



## Mark and Denise's Cozumel Restaurant Reviews

*We borrowed some of this from the  
[www.mxtravel.com/cozumel/cozumel\\_restaurants.html](http://www.mxtravel.com/cozumel/cozumel_restaurants.html)  
web site with the balance from our friends on the island and our personal experiences.*

*Denise and I have not been to every restaurant in this review, but with our own reviews and input from friends and MXtravel.com, the following is one the most comprehensive Cozumel restaurant reviews of the island. Where we have eaten and/or have multiple, confirmable opinions from our trusted friends who live on the island, we have put our comments in italics.*

*Be sure to look at our restaurant review book on our coffee table and leave your comments for the next person. Tell us what was good or bad. Add a date so everyone will know how current the information is. If a place has closed or moved, please note this on these pages.*

*Denise enjoys a good meal on the island and lobster is her favorite meal. Mark thinks seafood, burgers and beer are three of the major food groups. While on the island, he compares soft tacos, chimichangas and seafood dishes to the rest of the places he has been. We've both gotten interested in the "cheap eats" and trying places off the beaten path. If you are willing to be adventurous, your dining experience will be amply rewarded.*

*Thirsty? A simple "tip". Most of the places have people on the square "hawking" their establishment. We admire their perseverance. However, if you pause/hesitate while the menu and then ask for 2 for 1 drinks, most of them will provide that or a free drink (beer or tequila). Just ask. If you order 1 drink you get 2 drinks. Order 2 get 4. This seems to have fallen out of favor in some places and it is offered mostly on the square.*

*We've had this happen once and we want to alert you that the menu price includes tax. It's the law. If a 10-15% tax (aka IVA) is added to your bill, bring it to their attention and ask for it to be removed. If you get don't get satisfaction, take it out of the tip. Menu prices are for food and, by law, includes all taxes. Some places may add the tip to your bill. It is called the "propina". Be sure to check for this as well.*

*There is a **restaurant delivery service** on the island and the list of restaurants that uses this service is getting larger and larger. 987-872-5200 [info@telolle vamos.com.mx](mailto:info@telolle vamos.com.mx) <http://www.telolle vamos.com.mx/>. They deliver to Nah Ha. Tell JC, that Mark and Denise from Nah Ha sent you.*

*Also, many places are now offering home delivery aka "Servicio a Domicillo". We are gradually updating this growing availability as we become aware of it. We never thought we would advocate take out in Cozumel, but home is where the heart is and a nice meal in the house is a pleasant experience.*

## **Preamble**

*The island offers a surprising number of very good restaurants. Many do a respectable job with Caesar Salad, grills and anything flaming. If you don't mind venturing a few blocks out of the tourist district and know where to look, you can still find inexpensive "real Mexican" restaurants with "safe" kitchens (cocinas) where you can enjoy a \$4-\$6 meal. Our range of prices do not include beverages.*

*Where we can remember if the places have air conditioning, we have noted "A/C". Some A/C places offer a mix of enclosed A/C and outdoor seating. Otherwise most places are open air (and most have ceiling fans.) Not a big deal except on the hottest and most humid of days. Keep in mind that thunderstorms do occur. If a place is busy and you sit outside of the roof line (garden dining), you could be wet in short order. If you need Wi-Fi while you dine, see the Wi-Fi list in our binder on the coffee table. Most places that offer Wi-Fi are password protected. Just ask for the password and save it in your Droid for the next trip.*

*If you are looking for beach bar reviews, check out our separate beach reviews that are also on our website. Our reviews are in no real order other than approximate cost per meal....that would just be too easy. (Save a tree, print this on two sided paper, it's a lot of pages.)*

*A number of island restaurateurs give taxi drivers a commission for every customer they bring to their business. This has resulted in some drivers telling visitors that the restaurant they are requesting is closed, that the food is not good, or just generally insisting that they go where the driver wants to take them. We suggest that you take our restaurant information and bring it with you, so you can give the taxi driver the correct address and there will be no confusion about where you want to go.*

*We do not accept advertising, kick backs or have our meals comp'd to us for inclusion in these reviews. These are our personal opinions based on going to the island for many, many years.*

## ***Inexpensive Restaurants***

*Most of the inexpensive meals you will find might be "local" places and they typically don't market to tourists. However, they are happy to have you as their guests.*

