

TRAVEL



CHRISTIAN HORAN Viceroy Los Cabos

LOOK AT THE NEW CABO

This stretch of Mexico's Baja California coastline keeps getting more luxurious, and there are few bargains to be found. Take a look at eight of the latest, greatest resorts and discover what's still to come. With posh pools and high-end amenities, it's no wonder this is a fave L.A. getaway. **L4-5**

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LOS CABOS, SO LUXE

By ROSEMARY McCLURE >>> LOS CABOS, Mexico — World-class sport fishing put the southern tip of Baja California on the map for U.S. tourists nearly 50 years ago. Now five-star resorts are keeping it there. ¶ Los Cabos, an umbrella term for the region's cities and tourist developments, has evolved from fishermen's paradise to vacation focal point for celebs and the ultra-rich. The appeal? It's a two-hour plane ride from L.A., and you can speak English, stay in American-style resorts and pay for souvenirs in U.S. dollars. ¶ The last time I visited the area, more than a decade ago, there was a lot of cactus and dirt and not much else between Cabo San Lucas, on the Pacific Ocean, and San José del Cabo, about 20 miles away on the Gulf of California. Now 10 miles of that coastline have filled with hotels and services. ¶ I spent five days in February getting acquainted with the luxury hotels that opened over the last year and those due to open soon. Some are architecturally beautiful (Viceroy Los Cabos), some have impeccable service (Montage Los Cabos), and some offer tranquility (Solaz Los Cabos). ¶ Here's a closer look at eight Baja newcomers:



Artist's rendering of lobby from Four Seasons Resort

Four Seasons Resort Los Cabos

Four Seasons Resort Los Cabos, to open this summer, is part of the new Costa Palmas community on the East Cape of the Gulf of California, an isolated region known for its scenery. The 1,000-acre development, about 35 minutes north of San José del Cabo, includes multimillion-dollar homes and an Aman resort, which is still under construction. There will also be a marina capable of holding private yachts up to 200 feet. From \$645 per night.

Info: Four Seasons Resort Los Cabos, Calle Hacienda Eureka, La Ribera, Los Cabos, Mexico; fourseasons.com/loscabos

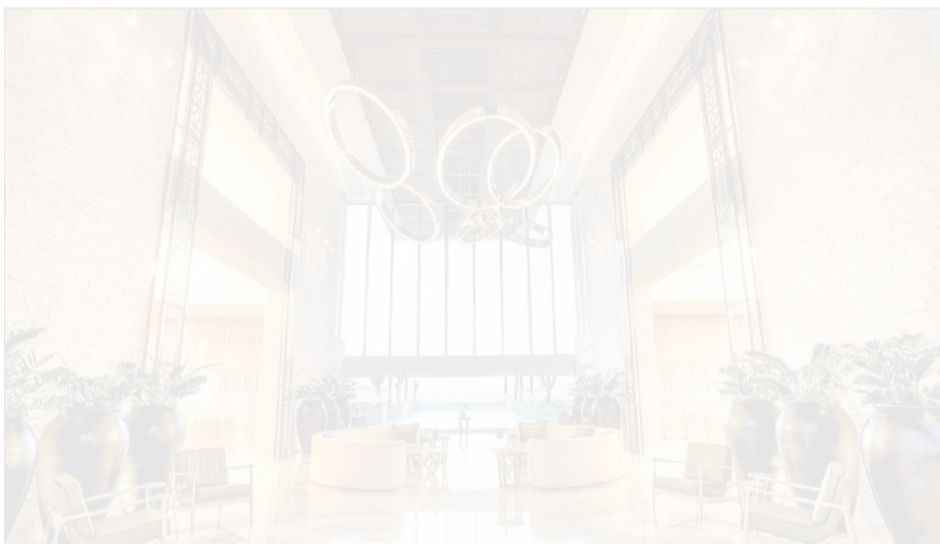


ABRAHAM LUYANDO

Garza Blanca Resort & Spa

This spacious, all-inclusive resort midway between Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo has had a soft opening, with a grand opening scheduled for May. Guests can grab special rates in the meantime as the hotel adds the finishing touches. From \$290 a night for two, including meals and activities.

Info: Garza Blanca Resort & Spa, Kilómetro 17.5 Transpeninsular Highway, Los Cabos, Mexico; (877) 208 0689, cabo.garzablancaresort.com

