

## **INSIDER'S GUIDE** jetset



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## THE BEST OF

## Both Gabos

From quiet romance to upbeat energy, at these two resorts you can have your guac and eat it too. BY SUZANNE KOCH

his past November, Esperanza, Auberge Resorts Collection debuted its new oceanfront event space, AIRE, and the newly renovated Cocina del Mar, a stunning cliffside restaurant that just might be Cabo's ultimate dining destination. With seating that juts out over crashing waves, tables aglow by flickering lanterns and dishes that were swimming a mere hours ago, I expected to catch sight of a proposal happening any minute. It almost felt as if it could be Valentine's Day every day here.

Just like its signature restaurant, Esperanza is a dreamy resort worthy of the most romantic getaway. Canopy beds highlight rooms, while private outdoor hot tubs practically require flutes of Champagne upon entrance. As if that's not enough to get your heart racing, Esperanza is the only private beach resort in Cabo. Its two private coves offer crescents of golden sand to stretch out on, with one playing host to an adults-only, infinity-edge pool complex. The other cove offers even more seclusion and is where the resort has just added a breezy two-story palapa structure available to rent out for the day. Complete with a daybed on the upper loft, the treehouse-like structure is designed to host couples or families for a private dinner cooked beachfront by the culinary team. I sipped rosé tequila (yes, it's a thing) and dug into fresh fish tacos here before heading to the spa where I received my best facial to date.

If you want to stretch your tastebuds past the resort, Esperanza's sister property Chileno Bay Resort & Residences, Auberge Resorts Collection is a quick 10 minutes away. Guests at both resorts have full access to all dining at the two locations, with shuttles available for transportation to and from.

A moment at Chileno Bay reveals an entirely different vibe, albeit one we still crave. The beachy destination opened in 2017 to resort guests with a younger attitude and playful flair. While you might want to pop open a bottle of wine for a cozy evening with your other half at Esperanza, you'll definitely want to pull on your chicest beach dress and sip spicy margaritas with your girlfriends at Chileno Bay. Clean contemporary architecture and an earthy, desert-meets-sea color palette play up the simple yet sophisticated feel of this energetic resort.

During the daytime, you'd be hard-pressed to not make a visit to the 150-yard, zero-edge, three-tiered pool that's lined with private poolside bungalows, swim-up cabanas and plush chaise loungers. A kids' pool, a family pool and an adults-only pool make up the three tiers that cascade down to the sandy shorefront where you'll find TnT, a beachy taco and tequila shack. But if the eye-catching pool doesn't make you completely drool, its signature restaurant COMAL will definitely do the trick. A Thursday night visit here proved an electric atmosphere, from its main bar all the way out to the open-air terrace where I feasted on honey-poached totoaba and melt-in-your-mouth sushi. Circular floating fire pits lit up the night sky as the resort's beach party was coming to life.

After checking out, I couldn't possibly decide whether I'd rather return to Esperanza or Chileno Bay. But with dual access to the two luxury properties, I really don't have to. And that's how you can have it all.

TOP: Esperanza BOTTOM: Chileno Bay, COMAL, COMAL, Cocina Del Mar

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