

THE TOP 10 New Restaurants

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Los Angeles

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WEEKENDER

Cabo

WHETHER YOU WANT QUIANT OR ROWDY, YOU'LL FIND IT ON BAJA CALIFORNIA'S SOUTHERN TIP



AMONG THE FIRST international arrivals to Cabo San Lucas, or so the story goes, was a shipwrecked Japanese sailor named Hatsutaro who floated ashore in May 1842 to find just two houses and a mere 20 inhabitants. He'd need a hefty tequila shot to make sense of the place now. A 20-mile corridor on the southern tip of Mexico's Baja California peninsula, Los Cabos runs from Cabo San Lucas to San José del Cabo. Between them there are nearly 15,000 hotel rooms, from spring-break basic to pillow-topped, infinity-edged, fairway-fronting splendor. The vibe can be quaint or *untz untz* raucous, depending on one's mood. After a devastating 2014 hurricane, a building boom refreshed classic properties and introduced new places to sip, dine, and loaf under the ever-present sun. Even our O.G. cast-away might pass up a rescue now. > DAVID HOCHMAN

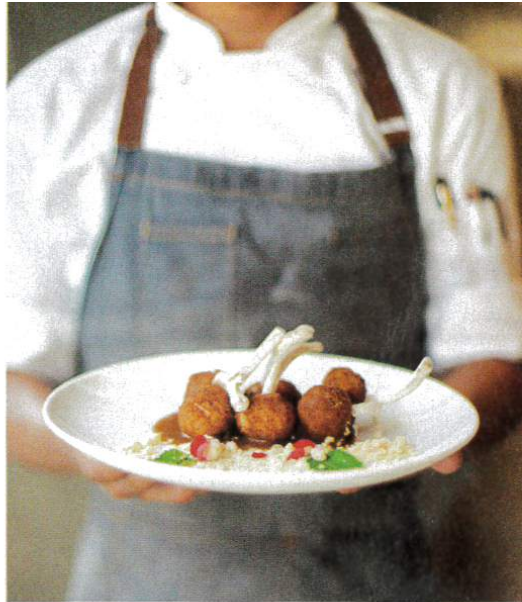
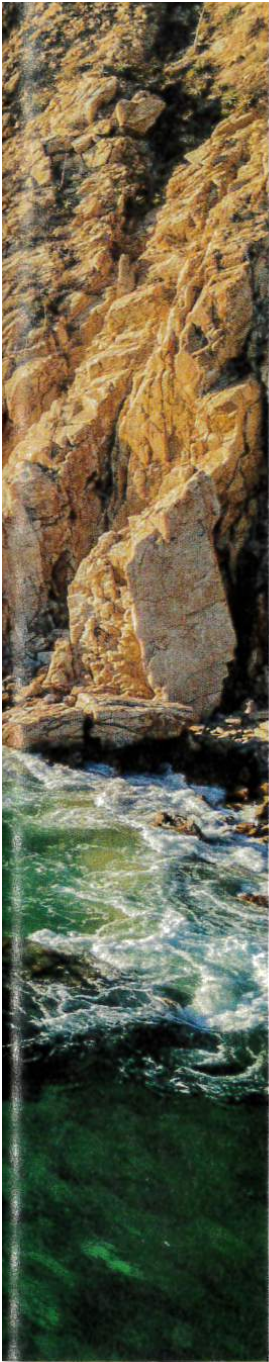
MORNING

» Self-service breakfast gets the haute treatment at **La Cremería**, a lavish "street market"—as if—at **Chileno Bay Resort & Residences** (\$575-\$4,050), a new Auberge resort in Cabo San Lucas (aka Cabo). The property is set on one of Cabo's only swimmable beaches; the riptides and undertow elsewhere are *no bueno*. Even so, the hotel's pool is the main draw. It's laid out on three

tiers with a zero-edge design and is long enough for couples, families, and kids to believe they each rule their roost. One could stay here the entire weekend and be content. More adventurous types rise early and make the 25-minute drive to find calm waters around **El Arco**, the rock arch that nature graciously created for Instagram selfies. **Cabo SUP**, an outfitter in town run by

an American couple from Montauk, New York, offers rentals, lessons, and tours. **Lover's Beach**, off to the right, is on the calmer bay side, while **Divorce Beach** (no joke) faces thrashing open waters. By midmorning, the margaritas are already flowing at **Monkey's Cave Bar**, the open-air hole-in-the-wall that's the place to go in Cabo when you have absolutely nowhere to be.