- **Bailongos-** Sometimes you just need a hamburger. Bailongo's serves charcoal grilled burgers and that's all they serve. The Hawaiian style with jamon, pina y queso is highly recommended by a friend we trust. Burgers come with a quarter grilled onion. Soft drinks are available, but there is no alcohol served (bring your own) No English spoken, but pointing works perfectly. The burgers may be a little on the thin side, however they do sell double and triple patties. \$1.50-\$4/per burger depending on what you get. Avenida 30 between Calle 15 y Calle 17 Sur.
- **BBQ'd Chicken (take out)-** Cozumel has a remarkable number of outdoor BBQ places that cook whole chickens the old fashioned way-on a wood fired rotisserie. If you're planning an afternoon at the beach, consider picking up lunch to go on your way out of town. They usually are open until 6 PM or whenever they sell out, whichever comes first. Locations include:

-Next door to Armenian Deli on Avenida 30 between Morelos and Calle 5. Expect to pay about \$90 pesos for a whole chicken and \$45 for a half chicken.

-**Mega** also serves very good BBQ'd chicken at the back of the store in the deli area.

-The place on the corner of Avenida 65 & Calle 6 has excellent BBQ's chicken. A whole chicken, which includes two soups and two sides of shredded cabbage, two rice, two beans servings and tortillas, (or sometimes spaghetti) for \$85 pesos. We picked up a whole BBQ'd chicken (they chop it for you) and we were in and out of there in 2 minutes heading back for Nah Ha.

-**Parilla Cozumel** is on 30th at the corner of Calles 19 and 21<sup>st</sup> next to the OXXO convenience store. Tim, the owner, sells chicken- plain grilled, in BBQ sauce or a spicy BBQ sauce for \$100 pesos per chicken with sides. Sides include salsa, beans and cilantro rice and tortillas. Add to their list hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries and sandwiches and you have something for everyone. Breakfast hours are 7 am to 11 am, then the regular menu starts. Breakfast meals with 3 eggs, 3 pieces of meat, 2 pieces of toast and home fries are \$50 pesos. Steak and eggs are \$60 pesos. Delivery available. Phone: 120-0774.

-**El Triunfo** has great BBQ'd chicken and also BBQ'd pork ribs. I was already committed to getting a chicken as we had "fixings" at the condo so I didn't try the ribs, but I wanted to. A whole chicken with tortillas, salsa and noodles was \$80 pesos. It is on 30<sup>th</sup> (aka Avenida Pedro Joaquín Coldwell) at Calle 4 the corner of the east side of 30th. Look for their name painted on the building in big letters. No English spoken but a smile and finger pointing is all you need to get a great meal. 10 AM to 5 PM (or until sold out) and the chickens aren't ready until 11 AM or so.

*-Pollo Caribe is another chicken BBQ place with an added attraction on Ave 30 across the street from El Serra's Taqueria. They sell chicken and grilled ribs by the kilo. The orders here come with rice, pickled onions, salsa and corn tortillas. An order of  $\frac{1}{2}$  kilo or roughly a pound makes a large meal.*

*We picked up a whole bbq'd chicken, two sides, tortillas and some salsa for 90 pesos. We made tacos one day and had chicken breasts another day. The sales guy pulled out the chicken, chopped it into two large pieces for us and we were on our way in 2 minutes. No English spoken, but pointing works great. This is a new favorite cheap take out place for us.*

- ***Bucaneros/Cozumel Caribe Club**, located about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile North of Nah Ha has an outstanding breakfast. Instead of a short order cook, they have a chef. You get great food and a nice presentation. Try their coconut French toast. Two could easily split this. Your breakfast includes coffee, fresh squeezed juice and a small plate of fresh fruit. They open around 9 AM. Enjoy breakfast with a nice view and then walk it off back to the condo. If you have a plan local card or FM3, a small discount is offered. Lunches are also very good, but can be pricey. Expect to pay an entrance fee for lunch (and their beach club) that can be credited to your purchases (\$100 pesos/adult and \$50 pesos/child.*
- ***La Candela**, at the corner of Calle 6 and Ave. 5, does a big take away business and has a good number of tables under a palapa and a few more inside that usually fill with locals by about 2:00-2:30pm. For a set price of about \$45 pesos, you get a choice of soup, a choice from 3 entrées, either rice or spaghetti, a choice of steamed vegetables or new potatoes and unlimited refills on Jamaica, an herbal tea-like cold beverage made from hibiscus flowers. The selection of entrées changes daily but usually includes a chicken cutlet stuffed with ham and cheese, the same pork in tomato sauce recipe that we've always loved at La Choza plus one or two others.*

