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LOCAL NEWS

MAYORS OF ROSARITO AND IMPERIAL BEACH SIGNED A FRIENDSHIP AGREEMENT – Silvano Abarca, Mayor of Rosarito, and Serge Dedina, Mayor of Imperial Beach, signed a friendship agreement on September 2nd, 2015. With the Mexican Consul in San Diego, Remedios Gomez, as a main witness, both Mayors agreed in establishing a cultural, educational, and economical exchange, as both cities have lots of things in common. "Signing this agreement will benefit Rosarito in areas such as promotion of the city and tourism related events, as well as will allow us to work together in areas such as "El Niño" weather changes, cleaning the beach, and training our lifesavers." Said Silvano Abarca.

TIJUANA RIVER ACTION MONTH - Join WILDCOAST and the Tijuana River Action Network for the 6th annual Tijuana River Action Month from September 12th to October 17th! With the goal of removing ocean bound waste and restoring the Tijuana River Valley, there will be bi-national stewardship and volunteer events each Saturday. Please sign up at tjriveraction.net or contact John Holder at john@wildcoast.net.

BAJA SAND – Over 10,000 people gathered in front of the Rosarito Beach hotel for the annual Baja sand castle competition. The event hosted a sand castle competition, food, music and more.

INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEANING DAY - The Boys and Girls Club of Rosarito joined the Border Clean Beaches Project, and invite the community volunteer and help cleaning our local beaches. The date is September 19th, 8:00 a.m. at the Boys and Girls Club venue.

Multiple Grammy Award Winners Headline Annual International Festival

By Gil Sperry

The Rosarito Beach Hotel, celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year, is proud to announce that it will be hosting the city's 6th Annual International Mariachi & Folklorico Festival. The 4 day session will last from September 30th through October 3rd. ALL…100%...of the net ticket sales benefit the operation and construction of the city's Boys and Girls Clubs. Last year's 5th Annual celebration was attended by over 7500 aficionados and advance ticket sales indicate that 2014's record number of attendees will be exceeded.

Rosy Torres, President of the local Boys and Girls Clubs, stated that this year's bigger-than-ever get-together would feature seven separate events spread over the Wednesday through Saturday conference duration. "The quality of the music and the pageantry of the performances, as they have been since our first stand-alone concert in 2010, have been the driving factors leading to the Festival's continued and growing success". She also provided the day-by-day itinerary.

See page ???

3rd Annual - 2931 Wine & Food Pairing Event

Playa La Mision, Baja California Saturday, September 26, 2015 3:00PM

For the 3rd year, Bodegas Marilena and Boutique Dining join forces to create one of the most unique events in Baja Norte. The 2931 Wine & Food Pairing Event is a favorite among food and wine enthusiasts. 2015 sported new awards for Bodegas Marilena while Boutique Dining has been busy developing special culinary creations for this years pairing and… of course the music and the atmosphere of Playa La Mision are incomparable. 2931 will take you on a magical journey through all "6" senses!

·Jay Dworsky of Bodegas Marilena has a passion for making premium boutique wines right here in Baja. The experts agree awarding his wines more than 24 International Medals!

·Chef Marla Poggioli of Boutique Dining offers unique food specialties fresh baked artisan bread with a triple cream brie drizzled with jalapeno infused olive oil, or her Marinated Rack of Lamb with Asian Inspired Demi Glace over Roasted Tomatoes.

2931 Wine & Food Pairing Event will feature 3 Award Winning Wines paired with 3 Amazing Food Flights. Each "Flight" includes Decadent Tapas, Exotic Cheeses & Sinful Chocolates. This years event will also feature live music by John Kopecky with dancing under the stars after. Tickets are $70 and are available for Reservation and Paypal payments are excepted at www.bajawineanddine.com.

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Retiring in Baja: A Happy Story

"I think what I like most about Baja is the people, they are always happy. When you go to the beach, you don't see anything than just solid family fun". *Glenn Anderson*

Glenn Anderson, a Computer Industry Sales Executive, originally from San Clemente, CA. has been visiting Baja for the last 40 years. He has been coming to Baja to go fishing with his father since he was 14 years old. Then, when he grew up and got married, he continued his visits to Baja with his wife and kids. "We had our 'Sunday Fun Day' with the kids here in Rosarito almost every weekend." Said Glenn.

Returning from a 2014 trip from southern Baja, he and his wife Mary decided to stop at the Rosarito Beach Hotel for a drink. There they met a nice retired American couple that was living in Rosarito. They were watching the sports channel as the World Cup was on T.V. They decided to extend their stay for one more day, as they wanted to know if Mexico would win the next game.

