



# Fishing la Vida Buena

By Gary Graham

**L**ike the rest of the world, the below-the-border scene is changing rapidly, attracting the attention of the *PCS* staff. Looking forward, the theme

seems to be bigger and better. Hotels are becoming grander, new marinas built over the past few years are maturing, and others in the process of being built are pushing to open.

We have a variety of picks worth keeping an eye on in 2012 – operations firmly anchored in sportfishing that offer all kinds of other amenities for the traveling angler.

## BAJA NORTE

### Coral Hotel and Marina

(800) 862-9020

[www.hotelcoral.com/en](http://www.hotelcoral.com/en)

Less than an hour's drive below the border in Ensenada, you'll find one of two major ports on the west coast of Baja. Hotel Coral and Marina is located on the northern end of the Port of Ensenada, one of the most important tourist destinations in Baja California. It offers various attractions: sportfishing, golf, whale watching, fine dining, wine tasting, nightlife, Mexican art, and much more. The hotel is a dazzling five-story high-rise with 147 ocean-view suites with private balconies. Because of its spectacular marina, this hotel has become a favorite stopover for the crews of yachts traveling along the Pacific coast.

The only world-class full-service marina in Baja Norte, it has 353 highly secure docking spaces for 30- to 65-foot vessels. It offers many services, including a full-time dockmaster,

24-hour security/CCTV, water and electricity, coin-operated laundry facility, vessel maintenance and cleaning services, repair service, 24-hour launch ramp, the only fuel dock in Ensenada (both diesel and gasoline), a fish-cleaning station, barbecue area, marine store, customs clearance assistance, private and shuttle service transportation, complimentary weekly shuttle service to town, and free Wi-Fi Internet and cable TV.

