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## Mexico: Take me to party town

Two margaritas are not enough for Mike Osborne, who's happy to be led astray in Mexico.



The pool at The Resort at Pedregal, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

It started out innocently enough as a cocktail class before dinner - only we never made it to dinner.

We should have known this was going to be a holiday we'd barely remember after our first night on the town at this Mexican seaside resort, which hugs the tip of the Baja Californian peninsula.

We'd arrived in the late afternoon, dropped our bags at The Resort at Pedregal, a luxurious hideaway, and headed to the harbour to a festive strip of restaurants that looked out over fishing and luxury boats.

Feeling right at home, we ordered US\$5 margaritas and a US\$10 lobster tail and settled in to enjoy the sunset and the mariachi band.

The margaritas were made in the traditional free-pour style - no measuring the tequila here - so they were potent and went down quicker than the sun, with memory-erasing ease.

I think we had three margaritas - one before dinner, one with dinner and one after instead of dessert - and somehow managed to stagger back to our accommodation safely.

The ensuing alcohol-fog that clouded our morning resulted in a self-imposed two-margarita limit. So a few nights later, when we signed up for a cocktail class at the Pedregal hosted by impressive bar manager David Hernandez, to learn the secrets of Mexican margaritas we had planned on maintaining our two-drink, keep-it-tidy limit.

But we were again led astray, this time by our cocktail classmates who included a former heavy metal musician, a Silicon Valley millionaire, a financial manager from New York and doctors from middle America.

David invited us all to choose our favourite cocktail and then, one-by-one, instructed us how to make it.

At the same time the attentive and diligent bar staff at The Pedregal made each one of us the chosen cocktail. There were nine of us in the class so we each had nine cocktails - free-pour, of course. I remember the margarita, the mojito and the manhattan.

The other six cocktails were delicious and disappeared along with our dinner reservations as our classmates became our new best friends and the bar became our exclusive real estate for the rest of the evening.

Suffice to say partying is de rigueur in Cabo, which also has a reputation as an adventure and sporting holiday destination.

Golf, waterskiing, scuba diving, snorkelling, zip-lining and whale-watching will fill your days, along with swimming, surfing, sports fishing and boat rides to the famous rock formations including El Arco, the stunning arch of Cabo San Lucas.

Cabo is to Americans what Bali is to Australians, but Cabo's sunshine, adventure holidays and tequila parties are also luring around 13,000 Australians and New Zealanders each year.

The town gets 350 days of sunshine a year so it's easy to see why word about this hot party town is spreading to the Southern Hemisphere.

And though there are numerous resorts along the coastal corridor between the Mexican town of San Jose del Cabo and the tourist town of Cabo San Lucas, none are more than six storeys high, so the area maintains a low-density, uncrowded, laid-back feel.

## **Checklist**

### **GETTING THERE**

Air New Zealand flies daily from Auckland to Los Angeles. Fares are on sale until March 29: get \$500 off return Economy fares and \$1000 off return Premium Economy and Business Premier fares. [airnewzealand.co.nz](http://airnewzealand.co.nz)

From LA, a local carrier will get you to San Jose Del Cabo.

### **ONLINE**

[theresortatpedregal.com](http://theresortatpedregal.com)

- AAP