

INTERNATIONAL
YACHTSMAN

PASSIONS AND PASTIMES OF THE WORLD'S YACHTING ELITE

REVIEWS

WESTPORT 164

AZIMUT 103S

NOTABLES

JOE VITTORIA

NIKOLAUS "NIKO" HANSEN

DESTINATION

LOS CABOS, MEXICO: FAST
BECOMING A MILLION-
AIRE'S PLAYGROUND

164'
Westport
M/Y

Evviva

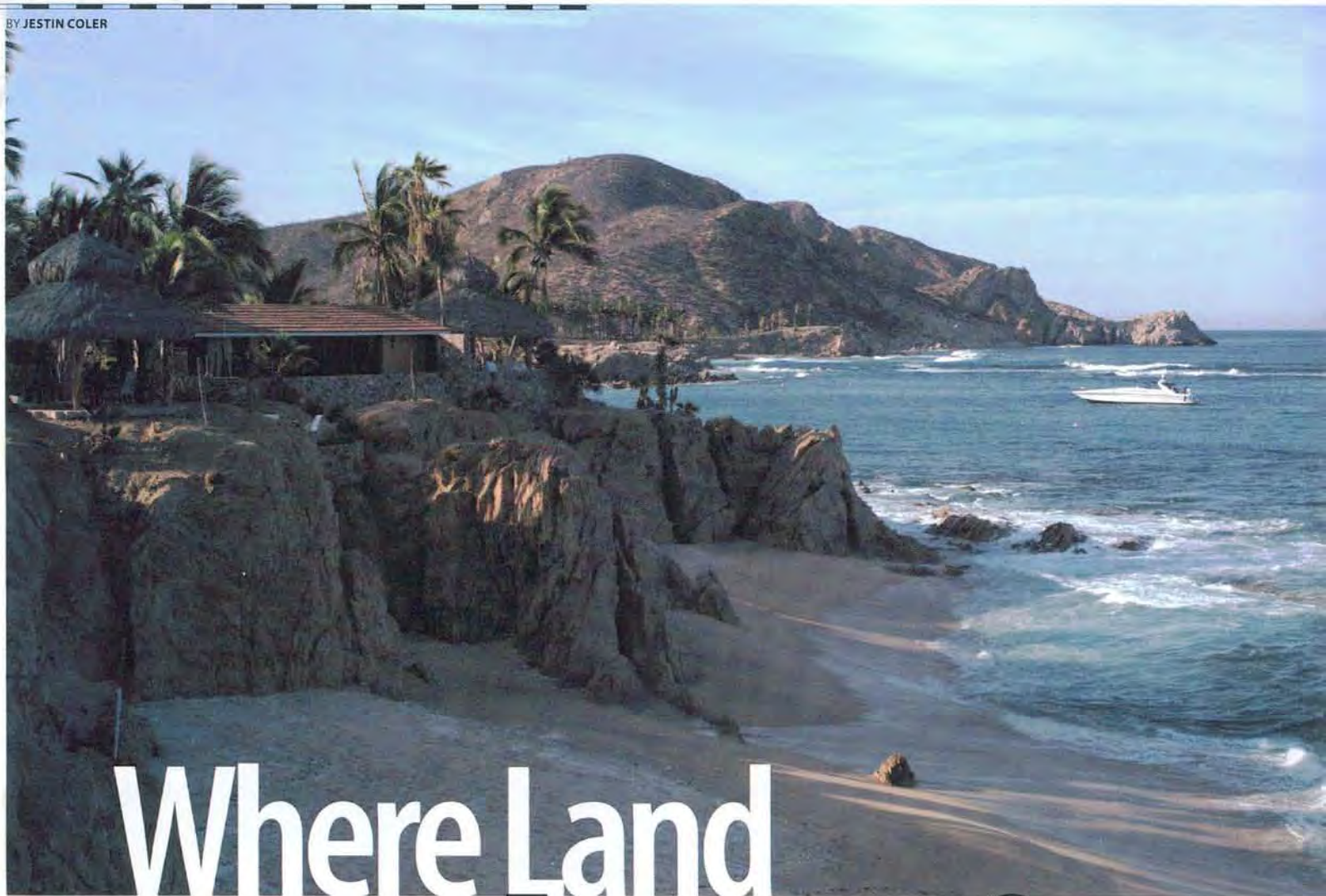
AUTOMOTIVE
FOUR
SUPERLATIVE
SUPER SEDANS

