

# Desiring Something More



Mexico has recently been plagued by a series of public relation nightmares. Tourist stuck in Cancun after a hurricane, swine flu, kidnappings, and recently drug cartel violence. So why would anyone want to go there?

Recently while discussing previous travel ventures with friends in the industry. My wife and I were discussing some of our favorite destinations. Even though we enjoy our vacations and select locations suited for our taste, the destinations seemed to leave us yearning for more.

After listening to what we liked in our travels, and hearing some of our displeasures, our good friends in the industry recommended that we take a trip to Cancun. We reminded them of all the public relation issues plaguing Mexico at this time, and our lack luster experience of previous trips to Mexico. Our friends reiterated that we were desiring something more and Desire may be just such a place.

We settled on an extended uneventful weekend to experience the palatability of the all inclusive resort Desire located on the Mayan Riviera. Thinking of others who I have met on my travels, I decided to write a review of what I thought of the entire trip.

We flew Continental airlines first class out of Bush International in Houston, Texas. We landed in Cancun, Mexico early in the afternoon on Friday. A thunderstorm had just passed, leaving the tarmac wet. The smell of fresh sheet rock mud and paint was in the air. The newly renovated airport was very calming with its panoramic glass walls. The lines going through customs and immigration was a painless process.

Once we had luggage in tow, we were headed for the door where we hit our first little speed bump. The pan-handlers and beggars have all been cleared out. However, they have been replaced by aggressive corporate transportation services. We did finally make our way to the central taxi stand where we were able to acquire a taxi to the resort for \$30.00 a person.

Once in the taxi we were pleased with its service. It was clean, modern and air conditioned. The drive from the airport to the resort was less than twenty minutes. We turned off the highway onto a two lane road that drove through the mangrove marsh. A couple of minutes later we were at the security gates to the resort. After confirming us as guest we were quickly whisked across the bridge over the small bay to the front entrance of the resort. We did find the sign about the local wildlife interesting as the taxi slowed to a stop in front of the resort.



Before the driver could place the car into park, a concierge was opening our car door and escorting my wife out of the car. The large electric doors to the lobby slide opened inviting us in with a cool breeze. We were seated in the beautifully appointed lobby and offered a glass of champagne. After a brief standard check in procedure, we were introduced to the lovely and elegant Ms. Valentino.

I could have followed Ms. Valentino around the resort all day as she discussed the different amenities that the resort had to offer. My wife

was curious to see one of the Passion Suites, and Ms. Valentino obliged without hesitation. The ocean view Passion Suite had a breath taking view, along with a patio that was well appointed and larger than some hotel rooms. The furnishing, much like the lobby, had a sheik modern feel. In the middle of the room was a stylish hot tub that could easily accommodate six to eight adults. The bath is more than suffice to prepare for a glamorous evening out.

After a tour of the entire resort Ms. Valentino, showed us to our stylish garden view superior room. The room is quaint and exact. It is not only beautifully appointed, but for a standard room offered appointments not found in some suites.



The standard room does lack a tub, but hey if you can't fit at least six people or reenact the infamous scene from Scarface in it, than why bother.

Inside the superior room we found a raised bed and couch at first glance. We notice the modern touch of the flat screen television and the ipod radio. Some of the more subtle appointments, but no less impress for a standard room, is the digital safe, fully stocked refrigerator (that is restocked daily, without a surcharge), coffee maker, iron and board, phone and air conditioner. The bathroom is done in stone with a walk in shower.

Speaking of walking, lets get to the gorgeous views around the resort. Right off the



superior room is fifteen steps to the deep blue pool. Just pop in at the pools cabana, and they will set you up with a lounge chair and umbrella. Before we were able to get sunscreen on parts the sun rarely see, the waiter was taking our drink order. No need for bar runs or stocking up on drinks, the pool side staff will keep you and your drink full and refreshed. Looking to catch up with old friends or looking for an ice breaker to meet new ones? The entertainers pool side are awesome at providing everything from water polo to bingo to help everyone get acquainted. These

entertainers do not have poles, but when they ask if you want to play with them, it is impossible to resist.

If you are looking to just refresh and take it easy, head to the beach and shade your inhibitions. The beachfront beds are raised three feet off the sand allowing the waves to

roll up too and under the beds. The number of beds are ample and can be reserved and prepped at the same pool side cabana. The beaches are public, however due to the isolated location on the resort, there is not much foot traffic to speak of over the course of the day. After the ocean songs sing you to sleep, awake feeling vibrant and energized.



Looking to blow off a little steam, just head up to the hot tub on the upper deck. The upper deck has an expansive bar, full restroom facilities, inviting outdoor beds, a huge social hot tub and cool little cubbies to store all those strands of conformity.

Its glass walls offer a panoramic view of the Mayan Riviera landscape. Float over to the bar and order your favorite libation, while enjoying other like minded couples, as they shed their inhibitions and offer more than just friendly conversation.





When the sun slips below the horizon, and after working up an appetite poolside, head to your room to prepare for some fine dining and an evening of themed entertainment.

Desire Resort offers a menage of spectacular restaurants that really challenge the conventional perception of onsite restaurants. Suki at first glance looks like a contemporary sushi restaurant with a sushi bar and hibachi grill, however it is anything but one dimensional. The menu allows one to enjoy the Asian motif while finding something on the menu suited to their taste. The quality of the sushi is great and at a typical sushi restaurant the bill could easily approach the cost of your entire day stay. However, this is Desire, so at the end of the meal, slide back a beautiful lady's seat and enjoy a stroll in the tropical night breeze.

If you cannot get enough of the sensual breeze than enjoy the Tentazione dinner, around the pool and under the stars. We tried a sample of each restaurant offerings, with our favorite being Il Piacere. I am not sure if it was the amazing food and decor or



the the lovely couple we invited to share a table with us. Just one word of advice, even though you are welcome to as many serving as you may like, make sure to save room for dessert. Desire is anything but your typical all-inclusive resort, and that can definitely be said for the cuisine.

We heard the disco was not very accommodating. Desire is one of the few resorts where management actually reads that section of the comment card that ask if there are in other comments or suggestions.

The disco had just completed renovations before we arrived. The sounds system in the Disco was balanced perfectly for the space. Large beds are strategically positioned around the room, allowing for some comfortable acquaintances. Releasing ones inner exhibitionism, is only one step up onto the lit raised dance floor.

Looking to show off some different moves, grab some friends and migrate to the party room. The round beds allow you to break your square sexual encounters without having to cut any





corners. I think the resort have suspicions about what happens in the party room because there are ample towels and sheets in the play room. There were ample towels throughout the entire resort come to think of it. I could contribute it to an off weekend but even during the off weekend the resort was at 90% occupancy when we arrived and sold out at the time of our departure.

Over breakfast my wife and I discussed the issues with coming to Mexico. We realized that none of those issues even raised an eyebrow to impact our trip in the slightest way from the moment we stepped off the plane. The staff worked above and beyond to ease any anxiety that may be there upon arrival with warm smiles, courtesies and excellent service. When we directly asked the management what was their success, they whole heartedly place the success on the pride and service offered by their staff. We were curious as to what others thought of the resort.

Asking other guest how they feel about Desire we were shocked by how many said they felt important. Desire Resort knows that in this economy and with the problems plaguing Mexico's image every guest is important and the staff there truly go out of their way to make sure every person feel that way. Including arranging a taxi that only charged \$20.00 a person to get us back to the airport.