

HOTEL POSADA TERRANOVA

The populace place.

Do you remember the sitcom Cheers? The comedy where the cast sat around a bar in Boston, interacting like family. The place “where everybody knows your name.”

The moment you step off the street in downtown San Jose del Cabo and onto the Hotel Posada Terranova restaurant patio, you feel that same kindred quality. But in Terranova’s case many of the people you will meet really are family.

Rosarito Aramburo the owner, along with her husband, is a descendant of one of Cabo’s founding families. She has lived in and been part of the Terranova since the age of four. The mango tree that shades the patio was planted by her in 1940 when it was still their family home. Her father Ernesto Aramburo - you may have noticed a large street sign bearing his name, was a Judge and the person who started the Chamber of Commerce in Cabo.

The walls of the Posada Terranova are an encyclopedia of history, witnessing the coming and goings of dignitaries and the pillars of society. They are also considerably thicker than what you find in most buildings. After a destructive hurricane in September 1918, that claimed lives and collapsed many dwellings, including the San Jose church, Rosarito’s grandparents took heed and built the Terranova strong enough to withstand any force of wind.

Since it’s creation this imperishable home has welcomed guests, and been the go to place for locals. The place where everyone eventually meets up. It was in the living room, that is now part of the restaurant, where Juan Antonio Tolentino asked Rosarito for her hand in marriage. This was after riding his horse from La Paz on the dirt road that connected the towns. A dusty 100 miles from his door to hers. Their civil wedding was held in the house with guests overflowing into the street. The Tolentinos are approaching fifty years together.

Long before the Terranova became a hotel it was a haven for boarders. Venerable Sister Julia Navarrete the nun who founded the Missionary Daughters of the Most Pure Virgin Mary was a notable one. She started the first girls school in Mexico, and lived at the Terranova when opening El Colegio Ugarte. The school continues to be one of the finest in town.

In 1988 the Tolentinos renovated the family home into four hotel suites, plus a restaurant. The following year an article appeared in the The New York Times praising the warmth of the family-run atmosphere. The hotel has expanded to twenty-five spacious, clean, homey rooms. Their two sons, Tony and Enrique are very much involved in the administration and hospitality that carries on the legacy of the home.

Guests are walking distance to the San Jose plaza and the historic district, yet far enough away that once inside the Terranova walls there is quiet from the city sounds.

The restaurant is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, serving quality Mexican cuisine. On any given Sunday between November and February you'll find a group of regulars crowded around tables in the restaurant watching the bullfights on TV. There are impromptu music nights when Rosarito decides to play some tunes on the piano. She is an accomplished pianist and her music has been recorded to a CD. The patio is alive with the patrons who gather for business lunches, family celebrations and school mom's morning coffee.

If you want a sense of community atmosphere this is the place to go.

“ Be glad there's one place in the world. Where everybody knows your name, and they're always glad you came.” Cheers...

Location: Degollado between I. Zaragoza y Doblado, San Jose del Cabo, B.C.S. CP 23400.

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<http://www.hterranova.com.mx/hotel/>