The next day they arrived at the bar and the same American couple was there. As they talked about their property in Rosarito, Glenn and Mary became more interested in knowing the area for more than just vacationing. Glenn and Mary visited the couple in their condo and just loved it.

The nice American couple introduced the Andersons to Ana Minondo, a realtor from Remax Baja.

They returned to San Clemente and the following week they received a phone call from Ana: She said she found a perfect place for them at La Jolla de Rosarito condos. The Andersons purchased the condo, but were not quite sure about retiring just yet. When visiting the condo, Glenn accidentally got locked outside of his unit. He found a nice gentleman who opened the door for him and charged only $100 pesos for his services. The next day there was a power shortage, so they decided to go out and dine at the El Nido restaurant. The nice people at the Restaurant were kind enough to give them candles. When they returned to the condo, Glenn made a big decision: he decided to retire early at the age of 63.

In November 2014, they started moving and two months later they were completely moved in and happy living in their new condominium in Baja Mexico.

"When I told my friends how much we paid for our beachfront condo, they can't believe it. The hardest thing now is to have too many friends visiting. The best part is the freedom. We walk everywhere here, doing whatever we want to do. I love the Mexican people, I just love it! This is a good and safe environment to be" concluded Anderson.

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From Front page...

Multiple Grammy Award Winners

The instructors, who will lead the Talleres (Workshops), arrive on Tuesday afternoon September 29th in time for the Welcoming Dinner, signalling the beginning of activities. The following morning at 8:00 AM the students (last year they ranged in age from 10 to 67) register for their appropriate level of instruction (Beginners, Intermediate, Advanced and Masters) and are separated into classes: Instrumental (violin, trumpet, guitar, vihuela, guitarron, and harp), Vocal, and Dance (baile folklorico). Three days of intensive study and practice follow which will prepare them for the gala Opening Ceremonies & Student Showcase which will take place on Friday evening, October 2nd. But before that occurs, several musical milestones need to be passed.

On Wednesday evening, September 30th, selected student mariachi groups will 'Play for Food' at local restaurants in exchange for providing musical entertainment for the patrons of the dining establishments. This is a time honored tradition that was put in place decades ago by the Guadalajara, Mexico Encuentro which recently celebrated its 34th Anniversary. Dos Amigos, Bettucini's, Pancake Republic, and Rosarito Beach Pizza have already indicated that they would like to host performances.

On Thursday evening, October 1st, after a Rueda de Prensa (Press Conference) in the hotel's Salon Chabert beginning at 5:00 PM, the Salon de Fama (Hall of Fame) induction ceremonies will be held starting at 6:00 PM, honoring two giants of the mariachi genre. Both of these events are free and open to the public .They will be followed by the very popular Cocteles Con Las Estrellas ('Cocktails with the Stars) event held in the adjacent Salon Quixote from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. A $25 dollar donation to the Club provides the attendees with two hours of food and beverages donated by the following establishments: the Rosarito Beach Hotel's Azteca Restaurant, LA Cetto Winery, Mi Casa Supper Club, Tacos de Yaqui, Suzanne's, Tres Amigos Pizza, Leo's and the United Society of Baja California In addition, there will be unlimited access to meet & mingle with some of the finest musicians in the world in PLUS complimentary commemorative photographs taken by the experts from PhotoVarna.

Friday evening, October 2nd, will find the activities moving out into the beautiful oceanfront gardens of the hotel where a huge stage with two adjacent giant TV viewing screens will be in place for the official Opening Ceremonies (acclaimed vocal superstar Maryam Malak will sing the Mexican National Anthem), a scintillating Student Showcase performance by the Talleres (Workshop) students (mariachi, vocals, and baile folklorico) followed by the very popular Concierto Internacional featuring 30 minute sets by some of the world's best musicians. This year's lineup opens with two of Tucson's finest: Ballet Folklorico Tapatio accompanied by Los Centenarios; The Blue Agave, under the leadership of the Grammy Award-winning guitarist with Shadowfax, Andy Abad; our very own Baja Cowboys, featuring rollicking selections from their bestselling CD 'Life Is Better'; Angel NG. the 13 year old prodigy who combines the talents of a coloratura soprano, a ranchera singer, and a pop chanteuse with amazing skill sets on the piano, trumpet, and violin; and Hermanos Herrera, five brothers and their youngest-of-the-family sister who have recorded six CDs in genres as diverse as jarocho, huasteco, & norteno They all graduated from USC or UCLA with valedictorian status while also playing collegiate athletics.