*We've had lunch there several times and the fish and chicken tacos were excellent! Be sure to ask for their homemade picante salsa. It's not very spicy and it is excellent. A very quaint place to eat with indoor and outdoor covered seating. \$5-6 pp at lunch. Our friends will take 5-6 pieces of the Gladware (to the right of our dishwasher) and get a meal to go. Soups, sides and a main course for just \$5-6! Candela is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Closed on Sunday.*

- ***La Cucina Italiana** located on Calle 6 between Avenida 10 & 15 is a nice lunch spot. They open at 1 PM. They are a bit more expensive than the taquerias, but serve really good food. Laila is the cook and owner and she turns her living room into the restaurant during the day! With limited seating, she usually has a pasta dish, meat dish, and chicken or fish dish.*

- ***El Coffee/The Coffee Bean***-A coffee shop with a nice selection coffees, pastries, homemade quiche and deserts. They also serve simple sandwiches for lunch. We like to go there on Sunday mornings when Melgar is closed to vehicle traffic and get a cup of iced mocha (\$40 pesos). We then sit on the sea wall and watch the world pass us by. Located on Calle 3 Sur,  $\frac{1}{2}$  block off of Melgar, next to Sorrisi. A/C. (I think this used to be called the Coffee Bean.)
  
- **El Clasico** is a ways back in town. It serves seafood tacos and tortas. Edwin and Gracie are the owners and they opened in the fall of 2008. Try the shrimp ceviche. They are only open from 7 AM to 3 PM. El Clasico is located across the street from San Jose del Mar Church. 40th Avenida between Calle 29 and Calle 13 Sur. It is a bit off the beaten path. San Miguel. Directions: Turn left at the light at Calle 11 at by Margaritaville and go until you come to first little roundabout/stoplight. There is a Bank on the right and Chevy dealership on the left. Turn right at the bank. Follow that though next light and several blocks until you see another new car dealership on your right. Turn left and follow it until you get to 40. The church is not obvious as they are under construction. Clasico is located two buildings from the corner and on your right. You can ask anyone you see where entrance for the church is and the restaurant is right across from that. Nothing fancy in line of food selection. It is your typical local place and very new so they are still coming up with choices. Extremely clean!
  
- ***Chilango's*** There are two restaurants in Cozumel that go by the name Chilango's. (The word used to describe someone who is a native of Mexico City.) The first is one of the few food stalls you will find gringos eating at in Cozumel. It's a building located near the baseball park on the corner of 30th and is open only for dinner. They only serve huaraches and quesadillas. Your server will flatten and cook your tortilla shells after you order. There usually is a choice of six to eight mixtures to stuff them with. There will likely be chicken, pork, beef, potato, fish and usually a cactus mixture. Prices for each item are about US \$1 and you have to be real hungry to eat three of them. If you want beer, you'll have to bring your own. Be prepared to try your Spanglish. If you don't know Spanish, it's easy enough to point through the glass case of food. Cash only.
  
- **Chilango's** The second Chilango's is a Cocina Economica, which literally translates to "Cheap Kitchen." Cocina Economicas are usually inexpensive restaurants that serve a plate lunch, most often at a communal table in the kitchen or living room of a residence. It is only open for lunch. If you look, you can find quite a few of this style restaurant all over Cozumel. As is typical, you'll find long dining tables in the entry room of this home on Ave. 10 between Calles 15 & 13 in the neighborhood know as Corpus Christi. It isn't hard to find; just look for the sign on top of the house painted on a surf board. Don't worry if you've never been to a Concina Economica. Just walk in, find a seat and they will bring you lunch. The food here is real home cooking and the people you find there are very nice. It's open only for lunch. *Cash only.*

- ***El Chino Marinero** is located on Juarez y Av 25. From the square, simply walk past Casa Denis and keep heading east for 3-4 blocks. It is on the SW corner of the intersection. They serve great shrimp tortas and fish tacos as good as Cameron Dorado's. (open 7am - 5pm) This is a local's place. It really isn't a restaurant as much as it is a walk up counter with a couple of plastic tables. A soft drink and a torta was \$38 pesos in May, 2011. (No beer sold.) When we were there in May, 2011, we noticed the name had been painted over so we are not sure if this is now called Chino's. However, the food is still the same. That same week, while driving Transversal road, we noted another place called Chino Marinero that is located about two blocks West of the PeMex on the south side of the street. We suspect they are/were under the same ownership. In any case, the food is good.*
  
- **Cocina Mexicana** is located on the central square near the front of the Hotel Lopez. If you walk down the south side of the square, this is one of the places where the waiters stand out front and try to wave you in. Lunch specials usually include a choice of soups and entrées served with rice and a delightful fresh fruit flavored water (liquada) for about US \$4.
  
