

DINING IN PUERTO VALLARTA



Puerto Vallarta is well known for its many fine-dining options, and it is well developed and safe in terms of food and water reliability. You never hear of anyone getting "Montezuma's revenge" anymore, which is fabulous news given all the time visitors spend eating and drinking when they visit. Excellent filtration systems also mean you don't need to worry when ordering drinks with ice or water!

When dining outside Villa Solana, the most convenient "go to" option is **La Playita**, the waterfront restaurant at the bottom of the hill in the Lindo Mar timeshare building just across the main road. It's just a funky local beach place, but it's affordable and the food is always good – and such a beautiful setting. Visitors usually end up eating there at least three or four times per week (or more!), for breakfast, lunch or dinner. For more options in town, here are some established favorites:

The owner of **Daiquari Dicks** lives in the pink house just up the street from Villa Solana. This is a really good seafood restaurant right on Los Muertos beach. **La Palapa** and **El Dorado** are also very popular beach restaurants in that area, but the food is not quite as good. Those two are best for happy hour beers and for people watching at the beach.

Barcelona is a fun Spanish tapas place with brilliant views of the town at sunset. This is consistently rated as one of the most popular restaurants in Puerto Vallarta!

Coco Tropicale is a good beach restaurant with the best coconut prawns. **Si Señor** also is right on the beach and has good Mexican food in a pretty setting.

Fusion Gourmet, up the hill a few blocks from Los Muertos Beach, has an excellent menu, but can be crowded during high season. Reservations are recommended if you want to eat at a table outside.

No Way Jose is located on a side street across the main road from Molina de Agua condo building. Eat on the outdoor terrace upstairs, which has a very beautiful setting in an unassuming location.

Los Muertos, on Constitution Street in the Olas Altas, is the first brew pub in Puerto Vallarta and was opened by a brewmaster from Colorado.

For great (but also expensive) meals in the most fabulous setting, make a reservation at the restaurant at **Hacienda San Angel**, a boutique hotel in town just up the hill behind the church. Janice Chatterton is the owner of this and several other properties in town, including the old Elizabeth Taylor house that just recently reopened after extensive renovation. She has an unbelievable collection of Mexican antiques and her hotel is gorgeous.

Trio has great fine dining in town and is probably the best place for holiday meals. Reservations are generally needed. On the Malecón extension in town, **Vitae**, with the same owners as Trio, offers excellent bistro-style food.

Serving great Mexican food, **El Brujo** is a local place and a visitor favorite. The owner is a trained chef and you can tell. You may have to ask around for directions – it's not hard to find but a little outside the main tourist areas.

A little more expensive than El Brujo, **El Arayan** specializes in regional Mexican cuisine and also has a trained chef in the kitchen – and excellent margaritas!

The Pancake House (Memo's) on Basilio Badillo in Olas Altas is always crowded and popular for breakfast. They are only open until 2 pm. This is also where you can buy ground coffee or coffee beans to use at Villa Solana.

Cafe des Artistes has the best and most famous chef in town (Thierry Blouet), but who goes to Mexico for expensive French food? When you're in the mood to overpay for cocktails though, their bar is extraordinarily beautiful.