The cost for this amazing evening of entertainment is just $15. Seating is first come, first served.

Saturday October 3rd, the final day of the festival, will be packed with excitement and amazing talent. It opens with the Competencias (Competitions) between groups and individuals from north and south of the border. The Mariachi are first, from 10:00 AM to Noon, followed by an hour of The People's Choice/Sing-Off, and closing with the Baile Folklorico groups performing from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. All of this entertainment can be yours for a modest $10 per ticket Once again, seating is first come, first served.

After the Awards Ceremony, where $5000 in cash prizes will be distributed, the venue will be cleared as the headliners performing at the Festival's concluding event, the Concierto Extravaganza, will perform their sound checks. The gates will reopen at 6:00 PM and seating will begin for the grand finale Concierto Extravaganza ,set to begin at 7:00 PM, that will feature (in this order) four amazing groups: the two-time Latin Grammy nominated Trio Ellas; Mariachi Estrellas de Chula Vista, recent winners of both the Albuquerque (New Mexico) Mariachi Conference AND Mariachi USA Los Angeles (California) Open Competitions, with a special appearance by the "La Voz" semifinalist from Nogales, Arizona, the sensational Ivan Orellana; the two-time Grammy Award-winners and eight time Grammy Award-nominees, The Mariachi Divas (celebrating their 16th Anniversary): and , making their first ever appearance in Rosarito, el major de Jalisco, Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlan (celebrating their 50th Anniversary). Tickets for this concluding concert are priced as follows: VIP Reserved Seating=$75 each (tables may be purchased/reserved for parties of ten); Diamond Seating (first come first served)=$40 each (tables may be purchased for parties of four); and General Admission Seating (including bleachers)=$20 each (all first come first served).

All Access tickets, which include VIP Reserved Seating at the concluding event, may be purchased in advance for $125. Tickets for children 12 and under are half price EXCEPT for the "Concierto Extravaganza" where all tickets are full price. You may register for the Workshops and purchase event tickets on line in advance by visiting the website at: www.clubrosarito.org or at the Rosarito Beach Hotel's reservation office which opens at 9:00 AM every day; the staff there will be handling hotel accommodation requests as well as ticket sales. Call Rosy Torres at (661) 850-1773 for more info.

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Wanna' Meet Guapo?

By Len Merson

So it is 9:30 on Saturday morning and Chipotle and I are taking our morning meditative walk along the beach. Now once in a while we see another dog. Well this morning we saw a really cute and friendly male dog. Chipotle (a girl) and this dog sniffed each other and determined that they could run around and have fun together.

It was time to climb back up the stairs and go home. Guess who was right beside us? Our new friend was covered with sand from head to tail (literally) so I brought both of them in the yard and gave them each a hosing down. But it's Saturday and Chipotle knows that this is shampoo, conditioner and "mucho" brushing day. Guess who also got the same beauty salon treatment?

Note- My dearest Figuero (my cat) passed away several weeks ago. He is buried in my garden with a beautiful granite plaque commemorating my dear friend. Ghepetto, my other wonderful cat, walked into the courtyard just after our new friend had been complete with his grooming. I expected snarling, hissing and claws extended with Ghepetto. However the most amazing thing happened. Ghepetto walked right up to this guy, licked his nose and sat down right beside him! I was flabbergasted.

Then it hit me…our new guy was a gift from Figuero. I will go so far as to fervently believe that this guy was Figuero reincarnated. Now I'm not asking you to believe that. Quite simply, I do.

I named this friendly, loving, attentive and, I can actually say, obedient guy 'GUAPO' (Spanish for 'handsome man').

I took Guapo to the vet this afternoon. Our wonderful vets Paola and Jorge, examined Guapo from head to toe. He weighs 45 pounds and is estimated to be one year of age. Guapo was infested with fleas and ticks (even after my having administered a wonderful beauty salon treatment!). He had a flea and tick bath and blood work-up. Tuesday he will have his vaccinations and the week after our new buddy will be neutered. He has a very handsome purple collar and leash and his name tag has been ordered.

Interestingly, because Guapo did not appear at all to be undernourished, Paola came into the examining room with a hand-held device and began scanning Guapo. She informed me that this was to see if there had been a micro-chip placed in him. If so this meant that he had an owner. What an unusual set of thoughts flew through my head…I hope he does so that he can be returned to a loving home; I hope he doesn't because I really believe that he was meant to be with Chipotle, Ghepetto and me. A Blessing for the four of us…there was no chip.

