

aspire

Issue 27 • June 2017

OUT OF THE SHADOWS

*Cambodia basks in golden glow
as its luxury offering shines*



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GRAND VELAS LOS CABOS Cabo San Lucas, Mexico

LOCATION: This gargantuan beachfront resort on the Baja Peninsula is located between Cabo San Lucas and the upmarket San Jose del Cabo.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: Get past the imposing Soviet-style building that greets you on approach, and this property, which claims to offer a 'beyond all-inclusive' experience, has raised the stakes among the string of luxury accommodation dotted along this beautiful coastline. The entrance, a huge, white-marble open-air lobby, is more akin to something in a modern art gallery. Standing several storeys high looking out to sea, the space is interspersed with contemporary and surrealist sculptures that you can ponder while sipping a freshly-made beverage brought to you on arrival.

THE FACTS: Grand Velas Los Cabos is the fifth offering from the Mexican hotel chain and, following a soft launch at the end of last year, the 306-room property fully opens its doors this month. The entry-level Ambassador Suites are bigger than a lot of one-bedroom flats, with a queen-sized bed, Jacuzzi bath and private terrace, ideal for enjoying breakfast while taking in the ocean views.

Upgrading to the top-level Presidential Suite will get your clients their own outdoor plunge pool and complimentary in-suite spa treatments.

If you can tear yourself away from the suite there are three infinity pools with personal concierge, so you can enjoy a fish taco while firmly glued to your sun lounger, from where you'll be able to spot whales, if you're lucky.

The building's curved shape blocks the



sun after 4pm, but this gives you a good reason to head inside and indulge in a treatment at the sumptuous spa or walk along the unspoilt beach at sunset.

As well as kids and teen clubs, and a gym, there are six bars in which to enjoy the hotel's own brand of tequila.

A GOOD BASE FOR: There is little reason to leave the surrounds of the hotel, but a whale-watching excursion is a must. Or you could head for a night out to mingle with the A-listers in nearby San José.

WOW: The hotel hit the headlines this year for serving the 'world's most expensive taco', filled with Kobe beef, caviar, truffles and, wait for it, gold leaf. Priced at a mere \$25,000, this frill-filled street snack is available at high-end Mexican outfit Frida, one of six dining

options. Pricey tacos aside, the hotel's culinary offering is quite something. Whether it's the ultra-modern Cocina de Autor, led by two-Michelin-starred chef Sidney Schutte; fine French dining at Piaf, with its stunning art deco design; or stylish Italian Lucca and its wall of wine, you feel like you are at an A-list haunt in Mayfair or New York's Upper East Side.

As Grand Velas Los Cabos is within the luxury corridor popular among the rich and famous, its restaurants are sure to attract customers from beyond the hotel.

BOOK IT: Ambassador Suites start at £600 a night.

LOSCABOS.GRANDVELAS.COM

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