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HUNTINGTON BEACH, FOUNTAIN VALLEY, SUNSET BEACH AND SEAL BEACH

# Luxury for Every Age at the Grand Velas Los Cabos



By Jody Robinson

When I was 24 and planning a trip with a girlfriend to Cabo San Lucas, our families thought the idea sounded, well, fine. They didn't know much about the destination other than it was resort town, and that some people they knew owned a timeshare there. So as we boarded the plane to fly down, my friend and I had little inkling that we would spend much of the next decade reminiscing about Cabo as one of our best vacations ever. Annoying, it must have been, to hear all about the pools and the sun and the hammocks and the food. At least that's what my husband told me. Right up until he suggested that we take our kids.

Our just-turned 10-year-old daughter is still obsessed with Disney's Moana, so we had to fudge a bit when we were explaining that while it wasn't Hawaii, we would be swimming in the same ocean (and we could definite-

ly still sing "You're Welcome") while sunning on the sand under the palm trees. Our 11-year-old son is excited about anything involving the ocean and when he learned that there would be a "kids" and "teens" club chock full of age-appropriate activities, he was beside himself in anticipation. Cabo, on the razor's edge of sand and surf, offers an inspired, elegant desti-

nation vacation a quick two hours by plane from Orange County. As such, the Los Cabos Corridor has become a prime escape year round. And the AAA Five Diamond Award winning Grand Velas Los Cabos ([grandvelas.com](http://grandvelas.com)) might just be its crown jewel.

Offering beachfront vistas from the balcony of every luxury suite, its



tranquil setting on the shimmering shores of the Sea of Cortez makes simple work of forgetting the bustle and vibe of Cabo San Lucas, just beyond the Carreterra Transpenninsular. This is the fifth resort in the Velas Resorts family of hotels. Once here, you feel utterly removed from your everyday life. That utter removal can be of just about any flavor – we were making a four-day family vacation with a focus on adventure, rejuvenation and simple togetherness, but golf aficionados, outdoor enthusiasts, couples, girlfriends and foodies will all find something exceptional at the all-inclusive luxury beachfront resort.

## INCOMPARABLE ACCOMMODATIONS & AMENITY

The resort offerings include 304 oceanfront suites (with more than 100 connecting rooms - ideal for families with kids or even multi-generational family members vacationing together).

For spa enthusiasts, the Grand Velas offers one of the most luxurious sanctuaries for the spirit. Naturally it features a comprehensive menu of holistic, wellness-inspired treatments, cleansing facials and therapeutic massages, based on age-old rituals and

treatments; but it also offers a world-class experience, with 20 spa suites, a lavish Water Ceremony, beauty salon and spa boutique - in an environment defined by the breathtaking beauty where the desert meets the sea on the Baja Peninsula.

The dining experiences at the Grand Velas stand on their own and are likely the reason that many travel long distances to visit. Seven on-property dining venues offer something for every taste, mood and interest. For more sophisticated palates (by that I mean parents vs. younger children), the Grand Velas features an incomparable pair of dining destinations: the French-influenced Piaf and the resort's signature restaurant - Cocina De Autor, a elegant-casual dining experience for guests 18+ led by celebrated Two Michelin Star Chef Sidney Schutte of the Netherlands and characterized by "creative cuisine" - each meal an extraordinary culinary journey - presented with exceptional service.