By Len Merson
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Neighborhood Dreams: Part 2

It hadn't been a happy 1960 for the young musician. Rejection from his idols was extremely painful. Yet although nineteen year old 'Pepe' Martinez had been turned down for a position as a member of his hometown's dream group Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan, he and his brother Fernando decided to join forces and form their own group. They were the backbone of Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlan. which they co-founded in 1965 and the merger was working out well. As the fame of the "new-boys-on-the-block" grew, so did 'Pepe's' family. In 1971, he and his wife Angelina Perez, welcomed their first child to the family, son, Jose 'Jr. More good (and totally unexpected) news for 'Pepe' Sr. came four years later when Jesus Rodriguez de Hijar, the sitting Musical Director of Mariachi Vargas, retired and the group's coordinator, the esteemed Ruben Fuentes, secretly contacted the now 24 year old leader of MNT and invited him to a private audition. Martinez, this time, was approved. The Vargas troupe was so busy that there was no time for a breaking-in period for the new hire. He started composing from virtually day one: 'Violin Huapango' was his initial…and hugely successful…instrumental, as well as arranging: the group's first ever scores for a solo artist not part of the ensemble were his creations for the rising female star, Rocio Durcal.

In the meantime, Fernando (Pepe's brother) took over as leader of Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlan and they soared internationally as well. They continued to make important best-selling recordings as well as traveling the globe performing internationally in Europe, South America, Mexico , and the United States. In fact, in their first ten years of existence they produced an astounding 40 albums featuring their unique style of mariachi featuring classical and international favorites.

Was there room for two groups at the pinnacle of the genre after many critics had predicted that mariachi's 'glory years' had passed? 'Pepe' Sr. unequivocally proved that there was!

His 'marriage' to Mariachi Vargas was a match made in musical heaven. Having some of the finest mariachi musicians in the world newly inspired by his unique compositions and arrangements (both of which reinterpreted the spirit of Mexico) were the key factors driving the group's new vigor & virtuosity. Two of the first songs he rearranged for the group, "Somos Novios" ('We Are Sweethearts') and "El Cascabel" (The Little Bell), were huge hits.

The release of the album 'Mexicanismo,' perfectly timed to coincide with Mexico hosting soccer's Copa del Mundo (World Cup) in 1986, was the coming-out-party for the new 'reimagined' Vargas It contained three original songs written by , as one very impressed critic put it very succinctly, "a musically mature Jose Martinez that left thousands of young musicians and music students around the world in awe. Martinez presented to the mariachi universe a sound that took more than a decade for other professional ensembles to duplicate. 'Violin Huapango,' Lluvia de Cuerdes,' and 'the title selection 'Mexicanismo' became some of the most popular…and most requested…songs in the world-wide mariachi firmament. It appeared as though he was just getting started shaping a new mariachi repertoire but unexpectedly he changed direction and his subsequent effort was an entire album of classical pieces from both Latin America and Europe. The result: another huge success!"

When Fernando Martinez, 'Pepe' Sr's brother and cofounder of Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlan, tragically passed away in 1998, MNT moved forward under the auspices of their titular leader's children (Fernando, Jr, Angel, Alejandro, and Carlos) The family flame in Mariachi Vargas had already been passed along five years earlier when 'Pepe' Jr., a talented violinist, joined his father's ensemble.

As both group's continued to vie for primacy at the pinnacle of the genre, the changes that occurred in each only heightened the quality of the music and the interconnected familial competition.

'Pepe' Sr.'s directional vectors for Vargas included not only lush orchestrations (collaborations with Ruben Fuentes) performed with the Queretaro (MX) Symphony (Sinfonico, Sinfonico II and Sinfonico III), but two groundbreaking mariachi operas.well. Cruzar la Cara de la Luna (To Cross The Face of The Moon) debuted in September of 2011 at Paris' historic Le Chatelet Opera House (which had hosted performances by classical luminaries like Claude Debussy and Edvard Grieg. After he retired as titular leader of Vargas in 2014, (one of his final performance was at Rosarito's 5th Annual International Mariachi & Folklorico Festival last October), he continued to create and his second opera,'El Pasado Nunca Se Termina (The Past Is Never Finished) has recently opened to rave reviews.