PADLEBOARDING: LIZZY COGHILL/COURTESY CABO SUP; DRINK AND FRITTERS



AFTERNOON

» Amid the cobblestone lanes of San José del Cabo, **La Lupita Taco & Mezcal** is the best choice for Oaxacan grasshopper tacos, which taste way better than they may sound. Nearby Obregon Street is the heart of a grow-

ing arts district. **Casa Dahlia** and **Patricia Mendoza** showcase Baja's top contemporary artists. **Mata Ortiz** is the place for traditional and modern pottery. If you're crunched for time, at least visit **Frank Arnold**, whose abstract paintings and tabletop sculptures sell around the world. **San José del Cabo Art Walk** is a popular event held from 5 to 9 p.m. every Thursday. For something more indulgent, spend like Oprah on an afternoon treatment at the **Spa at Las Ventanas al Paraíso**, which has an in-

house healer and a twilight energy-cleansing ritual said to be inspired by the ancient Maya. With so many expats in the area, it's only natural that certain big-city signifiers would make their way to tables. Drinks in mason jars, farm-to-bar libations, chalkboard menus—all have come to this part of Los Cabos. Although **Flora Farm** gets the most media attention, the in-the-know crowd flocks to **Acre** (pronounced AH-CRAY) at sunset, where Vancouver cocktail designer (and GM) Danielle Tatarin

plucks ingredients from the property's 25-acre organic farm. Her signature offerings are as cheeky as they are delicious, like the bourbon, lime, and vanilla concoction Tatarin calls "South of the Wall." Since Uber is off-line here, consider overnighting in one of 12 new tree houses, each with a terrace, bathroom, closet, shower, and king-size bed (\$275-\$475). Accommodations come with earplugs to drown out early morning birdsong, but there's little to be done about middle-of-the-night sway.

RECHARGING
Clockwise from far left: paddling the coastline; some liquid refreshment and pork fritters from Acre; alfresco seating at Chileno Bay Resort

Side Trip

● Pedregal resort recently launched a **Baja Luxploration** program, available both to the public as well as guests, with guided outings such as the jeep excursion to Rancho el Refugio in the Sierra de la Laguna, an hour's drive from Cabo. If there is indeed a "real Baja," this would be the place, with hidden waterfalls, swimming holes, and hot springs, along with a lunch prepared by local legend Doña Luz.

EVENING

» **The Rooftop at the Cape**, at Cabo San Lucas's Brutalist-chic Thompson Hotel on the beach, is the only rooftop bar and lounge in the area; it's also a glamour spot for fresh-as-the-view crisp *kunafa* shrimp and the house mezcal-infused passion fruit cocktail. If you absolutely must, there's an **Amazing Cabo Bar Crawl** that lets vacationers party their way through downtown Cabo by taking on puzzles and drinking challenges. A more sophisticated and romantic alternative is dinner at the **Resort at Pedregal's El Farallon**. The evening begins with flights of bubbly and a mole tasting on the champagne terrace before moving to the outdoor dining room notched into a cliff above the ocean. For \$150 a person, you point to the fish, steak, and/or lobster you want grilled and cozy up under blankets as the waves pound the rocks below. The lights sparkle along the crescent of coastline; the sea air is fragrant, warm and breezy. Honestly, it's enough to make you want to play Cabo castaway forever. ●



GETTING THERE Direct flights from LAX—via Alaska, American, Aeromexico, Delta, and United—deliver you to paradise in about 2.5 hours. **PEAK TIME** May through June and October through November are best, both for mild temperatures and ample elbow room, though January can be ideal, too, come to think of it. The whale migration occurs between December and April, which is always good for a splash. **WEATHER REPORT** August and September can be stormy, like last year when Tropical Storm Lidia dumped 27 inches of rain over several days.