

ESPERANZA RESORT, AUBERGE RESORTS' ONLY INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY
Offering Relaxed Luxury Overlooking Baja's Sea of Cortez

CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO – Now one of Mexico's most prestigious boutique resorts, *Esperanza* opened in February 2002, is located at Punta Ballena in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. As Auberge Resorts' only international property, Esperanza is reminiscent of a gracious Mexican village, offering a refreshing style of relaxed luxury and outdoor living to Los Cabos.

Spread across 17 lushly landscaped acres overlooking two secluded coves on the Sea of Cortez, the resort offers earthy elegance with its collection of warm-hued casitas, winding stone pathways, waterfront pools, accommodations and restaurants, all with spectacular 180-degree vistas of sky and sea.

The centerpiece of the resort is the Hotel at Esperanza featuring 57 casitas and luxury suites that offer from 925 to 4,000 square feet of indoor-outdoor living space. Designed by San Francisco's Backen/Gillam Architects, in association with Dallas-based Wilson Associates, the hotel maximizes its dramatic coastal setting, with all of the bedrooms and bathrooms facing the sea and living room pocket doors that disappear to bring the outdoors in.

ACCOMODATIONS

Accommodations reflect the relaxed sensibility of Baja, with amenities such as private balconies with hammocks, palapa-style roofs and private plunge pools. Luxurious touches include spacious bathrooms with deep soaking tubs, crisp white Frette linens, Esperanza's own line of botanically pure hair care and body products as well as flat screen televisions with DVD players, stereos, iPod docking stations and high-speed Internet access in every room. As with Esperanza's sister properties, the staff-to-guest ratio is exceptionally high, to allow for Auberge Resorts' gracious style of service.

The hotel's ten two-and three-bedroom oceanfront luxury suites, which range from 3,800 to 4,700 square feet, offer the ultimate private retreat within the resort. Amenities include private pools and expansive patios, a dedicated butler, private chefs available for in-villa dining, fresh flowers, 24-hour concierge and complimentary airport transportation

“Esperanza is about sun and ocean, simple luxuries, barefoot sophistication and warm Mexican hospitality,” said Mark Harmon, Principal of Auberge Resorts. “With its breathtaking natural setting and the Auberge legacy of understated luxury, gracious service and unforgettable cuisine, Esperanza fulfills our vision of the perfect beachside resort.”

DINING

The signature **Restaurant at Esperanza** follows the Auberge tradition of featuring superb cuisine in a sophisticated yet casual setting. Carved into the bluffs overlooking the Sea of Cortez, the restaurant features three levels of stone terraces flowing from a circular palapa-roofed dining room down to the property’s two sandy coves. The menu created by Executive Chef Sergio Howland is termed *cocina del sol* -- “sun-filled” Mediterranean-influenced cooking that incorporates local resources and fresh ingredients indigenous to local Baja suppliers, including organic farmers and local fisherman. His menu includes signature entrees such as: *Vanilla Braised Veal and Sautéed Lobster with Salsify Purée and Carrot Confit; Roasted Lamb Loin with Green Lentil “Cassoulet” and Zinfandel Reduction; Duck Confit with Sweet Potato Gratin and Chipotle-Port Glaze; and Snapper Bouillabaisse with Seared Scallops and Saffron Broth.*

Complementing the menu is an extensive wine list showcasing selections from France, Australia, Latin America (including several Baja wineries) and California, as well as a tequila menu featuring more than 100 selections, including several chosen expressly to be paired with dessert.

Adjacent to the restaurant, the **Palapa Bar** offers an open-air setting where guests can sip cool drinks and sample tantalizing appetizers. The bar’s terrace, complete with comfortable seating around a stone fire pit, is the ideal spot to watch a vibrant Baja sunset while enjoying a Cuban cigar and tequila.

TAPAS, which neighbors the new pool, features small plates and lighter fare in a relaxing atmosphere. The restaurant’s lunch and dinner menus rotate seasonally while maintaining a few signature dishes throughout the year.

THE SPA AT ESPERANZA

The full-service **Spa At Esperanza** draws on the elements of Baja's coastal desert environment offering an array of rejuvenating treatments incorporating indigenous and tropical ingredients such as ayate cactus, aloe, lime, papaya, avocado, hibiscus, seaweed and sea salt.

Upon entering the spa, guests experience the *spa gruta*, a seaside grotto environment of steam caves and waterfalls bathed in light. Here, the journey towards mind, body and soul rejuvenation begins with the spa's signature *Pasaje de Agua* (water passage), a series of treatments leading through the *gruta*. Guests begin with an open-air shower to cleanse the body, followed by a warm spring soak and a visit to the steam cave, concluding with a cool rinse under a cascading waterfall. Upon completion of the *Pasaje de Agua*, guests can savor a selection of *frescas*, a colorful array of thirst-quenching fruit juices and tonics to refresh and replenish.

Guests may also train in a state-of-the-art fitness center offering the latest equipment, including elliptical cross-trainers, stationary bicycles and free weights. Complimentary yoga classes are offered daily in the yoga studio and fitness specialists are available for personal training and private consultation.