In the meantime, MNT continued to advance as well. Ruben Fuentes needed a new leader for Vargas and, as fate would have it, once more he turned to the other hometown major league team for the necessary replacement. As Carlos Martinez told mariachi historian Jonathan Clark :.."in January of this year, Mariachi Vargas and Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlan were playing at the same festival in Pueblo Nuevo (Concepcion de Buenos Aires, Jalisco), When the show was over, Federico Torres (the group coordinator of Vargas) said 'I have something to discuss with you, but I'm afraid this is neither the time nor the place. I'm going to give you my phone number and I'd like you to call me, because I think that there's a very good possibility that you may be able to join Mariachi Vargas."

The subsequent phone call led to an in-person interview with Rueben Fuentes which led to history repeating itself once again, with a member of the Martinez clan that founded Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlan being chosen to lead their neighborhood 'frenemy.' 'Team of Rivals' indeed!

With Vargas' former superstar vocalist Steeven Sandoval now a member of Nuevo Tecalitlan and with Vargas once again being led by a founding family member of the other local team, Baja aficionados will have a rare opportunity to compare the best mariachi in the world within a two month window and will have to travel less than five miles from the epicenter of Rosarito Beach to make that comparison.

On Saturday evening, October 3rd, Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlan, now under the leadership of Angel Martinez, will be headlining the 6th Annual Rosarito Beach International Mariachi & Folklorico Festival. This is the 50th Anniversary for MNT and propitiously is their first ever appearance in Rosarito at the iconic oceanfront Rosarito Beach Hotel. , celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year. The details of the event can be found by clicking onto:www.rosaritobeachmariachifolkloricofestival.com

You can check out MNT's talents by clicking on to the YouTube video of their latest smash hit 'Mexico Voz Que Canta (https://youtu.be/hFAZQjFoyR0).

On Saturday evening, December 12th, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan, now under the leadership of Angel's brother Carlos and celebrating their 118th Anniversary, will be headlining the 1st Annual Gran Concierto de Gala de Mariachi to be held at the new Baja California Center They will be accompanied by an all-star 64 member Bi-National Symphony. Information re: tickets can be found on Facebook and at the Rosarito Beach Hotel's events page on their website: www.rosaritobeachhotel.com or by clicking onto: www.marshproductionsinc.com

You can check out Mariachi Vargas' talents performing with a symphony orchestra by clicking onto their classic video 'Popurri Sones de Jalisco ':(https://youtu.be/dK2Ii3EZwYo)

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A Hot Spot and a Hot Band come together

By Irene Donnell

If you haven't been to Castillos del Mar Hotel, you've missed one of the premier oceanfront spots in all of Baja. Located on a unique stretch of coastline, the hotel is home to two gorgeous beaches separated by a unique point of lava rock. The oceanfront grounds provide a striking backdrop for weddings and events and this very popular venue is the site of the next Baja Cowboys concert.

But hotel owner, Paul Corona's vision for a restaurant, outdoor bar and wrap around deck on the beach is pure genius. Nestled on the sand beach just below the hotel, Sunio Beach Club is the talk of Baja.

The location inspired me. I pictured the Baja Cowboys, one of Baja's hottest bands, doing a boot stomping, high-energy concert in this amazing setting. You know it's meant to be when it all comes together.

So… on September 26th, under a full moon, the Baja Cowboys are wrapping up summer with their Howling at the Moon concert under the big palapa at Castillos del Mar, preceded by a sunset dinner at Sunio. It's also a super moon that night, and we are hoping for a shimmering night to compliment the over the top music and a howling crowd. Back by popular demand, "Abs" Emily will be on fiddle and special guest Lana Jazo will be joining Randy on stage for a rip-roaring night of music and dancing.

A portion of the proceeds goes to benefit Baja Exiles animal rescue in La Mision to support their effort to provide spay and neutering and medical care for stray dogs and cats.

Advance tickets are $20 with reserved seating in the order that tickets are purchased. Tickets are available online and at the venue. Castillos del Mar will be serving a great dinner for just $15. Tickets will be $25 at the door the night of the concert. For more information go to www.BajaCowboys.com

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Calendar of Events

Mondays and ThursdaysAt Rosarito
Spanish Lessons
Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced at Rene's and Club Marena, for more information e-mail Susana at: sschinkel@yahoo.com

Sundays
At San Antonio del Mar Capilla del Rey Church Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Service 10:00 a.m. More info at (664)609-3438

September 18-20, At Rosarito
"The Smell of the Kill"
A hilariously dark comedy about marriage, revenge and venison, directed by Sylvia Dombrosky, at the Rosarito Theater Guild. Fridays 7:00 p.m. Sat/Sun 2:00 p.m. Tickets $15 non-members - $12 members. More info go to www.rosaritotheatre.org for reservations via PayPal or Box Office contact info.