- ***Cocos** has closed.*
  
- ***Coffelia's** has closed.*
  
- ***Corona Sports Bar** is run by Roger and Aggie, is on 1<sup>st</sup> Street between Avenidas 5 and 10. They used to be located on 5<sup>th</sup>, just south of the square. In the summer of 2009, they moved and re-opened next to Casa Denis on the SE corner of the square. Their new location is about 200 yards from the old one and inside of Plaza California. Same concept, inside garden patio, pool table, ping pong, live bands, food until midnight, open until 2 AM, Wi-Fi, etc. It's a good place to catch a game or late night drinking establishment. When we were there in July, 2009, there were only a couple of TV's, so the games shown may be limited. We have not eaten there, but it was always a stop for a cold one. AC*
  
- ***Costa Brava Restaurant** is located on Calle 7 about a block off the waterfront. It's nothing fancy but is a good inexpensive choice for breakfast, lunch or dinner. We've eaten breakfast there and it was good and reasonably priced. It is considered a Cozumel landmark. It is directly behind Casa Mexicana Hotel, one half block off of the waterfront. The lobster is supposed to be good and relatively inexpensive compared to the other places around town.*
  
- ***Churros-** not really a place, but the fried bread delicacy several vendor cart guys in the square. These are the fried breadsticks that look like stick pretzels. Covered in brown*

*sugar and cinnamon, these make a wonderful, sweet snack or desert. About a buck for a small bag. No matter how stuffed I am, I always get a churro. Finger licking good.*

- **Las Flamitas** is a favorite of locals with a lot of variety each day in the fixed menu entree choices. Located on Avenida 20<sup>th</sup>, one half block south of the intersection of Calle 3. (Not the larger first place you come to -- keep walking another 20 yards south on Ave 20.
- **Johnny Bravo's Tacqueria** is located on Ave 15 just south of Santiago's Grill. For long time visitors, it's in the same location as the old El Fiesta Taco from years ago. The prices are a little higher here than at Serra's but the food is very good. They don't offer al pastor but do have a good tasting steak taco and very good frijoles charos (black bean soup). The best deal is probably the sampler platter (enough for 2) or the half platter, which was enough for a meal for one person at about \$45 pesos. The owner (Juan aka Johnny) is very personable and helpful. *We've been told that this has closed, but have not personally confirmed.*
- **El Laurel** Probably the cheapest lunch you will find in Cozumel is at El Laurel on 11th near the Ave. 30 circle. This is really a small store with a Spanish newsstand and a deli counter in the back. Our favorite order is the empanadas, which are on display at the front counter. You can choose from bean (frijoles), potato (papas), chicken (pollo) or beef (stake). Three or four empanadas (at a cost of about US\$1.00-\$1.50 total) should be enough for lunch. Flavored chips are 3 to 4 pesos.
- **Nopales**, a taco place, is located in what was a house and is located on Ave. 30 between Calles 11 and 7. *It is very spacious and your typical taco joint. However, their twist is that they serve nopales en escabeche along with the salsas (homemade) and a lot of their taco plates also come with the nopales. The food is pretty good.*
- **3 Patitos Empandas** Another good choice for a real cheap lunch is 3 Patitos Empandas at the corner of Ave 30 and Calle 15. As you might imagine, pretty much the only items on the menu are fried empanadas. They usually have chicken, beef (hamburger meat), cheese, potato and bean. Of those, the beef is our least favorite. You can get your order to go or eat standing at the front counter. The food is nothing fancy but is definitely worth the price. A lunch of 4 empandas and a Coke before the tip is about \$20 pesos or about \$2 USD per person. Before making big plans to eat there you may want to double check on their hours of operation. On one attempted visit a few months ago, we found them closed at 12:30pm on a Saturday.
- **El Pique Taco House** is located across the street from the Francisco Market on 30th Ave. between Benito Juarez y Calle 2 Norte and has an extensive menu with lots of dishes other than tacos and a wide assortment of beverages including jamaica, horchata, water, soft drinks and beer. There is a nice sized garden area in the back where you can

dine. It serves some of the best tacos on the island, as well as an excellent frijoles dish. Dinner for two is about \$10. *The frijoles special for about \$6 easily feeds two people.* Look for the yellow menu board and colors. This is a local's place so it doesn't open until around 7:00 PM and closes around midnight. *Our US friends really like this place, but we have not eaten there yet.*

