

BRIDAL GUIDE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

honeymoon & destination wedding guide

- ▶ Sail away to a paradise island all your own with a romantic stay at a gloriously secluded private island resort in the turquoise Caribbean Sea.
- ▶ Snuggle like snow bunnies at wondrous wintertime destinations that literally sparkle.
- ▶ The height of hip: rooftop bars; exciting new happenings south of the border; an A-list *American Idol* gets hitched.
- ▶ Plan your trip of a lifetime without breaking the bank.

Las Ventanas al Paraiso,
A Rosewood Resort in
Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.



The Thai-run Banyan Tree Cabo Marqués on Mexico's west coast has an Asian flair.



Poolside at Ocean Breeze Riviera Maya.

hotel that aims to recreate Acapulco when Elvis spent time there.

PHOTOGRAPHY: (TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT) COURTESY OF BANYAN TREE HOTELS & RESORTS, GRUPO VIDANTA; (BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT) JAY GRAHAM; COURTESY OF IMANTA.

rine biologist. And in December 2010 it will have expanded to 39 folk art-filled rooms, featuring Mexican-made woodwork and hammered-tin mirrors. The quirky rooms also have beds dressed with brightly colored mosquito netting. There's plenty to do during the day, from yoga on the beach, to horseback riding, biking and surfing, as well as just lazing about on the poolside daybeds. The hotel is also putting in a 2,200-square-foot open-air oceanfront yoga and Pilates studio, a new pool and two restaurants helmed by Chef Barrett, formerly of the acclaimed French Laundry in Napa. In strict locavore fashion, all ingredients will be sourced from within a 20-mile radius for Barrett's healthy take on Mexican cuisine (room rates start at \$185 a night; ranhopescadero.com).

San Miguel de Allende

HOTEL MATILDA: Opened in September, the 32-room Hotel Matilda is an elegant boutique hotel in this ex-pat haven. Hotel Matilda bills itself as a "living gallery" and is dedicated to showing art from the local community. It's easy to see why San Miguel has long been a magnet for artists—the city is filled with colorful pink bougainvillea and blue jacaranda blossoms, and the colonial arcades and courtyards are quite graceful. In the evenings, the air fills with the sound of church bells—a lovely nod to Old World Mexico. After a day strolling around town, retreat to the hotel's pool or the 4,700-square-foot spa, which is set in a peaceful tropical garden (room rates start at \$275 a night; hotelmotilda.com).

ARTESANA ROSEWOOD RESIDENCES:

Set to open in February 2011, this resort is part of a larger complex of residences that aims to add more luxury to sleepy San Miguel. Pink stucco buildings will be surrounded by flower-filled grounds, and the large pool will be lined with palm trees. There's also a spa that uses ingredients sourced from the Sierra Madre Mountains, a tequila bar and a rooftop tapas bar with views of the city's historic roofs and the steeples of spectacular La Parroquia church (room rates start at \$350 a night; artesanasanmiguel.com).

Riviera Maya

ONE PLAYA DEL CARMEN: Playa del Carmen has lots of chic little boutique hotels, **Continued on page 276**

"living gallery" hotel in the ex-pat haven of San Miguel de Allende.



One of the individually appointed rooms at Rancho Pescadero.



Drink in the view at Imanta in the Riviera Nayarit.



At Imanta, breezy rooms bring natural beauty indoors.