

Advertising Feature

# PASSPORT to DISCOVERY

## Acapulco ~ Warm and Inviting!

By BART CARD

Acapulco - where movies are made and dreams come true!

I had visited Acapulco a few times previously by ship but because of the time restrictions only spent the odd day ashore. Enough to make me want to return and spend some time sight-seeing, getting to know it better.

My initial impression on my day trips was of a big, busy, hot city with a lot of shops, selling mainly leather goods and pottery. Well, I am happy to say I was given the opportunity to spend a week - and what a simply lovely place to visit!

Mike Taylor, Manager of Public Relations for Fairmont Hotels and Resorts and Claudia Cano De Jaime, Public Relations Director, for The Fairmont Acapulco Princess and The Fairmont Pierre Marques extended an invitation to come down and spend a week getting to know Acapulco and the Princess Hotels.

Being brought up in Bermuda with two Princess Hotels, The Hamilton Princess and The Southampton Princess, and knowing what a great job Fairmont is doing running these properties, I thought to myself, 'this is a great opportunity.' So off I went.

Although the charter flight down was a tight fit for a big guy like me, I arrived safely on a very hot day, Acapulco's norm. Thankfully, I had my cool Tilley hat! The first of many interesting experiences was their novel customs system. After retrieving your luggage you are prompted to press a button, which randomly selects a green or red light... red - you get your bag checked, green - no check and off you go. Mine turned green!

A Princess Hotel representative met me on arrival. The hotel was just as the movies, reviews and pictures portrayed and I couldn't believe I was actually going to spend one week enjoying this lovely hotel and Acapulco.

### I LOVE BREAKFASTS

One thing I especially enjoy when I am traveling is a good, hearty breakfast. I love going into the hotel dining room and taking my time enjoying both the meal and getting a feel for the clientele.

I am an early riser, so I took the opportunity to enjoy a quiet cup of coffee in beautiful surroundings overlooking the sea before I had to meet

Claudia. It also gave me time to have a look at the great things they serve for breakfast, everything from fresh fruit to local Mexican food for the more adventurous, like me. There was something there for everyone. You certainly wouldn't go hungry. The food operations, including both the quality and service, are very well run.

right out of sight of land.

I was after a sailfish, however, I didn't have any luck! We were out all day for what was an incredible trip. We saw quite a few whales, but alas, no sailfish! The whales were majestic to watch!

### ACAPULCO PRINCESS

The Fairmont Acapulco Princess is



Executive Chef Michael Dannecker and Bart

After breakfast with Claudia, she introduced me to Arturo Smith, Corporate Sales Manager of Maritur, whose company arranges travel, sight-seeing and car rentals throughout Mexico. I had a car for the week with a real character named David as my driver and he knew Acapulco like the back of his hand, which was great.

The first place I wanted him to take me was to the local markets - I wanted to explore the markets and take some pictures to get a feel for the place. Markets worldwide are a great insight into the lives of the most interesting people in all countries and cultures.

One night over dinner, I mentioned to Ian Robinson, the Managing Director, how much I liked to fish and lo and behold, the very next morning he offered me the opportunity to go out on a fishing boat. With an early 5:00 AM start I headed down, with my driver, to the yacht club and there was an absolutely beautiful 46-footer with the outriggers all ready to go. It had a crew of three, but I was to be the only one fishing. In my glory, I sat as we headed out, watching the crew putting out the outriggers and baiting the hooks. I could see beautiful Acapulco fading in the background as we went



Bart deep sea fishing.

a fabled Mexican resort that captures the spirit of the Aztec heritage, set in an enchanting garden overlooking the Pacific Ocean. Designed in 1971 by Mr. William Rudolph and Leonides Guadarrama, as an ancient Aztec pyramid, the Fairmont Acapulco Princess sits on 480 acres of gardens and palms framed by the Sierra Madre in the beautiful Acapulco Diamante Area. All of the hotel's 1,017 rooms are exquisi-

site, offering spacious bathrooms; large walk-in closets and separate dressing rooms. Resort facilities include, five freshwater pools with waterfalls and one salt-water pool, overlooking the Revolcadero Beach in the Pacific Ocean.

The Fairmont Acapulco Princess has long been regarded as having one of Mexico's best resort golf courses. Not particularly long at 6,350 yards, the course, however, offers a significant challenge as many holes feature sand traps and water hazards. Deemed one of the "25 Greatest Golf Resorts" by Golf Digest, the course has been host to eight different P.G.A. sectional Pro-Am tournaments as well as Pro-Am events from Canada, England and Germany. Hosting such events stands as testimony to Ted Robinson's architectural skill, combining the natural beauty of the area with a challenge that even the most dedicated player can appreciate.

So with one golf course, and nine outdoor and two indoor tennis courts, the Fairmont Acapulco Princess has

and South America.

The Fairmont Acapulco Princess and The Fairmont Pierre Marques offer guests creative culinary delights in one of the most privileged sites in Acapulco. I could not believe how so many restaurants could run like a Swiss clock until I met the Executive Chef Michael Dannecker. Whether international fare or Mexican haute cuisine, all dishes are carefully cultivated each day by the hotel's team of distinguished chefs. With a wide range of specialties, these culinary experts turn the pleasure of eating into an exotic adventure, featuring flavours from around the world.

Executive Chef Michael Dannecker has dual Canadian/Swiss citizenship and has been chef closer to home at the Toronto Hilton International and Harbour Castle Hotel, before arriving at the Acapulco Princess Hotel.

One of the hotel's restaurants I really enjoyed eating at, was La Hacienda, The Fairmont Acapulco Princess' signature restaurant. It serves exquisite Mexican haute cuisine. La Hacienda features a tequila bar stocked with an incredible selection of over 100 different tequilas. This restaurant has an excellent Executive Chef in Alain Derouin.

Alain is a medal winner - winning the Gold Medal and member of the International Club, "Les Toques Blanches." He was a finalist in the national contest Bocuse D'Or for the Mexican national team selection and a finalist in the national contest by the U.S. Meat Federation.

The Fairmont Pierre Marques and The Fairmont Acapulco Princess are managed by Fairmont Hotels & Resorts. Fairmont is the largest luxury hotel management company in North America, with a collection of 36 distinct city and resort hotels throughout the U.S., Canada, Bermuda, Barbados and Mexico. With over a century of experience, Fairmont Hotels & Resorts is committed to service excellence with approximately 18,160 rooms and 19,600 employees.

Visit the web site at [www.fairmont.com](http://www.fairmont.com) or for information on its hotels, [www.fairmont.com/Acapulco](http://www.fairmont.com/Acapulco). The toll free number for reservations is 1-800-441-1414.

And, who knows, you may run into a movie star!

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