- *Prima's (breakfast) might have one of the best breakfast deals in town. Just ask for the Local Menu when you walk in. The local's menu is in Spanish (duh) so you will need to know a little Espanol. They have a choice of about 8 to 10 selections and the price is about \$47 pesos. Expect big portions (and a big cinnamon roll as a bonus on the weekends). Your price includes coffee. For an additional \$12 pesos, you can get juice, including a really good watermelon juice. They open at 7 AM and have an excellent view. Lunch and dinner meals are considerably more expensive and reviewed in the expensive section of our reviews.*
- *El Serra At some point during your stay, you should have dinner at a real tacqueria. Our new favorite is El Serra located on the corner of Ave 30 and Ave J. M. Morelos (between Calle 3 & 5). It is one of those places with inexpensive prices and good food that people who don't venture far off of the oceanfront don't think exists in Cozumel. The Tacos al Pastor con piña (grilled marinated pork with a slice of pineapple) at about \$1.50 each and frijoles charos (bean soup) are both excellent. Other items we've tried and liked were the chuleta con queso taco (smoked pork chop with cheese) and the al pastor torta (grilled marinated pork sandwich.). We didn't try the pizza, but it looked terrific and gets good reviews. Four to six tacos and a bowl of soup make a filling and good meal for \$4-6. Covered seating, but open air.*

*We ate there in January, 2010. The four of us really enjoyed the place. Like most tacquerias, this place opens after dark and will usually be hopping late into the night. While they do not serve beer, you can bring your own if you want. If you'd like to try different tacos, I would suggest you organize your group to order the number of each at one time. There are three seating areas: Near the grille, a covered middle area and outdoor area. They bring them as they are cooked, not on a "per person order" basis. The menu and prices are painted on the wall, but the pizza is not listed there. They speak very little English, but understand enough to fill your order. Prices are in pesos.*

- *El Perro Verde (The Green Dog), a vegetarian restaurant, is located on 5th Ave between 3rd and 5th Street. It has indoor and garden seating and plenty of creative space for art & music. Open Tuesday thru Saturday from 1PM to 10PM. Chef Eva from Spain has an excellent creative mind for cooking up light and healthy food with lots of flavor. There are 7 different salads on the menu, and over 20 different sandwiches. Pero Verde like Tortilla Espanola, Vegetarian Mole and Veggie Burgers. Prices range from 50 to 100 pesos per plate. Fresh fruit drinks, from \$2.50; Chai, \$2.50; Coffee, \$2.00. 987-117-7425.*

- **Paprika Restaurant** opened in the fall of 2010 and serves items such as chili rellenos stuffed with beef, enfrijolados and chicken in creamy chipotle sauce with beans and rice. Paprika Restaurant is located 4.5 km or about 2.8 miles south of the square on Melgar Villa Blanca Hotel and Casa del Mar, offers Mexican and Caribbean Cuisine. Mon - Sat: 10:00 am - 10:00 pm, Sun: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm. Present your identification and receive a 10% local discount. Happy Hour - Monday - Saturday from 4 pm - 6pm enjoy 2 x 1 drinks with a great sunset view! Last time we checked they were offering free cake on your birthday.
- **El Torito** is on Avenida 65 between Calles 17 & 19. They offer a wide range of meals from traditional MX fare to hamburgers, chicken and spaghetti. Meals range from \$6-17 and usually include a soup. Ask for the menu called Comida del Dia as there is a different menu every day.
- **Camerones Dorado** is on the right side (south) of the transversal road (Ave. Juarez) about a mile or so East of Ave. 65 (where the big conch shell monument is). They make delicious shrimp tacos and tortas. Breaded shrimp is either put on a tortilla for the little tacos or a sandwich roll for a torta. They are topped with a little mayonnaise and sliced onion. This is really delicious, and the prices are quite reasonable. 15 pesos each for each shrimp taco (start with 2 or 3 and you can always order more) and tortas are 39 pesos each. The breaded shrimp are put on either a tortilla for the little tacos or a sandwich roll for a torta. They are topped with a little mayonnaise and sliced onion. Really delicious, and the prices are quite reasonable. The shrimp tacos and a soft drink will set you back \$5.50.

