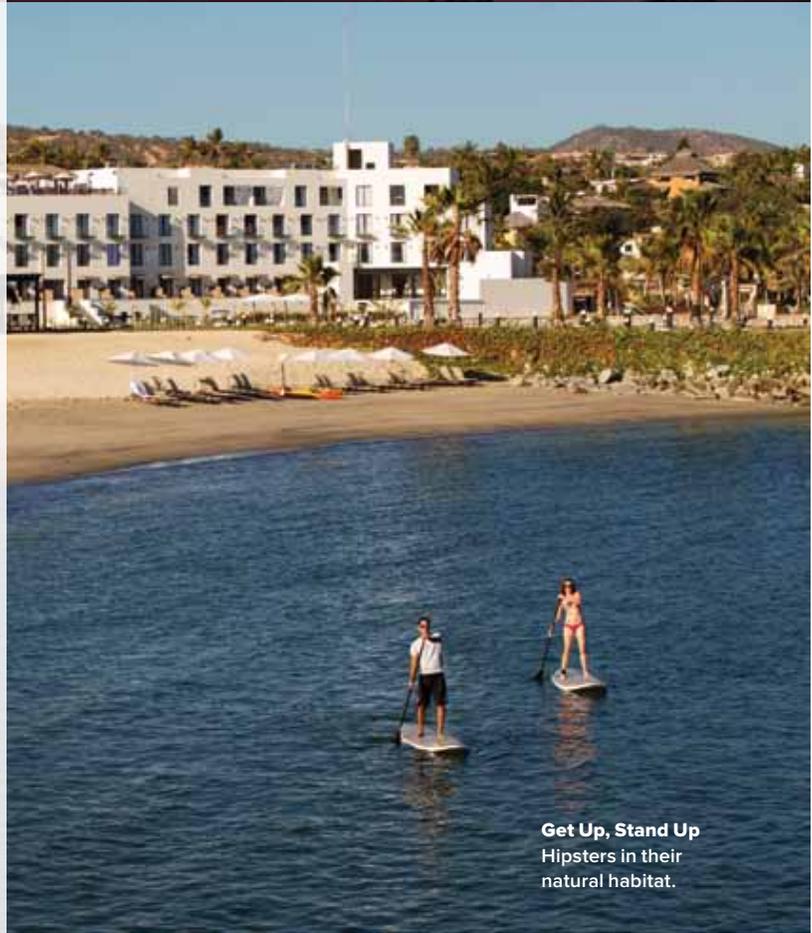
Usually the most memorable thing about a meal at a high-end hotel restaurant is the cardiac arrest-inducing bill at the end of the night. Not at the **Resort at Pedregal's El Farallon**, where your journey starts by driving through a thousand-foot tunnel, complete with chandeliers, bored through a mountain, which is the hotel's sole point of access. You then are seated along a very narrow isthmus, with the mountain on one side and the ocean a few metres below on the other, where you will spend the rest of the night trying to concentrate on your meal (prepared by a chef who trained under Thomas Keller) as the waves dramatically smash just below your table. If the surf is high, a blanket is quickly proffered. Of all the meals you're likely to have in Baja, this will be the most unforgettable.

A CREATIVE RETREAT

The eclectic, electric **Hotel El Ganzo** would not be the first place on a list of where to relax. The boutique lodging, conceived of by one of the scions of the Corona beer fortune, is famous for hosting the likes of Slash and Charlie Sheen while their entourages frolic in the clear-bottomed pool. But beating beneath the slick surface is a site dedicated to the creative classes—there are in-house artists and writers, and beautifully spare public spaces—who don't mind taking a small tender to the most low-key, private **Beach Club** in the area, in order to best contemplate future masterpieces.



View Property
Mountainside dining in Pedregal.



Get Up, Stand Up
Hipsters in their natural habitat.