September 16, At Rosarito
Bingo 2-4 p.m. at Oceana Grill, 6 games, 4 cards for $10. All proceeds to benefit the Flying Samaritans. Drink and food specials! More info susansmithz@hotmail.com

September 19, At Rosarito
Beach Cleaning Day
Join the local Boys and Girls Club and the Border Beach Cleaning Project at 8:00 a.m. for a day of community service cleaning our local beaches. Volunteers needed. For more information www.clubrosarito.org

September 23, At Rosarito
Acting Class With Oswell Melton, classes available for adults and youth, at the Rosarito Theater Guild (Old Cine Rio building by the main street in Rosarito). More info at emelton@aol.com

September 24, At Rosarito
Texas Hold'Em Poker Tournament
11:00 a.m. (sharp) Buy-in $30 per player. To benefit Friends of the Library. NEW location: Mi Casa Supper Club in San Antonio del Mar. more information at www.friendsofthelibrary.com.mx

September 25-27, At Rosarito
"The Smell of the Kill"
A hilariously dark comedy about marriage, revenge and venison, directed by Sylvia Dombrosky, at the Rosarito Theater Guild. Fridays 7:00 p.m. Sat/Sun 2:00 p.m. Tickets $15 non-members - $12 members. More info go to www.rosaritotheatre.org for reservations via PayPal or Box Office contact info.

September 25-27, At Ensenada
Baja Sea Food Expo
Baja Matching roundtables, Baja Seafood Trucks, Visits to the Baja Fish Farms and more! More info at www.bajaseafoodexpo.com

September 26, At La Mision
3rd Annual 2 Nine 3 One Wine and Food Pairing Event Live music and dancing, at Poggi's beachfront patio located at 250 Junipero Serra, Playa la Mision. $65 in advance $70 after September 1st. LIMITED SEATING! More info at: www.bajawineanddine.com
Look for us at Facebook.

September 26, At Rosarito-Ensenada
The 36th Annual Rosarito Ensenada Bike Ride Enjoy 50 miles of fun! Registration $42 ($48 the day of the event) Round trip busses from the US available. More info at www.rosaritoensenada.com

Oct 3-6, At Rosarito
Mariachi Festival 2015
With the feature presentation of Grammy Award winners Mariachi Divas and the BEST Mexican Mariachi band, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan, this year the event is a must! Proceeds go to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Rosarito Beach. Tickets and more information at: www.clubrosarito.org

Oct 7, At Rosarito
Flying Samaritans Great Cookie Wars
Lucheon plus Cookies at Las Rocas. 5 awesome bakers will vie for the "Best Cookie Maker in Baja" Vote for your favorite and change the judge's decision! Donation $15 more information at: susansmithz@hotmail.com

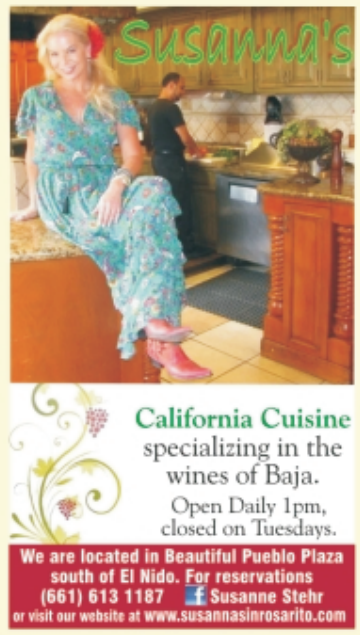
3rd Annual Sabor de Baja is The Tastiest One to Date Aug. 31