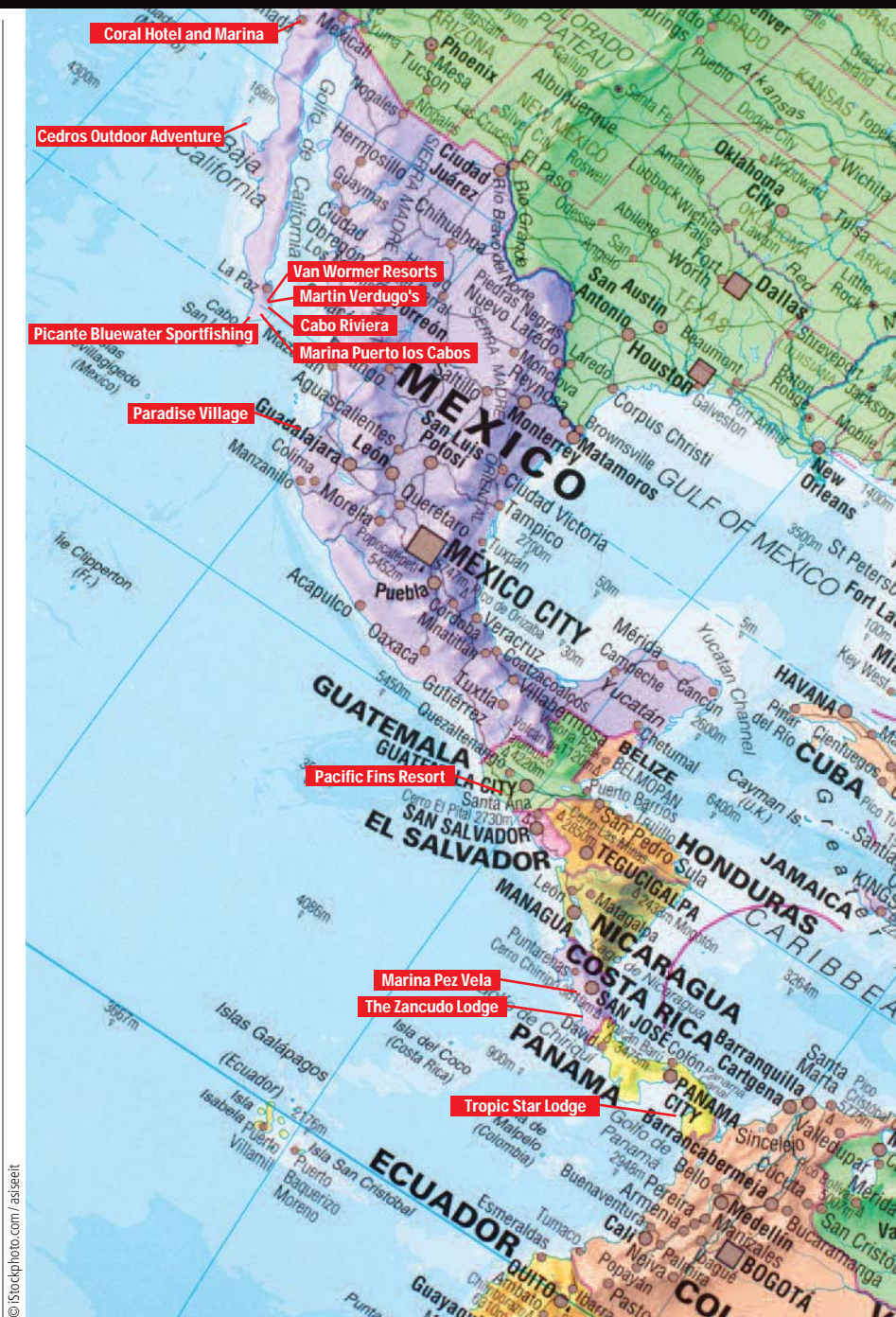
### Cedros Outdoor Adventure

(619) 793.5419

[www.cedrosoutdooradventures.com](http://www.cedrosoutdooradventures.com)

Cedros Island, known for its yellowtail regularly produces yellowtail above 40 pounds. Well-equipped super-pangas speed from spot to spot to find feeding fish melees. In addition to the expected yellows, there are white sea-bass, sheephead, halibut, and other bottom species, as well as some unexpected thresher sharks up to 100 pounds in July and August.

There is also a growing interest in targeting calicos, and groups of bass enthusiasts find "gold" in Cedros' kelp and near the shore, with hungry calicos biting pretty much everything you put in the water. Interest in calicos-only trips is on the rise, as are services for spearfishing, kayak fishing, and paddle-



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boards. Cedros is not only visited through fly-in packages offered by Cedros Outdoor Adventure, but increasingly by independent boat and plane owners for whom they can arrange a convenient stay with service providers on the island.

Thanks to high mountains blocking the strong winds, Cedros offers mild temperatures, assuring almost no bad days fishing. We often hear that Cedros is the fishing experience of a lifetime, and once doesn't seem to be enough; many traveling anglers return year after year to experience more Baja magic – Cedros style.

## BAJA SUR

### Van Wormer Resorts

(800) 836-2737

[www.vanwormerresorts.com](http://www.vanwormerresorts.com)

The East Cape area, known worldwide as one of the foremost vacation and big game fishing spots in the world, is located on Baja's world-renowned Sea of Cortez in Baja California, Sur. It consistently delivers a huge number of blue, black, and striped marlin as well as sailfish, dorado, wahoo, yellowfin tuna, roosterfish, and many other species. If extraordinary fishing, breathtaking diving, kayaking, golfing, or just relax-



If you've tried Costa Rica and Panama, Guatemala is a must-do.

ing is for you, then so are the Van Wormer Resorts.

In the late 1960s, a dynasty was born when Bobby Van Wormer and his wife, Cha Cha, opened Punta Colorada. Today, this dynasty has grown and now includes Hotel Palmas De Cortez, Playa Del Sol, and Punta Colorada. The four unique properties are designed to fulfill the tastes and budgets of different visitors attracted to East Cape.

Hotel Palmas de Cortez is the gem of Baja's East Cape, spanning the beachfront of the town of Los Barriles with its own nine-hole executive golf course and driving range at the entrance.

Hotel Playa Del Sol offers an enchanted tropical beachfront setting, worlds apart from the hustle and bustle of Los Cabos.

Known to anglers around the world as the "roosterfish capital of the world," Hotel Punta Colorada sits perched overlooking the Sea of Cortez on a still-remote bluff.

The Villas de Cortez Resort Hotel and Condominiums is the newest resort of the legendary Van Wormer family dynasty.

### **Martin Verdugo's**

(888) 567-8552 (toll free),  
or (949) 226-7169,

[www.verdugosbeachresort.com](http://www.verdugosbeachresort.com)

Sitting right on the beach in Los Barriles, Martin Verdugo's, with its modern, air-conditioned rooms, some with refrigerators and kitchenettes, is a great place to enjoy the Sea of Cortez. Still run by

the Verdugo family, the hotel caters to fishermen, wind surfers, divers, and travelers just looking for a nice place to relax. The Verdugos have their own fishing fleet of 28-foot super-cruisers, along with smaller super-pangas.

### **Cabo Riviera**

(619) 270-8771

[www.caboriviera.com.mx](http://www.caboriviera.com.mx)

Cabo Riviera is a unique, first-of-its-kind marina, hotel, golf course, and housing development in the remote community of La Ribera. Located on the sandy shores of Palmas Bay, which offers some of the finest sportfishing found anywhere in the world, Cabo Riviera offers all-water-access, with oceanfront estates and custom harbor island homes, with the option of literally having a 100-foot dock in the backyard.

