

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: Richard Lennie. subject to change rapido! NINTH 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 poblados. 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. INTERCAM has recently opened in San Patricio offering foreign check conversion to pesos under 5000 dollars without lower rates than the banks.

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** -on the square and across from the taxi stand in San Patricio. **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

ALBERTA ROAST BEEF, US PRIME RIB EYE & NEW YORK STEAKS, RACK OF LAMB, ROAST

LEG OF PORK exclusively for La Paloma guests from time to time. DINE with the owners!

HERE COMES DA JUDGES starting at 2 p.m. OUR SHELL BAR BY POOLSIDE is now serving some very tasty delights each afternoon! Longtime resident HARVEY JUDGES mixes, cooks, serves, and entertains La Paloma guests and visitors. No more need to leave the poolside or lovely environment

behind the protective walls of La Paloma. If you have friends or family staying at La Paloma ASK THEM to INVITE YOU for DELICIOUS SNACKS & THE BEST BURGERS BAR NONE - ANYWHERE!!!

BEYOND LA PALOMA

TURN RIGHT out our main gate for 100 meters to **RESTAURANT MAYA** at their great beach front location that serves up excellent original cuisine - set amongst swaying Palms, Tiki Torches and a Palapa Bar- often with live music and dancing. Another great location like our Shell Bar! Vancouver Chef Peg Montgomery's creations are amongst the very best on our coast! and their **FRESH SEAFOOD IS TO DIE FOR!** My special oil & garlic pasta is right out of Sicily! Prices a little more than the rest, but what do you expect when you are going for **THE BEST!** closes monday. **OPENS AT SIX.**

LONGTIME MAYA BARTENDER

JERMAINE and his sweetheart have left Maya to open their own bar and grill featuring chicken wings /n things - above the old Gonzales Market across from the Villa Obregon square and market place. WE wish him great success and **HANG TEN GERONIMO!** And the taxis are right next door for a safe ride home.

ROOSTERS POPULAR BREAKFASTS and SOON doing DINNER! NEW LOCATION in a tropical surrounding on the grounds of the Hotel Melaque. ENTER through the gates 50 yards west of Herradura super market. Always a big welcome from Joyce and Gary and we wish them well in their **NEW LOCATION.**

LA MARINA - left out our main gate and up the lane, a right and a left to the VERY GOOD mom and pop family run restaurant at their nice beach front home. **OPENS @ 7** for BREAKFAST, DINNERS at six for FINE MEXICAN CUISINE! A VERY FAMILY AFFAIR!

Walk another block toward town to **LA TERRAZZA** for home cooked breakfasts on their second floor breezy patio with an ocean view. Often open for DINNER TOO!

CALYPSO BOUTIQUE - our local Starbucks type establishment with, coffees, lattes, pastries, & lite breakys

and luches 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. **OPENS ALL YEAR.**

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 goes in the evenings. NEW SPECIALS /NEW CHEF. Great ribs Tuesday & Friday nite - good burgers too! Happy Hour 12 - 6pm. GOOD FOLKS GOOD PRICES GOOD TIMES! SELDOM CLOSES.

SEÑOR FROYS NEW LOCATION NOW in front of Banamex to the very jovial and enjoyable patio extravaganza of Señor Froys. Pastas with a Mexican twist, pizzas and more. OPEN ALL DAY. DON'T MISS THEIR MARGARITAS GRANDES. SI SENOR!

PEDROS GRILL - on the new very fancy paved street - Vicente Guerrero - Look down from Avas. OPEN for DINNER FROM FIVE TO TEN with PEDROS original FISH'N CHIPS still a specialty ..

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. Open everyday from 9AM to 10PM. Antonio and his lovely family await you!

SALAMANDERS on Calle Abel Sagado 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 JAPANESE on the corner as you enter San Patricio from the Hwy. AUTHENTIC ASIAN CUISINE served by GURO & his family OUTSTANDING FRESH SEAFOOD, & chicken SUSHI, YAKISOBA & 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 - Look for her NEW LOCATION at the very end of the same local market where she used to be-BUT across the main street and to the end near Ayalas. 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!

KUKARAMACARA - If you can't say it, don't worry, its really a tongue teaser!! Go down the end of the lane of La Paloma and it is right on the corner. Authentic sushi and tempura. Open from 1pm to midnight. Closed Monday.

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 yokels ! ALWAYS OPEN. Eat under the palapa or on the beach. FULL BAR GREAT FOOD. 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!

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! 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.

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! Sparkling Jovial Jan opened this classy palapa restaurant 3 years ago. She comes from the SF Bay area which explains her fine cuisine and ambiance! Her menu has many of my favorites not

available anywhere else! escargot, oysters rockefeller, to mention two. 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- Located upstairs in a groovy little Palapa. Looks down on the open mall where the Church stands, or above Kosso Pizza. 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.

JOLANDAS - in La Manzanilla. With husband Leon, Jolanda 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, camerones, 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 **NARANJA**. 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