



Because You Can

Modulge.

Las Ventanas al Paraíso



Esperanza



Searched restaurant at One & Only Palmilla



The Resort at Pedregal

Los Cabos
 Latitude 22° N / Longitude 109° W
Bouncing back After last year's hurricane, several resorts have reopened with striking new looks.
Rates From \$455



RIGOBERTO MORENO (LAS VENTANAS); FRANCISCO ESTRADA (ESPERANZA); NICKOLAS SARGENT (SEARED); ROBERT RECK (PEDREGAL)

Coastal Mexico

It's Back!

One year after Hurricane Odile ravaged the Baja Peninsula, **Los Cabos** has re-emerged with a fresh but familiar look and more frills. What's new at five resorts (four revamped, one just opened).

BY PAUL RUBIO

REVAMPED

Esperanza, an Auberge Resort

Scoop: For years, an unofficial power trio – Las Ventanas, One & Only, and Pedregal – ruled the 20-mile stretch uniting the towns of San Jose del Cabo to the east and Cabo San Lucas to the west (collectively dubbed "Los Cabos" or "Cabo"). But a dramatic redesign unveiled in June has catapulted this reinvented 57-room resort into that trio's league. Instead of dated rust color schemes and tired interiors, the hotel now exemplifies **contemporary coastal elegance** with a gray and white color palette, sleek handcrafted wood furnishings, and sea-inspired local art. Plush cabanas dress up the pool and beach areas.

F&B: The new **Pesca Ceviche Bar** serves Cabo's freshest catch of the day in the raw, such as the Scallop Aguachile – thinly sliced scallops pickled in a juice of serrano chili, cucumber, and lime. Both the redesigned **Lounge Bar** and **Cocina del Mar Restaurant** feed off the breathtaking views of ocean and sky, and, come nightfall, candles and the natural moonlight illuminate them.

Info: From \$550. 866-311-2226; esperanza.aubgeresorts.com

Las Ventanas al Paraíso, a Rosewood Resort

Scoop: Shortly before the devastating hurricane, this resort unveiled 12 new **Signature Villas**, each a 4,500-plus-square-foot masterpiece of contemporary Mexican high design. When the hotel reopened in June, damage to the villas had been painstakingly repaired. Each one features a smart and stylish swimming pool accessed from the master bedroom. Villa guests also get a butler-attended, personal swath of beach and a dedicated **"Villa Host,"** a multilingual personal attendant extraordinaire trained to perform just about anything requested – child care, tour

Indulge./Travel/

guiding, in-villa cooking, you name it. The 83 suites and villas in the resort's other iconic, whitewashed low-rises have also been restored to their pre-hurricane state.

F&B: The **Restaurant at Las Ventanas** now has a more Mexican-centric menu, featuring the resort staff's secret family recipes peppered with the flair of executive chef Fabrice Guisset. Don't miss the soft-shell crab tostadas or the octopus carnitas. Dishes are served family-style.

Wellness: A Precor-branded fitness center replaces the gymnasium. At the spa, the new 90-minute **Signature Massage** combines Breema, Esalen, Indonesian, Shiatsu, Swedish, and Thai methodologies; it requires at least 100 hours of special training by each therapist.

Info: From \$1,075. 888-767-3966; rosewoodhotels.com/en/las-ventanas-los-cabos

One & Only Palmilla

Scoop: The Palmilla property did more than rebuild; it gave itself a \$100 million face-lift, unveiled in April. You'll find new common areas, neutral colors throughout, and 173 oceanfront guest rooms and suites donning clean-lined, **handsome furnishings** and colorful textiles, tastefully reflecting the diversity of Mexico's 31 states.

F&B: The resort has overhauled its dining program, underscored with the launch of **Seared by Jean-Georges Vongerichten**, a new steakhouse concept by the Michelin-starred chef that's housed in a seductive Jeffrey Beers-designed space. Its ocean-facing terrace lends itself to candlelit alfresco dining. Palmilla also has teamed up with local organic farm Huerta Los Tamarindos to cultivate fruits and veggies on private plots for use in the hotel's

restaurants. Guests can tour the farm and cook lunch alongside owner Enrique Silva.

Wellness: At its 22,000-square-foot spa with 13 sumptuous treatment villas, Palmilla has enhanced the fitness center with all-new equipment and added several new beauty outlets, including a men's-only Barber and Blade salon for hot shaves, grooming, and tequila shots; the OBO Salon by Jonathan & George of Beverly Hills; and the **Pedi:Mani:Cure Studio** by French podiatrist Bastien Gonzalez. To take advantage of its prime spot on one of Cabo's few swimmable beaches, the resort has also upped the ante on its watersports offerings, including an outpost of Tropic Surf, the famed surf school.

Info: From \$455. 888-691-8081; palmilla.oneandonlyresorts.com



El Farallon

The Resort at Pedregal

Scoop: Cabo's western reaches sustained the least hurricane damage; hence, this resort reopened in January, months before its easterly competitors. Pedregal ditched its management company and rechristened itself with its new name. It also increased its room count from 96 rooms to 110 suites and villas, each with private plunge pool and the **embodiment of Mexican barefoot extravagance**. Damaged furnishings were replaced precisely such that the interiors appear as they did pre-hurricane.

F&B: The alfresco **Champagne Terrace**, a romantic lounge capping massive cliffside boulders, is idyllic for an oceanside aperitif or nightcap. Choose from 14 exalted Champagnes served by the glass and paired with specific mineral salts tied to the genesis of the grape varieties. Next door at **El Farallon**, a fresh take on a traditional outdoor fish market, hand-select your seafood feast and indulge in the simply prepared catch — plus hearty sides and starters — to the sights and sounds of crashing waves.

Wellness: The **Luna y Mar Spa**, inspired by the lunar cycle, replaces the former Auriga Spa. Do try some of its locally inspired treatments, such as the "Indigenous Herbal Pedicure," entailing foot scrubs and wraps that use local healing herbs. Book one of the upper-category beachfront suites and you'll be privy to a new soap experience. You sample multiple variations of handmade, organic soaps and can then enjoy these aromatic, bespoke cleansing bars throughout your stay.

Info: From \$775. 844-733-7342; theresortatpedregal.com



The Cape

NEW ON THE SCENE

The Cape, a Thompson Hotel

DEBUT: This 161-room property appeals to the young and funky yet sophisticated crowd with a vintage chic, urban aesthetic.

F&B: The **Rooftop**, a sky-high beer garden, serves 15 types of beer and Mexican tapas. Celebrity chef Enrique Olvera helms **Manta**, the signature restaurant; his menu reflects an amalgam of flavors from Mexico, Peru, and Japan. Hypermodern lounge the **Glass Box**, housed in a glass cube, doles out 360-degree desert-meets-the-sea views.

INFO: From \$599. 877-793-8527; thompsonhotels.com/hotels/the-cape-los-cabos