

La Paloma's Where to Eat? Guide

Created by La Paloma Oceanfront Retreat and Art Center, San Patricio, Jalisco, Mexico. Contains information compiled from our guest's comments. Edited by: Brenda McElroy. Subject to change rapido! TENTH EDITION.

MELAQUE - SAN PATRICIO - VILLA OBREGON

These tri-villages, which are all connected, are situated alongside the beautiful Bahía de Navidad one mile northwest of Barra de Navidad. Melaque is at the far northwest end of the bay and has been a beach vacation community for generations of Mexicans until discovered by Canadians who are well known for seeking less costly areas due to their canoeing ability?!. San Patricio, only a half mile wide, is the center of these tri-villages. It contains most of the areas' retail shops and the main town square that serves as the gathering place for all three pueblos.

Some paved streets are appearing gradually in the commercial areas and there are a few new very nice tourist accommodations on the beach front! Otherwise, the area has more folks in the lower to medium income bracket so they are friendly, caring, and loving. They care for tourists whose presence provides much of their income. Many are at the lower end of Mexico's rapid move into the first world. This helps to keep prices lower than any other visitor destinations on Mexico's Pacific coast so is very much a positive to those who watch their pennies. Visitors are advised to bring ear plugs to assure a restful sleep in Mexico. We pray you will tip well when you are in Mexico as their minimum wages are so low!

San Patricio-Melaque-Villa Obregon

form the largest community on the Costa Alegre south of Puerto Vallarta and north of Manzanillo. Their post office, bank, ATM machines, and central markets serve a wide rural area. The Costa Alegre boasts resorts and private retreats covering the spectrum of prices from 200 pesos per night to \$1200 dollars per night and is being compared to Puerto Vallarta of the fifties. New

private retreats for billionaires are appearing nearby on this coastline. San Patricio- Melaque-Villa Obregon are spread over four miles of beach front, and is quickly equaling Barra in its number of good gringo and Mexican eateries. There are even night clubs, discos, and strip joints, tennis courts, an Art Center, and the only bank between P.V. and Cihuatlán. ATM machines are always open at Banamex in Melaque, across from the bus depot in Barra, at Banamex and Bancomer in Cihuatlán.. New check cashing places are appearing as are many new stores and service facilities.

THE BEACH

Playa Melaque is the main beach in Melaque. As in Barra de Navidad, the slope of the beach sometimes causes the waves to break on shore. Skim boarding is becoming very popular and the beach in front of LA PALOMA is inhabited by dozens of excellent boarders each evening before sunset.

The beach is fine for swimming most of the time, there is neither undertow nor rip currents when its calm but will present difficulty to all swimmers when the waves are UP!

The steep incline in the Barra end of the beach gives way to a gentle and inviting incline at the west end of the Melaque beach. From the trailer park in Melaque to the west end, the water is easy to enter and the waves smaller.

The beach is rather long, extending from the jetty in Barra de Navidad to the west end cliffs of Melaque. Not recommended for snorkeling or surfing. You might explore some areas down the trail west of Melaque town to find hidden beaches... watch the tide table for the high tide can maroon a sleeping sunbather.... As in all ocean sports – when the waves are up -keep your eye on the ocean and wait for the large sets to end before entering or exiting .

INTRODUCTION:

Even an individual who has lost their sight will have no problema finding a

place to eat in our area - just follow your nose! There are just too many to mention, so I have hi-lited the restaurants that specialize in “gringo food” as most visitors in the winter months fall into that category, and Mexican food can be found in abundance. I do hi-lite the Mexican food restaurants that get a lot of acclaim.

FRUGAL?? - Many of us elders are concerned with rising prices! our **STREET TACO STANDS** are the answer and serve some of the tastiest food in any town! mall Mom & Pop operations are everywhere and will really ad flavor to your Mexican holiday.