AN ARTISTIC TRADITION

Esperanza follows in the footsteps of its Napa Valley sister by showcasing the works of emerging Mexican artists. The hotel features a large collection of pieces from several of Mexico's leading contemporary painters, as well as traditional artisans, to enhance its warm interiors. Complex abstract canvases complement the richly woven rugs and Oaxacan black pottery that grace the guestrooms and public spaces. Personalized boutique and gallery tours of San Jose del Cabo and private painting lessons are also available.

ACTIVITIES

Guests can enjoy snorkeling, scuba diving and kayaking at Esperanza. For those inclined to venture beyond the resort, a concierge can arrange for a myriad of tours, hiking, sport fishing, or surfing expeditions. Other attractions include the lively town of Cabo San Lucas and the historic colonial town of San Jose del Cabo, both a short drive away.

Golfers can take advantage of the four top-ranked golf courses near Esperanza, including the highly acclaimed Cabo del Sol, 18-hole course designed by Jack Nicklaus, and the 18-hole Tom Weiskopf-designed course next door to the resort. A full-time golf concierge can recommend courses, provide insider tips, and arrange transportation and tee times.

RESIDENCE CLUB

Opened in September 2001, the Residence Club at Esperanza features 60 shared ownership luxury villas, private clubhouse, restaurant and pool. The two, three and four-bedroom villas range in size from 2,400 to 4,000 square feet and feature casually elegant, handcrafted furnishings, original artwork and all the luxuries of home, including fine linens, washers and dryers and kitchens. Residence Club members enjoy room service, daily maid service, and privileged access to the spa and hotel restaurants.

ABOUT ESPERANZA RESORT

Esperanza encompasses a 57-room resort, 60 privately owned villas, a full-service spa and a signature restaurant, all on 17 lushly landscaped acres on the bluffs overlooking two private coves at Punta Ballena near Cabo San Lucas. Esperanza is a member of the *Leading Hotels of the World*[®]. For reservations or more information, please call toll-free 866-311-2226 or visit www.esperanzaresort.com.

ABOUT AUBERGE RESORTS

Auberge Resorts is a collection of exceptional hotels, resorts and private clubs, each with a unique personality that assures a memorable guest experience. Among the distinctive properties are Auberge du Soleil, Napa Valley; Esperanza, Cabo San Lucas; Calistoga Ranch, Napa Valley; The Inn at Palmetto Bluff, Bluffton, S.C.; Encantado, Santa Fe, N.M. and Rancho Valencia, Rancho Santa Fe, Calif., with several others in development. While Auberge Resorts nurtures the individuality of each establishment, all are characterized by a set of communal elements: intimate, understated elegance; captivating locations that inspire exceptional cuisine and spa experiences; and gracious yet unobtrusive service. For more information about Auberge Resorts, please visit www.aubergeresorts.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Color photography is available upon request.

ESPERANZA INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR DESIGN

Esperanza's gracious designs are complements of the collaborated work between noted design firms Wilson Associates, Interior Architectural Design and Backen/Gillam Architects.

Under the direction of Executive Vice President and Design Director Jim Rimelspach at Wilson Associates, Esperanza's newly renovated casitas and suites feature a fresh, sophisticated look that frames the picturesque Sea of Cortez. The design captures the essences of the region by thoughtfully incorporating elements indigenous to the area such as light-colored woods, rich custom-textiles, stone and polished plaster works and tropical colors inspired by the Baja Peninsula.

Wilson Associates is renowned for showcasing the geographical essence of each project by integrating local craftsmen, artisans and artists into the elements of the spaces. Founded in 1971, Wilson Associates is consistently named as one of the top interior design firms by industry professionals, and receives top honors annually in design competitions for both new construction and historical renovation. To date, the firm has designed and installed such prestigious interior projects as St. Regis, New York; Venetian Hotel & Casio, Las Vegas, Nevada and Macau, China; The Four Seasons Hotel, Cairo at the First Residence, Haulalai and Hong Kong; Montage Resort & Spa, Laguna Beach, California; among many others.

Complementing the interior, Esperanza's illustrious exteriors and architectural design is the work of Backen/Gillam Architects. The property's design emulates the region's Mexican style with palapa roofs, earth-tone walls and terra cotta stone. Each casita features spacious bathrooms, pocket doors that transform interiors into dramatic indoor-outdoor living space, deep soaking tubs and showers built for two. The glamorously appointed penthouse showcases more than 2,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor space offering panoramic views of the Sea of Cortez. El Restaurante is situated on a terraced outdoor patio with breathtaking ocean views. The Spa at Esperanza, designed jointly by SB Architects and Backen/Gillam, consists 14 tranquil treatment

rooms, including an exclusive couples suite with private VIP access, freestanding hairstyling as well as a manicure and pedicure studio.