They are open Monday through Saturday from 7am to 2:30pm. If you are beach hopping and not hitting the beach bars for lunch, this is a great place to order your meal at the start of your trip and stick them in one of our coolers for later in the day as they are good cold. (If you are McGyver, take some foil with you and throw them on the motor to heat them up. Yeah, you know who you are.) I've had the tortas (sandwiches) several times while diving the east side. One torta is enough for a light meal. They have plenty of outdoor covered seating. This is a very great cheap eats place. Soft drinks but no beer. \$4-6 pp.

- **Los Villas Dorados** was one of our favorite spots until we started eating in the hinterlands. It's right on the town square, so it appears a little touristy. All of the Mexican dishes are delicious and reasonably priced. We've been going so often for so long that the waiters remember us and always say "Welcome Home!" when they see us again. We still go there on occasions when we want a cheap meal on the square. \$5-8 pp. AC if you want to eat inside-but why? Sabino is an excellent waiter.
- **El Foco** is on Ave. 5 just south of Pro Dive and the square, El Foco serves inexpensive meals, and while you might not think so on first impression, a clean kitchen. Try the El

*Foco Special Taco or the "Tim". Decent portions of food. The place isn't fancy and you'd be tempted to walk past it as all the "Sharpie" graffiti on the wall makes it look "dirty". This is as good as or better than Otate's and with larger portions. When we want a cheap, good, casual meal, this is where we go. Denise and I are light eaters and we usually split the El Foco Special Taco. Service is very good. \$4-9 pp.*

- **Casa Herradura** is an open air place on the east side of 30th between Calles 17 and 19. The woman speaks fairly good English and is very pleasant. The pizza menu is pretty basic, with about 10 toppings and 3 sizes; large, medium and small. The price for a large four toppings, 2 meat and 2 vegetable was 85 pesos. The pizza flavor was similar to what we enjoy at home as well. Soft drinks are about 10 pesos. Bring your own beer. They only serve pizza from 5 PM-10:30 PM. At lunch time from 12:30 PM - 4 PM, they serve "comida corrida" (a small meal of several courses at a fixed price eaten between about 1 and 4 p.m.) for 50 pesos or a medium portion for 30 pesos. They make 5 different meals from which to choose and, of course, they serve a bowl of soup to start.
  
- **La Hach** is located south of town on Melgar across from the Villa Blanca hotel on the waterfront. It is a great view and offers indoor and upstairs seating. The food is good and the wait staff is excellent. This is a little better than pub fair, but you can't beat the view and the staff. There are live bands on occasion at night and sometimes during happy hour. AC.
  
- **Henry's Grille:** Sadly, Henry's Grille closed in April, 2010. This was probably the best burger on the island. Their location just wasn't in a high traffic area. However, one of the chefs is continuing to offer the Henry's menu on a delivery only basis. He has the same menu. All their burgers range from 45 to 70 pesos depending on which burger you get or add French fries (Try the cajun seasoned fries.) The new name Burger House or La Casa de las Hamberguesas. Their menu includes at least 12 different burgers including Barbecue, Italian, Cuban, Traditional, Carnivore, Mushroom, Spicy, Hawaiian, and Veggie. To order call: 987-114-1766 or 987-111-6460. They are open Tuesday thru Sunday from 6pm to 12pm.
  
- **El Mercado** Another spot the brave might try a food stand is the row of stalls beside the "El Mercado" or Town Market located on Ave. 25 and Rosado Salas. You'll get a meat entree with rice and beans and a beverage (try the papaya water drink) for US\$3-4.
  
- **Miss Dollar** is a very good, locally owned, low priced lunch place. It serves authentic comida corrida, Mexican food. You will find it on Avenida 20 between Calle 3 and Adolfo Rosado Salas. Lunch only.