SOME MEXICAN RESTAURANTS ARE: FLOR MORENA -across from the taxi stand in San Patricio. Try the Pozole or the tamales. **7 STARS** - across from town square. **AYALA**-on the street at the end of market row. **LAS FLORECITAS** - opposite Banamex. - end of main street by the beach trailer park just to mention a very few . Here is a list of restaurants that our gringo guests have enjoyed. That is not to say there are not others that fit this category and we would appreciate hearing from our readers with information and recommendations that we have missed

EATING OUT IN SAN PATRICIO/MELAQUE

TURN RIGHT out our main gate for a 100 meters to **MAYA** at their **great beach front location** that serves up excellent original cuisine - **RESTAURANT MAYA** with a new 5 year lease is set amongst swaying Palms, Tiki Torches and a Palapa Bar often with live music and dancing. Once you've experienced Chef Peg Montgomery's creations you'll be back again! **BEST SEAFOOD** on the Coast! & **DAILY SPECIALS** OPENS AT SIX for DINNER with HAPPY HOUR till seven, and closes late! Closed on Mondays. **BRUNCH 10:30 am SUNDAYS. MMMMM GOOD! ROOSTERS POPULAR for breakfast** new location opposite Bigotes on the beach. Turn down road at Hotel Las Gaviotas and

Hotel Villamar Always a big welcome from Joyce & Gary!

RULAS RESTAURANT - formerly the San Patricio Yacht Club has now relocated a block away Now above the laundry mat on the corner of Gomez Farias and Orozco - fabulous high end cuisine for reasonable prices.

CALYPSO CAFE & BOUTIQUE - the local Starbucks type establishment with, coffees, lattes, pastries, & lite breakys and lunches and a DINNER SPECIAL NIGHTLY - a new treat for our guests. Located four blocks left of La Paloma at the end of the main street bordering the RV facility. A LITTLE BIT OF CLASS! and air conditioned too! TABLES INSIDE & OVERLOOKING THE STREET. A GOOD CHOICE anytime of the day or evening. Closed Tuesdays. Easy Parking. A fine ladies fashion boutique is in the cafe. The ladies also own the classy CAOBA DESIGN STUDIO on the highway.

LOS MOLCAJETES - on the main boulevard beside Intercam (second storey) Serving typical Jalisco cuisine. Specialty is a molcajete which is a hot lava bowl filled with cheese, shrimp, chicken and veggies.

AVAS Go "right" out our main gate and "left" for 100 meters to the big palapa on the corner. **POPULAR No Hands Jack** & familia opens @ 7a.m. and keeps em swinging with **DANCING & LIVE ENTERTAINMENT** for party goers in the evenings. **NEW SPECIALS /NEW CHEF** Great ribs Tuesday & Friday nite & da best burgers bar none! **GOOD FOLKS GOOD PRICES GOOD TIMES! SELDOM CLOSES.**

SEÑOR FROYS - Now located in front of the Banamex Bank very jovial and enjoyable outdoor Patio extravaganza of Señor Froys. Pastas with a Mexican twist, pizzas and more. **OPEN ALL DAY. DON'T MISS THEIR MARGARITAS GRANDES. SI SEÑOR!** Closed Tuesday

HARVEY'S BURGERS AND BAR - new lunch place serving 4 kinds of burgers, fries and yammie fries. Open 11 to 4pm. Located in the mini mall between Hotel Vista Hermosa and Hotel Monterrey Same Harvey who served delicious food at La Paloma last year!!

Continue down VICENTE GUERRERO to the very end to **THE RED LOBSTER**- local style! I hear very good reports from everyone about their food and friendly style. **SEAFOOD IS THEIR SPECIALTY** of course.

SALAMANDRAS on Calle Abel Salgado one block from the lagoon. Sip tequila and dine in Moms back garden around tiki torches and her cool blue pool. **Bennies daughter Paloma** has made good after graduating from culinary school in Guadalajara. **Brother Sash** brings the cold beer & takes your order of **Coconut shrimp, filet mignon, chicken** & more. A true family affair! Seems likes yesterday Paloma and sash were just a couple kids. Are we getting old or WHAT?

GUROS COMIDA JAPONESA on the corner as you enter San Patricio from the Hwy.

AUTHENTIC ASIAN CUISINE

served by GURO & his family **OUTSTANDING FRESH SEAFOOD,** & chicken **SUSHI YAKI SOBA & TAKE OUT TOO.** Sweet & Sours, Teriyaki, Pot Stickers, and so much more. **OPENS noon to 8 p.m.. May be the best food in town!** says me!