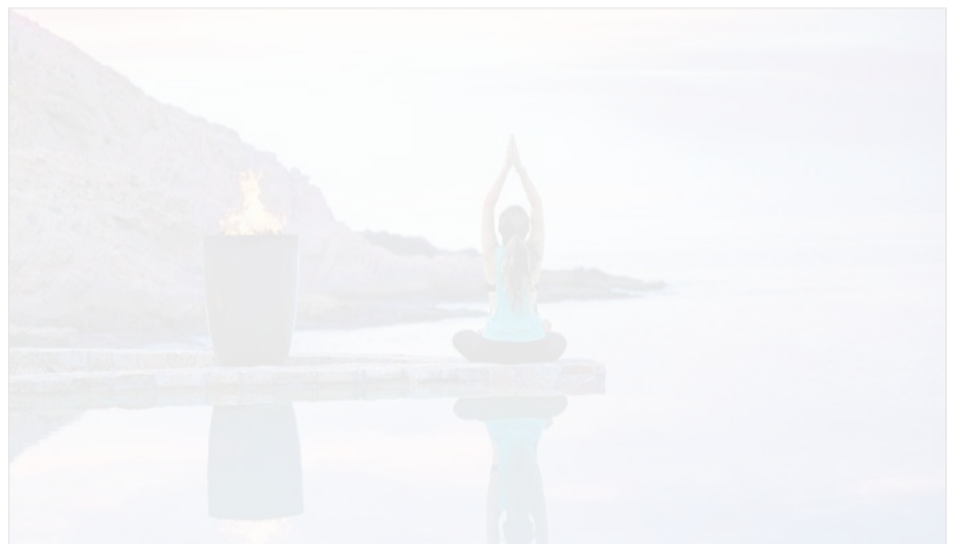


Le Blanc Spa Resorts

Le Blanc Spa Resort

Looking for a good time? Try this all-inclusive Palace resort, which specializes in fun, with lots of pool games and a giant spa. Think of it as a cruise ship on land. It opened in September and is midway between Cabo and San José del Cabo. Spring rates from \$800 per night for two, including meals and activities.

Info: Le Blanc Spa Resort, Kilómetro 18.4 Transpeninsular Highway, Los Cabos, Mexico; (888) 702-0913, leblancsparesorts.com/los-cabos/en/spa

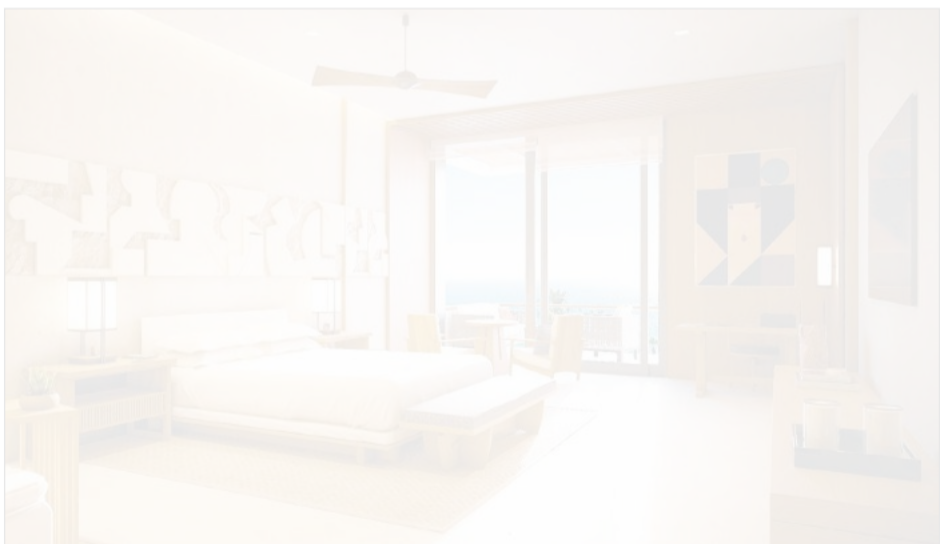


JOHN RUSSO Montage Los Cabos

Montage Los Cabos

One of Orange County's favorite luxury resort brands last year launched its first international hotel here on a beautiful bay that once was home to the Hotel Twin Dolphin. It's one of the area's few resorts with a swimmable beach. The style is more Scottsdale, Ariz., than Baja, Mexico, but if you like cushy digs, exclusivity and tranquil surroundings, this place is for you. From \$825 per night.

Info: Montage Los Cabos, Kilómetro 12.5 Transpeninsular Highway, Los Cabos, Mexico; (800) 772-2226, montagehotels.com/loscabos