Backen/Gillam Architects was formed in 1996 by principals Howard Backen and James Gillam. The firm's seasoned architects and designers have garnered coveted design awards, including citations from Progressive Architecture, Grand Awards from the Pacific Coast Builders Conference, First Honor Awards from AIA/Housing Magazine and the Presidential Award for Design Excellence. The Backen/Gillam team has completed noted projects such as Sundance, Park City, Utah; Rio Corozal, Costa Rica; Viansa Winery, Sonoma, California; and multiple Il Fornaio Restaurants.

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CONTEMPORARY AND TRADITIONAL MEXICAN ARTWORK SHOWCASED AT ESPERANZA, AN AUBERGE RESORT

Featuring an Indoor and Outdoor Gallery, Off-Property Art Tours and Painting Lessons

CABO SAN LUCAS, MEXICO – Esperanza, Auberge Resorts’ award-winning property located on the Sea of Cortez near Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, follows the Auberge tradition of featuring superb food and wine, uncompromising hospitality and a collection of fine art to complement the overall guest experience.

“Esperanza has created an environment steeped in the artistic heritage of Mexico by featuring paintings, textiles sculpture, and pottery from the country’s leading artists,” says Severino Gomez, General Manager of Esperanza and Regional Vice President of Auberge Resorts. “We have assembled a collection showcasing some of Mexico’s most important contemporary painters and sculptors, as well as traditional artisans, to enhance the resort’s spectacular coastal views and contemporary interiors.”

Pieces ranging from traditional Oaxacan black pottery to abstract impressionist paintings are featured in the resort’s indoor and outdoor gallery, the first open air gallery in Cabo San Lucas, and throughout guestrooms and public spaces. There are more than 60 works from five of the best new contemporary painters and more than 36 sculptures featured on property. All artwork is available for purchase. Some of the artists represented at Esperanza include:

- ❖ **Armando Melendez** – An abstract impressionist, Melendez incorporates sand to appeal to the senses and draw on the connection to the earth through the body. The canvases are complex, featuring a multiple of layers.
- ❖ **Gabriela Villareal Santos** – The expressionist paintings of Villareal Santos use acrylics and mixed elements to shape the chromatic wealth of a complementary palette to recreate a habitat of light and sensations.
- ❖ **Elisa Pasqueul** – An abstract expressionist painter, Pasqueul uses large planes of color and believes that “one must see inside of oneself to perceive the great space that occupies and that we occupy.”
- ❖ **Lupina Flores** – Flores defines her abstract expressionist paintings through the relationship between physical body, substance, effects, and elements.

- ❖ **Doña Rosa** – The celebrated decorative black pottery of Oaxaca’s Doña Rosa, graces the resort’s guest rooms and public spaces. Doña Rosa Real de Nieto stood out as a potter in Mexico for many years with collectors of her work in Mexico and throughout the world. Since her death in 1980, her son and grandchildren, now with master ability, continue the family tradition.
- ❖ **Ricardo Regazzoni** – Regazzoni creates sculptures that are based on geometry and abstraction.
- ❖ **Yvonne Domenge** – As a sculptor, Yvonne uses materials such as wood, bronze, silver and steel to play with space and to allow her creations to coexist with the presence of absence materials.

Guests at Esperanza also have the opportunity to experience a private tour of San Jose del Cabo’s art district and personalized shopping trips with the resort’s boutique expert. Art lessons with Mexican artist and professional art teacher, Gerardo Lopez, are also available.

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SEVERINO GOMEZ

*General Manager, Esperanza Resort
Regional Vice President, Auberge Resorts*

As General Manager of Esperanza Resort and Regional Vice President of Auberge Resorts, Severino Gomez is responsible for overseeing all operations at the award-winning resort and the new off-shore resort projects including Auberge Resorts' first Caribbean property on St. Kitts.

Gomez brings 25 years of experience in the hospitality industry to Esperanza. Prior to assuming this role, Gomez served as General Manager of the Paradise Village Resort, Marina and Spa in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, a facility that includes a 490-suite hotel, 182 condominiums, 132 boat slips, full European spa and an 18-hole golf course. In addition to his duties overseeing operations of the property, he also directed the marketing of the resort through the sales office in Los Angeles. Before that, he worked for Unihost Corporation of Canada, first as Director of Operations for Cuba and Director of Development for Latin America, and finally as Vice President and Regional Director of Operations. He has also held management positions at Flamingos Plaza, Plaza Lancaster, El Cid and Camino Real Hotels, as well as at Carnival Cruise Line.

I'm thrilled to be a part of the Auberge family and the exceptional Esperanza Resort," says Gomez. "To me, the mark of good service is not only meeting guests needs, but anticipating them. This is the philosophy with which I train the staff. And on those occasions when we are asked to do something extraordinary for our guests, we do our best to accommodate them. In my experience, impossible things take two hours, but miracles take a little longer."

Gomez is a native of Cali, Columbia, where he was introduced to the hotel industry at a very young age, working in his father's hotel. Much to his father's surprise, the young Gomez decided to pursue a career in hospitality, and graduated from the prestigious Centre International de Glion sur Montreux in Switzerland with a diploma in Hospitality and Tourism. As part of his training and to accommodate international guests, he studied language, mastering French, German, English and Dutch, in addition to his native tongue, Spanish.

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