PENNY'S PLACE - Located at the end of the walk through market near Ayalas. Go down street in front of the trailer park. **WONDERFUL HOME COOKED CREATIONS and FRESH BAKED BREAD, PIES DESSERTS and MORE!** Besides her jovial self, **PENNY** has many local ladies preparing some of their own home cooked favorites. **It's a POTPOURRI OF PLEASURE! A DELI IN PARADISE and HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!**

DELLY CROISSANT a tiny spot on the main street beside the trailer park features gourmet coffees, pastries, a variety of crepes and nice flavoured delicacies. **Opens for breakfast with good snacks all day.**

TORTAS AHOGADAS - located beside Delly Croissant serving fabulous and authentic Tortas Ahogadas which is a pulled pork sandwich in a bolillo bun and drowned in a tomato sauce. **YUM**

CLUB DORADO a huge beautiful palapa on the Bay, **GREAT SETTING**

Mex-style seafood. **LIVE MUSIC & DANCING** at night, **OPEN ALL DAY!**

RIGHT out our beach gate for 100 meters is **BIGOTES' PALAPA.** one block closer to :a Paloma than before The 2nd home of many local yocals! **ALWAYS OPEN.** Eat under the palapa or on the beach. **FULL BAR GREAT HAPPY HOUR. SUNSETS!!** A FUN PLACE TO HANGOUT & work on a HANGOVER!. **OPEN LATE.** Good shish kabobs!! Bobs your uncle!

HAMBURGUESA MAUI, kitty corner to KOALAS serves good tortas and **HAMBURGERS & FRIES** MOST ALWAYS OPEN. Eat there, take out, free delivery! **OLD FASHION PRICES!**

RICKY'S - is a great place to go for dinner and dancing!! **Ricky will entertain you beyond belief!** Located on Abel Salgado - the beach road in Villa Obregon.

ESMERALDAS - Newly renovated – great breakfast place in front of the "ruins" the large hotel that is falling down. **Rib specials.**

THE WEST END

of Melaque Bay offers a spectacular view of the entire horseshoe shaped Bay of Navidad. It is very Polynesian in feeling, and the sea is calm. Most of the local fishermen launch from this protected area. It is a **MUST** to visit this part of the Bay at **DAYTIME!** There are **MANY PALAPA** restaurants here serving similar Mexican favorites and **MUCHAS** selections of **FRESH MARISCOS!** Try Concha del Mar or Kosonoy's for great food! **Get another perspective of the VIEWS from our Bay.**

DINING OUT IN BARRA DE NAVIDAD

Barra de Navidad is a quaint Oceanside town at the east end of our bay. Reminded us much of LAHAINNA MAUI of the seventies. **GREAT** spot for wandering, Happy Hours, sunsets and dining. Boat rentals, fishing and diving charters, lagoon tours all originate in Barra. Lots a trinkets to take home here.

BANANAS - The original great **BREAKFAST** establishment and still is **THE BEST!** **OPEN** from 8:00 to noon for breakfast with a large menu to

choose from. OPEN FOR DINNER from 6:00 to 10:00 featuring fresh seafood's, homemade pastas, and steaks. Located on the Mezzanine level of the **HOTEL BARRA DE NAVIDAD** overlooks the ocean. NOW OPEN ALL YEAR!

LOS ARCOS DE JALISCO.

Famous Mariachi performer and recording artist Vincente Fernandez opened this lovely RESTAURANT and BAR. Authentic Fresh Mexican COMIDA. OPEN ALL DAY for BREAKFAST, LUNCH, and DINNER. Closes after 10:00 p.m. after the MUSIC stops.

SEAMASTER - East of Bananas on the Ocean. Famous for SPARERIBS. Their other specials feature fresh seafood's and muchas sautéed veggies. LARGE SERVINGS. Wok style cooking. Good Burgers too. OPEN ALL THE TIME. GOOD FUN, GOOD FOOD. GOOD VIEW.

VIA BERLIN - Simona & Ninos fabulous German style food located in by taxi stand near pedestrian walkway.

ALCATRAZ in their beautiful location ON THE LAGOON. Excellent Mexican HOT POT specialties and SEAFOOD CHICKEN & BEEF! Lunch and dinners. ALSO in San Patricio kitty corner from the trailer park.

DON'T MISS ISADORA'S - situated on the lagoon facing GRAND BAY! A **FABULOUS MENU** - & Another great addition to our Bay of Navidad paradise. **Dinners at 6! Don't miss it. reservations suggested.**

VELEROS - the original lagoon side restaurant famous for their fresh seafood delicacies and Mexicano delights. Opens at noon to late night! Party anyone?

AMBAR DI MARE- Located upstairs in a groovy little Palapa. Looks down on the open mall where the Church stands. A good wine selection. Very Intimate! OPEN FOR DINNER.! **AMBARS FINE ITALIAN FARE ON THE OCEAN ACROSS FROM THE NEW ALONDRA HOTEL.** GREAT SUNSETS can be viewed from the top of the new ALONDRA hotel opposite AMBARS tasty Italian fare.