Family-friendly eateries include Azul (casual buffet and a la carte menu), the

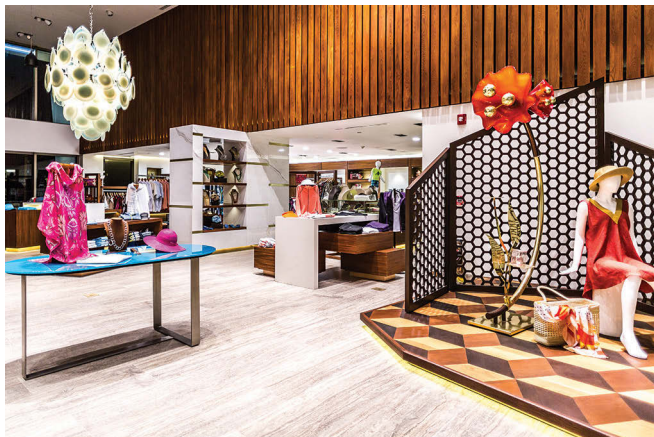




pool-casual Cabrilla for ceviche and seafood, and a trio of resort casual eateries: Velas 10 (steaks and seafood), Lucca (Italian-Mediterranean) and Frida (gourmet Mexican). From its restaurants to its in-room dining, from its robust wine program to its seasonal menus, the Grand Velas has something for every epicurean.

### ALL ABOUT PERSPECTIVE

Most adults think of Mexico and see visions of bikini'd spring breakers, but I knew better. My 24-year-old brain took me immediately back to the magic of paradise- and that, without the built in amusement of Grand Velas' Kids Club and Teens Club. Reserved especially for children, the resort serves up an impressive, all-inclusive platter of activities for the kids to choose from in their very own 1,000-square-foot retreat (for kids ages 4 to 12) replete with storytelling, board games, arts and crafts, bingo, movies and more for the younger set. Teens (ages 13+) enjoy their own state-of-the-art 2,700-square-foot facility to partake in everything from



healthy cooking classes, movies and foosball to Xbox and Wii. Each day's worth of activities are tailored to the child's age and interests, so there isn't any chance of that dreaded summertime phrase: "I'm bored." Open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., the Club is complimentary with the resort's standard package, including dinner every evening and group activities that stretch well into the night hours.

All-inclusive resort and babysitting on-site? My husband could truly experience the incredible paradise of one of my favorite vacation destinations, and our kids could too: with the added bonus of anytime activity at the Club. We took full advantage, discovering the Baja outback, and explored all that Cabo had to offer we two novice oenophiles (read: wine lovers) while our kiddos formed new friendships and played at the Club. They had no clue that Mom and Dad (during part of our vacation anyway) were busy soaking - literally - in red wine, red wine leaf extract, and post-wine-making grape marc in warm water. The antioxidants and bath temperature provide



the body with penetrating nourishment and revitalization that seeps into each and every pore. Perhaps next time we'll take advantage of the Wine Lover's Getaway: hopping on a private jet transport to Baja California's top wineries to make our own vintage.

This time, though, was largely about family bonding and adventure so we scooped up the kiddos and experienced the surf and sand together, letting our imaginations run wild: pretending that Poseidon himself was the king of the resort, but mostly just imagining what it would be like to never come home. Not hard to pretend when sailing, scuba, snorkel-

space for personal reflection and relaxation.

With all that the Grand Velas has to offer in activities, amenities, services and dining, the delight of being there is ultimately of the atmosphere, and that comes down to two things: beauty and people.

While hospitality professionals are typically welcoming, the staff at the

al concierge service here sets a new standard in hospitality excellence.

As to beauty, the Grand Velas is simply an exquisitely designed place with lovely spaces; starting with its majestic, tiered architecture opening out to panoramic views of the Gulf of Mexico where the golden sand embraces turquoise waters, from the grand, fifth-floor open-air lobby to the well-appointed suites, you can-



ing, fine dining, fitness, and fishing charters are the theme of the day, nor when the family suites feature private terraces, bathrobes and slippers in mini sizes, and kid-friendly evening turndown. Perhaps never was there a resort that actually understood the need for families to get away together, and still have ample time and

Grand Velas are authentically convivial. So much so that either the resort has found hundreds of matchless thespians dedicated to guest satisfaction (from the seamless check-in process upon arrival to 24-hour in-suite room service) - or the Grand Velas' team truly enjoy being there. I believe it is the latter. The person-

not escape a floor-to-ceiling sense of unrivaled beauty. And so at every turn you are inspired to tranquility and delight. Ultimately, that is how our family spent a few days away and what we'll remember most - enjoying time together against what is arguably among the most magnificent of backdrops.