AVIATION
PRIVATE CHARTERS
OFFER A NEW WAY
TO FLY

YEAR 5 JULY/AUGUST



BY JESTIN COLER



Where Land Encounters Sea

Nestled among multi-million dollar homes and mega yacht marinas, Los Cabos is fast becoming a yachtsman's playground.

At the southernmost tip of the Baja Peninsula, overlooking the picturesque landscape of the Sea of Cortez, lies a magical place that has captured the imagination of explorers since the early days, and continues to seduce seafaring souls to its treasured waterfront setting, one that boasts some of the most beautiful, desolate and pristine beaches in North America. This millionaire's playground has been written about for decades, but only recently has it been recognized as home to two distinct destinations that are quickly becoming a winter watering ground for west coast yachtsman.

This month at *IY*, we'll give you an insider's look at the Los Cabos region of Baja California Sur — from the yachting perspective, of course. Our tour will reveal the

towns of Cabo San Lucas and San Jose del Cabo, as well as the Golden Corridor, a golf course and resort-studded area that stretches between these two cities. We'll explore three of Cabo's most unique and ambitious developments in search of the most worthy dockmaster to catch your lines.

For years, Los Cabos was an area accessible only to the most seasoned yachtsman. But with the completion of the Peninsular Highway in 1974, along with the expansion of the Los Cabos International Airport in 1986, the area became a popular destination for well-heeled tourists from around the world. The airport, which offers direct flights from numerous North American cities, created a boom in the tourism industry evident in the world-class amenities including spas, restau-

rants, resorts, golf-courses and state-of-the-art marinas that dot the area.

The Cabo San Lucas Marina is a center of activity for those who enjoy boating, fishing, dining, shopping or simply watching the world from the serenity of a waterfront setting. Located at the tip of the Peninsula, this beautiful site provides 338 slips from 20-180 feet. With an average temperature of 80 degrees and roughly 350 sunny days a year, the area is blessed with nearly perfect weather year-round (be prepared for some cool nights if you visit from November through March), making it an ideal location for a second home.

In addition to the attractions found on land, the waters in the area are equally as impressive, and serve as an ecological crossroads where world-record game fish and marine mammals of the open Pacific cavort in the shallow waters at the mouth of the Sea of Cortez, creating the perfect environment for whale watching, sport-fishing and snorkeling. The unique environment created in the Sea of Cortez has earned it a reputation for being one of the most biologically rich bodies of water on earth, and the perfect place for those who harbor a love of the sea.

The first stop on our tour brings us to Puerto Los Cabos, one of San Jose del Cabo's most elite and ambitious communities, offering the first marina on the San Jose side of

the Peninsula. The marina, when completed, will provide first-class reception and full-service facilities to private yachts of all sizes, and dockage to accommodate well over 535 boats, with slips ranging from 30-150 feet or longer.

This massive project spans over 2,000 acres, and will include three miles of beachfront, offering breathtaking views of the marina, the nearby mountains and the Sea of Cortez. The community will include four planned subdivisions, as well as custom lots, a vibrant waterfront plaza with a variety of restaurants, shops and spas, and a Championship golf course designed by Greg Norman and Jack Nicklaus.

Misión La Serena, an exclusive private residence club, is currently offering oceanfront properties in the Puerto Los Cabos development. The subdivision will comprise 75 two-, three- and four-bedroom residences on about eight acres. Amenities include a private beach club, a spectacular three-tiered, oceanfront infinity pool, a full-service spa and fitness center, lifestyle and children concierge services, on-call, in-suite chefs, and access to a rooftop social area and whale-watching deck, which offers spectacular views of the Sea of Cortez and the gentle giants that winter in its warm waters (over 11 species of Pacific whales inhabit the surrounding sea). Although villas can be purchased for full-ownership, several

deeded and transferable fractional-ownership options are available. Packages include three- to six-week periods ranging in price from \$180,000 for a three-week program to \$700,000 for a 12-week program. For more information, visit www.misionlaserena.com.