RAMON'S- seldom closes RELIABLE A Longtime favorite of Mexicans and

gringos alike, satellite TV, huge menu, **ALWAYS OPEN**, across from Barra Hotel, BREAKFAST, LUNCH, and DINNER. GOOD MEXICAN FOOD and great SEAFOOD N CHIPS! A Meeting Place!

MAR Y TIERRA - "Ocean & Land" a lovely eating out experience looking over the Ocean with an interesting menu designed to please all tastes. One block beyond the Barra Hotel and open from noon on....GOOD CHOICE AMIGOS!

PATTYS another long time favorite on the corner of the main street by the church square. Known for excellent local style food served inside or street side.

Cihuatlán

Cihuatlán is ten minutes past the Grand Bay entrance enroute to Manzanillo. It is our government center. Near the end of the drive thru street left side is **CHICKEN BOY** - which has grown from a single street cart to a massive Taco emporium and **THEY ARE WORTH THE STOP!**

LA MANZANILLA

MARTINS (MARTEENS) in la Manzanilla. From Valero's fame. Martin has opened his own fabulous NEW restaurant at the end of the main street on the oceanside. He is open all the time with wonderful cuisine with a French Mexican flair. Great wine list and exotic drinks. He will create anything you ask for and serve it to you with style. Give yourselves lots of time.

YOLANDAS - in La Manzanilla. With husband Leon, olanda arrived in Mexico after traveling the world on their motorcycle. She is serving her own favorite Thai and Caribbean recipes 5 nights a week - Wed-Sun VERY TASTY! Inexpensive too!

TENACATITA

Wonderful swimming, sunbathing, fair snorkeling, boogie boarding, and body surfing when conditions are right. Dozens of Palapa restaurants ALL serving about the same fresh fish, oysters, camarones, lobster, cold beer, and more. Great way to spend a day! WE usually choose CHELYS or her sister in law next door EL GATO!

COSTA CAREYES

Twenty minutes drive west of TENACATITA is The **CAREYES HOTEL**, with a fabulous patio bar and restaurant right on the ocean. Another great OCEANFRONT private restaurant lays to the right of Careyes and is operated by a French lady. I've forgotten the name at this point, but you make a right turn rather than a left turn when heading into the Careyes Hotel You get to both of these restaurants by making the same left turn off the main highway with a well marked CAREYES sign.

East of us

GRAND BAY HOTEL Can be accessed by highway seven minutes down the road, or better still, can be accessed by lagoon boats from the Barra Harbor. A world class 27-hole golf course with clubhouse and restaurant which opens for Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner and serves good food at escalating prices. There are 2 more expensive dining spots in the hotel open to the public.

L RECIFS with a **FANTASTIC SETTING, and EXCELLENT FOOD!** Look for the signs on the right hand side of the road prior to the COLIMA AUTOPISTA turnoff in the village of **EL NARANJO**. You will drive to the ocean and come to a sign that says PALMA ROYALE, a two story set of buildings that looks like a condo. Walk up the stairs to Paradise. CLOSED EASTER TO DECEMBER.

MANZANILLO

ONWARD is the BAY OF MANZANILLO. This very long strip of hotels, including The Bo Derrick Movie 10 **LAS HADAS**, and dozens of other hotels. Apartments, time share condos, etc., offers more eateries than Carter has pills. A few blocks before the Las Hadas turnoff and on the right side is **JUANITOS** owned by red headed gringo JUAN and his lovely Mexican wife plus all their mostly adult kids and extended family. It's been a big favorite with both gringos and Mexicans for a long time. PATIO and INSIDE setups. CNN on the tely, INTERNET-connected computers on-site. SPOTLESS BANOS. Look for a lineup of American License plates in front and you'll know you're at JUANITOS. The old **COLONIAL HOTEL** is the place to eat, when you visit the City of MANZANILLO! On

the Main street a block up from the
Town Square. FUN ADVENTURES
TO SOME GREAT CUISINE:

LIME IN MEXICO IS A STAPLE AND
PUT ON MOST FOOD. IT ADDS
FLAVOR AND KILLS BACTERIA!
USE IT! ALSO stops the itch from
PESKY INSECTS! DRINK LOTS OF
PURIFIED WATER WHILE IN
MEXICO'S HEAT! WE are sure you
will appreciate the ever expanding
variety of places to eat out in our
growing communities along the Costa
Alegre, and thank you for visiting all of
us who make this our home. God Bless
everyone.

Nancy & Richard Lennie