

Paradise Found

Discovery Land Company's Cabo communities are the ultimate insider's playgrounds

BY LULU FLYNN

ONCE A QUIET FISHING TOWN at the southern tip of the Baja Peninsula, Los Cabos, Mexico has undergone a dramatic transformation over the years into one of the world's most idyllic vacation spots—bordered on one side by the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortez, and the stunning desert on the other.

It's no wonder that the destination has seduced Los Angeles, and Hollywood in particular. Not only is Cabo a quick getaway—only a two-and-a-half hour direct flight—but with beautiful scenery, endless outdoor activities and great restaurants and nightlife, there is truly something for everyone.

Now, more than two years after Hurricane Odile devastated Los Cabos, the area is not just back, it's hotter than ever. Most of the region's top hotels, such as the One&Only Palmilla, Las Ventanas al Paraiso, Esperanza, and The Resort at Pedregal, are just emerging from extensive renovations, while new properties from the likes of Four Seasons, Ritz-Carlton, Montage and Nobu are in the works.

But the insider way to experience Cabo is through Michael Meldman's Discovery Land Company properties.

The real estate developer is known for creating luxury residential resorts in stunning locations that cater to an exclusive and sophisticated clientele, with a focus on community, family, and outdoor pursuits. "What sets Discovery apart is our core philosophy: building multi-generational legacy communities that allow families to create a lifetime of treasured memories together," he says. Today, Discovery's portfolio consists of 20 upscale destinations and counting, from Baker's Bay in the Bahamas to Yellowstone Club, the world's only private ski resort in Big Sky, Montana. In 2005 Discovery first planted its flag in Cabo with the El Dorado Golf & Beach Club, a gorgeous, gated private beach and golf development with over one mile of stunning coastline. Located along the Golden Corridor connecting San Jose Del Cabo to Cabo San Lucas, the area boasts beautiful desert landscapes and one of the most breathtaking beaches along the entire coast of the Sea of Cortez. El Dorado was an instant hit and eventually sold out, attracting high-profile residents that included friends Rande Gerber and George Clooney, who partnered with Meldman on their tequila company, Casamigos, named after their adjacent homes.

Now, Discovery Land Company is leaving its mark on Cabo yet again with another exclusive community, Chileno Bay Golf & Beach Club, situated on Los Cabos' only coral reef. "It has a completely different feel than El Dorado and all of the places in Cabo," says Meldman of the 1,250 acre property, which will feature 400 homesites in total when completed, plus a private member beach club, spa and wellness center, recreation park, organic farm and an 18-hole Tom Fazio golf course. "It's located around the bay, so we gave it a European village feel. The beach club is modern and contemporary, with a Southern France beachside vibe, set along the sparkling ocean." Chileno Bay also includes a Chileno Bay Resort, an Auberge property—the first time a hotel component has been included adjacent to and part of a Discovery Land Company project.

Similar to El Dorado, Chileno Bay promises authentically inspired residences and leisure pursuits along Cabo's most celebrated coast. The golf course offers dramatic vistas of both the coastline and the rugged Sierra de la Laguna Mountains. Every hole has a view of the Sea of Cortez—a stunning contrast to the vivid green paspalum and native flora that give the course its mountainous desert feel. Meanwhile, the club provides a wide array of activities for every member of the family. Residents can spend the morning with a trainer in the fitness center while the kids paddleboard with Discovery's dedicated "Outdoor Pursuits" team, or swing by the Mercado market for coffee and spend the afternoon in the spa. "With such a vast array of amenities and activities along with the beautiful location, Chileno Bay is a community which offers something special for every member of the family to enjoy," Meldman says.

Next up, Discovery Land has its sights set on the east coast, with the nearly complete Silo Ridge Field Club, located just outside of Millbrook, New York, in Dutchess County. Only 90 minutes from Grand Central Station, the bucolic 800-acre community features a Fazio golf course and activities tailored for the destination, such as fly fishing, skeet shooting and an Olympic-caliber private equestrian center. And where Meldman goes, devoted clients follow—Discovery Land veterans Tom Brady and Giselle Bündchen are amongst the first members who have purchased one of Silo Ridge's 245 custom homes.

Insider Tips

Michael Meldman
• Lunch at the El Dorado Taco Stand

• Beach lunch at Buzzard's Bar & Grill or The Office

• Dinner at Chileno Beach Club. Veal Milanese is my favorite. Followed by drinks at the Casamigos Taco Shack

Scott Stuber and Molly Sims

• We love the Sand Grill at Las Ventanas, Edith's and Mi Casa for dinner.

• Drinks at The Nowhere Bar

Elyse Walker

• Cabo Sur Beach House feels like you are having lunch in Ibiza. Order the dragon roll and crab claws.

• The ambience at Flora Farms is the best. I always order the Garden-tini cocktail—it's not on the menu, but the bartender will know how to make it.

• Plaza Paulina is a chic square in San Jose del Cabo's historic Art District. There is a great home store there called Casa Paulina.



"The beach club is modern and contemporary, with a Southern France beachside vibe, set along the sparkling ocean." —Michael Meldman

Chileno Bay, a private new residential community by Discovery Land Company, located on the only coral reef in Los Cabos, Mexico.