Our next stop brings us to the magnificent Capella Pedregal, one of seven Capella Hotels and Resorts under development by legendary hotelier, Horst Schulze. Boasting what may be the most impressive array of amenities in the region, Pedregal features the only private residence club in the world to offer shared-ownership interest in a yacht fleet to buyers of fractional- and full-ownership real estate.

Residents who buy a Pedregal property are given the option to join the Capella Yacht Club, which includes access to an entire fleet of Viking yachts, each outfitted with a captain and first mate. There will be up to nine yachts in total when the community opens in Spring 2008, including a recently added 57-foot Viking sport cruiser.

Accessed by land, via a private mountain tunnel that links Pedregal to downtown Cabo San Lucas (talk about a dramatic entrance), Capella Pedregal will comprise an intimate 66-room Capella Resort and Spa,

In addition to the attractions found on land, the waters in the area are equally as impressive, and serve as an ecological crossroads where world-record game fish and marine mammals of the open Pacific cavort in the shallow waters at the mouth of the Sea of Cortez.



31 shared-ownership Capella residences and 20 privately owned Capella casonas, each providing a dramatic view of the Pacific Ocean and Sea of Cortez.

Pedregal's director of marketing, Juan Diaz Rivera, says, "The Capella Yacht Club experience allows members of our community to experience Cabo's version of the 'good life' — at literally, a fraction of the cost. This is truly an unprecedented offering." We agree with Mr. Rivera, and think this would be the perfect place to visit by yacht (unless you'd rather just use one of theirs). For more information, visit www.capellacabo.com.

Situated in the heart of Cabo's Golden Corridor lies our next featured destination, Chileno Bay and its secluded private marina Puerto Chileno. The site, developed on the grounds of one of Cabo's first resorts, has provided a place to escape for discerning travelers, dignitaries, and the Hollywood elite for nearly 50 years. This sanctuary by the sea, inspired by Mediterranean port cities, is a full-ownership, private community focused on family, and boasts the only riptide-free swimming beach in Cabo.



Fifty-one villas, featuring spacious open floor plans, private pools, tiled courtyards and outdoor showers, along with 21 privately staffed six-to-eight bedroom Ocean Estates — with views of the Sea of Cortez, natch — are spread across this 1,260-acre playground.

The unique waterside community, expected to be completed in 2010, will feature two 18-hole Championship golf courses designed by the esteemed Tom Fazio, tennis courts, spas, restaurants, bars, and a full-service concierge. The project will eventually have 600 rooftops and host a total of 1,200 members. You can moor your yacht in front of one of these units for a mere \$3-11 million, depending on your taste and the size of your boat. For more information, visit www.chilenobayclub.com.

For a variety of reasons, some more obvious than others, Los Cabos has become a target for luxury travel, and its allure has received quite a bit of well-deserved attention. These exclusive enclaves are bound to attract the celebrity and business leaders who regularly shop for real estate in the area. The white sand, rugged terrains, and turquoise waters are rivaled in beauty only by the endless parade of megayachts coming and going from this exotic locale.

Qualities that distinguish a place from somewhere you "might" visit and someplace you "must" visit are varied and complicated, but Los Cabos falls firmly in the "must" category. Whether you are seeking a remote location for some R&R from the rat race, constant royal treatment with 5-star extravagances, a place to rub elbows with the upper echelon, or just a place to relax aboard a splendid yacht, Las Cabos continues to be the destination of choice for the well-informed west coast yachtsman, proving that paradise truly does begin at land's end. **V**



Residents who buy a Pedregal property are given the option to join the Capella Yacht Club, which includes access to an entire fleet of Viking yachts, each outfitted with a Captain and First Mate.