

# Mexico's Most Luxurious Villa And The Ideal Getaway For Avoiding The Crowds

[Shivani Vora](#) Jun 23, 2020,

Aerial view of Palmasola and beach

(Courtesy of Palmasola)

Mexico isn't lacking when it comes to upscale beachfront villas- those in the ilk of the world's finest hotels. Deep-pocketed travelers can rent these retreats in oceanside destinations across the country from Cabo San Lucas in the Baja California Peninsula to Riviera Maya on the east coast.

While villa rentals have always been a popular vacation choice, they may be more relevant than ever before in the wake of Covid-19 for travelers seeking a respite away from crowds.

One of the most exclusive villas in Mexico is [Palmasola](#), situated in Punta Mita, a 2,000-acre development an hour's drive north of Puerto Vallarta. Surrounded by native flora and fauna including palm trees, cacti and orchids, the 9-bedroom, 25,000 square-foot Palmasola is in the midst of two bays on a long stretch of beach between a Four Seasons

and St. Regis. Social distancing isn't an issue here.

Although many luxury homes have hit the rental market and five-star hotels have proliferated in the more than 15 years since Palmasola debuted (it's owned by a Bay Area family), nothing like it continues to exist in Mexico, according to Sharon J. Walters, the owner of Sharon Walters Travel, a luxury travel agency in Petaluma, California, who has stayed at the villa.

"I have booked luxury properties all over the world. Palmasola is distinct and stands out among the villa rental market as one of the most ultra-exclusive experiences I have ever had," she says. "Nothing is forgotten, and the attention to detail is stunning. It's definitely one of the best private retreats in the world."

Why is Palmasola so exceptional, and what does it offer above and beyond other high-end villas and hotels?

The five below reasons shed some light on the hype:

## **Incredible Amenities:**

The Palmasola Pool Deck

(Courtesy of Palmasola)











## [Soave Gains A New Identity](#)

Let's not talk about what amenities Palmasola has. The better question is: which ones doesn't it?

The property includes 9 en suite bedrooms, the piece de resistance being the sprawling master suite that takes up an entire floor and has an ocean facing terrace, a huge Mexican tiled bathroom with a shower large enough for two and an adjoining office.

Then there's the Instagram worthy 200 ft long infinity edge pool and 11 dining areas including the beach, dining room, palapa and rooftop. But there's more: a firepit where guests can gather post dinner post-dinner, a gym, a massage room and a media room with a large screen, along with a selection of hundreds of movies to boot.

Also, Palmasola is the only villa in Punta Mita where guests have access to the amenities at Four Seasons Punta Mita which include multiple pools, a large gym complete with fitness classes, a lazy river, a kids club and more.

And, there's the access to all of Punta Mita's facilities such as five private beach clubs, two Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Courses and a golf academy.

But as over-the-top Palmasola is, it is not at all Dubai-like showy. In fact, the design is traditional Mexican and very sense of place. Plus, most of the furniture, art and decorative pieces come from artisans all over the country.

## **Onsite Activities**

The El Sol Suite

(Courtesy of Palmasola)

The "wow" factor aside, Palmasola offers plenty of entertainment for the guests who are lucky enough to call it their temporary home, and they don't even have to leave the property to take advantage of it.

A gorgeous white sandy swimmable beach in front of the villa is one example, and this same beach also happens to be a prime surfing spot.

For wellness seekers, certified yoga instructor and trainer

Shanti, who is something of a celebrity in Punta Mita, offers private sessions in sunrise yoga, beach bootcamp and water aerobics. Post workout, general manager, Mike O'Hara, can call in massage therapists who treat guests to a spa day of treatments such as massages and scrubs.

Tequila and mezcal tastings, cooking classes and themed nights including ones on flamenco, belly dancing and Cuban music are possible, too. Kids, meanwhile, can enjoy a movie night under the stars, an animal show where they can touch animals such as crocodiles and toads, a waterslide with a moon bounce and a karaoke night.

O'Hara says that there's very little guests can't do. "We've even transformed Palmasola into a Monte Carlo style casino," he says. "Nothing is a no."

## **Excursions**

An aerial view of a dining setting on beach

(Courtesy of Palmasola)

Punta Mita and the area around offer endless attractions, and Palmasola's concierge staff can organize half and full-day trips with top guides to see the best of the region.

Not surprisingly, water-oriented activities dominate: Big game fishing is a major draw as is spearfishing, an ancient

method of fishing that has existed all over the world for hundreds of years. Snorkeling, boat charters, whale watching (seasonal) and watching female turtles lay their eggs are also highlights. Guests can even help mitigate climate change by planting their own coral.

Other outdoor diversions include birdwatching (Riviera Nayarit is home to more than 250 species of birds), a steep hike up La Mona Mountain- the reward at the end is 360 degree views of Punta Mita and the ocean-, a canopy zipline tour above a tropical forest, ATV tours, horseback riding through lush jungles and mountain biking.

On the cultural, guests can explore charming towns such as Bucerías, which has the longest beach on the bay, excellent restaurants, art galleries showcasing local art by up-and-coming artists and an open-air flea market. Or they can venture to Puerto Vallarta, about an hour's drive away, and discover the downtown waterfront neighborhood, called Viejo Vallarta (Old Town) where sculptures line the malecón along the edge of the Bay of Banderas and restaurants, art galleries and artisan shops abound.

## **The Food (and the Drinks):**

Fresh cuisine created by Chef Edher Cervantes

(Courtesy of Palmasola)



Let's face it: the food and drinks, whether that means wine, spirits or non-alcoholic cocktails are one of the best parts of any vacation. Punta Mita and the surrounding region have more than a fair share of excellent restaurants, but once Palmasola's guests have their welcome meal at the villa, it's almost a guarantee that they won't want to dine anywhere else during their time in Mexico.

It's no wonder: Edher Cervantes, who worked under Enrique Olvera, of Pujol in Mexico City, regarded as one of the best restaurants in the world, leads the culinary team, and the meals they turn out are incredible.

First and foremost, they accommodate any taste and allergy. If you're vegan, following a keto diet or can't stand tomatoes, every dish will be prepared accordingly. Hate fancy drawn out meals? You can have a barbeque every night.

Conversely, if dining in a three Michelin-star restaurant is your idea of pleasure, a 10-course degustation is yours for relishing any night you want.

Top culinary experiences include a make your own pizza party with more than 30 toppings, a taco bar, a seafood feast where guests shop for seafood at a fish market in the village of La Cruz and have Cervantes prepare it in their preferred way whether that's ceviche style, as a sashimi, simply grilled or in a curry.

Come time to imbibe (and when is it not on holiday?), the bar is fully stocked with champagne, wine, whiskies, gins, tequila and more. And, if there's something guests are dying to drink, Palmasola- of course- will have it stocked at the bar.

## **The Staff**

Guests enjoying beach dining

(Courtesy of Palmasola)

Palmasola doesn't get by on good looks and spectacular setting alone. It has maintained its outstanding reputation for so long because of the outstanding full-time staff of 17, most of whom have worked at the villa ever since it debuted.

O'Hara, formerly of The St. Regis Punta Mita Resort, is on hand daily from 8am until as late as guests need- he even joins them for dinner on their last night. Almost all of the other staff members are locals including assistant manager, Xochitl Gallardo, the butlers, housekeepers and maintenance workers.

Stuffy this not: everyone is warm and genuine- guests get a sense of their personality and of Mexican culture through their eyes. And, thanks to the profile guests fill out ahead of their stay of their likes and dislikes, they're highly attune to what you need, whether that's a green juice at 5am, a brandy before bed or books on local birds or art.