- **Il Giardino** is a local restaurant on the patio of someone's home and is located in Corpus Christi at 15 Avenida Sur 1133. (between Calles 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>) There is a placard sign on the sidewalk out front. Menu items include: BBQ'd Chicken & Ribs, Jamaican Chicken & Ribs, Spicy or Garlic shrimp, Pasta dishes including Carbonara, Pesto, Puttanesca y Bolognese. Salads include Caesar, Spinach and Mixed. Sunday is Lasagna day. 11AM - 6PM Tuesday-Sunday. Cell 987-105-6730. It has gotten good reviews from the ex-pats whose opinion we trust, but we have not yet eaten there.
- **Italianini** is a small place on the north side of AR Rosado Salas, about 1/2 block East on Salas from the southern end of the downtown plaza between 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, just past the Telmex office. \$25 pesos for a very large piece of pizza. They serve freshly cooked (not canned) mushrooms plus cheese, a good red sauce and a medium thickness crust.. They also have pasta salads, desserts and lasagna. A very large serving of lasagna, vegetarian or regular, is only \$50 pesos.

*Good place to grab an inexpensive and delicious take out for lunch on the plaza, people watching. You can also eat in on one of their small benches. If you're staying in town, they also deliver. So just stop in and check out their menu, get the number and call them.*

- **Los Moros del Morito** A good choice for a relatively inexpensive Mexican restaurant is Los Moros del Morito on Ave. 35 near Calle 3 Sur. Try the garlic soup (with or without a raw egg), pollo Hawaiano (Hawaiian Chicken) or the cochinta pibil (slow roasted pork) tacos. The sandia (watermelon) and melone (cantaloupe) water drinks are treats as are the plantaino fritas (fried bananas) with cream. This is not to be confused with El Moro reviewed below.
- **Midori**, a sushi restaurant, is located on Rosado Salas between 15 and 20 Avenidas, on the south side of the street. It is on the 2nd floor, above Sadcom, the computer store.

*Midori gets high ratings for sushi, but we have not been there. We simply don't think of sushi while on the island for 7-10 days at a time.*

- **Michoacan's** An evening visit to Michoacan's ice cream is a local tradition in Cozumel. There is one located on Ave 20 near 1st and another closer to the downtown square. We've sampled several varieties including pineapple (more of a sorbet than ice cream), chocolate and mamay; a tropical fruit that looks like it has cantaloupe skin but an oblong shape. It isn't Ben and Jerry's but it is more than decent and reasonably priced. A medium cup, which would equal two large scoops, was \$14 pesos.
- **Ohana's Café and Bar** is located on Avenida 5, north of the square between Calle 6 and 8 and opened 12/31/10. They serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. The coconut shrimp is said to be good as are the jerk chicken, nachos & shrimp specials. However, I went for the burger in March of 2011 and was not impressed. The bartender is a super nice guy.

*Live music Thurs-Sat. and maybe other nights as well. Mostly jazz, rock, folk, reggae and Latin starting around 8:30 PM to 11:00 PM. . Happy Hour 6-8pm w/\$20 peso beer.*

- ***Tonitas** is a nice little find on Rosada Salas between 10th and 15th. They have daily lunch specials that usually include a nice vegetable soup, chips/salsa, guacamole, entree, rice/beans. Try the chile relleno lunch special with white cheese and ground beef. The pezole soup is also good. They use fresh vegetable and fruits for everything. Very clean and good place.*
- ***Tia Jose** opened in April of 2011 and is located next to the lighthouse and the new car ferry pier just south of town and north of Puerta Maya. This oceanfront restaurant-bar offers good food and acoustic music. Chicken fajitas are about 80 pesos and shrimp tacos are 20 pesos each. 20 peso beer.*
- ***Mr. Tacotes** is located on 30<sup>th</sup> between Calle 15 and 17. This place opened in the fall of 2009 is getting great reviews for tacos that are a little different from the normal fish and chicken taco. Entrees for \$1.50 include mushroom/cheese tacos, Chuleta tacos with cheese and great soups. Jakob, the owner, has a very enthusiastic personality.*
- ***Nando's Hotdogs** On 11th, just in from the intersection of 30th. Also a stand on the corner of 11th and Melgar and Calle 3 with 15? The vendor cart sits out front of Nando's (convenience store) on the evenings only. Try the cheese or regular wrapped in bacon with sautéed sweet onions, ketchup, mayo, mustard on a warm toasted bun. It does not get much better than this. You can order how you like them. Run into the store and grab a couple beverages and you have dinner for 2 for less than 8 bucks. Maybe the best hotdogs in the world but now, just behind the ones I make after stealing their idea.*
- ***Otate's** on Ave 15 between Ave Rosado Salas and Calle 3. We eat there all the time. This is a bit bigger than a cocina economica and is an outdoor eating place with a metal roof over the top. (Think old school, southern BBQ shack.) I had the Gringas- it was excellent! Denise had the veggie burrito. She thought it was good, but a little light on the veggies. We saw a person next to us eating the posole soup. I ordered one. It is a meal in itself. It comes with hominy, pork, chicken, onions, tomato, garlic and cilantro. Simply slide all the ingredients they bring with the soup in the bowl. Very tasty! Try the Tacos al Pastor with pineapple-tasty! This occasionally gets panned by American expats who think they know a thing or two about local eats. Good for them. We like it. We eat there-enough said. Dinner and 1 beer each-\$13 for two! \$4-8 pp.*
- ***Parroquia** is upstairs behind the Central Plaza church on Ave. 10. The chicken in mole sauce and soupa de lima are good choices here. This is a hang out for the local food & beverage service crowd and is open quite late.*