Date for 2016 Event is Announced

ROSARITO BEACH, BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO--
-The third annual Sabor De Baja End-of-Summer White Affair on Aug. 26 at the Rosarito Beach Hotel & Resort was the largest and most successful yet in the yearly gastronomical competition.
Twenty of the best chefs in Baja offered appetizer-sized bites paired with the finest wines and artisanal beers to more than 500 food lovers dressed in white, from 5 to 9 on a warm end-of-summer evening.
The beachfront event is organized and hosted by chef Bo Bendana of the restaurant Mi Casa Supper Club in Rosarito . The intent of the Sabor de Baja is to promote gastronomy and tourism within Baja and Rosarito in particular,
This year's Sabor De Baja sold out three weeks before the event. Next year's annual event already has been scheduled for Wednesday August 31.
"As Baja becomes more well known for its gastronomy, this has become one of our premier events,' said Hugo Torres, owner of the Rosarito Beach Hotel & Resort. "It's a great way to introduce people to Baja's food, wine and other attractions.".
Judges for this year's friendly competition were Porter Brooks, TV show host, chef and author; Anita Lau, an international author, food and lifestyle blogger and food TV guest; Drew Deckman, Michelin-starred Chef, and owner of Deskman's of El Mogor restaurant; Michael Gardiner, national food blogger and aspiring chef; Marco Antonio Amador, top enologist in the Valley De Guadalupe Wine Country
The judges selections were 1st Latitud 32 (Chef Mareos Martin) & Vinos El Cielo
Dish: Mayan Black Ceviche 2014 Cassiopea – 100% Sauvignon Blanc 2nd Saverios (Chef Brito) &Vinicola Regional de Ensenada Dish: Risotto with sun dried tomatos and Lamb chicharon, Cab / Nebiolo blend 3rd La Caza Club (Chef Avilés) &Cerveza Insurgentes
Dish: Pig's Neck Taco, arugula, fig and goat cheese Beer: Witbeer with orange peel and coriander The People's Choice Winner was:* Navio (Chef Rodriguez) & Legado Sais Dish: Blue Fin Tuna Tostada Wine: 2014 Sauvignon Blanc
MEDIACONTACT:
Ron Raposa

AA GRUPO GRINGO MEETINGS: Sun, Mon & Thurs, 10am; Tues, Wed & Fri, 6pm, Sat, 3pm, Ave. Mar Mediterraneo #16 (2 blocks east of Las Brisas Hotel).
AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP MEETING: Tuesday 10AM (Same meeting place as Grupo Gringo) Al-Anon provides hope for friends and family members of problem drinkers.
BAJA BRIDGE CLUB: Mon, 11am, at Club Marena, km 38, TJ–ENS. ACBL duplicate game. Info: Clara Lowe (619) 270-1266, claralowebaja@gmail.com
BAJA GOLD COAST BRIDGE CLUB: Tue,11am, at Rosarito Beach Christian Church, km 42.6, TJ–ENS. ACBL duplicate game. For info contact: Gwen Castelda 646-155-4036, gypsygwen@gmail.com
BAJAVURAH - JEWISH SOCIAL GROUP: Last Sunday of every month. For info & location contact: Sandy Eddahbi at 213-787-5091. seddahbi@aol.com. www.Bajavurah.com

Baja's Best Restaurants
DINING GUIDE



Huntington Park, CA and Rosarito will reestablish the Sister Cities Program

Karina Macías, Mayor of Huntington Park, Ca, and Oscar Lozano Casavantes, President of the Sisters Cities Committee of Rosarito, accompanied by Jeff Failing, vice-president and city council Fátima Manrríquez, attended a meeting in Los Angeles, CA, where they talked about the possibility of reinitiating the sister cities program. Huntington Park recently donated dozens of gallons of painting to beautify the city of Rosarito, along with several wheelchairs for people with disabilities.

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Viva México

By Tony Brogdon

Perception of Baja, Mexico and Impression of Baja, Mexico are not always generally the same. As we who live in Mexico celebrate Mexican Independence Day, we have are mindful how fortunate we are. A few years ago I was able to hear a sermon from the pastor of Calvary Chapel Tijuana, Chris Martinez. I have lived in Mexico the better part of 5 years and his words that day I have recalled in my mind frequently ever since. He said with upmost enthusiasm "I love Baja, Mexico, I love Mexico, and it's the greatest country on earth. I love the people of Mexico, they are the finest people on earth. "After the service I made a point to speak to him and thank him for his words. I told him I feel the same way but I did not have the opportunity to say it to a crowd of nearly 1,000 people like he just did. He had explained in his sermon that when he first came to Mexico he did not know any Spanish and he lived in the poorest of Colonia's in Tijuana. He hired a translator who later became his wife and how grateful and blessed he was.