Scheduled for a partial opening of phase one in 2012, the basin known as Marina Cabo Riviera will have a fuel station and launch ramp managed by

Almar Marinas of California. When completed the 250-plus-slip, full-service marina will offer state-of-the-art facilities for vessels that range from super-yachts to pangas. Look forward to this thriving marina and artist village, complete with boutique hotel and apartments above the sidewalk cafes, to be completed soon.

### **Picante Bluewater Sportfishing**

(714) 572-6693

[www.picantesportfishing.com](http://www.picantesportfishing.com)

Picante Bluewater Sportfishing is the premiere sportfishing fleet in Cabo San Lucas and boasts the finest fleet of Cabo yachts in operation anywhere in the world! The Picante Sportfishing office is conveniently located marina-side in the Puerto Paraiso Shopping Center in downtown Cabo San Lucas. Picante offers trips and boats that vary in size from 24 feet to 68 feet. With trips starting at \$325, they can meet any angler's needs and budget.

Committed to top-quality yachts, crews, and sportfishing tackle, they take pride in the maintenance and upkeep of their fleet and tackle so that you will have everything you need on the water. The combination of having the best-kept fleet of Cabo sportfishing yachts as well as a main office that's so close to all of the action allows Picante Sportfishing to deliver the best and most consistent Cabo sportfishing experience in town. For a world-class trip of a lifetime, fish Picante Sportfishing in Cabo San Lucas.

### **Marina Puerto los Cabos**

USA: (877) 795-8727 (toll free)

Mexico: 01800-543-2044 (toll free),

[www.puertoloscabos.com](http://www.puertoloscabos.com)

The heart of the master plan for Puerto Los Cabos is the new marina, which establishes a new standard of excellence



Marina Puerto Los Cabos puts you near hot Gordo Banks billfish action.



Besides roosterfish, East Cape consistently delivers black, blue, and striped marlin, sailfish, dorado, wahoo, and yellowfin tuna.

dise Village Marina, and his staff continue to manage the marina with an infectious enthusiasm wrapped in a fine-tuned expertise that only comes with years of experience. PV Fish Company ([www.pvfishco.com](http://www.pvfishco.com)) has been established to accommodate visiting anglers, assuring that guests enjoy a quality trip. They offer a variety of trips, inshore for roosters, pargo, jacks, etc., as well as offshore to Corbetenia, El Banco, and the 1,000-fathom curve for tuna and marlin. They have four well-appointed 30-plus-foot sport fishers, one panga, and a larger 60-foot sport fisher all with English-speaking crews that can handle groups of up to 10 passengers. All boats offer 20-plus-knot cruise speeds and are equipped with top-of-the-line tackle. Custom packages that can include hotel accommodations are also available.

Another major attraction is the El Tigre Golf Course, with its new upscale championship facilities and exclusive country club, plus nine restaurants and a full-size shopping mall with shuttles that run throughout the day and night from the luxury hotel.

## GUATEMALA

### Pacific Fins Resort

(888) 700-3467

[www.pacificfins.com.gt](http://www.pacificfins.com.gt)

Pacific Fins' staff works hard to live up to its claim as the only true luxury fishing resort in Guatemala. The English-

for the entire west coast of North America, earning its place as the newest port-of-call among the world's elite destinations. It offers an unmatched variety of recreation and lifestyle amenities, combined with luxury ownership, fine hotels, and two signature golf courses.

One of the largest privately held marinas in Mexico, the Marina Puerto Los Cabos currently has 180 slips with power and water, plus another 40 slips soon available and more under construction. Boatyard and store are open, according to dock-master Captain Jim Elfers. The Marina has become the preferred berthing option for sport fishermen, charters, and pleasure boaters.

World-class sportfishing is at the nearby Gordo Banks, the renowned fishing grounds where some of the largest billfish and tuna in Baja are found. Embark from the new marina. Experience the beauty and challenge of the two signature golf courses. Schedule a spa visit, or lounge at a private beach club. Swim, explore nature, paraglide, play tennis, or simply walk along a moonlit beach.

## MAINLAND MEXICO

### Paradise Village

(866) 334-6080

[www.paradisevillage.com](http://www.paradisevillage.com)

This unique, turnkey marina and hotel is privately owned by one man, Mr. Graziano Sovernigo, who actually lives on the site and oversees daily operations. He takes great pride in owning the re-

markable village, aptly named Paradise.

Attention to detail is reflected in guests' comments:

"Simply Awesome! The view was breathtaking. From this room, you could see the marina, the mountains, and the ocean. What a way to start each day of your vacation!"

"Great Place to be – no matter who you are! We have been coming to Paradise Village for the last 12 years, and it is one of our favorite places to go. We would put this resort up against some of the best."

"Great for kids. This is definitely a family vacation resort. It caters to the kids."

Dick Markie, harbormaster of Para-



Typically solid Cedros Island yellowtail.

speaking staff focuses their attention on creating an unparalleled ambience with their quality of service as well as the cleanliness and neatness of the rooms.