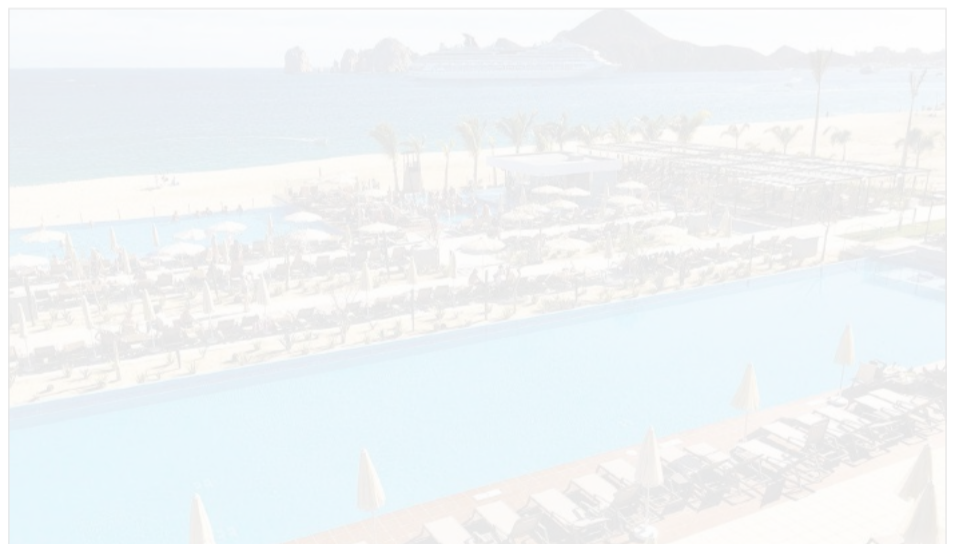


Nobu Hotel Los Cabos

Nobu Hotel Los Cabos

If you like Nobu's fusion restaurants, you may want to try this 200-room beachfront hotel and golf course. It's the first Mexican property from the team of Robert De Niro and chef Nobu Matsuhisa. It combines Japanese minimalism with Mexican wood, stone and marble. The resort hopes to open Monday with special rates of \$490.75 per night, including breakfast.

Info: Nobu Hotel Los Cabos, Polígono 1 Fracción D, Fraccionamiento Diamante, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; 011-52-624-689-0160, nobuhotelloscabos.com

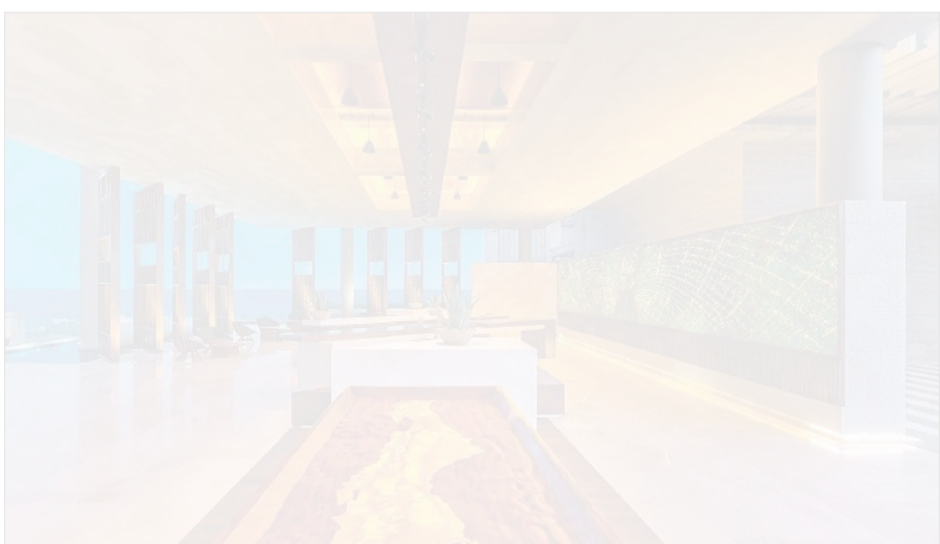


ROSEMARY McCLURE

Riu Palace Baja California

The Riu chain runs more than 100 hotels in 19 countries, but it isn't well known in the U.S. This newcomer opened in December and joins two other Riu hotels along the coast of Los Cabos. It's all-inclusive, adults only and is higher end than its brethren but lower end than other hotels here that have opened recently. All-inclusive rates from \$147 per night, per person, including meals and activities. Take care when booking; the two older Riús with similar names are next door.

Info: Riu Palace Baja California, Camino Viejo a San Jose, Cabo San Lucas, Mexico; (888) 748 4990, bit.ly/riupalacebaja



Solaz, Luxury Collection

Solaz Los Cabos

Some U.S. residents go to Mexico to stay in American-style hotels. Others go to learn about Mexico. Solaz is chock-full of Mexican art, style and striking desert landscaping. The 128-room beachfront hotel is midway between Cabo San Lucas and San José del Cabo and is the Luxury Collection's first hotel on the Baja Peninsula. Each room is designed with local Huanacaxtle wood and bamboo-textured marble, custom furnishings and an original wall sculpture by Cesar López Negrete. From \$402 a night.

Info: Solaz Los Cabos, Kilómetro 18.5 Transpeninsular Highway, Los Cabos, Mexico; (833) 887-6529, bit.ly/solazloscabos



CHRISTIAN HORAN Viceroy Los Cabos

Viceroy Los Cabos

This stunning hotel opened in May and has been wowing visitors ever since. Architect Miguel Angel Aragonés wanted to "bring the ocean inside" and used tranquil pools to create mirrors. Water surrounds the 192-room hotel, wrapping around its white buildings that are connected by elevated walkways. It's a blissful experience for people who like to shoot pictures or videos. If you visit, don't miss the Nest, its lounge, above. From \$425 a night.

Info: Viceroy Los Cabos, Paseo Malecón San José, Lote 8, Zona Hotelera, San José del Cabo, Mexico; (844) 222-6987, viceroyhotelsandresorts.com/en/loscabos