Shortly before that I had attended a dinner at Tijuana's City Hall to celebrate Mexican Independence Day. I will also never forget what patriotism was shown that night. After the dinner we were led outside in front of a stage below the balcony of the Mayor's office. On the stage was a young boy I would guess to be around 8 or 9 years old dressed in a vested suit holding a wireless microphone. Behind him for around 10 minutes were a Mexican Military drum and bugle corps doing a continuous drum roll building excitement of the approximate crowd of over 40,000 people in front of the stage. Then the Mayor of Tijuana appeared on his Balcony waving a huge Mexican flag and doing what is traditionally called the "El Grito" "Viva Mexico, Viva Mexico." Then came one of the most spectacular fireworks I have ever seen. Then an amazing thing happened, for several hours afterwards, the Tijuana Police stood in all of the main intersections downtown waving through the thousands of Mexican young people in cars and crowded in the back of pickup trucks waving large Mexican flags and shouting "Via Mexico", not concerned if they were breaking the law but showing a sense of pride of how they were celebrating Independence Day.

We who live here are fortunate enough to enjoy and appreciate the many things about the richness of the Mexican culture, the overall warmness of the Mexican people, and the incredible landscapes of Baja and all over Mexico. We are fortunate to enjoy a standard of living that few people are privileged to know. I am very grateful every day I moved to Mexico and all the positive experiences I have had. I am blessed to be able to enjoy both cultures, have wonderful family on both sides of the border and enjoy truly the best of both worlds. Have you ever ask yourself the question, "What will I have to give up when I move to live full time in Mexico? " If you ask the thousands of Americans who moved here, some 20 – 30 plus years ago, they will all smile real big and most will say "You give up very little adjusting to life here, as a matter of fact you cannot image ahead of time how much you will gain and what a quality stress free life you will enjoy. " You will in addition develop a since of pride when telling others " I live in Mexico and I plan to call Mexico my home for the rest of my life here " If you are speaking to someone contemplating visiting or living in Mexico, they will likely say immediately say "Are you not afraid of Living in Mexico. Isn't it a dangerous place to be. The world is a dangerous place I tell them, but the Mexico I know for the past 5 years is much safer than most countries. Don't be influenced by negative media who sensationalize events that do not reflect how the vast majority live. Gracias Dios "Viva Mexico."

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Kathy's Real Estate Roundup

Why using a realtor in Baja is so important

We all know what they say: "Expertise, expertise, expertise!" This is the reason to use a realtor anywhere in the world. Well, Rosarito it no exception. If anything, getting an agent to help you navigate the property buy/sell process is more important when in a foreign country. Laws are different, closing costs are different, time frames are not the same. At the end of the day, using a realtor in Baja can save you time, money and headaches!

A good realtor will be acquainted with the history of the community, and will steer you clear of properties that have any issues or liens. Even before taking you to see a property, they will make sure the developer is a reputable one, having built strong, reliable communities.

If you are selling a property in Baja, he or she can help you decide how to price it right. And when you are the buyer, they will help you figure out a reasonable offer. Remember, in Mexico there is no search engine like Zillow, to allow everyone to see what their neighbors paid for their houses. Thus, you must rely on a seasoned agent for reliable comps.

An agent will also be knowledgeable about the legal and fiscal aspect of buying and selling a property in Mexico. Capital gains tax laws have recently undergone important changes here, which can result in confusion and expensive mistakes. We once had a buyer call us asking about capital gains from the closing table: What do I do? Well, the answer is, "You should have used a realtor".

Many homes in this area need work. We are not saying they are total fixer uppers, but they might need some updates or painting to refresh their look. Who better than a realtor to know about costs, if permits are needed or not, what the community will or will not allow?

Using a realtor in Mexico is especially important when transferring money -either earnest money or your final sale check. You want a professional that will protect you at all times and make your transaction smooth and successful till the end.

So how do you pick an agent? Walking into an office or choose the first one you see online –that´s not the way to go. If you have a friend in the area, get referrals. Interview a few realtors to make sure you are a good fit. You must feel comfortable, make sure they understand what you are looking for, and answer all your questions. Ask how long they have been working in the area, and if they are licensed. (Yes, a new law this year makes it mandatory for realtors to have completed a course on Mexican law and register with City). And the main question: Do you see yourself doing business with this person? Buying or selling a house is one of the most important business transactions in life. So use a professional, and you will soon be enjoying a house in Baja, without cares or regrets.

From the Baja Real Estate Group Marketing Staff. For more information please contact Kathy Katz at Kathy.katz@BajaREgroup.com.

About Kathy Katz.

AMPI Charter Member-Rosarito Chapter Mexican Certified Baja Real Estate Agent Full Time Resident for over 20 years. Broker-owner for the Baja Real Estate Group with over 20 years of experience doing business in Mexico. Specializing in development, resort and retirement properties.

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