Enjoy the convenience of departing directly from the resort, since Pacific Fins is the only resort in Guatemala with its own boats docked right in their marina. Each group of anglers gets its own fully air-conditioned villa consisting of two double rooms with queen beds, two bathrooms, and a central living room featuring a flat-screen TV with SKY satellite service and a very comfortable lounge area. For those requiring a little more privacy, they also offer individual private rooms.

Because it is easy to reach, Guatemala fishing is far superior to many other choices in Central America, and the quality of the Pacific Fins charter boats, crews, and accommodations, are excellent. Many experienced anglers who frequent Costa Rica and Panama are also making Guatemala a primary fishing destination.

If you are searching for fly-fishing resorts, look no further. Pacific Fins

caters to both experienced anglers and beginners. Nowhere else in the world will you get as many shots on the fly each day.

## COSTA RICA

### The Zancudo Lodge

(506) 2776-0008 or  
(800) 854-8791 (toll free)

[www.zancudolodge.com](http://www.zancudolodge.com)

Zancudo Lodge is the leading exclusive Costa Rican fishing lodge, with over 70 IGFA world records. For 20 years they've advocated catch and release of all billfish, which is now a common practice among Costa Rican fishermen.

Stretching for miles and miles, the lodge is surrounded by the beauty of Costa Rican wildlife and foliage, and a private beach offers the perfect setting for a massage or pure tranquil relaxation. Enjoy picturesque scenery from the beachfront pool and hot tub. Sixteen fully air-conditioned, spacious rooms and suites are equipped with fine linens and complimentary Wi-Fi and interna-

tional phone service.

Located on the scenic Pacific coast of Costa Rica on the bay of Golfo Dulce (four miles from Golfito), the Golfito Bay area of the Pacific Ocean is world-renowned for its excellent saltwater fishing.

Their fleet consists of 12 modern 28-foot center consoles powered by twin Suzuki four-stroke engines. Each boat, custom-built for fishing, is equipped with the latest electronics, live-bait wells, and outriggers. The newly built docks house an IGFA-certified scale for those guests on the quest of breaking that world record.

### Marina Pez Vela

(866) 739-8352 (toll free) or  
(772) 342-1240 (U.S. cell)

[www.marinapezvela.com](http://www.marinapezvela.com)

Marina Pez Vela is located on the central Pacific coast of Costa Rica in Puerto Quepos and is home to a variety of charter companies that offer fishing, cruising, sightseeing, snorkeling and diving. This area is well-known by sportfishing enthusiasts, and international billfishing tournaments held in these waters



 — THE MARINA AT —  
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Contact [marininfo@puertoloscabos.com](mailto:marininfo@puertoloscabos.com) Or visit [www.puertoloscabos.com](http://www.puertoloscabos.com)

routinely break world records.

The first phase of Marina Pez Vela wet-slips is complete, with services include 24-hour access to the docks, security, rest-rooms and showers, cell phone service, high-speed Internet, electrical hookups, fresh water, trash removal, golf cart service, concierge, and a fully stocked marine store for supplies. The second phase is coming very soon, with plans for an onsite restaurant overlooking the break-water, dry storage for 90 boats ranging between 20 and 40 feet, and a maintenance and repair facility for marina customers.

Just steps from the marina is the lively town of Quepos, with a wonderful range and variety of hotels, restaurants, banks, travel centers, gift shops, bakeries, bars, a hospital, supermarkets, and there's even a post office.


## PANAMA

### Tropic Star Lodge

[www.tropicstar.com](http://www.tropicstar.com)

Name any famous, big game sportfishing angler, and odds are that he will be one of the who's-who of sportfishing who swears that Tropic Star Lodge is the where's-where of incredible big game fishing. The remote lodge, carved out of the side of a mountain at the edge of the Darien Jungle on the Pacific coast of Panama, is located 150 miles south of Panama City and can only be reached by plane or boat.

Luxury and adventure meet at Panama's Tropic Star Lodge. The high rate of returning guests reflects the belief that TSL is the best fishing lodge in the world, and it is often referred to as the crown jewel of sportfishing destinations. Surrounded by a dense jungle rich with wildlife, tropical flora, and the bountiful Pacific Ocean, the lodge offers a panoramic view.

The area boasts one of the most productive inshore fisheries in the world. Huge cubera snapper, grouper, and roosterfish are landed within yards of the coastline on a regular basis. TSL's all-tackle record roosterfish tipped the scales at 96 pounds, and many are caught in the 50- to 70-pound range. Incredibly, this top-notch, near-shore bite rates a distant second to the international contingent of anglers who flock to TSL for one reason alone: close and personal encounters with the majestic black marlin. 



# If The SKIN Fits...

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**M14 Techno**



**1.949.660.8757**  
[www.AFTCO.com](http://www.AFTCO.com)



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