- ***Parrilla Cozumel** opened in late March, 2010 and is on 30 Avenida between Calles 19 and 21. Burgers and fries for 50 pesos (seasoned angus beef) Chicken with fixings (rice, beans and tortillas) for 80 pesos. If you want, they'll substitute the rice and beans with a Caesar salad. BBQ or Teriyaki chicken is 90 pesos. It has quickly become the new favorite for ex-pats. Our next door neighbors love their burgers. 987-120-0774. Open 7 days a week 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Home delivery.*
- ***Piratas** restaurant moved in the Spring of 2010 from south of town (as a beach bar) to the former location of the Corona Sports Bar. They are located right in the center of town, just south of the Main Plaza and a minute's walk from the ferry and Punta Langosta piers. The location Fifth Avenue between Adolfo Rosado Salas Street and First Street. \$1 Beer and indoor and sidewalk seating. We have not eaten there, but where there when our friends ate. I would put this above pub fare and, honestly, watching them eat the huge seafood platter they ordered made me hungry. Their sidewalk seating is a good place to hang out and watch people. 987-872-2253 Live bands. Mon - Thurs: 10:00 am - 11:45 pm Fri - Sat: 10:00 am - 4:00 am.*
- **Plaza Leza** is the restaurant right next door to Cocina Mexicana and offers a similar Mexican menu. But to tell you the truth, it bugs us that every time we walk by this place we have to tell these guys three different ways that we don't want to eat a meal with them at that very moment. As a result, we find we rarely think of going there when we are ready to eat.

*What he said applies to us as well. Our friends tell us the food is good. They serve breakfast.*

- ***The Pub** is under new ownership (Ondine & Oscar) and it is located on Avenida 10 between Rosado Salas and 1 Sur, just south of the square. This is a good place to watch sporting events, listen to music, and sing karaoke. They have a full menu and daily specials (posted outside). Expect to pay about 60 peso for the commida corrida (soup, main dish and jamica). They have Negro Modelo on tap for 15 pesos and bottled beer for 20 pesos. Three large screen TVs to watch your favorite sports are available. Open 7 days a week. They open around 1 or 1:30 PM to 11 PM. Rumor has it they are also open for breakfast. AC*
- ***Sabores Loncheria** is another good place to try homemade Yucatan cuisine and the chance to walk through someone's living room is Sabores Loncheria. It is located in a yellow house on Ave. 5 between Calles 3 & 5. We ate there for the first time in July of 2010. They speak enough English to get by and everyone is very friendly. Everything on the menu is good. If the weather is good, sit in the garden and you'll be walked through the kitchen where the cook is happy to lift the lids and show you what's for lunch. It's a changing menu but usually you'll have a choice of several entrees. The meal comes with soup and an iced pitcher of jimaica (hibiscus flower tea.) for a total of \$50-60 pesos pp.*

Desserts are an extra \$10 pesos. 8-11AM for breakfast and 11-4PM for lunch. 872-0082

- **Spearfishing with Leo-** *Leo is not a restaurant, but if you go spearfishing with him by boat, take him up on the offer to have him cook your catch on the grille at a beach. It is excellent and there is nothing like eating a fish that was leisurely planning his day a few moments earlier- I bet this wasn't in his plans! He will also borrow the kitchen from Wet Wendy's and cook you a great meal. In addition, you can take your catch to a number of restaurants and they will cook it for you at a minimal cost. [www.SpearFishingToday.com](http://www.SpearFishingToday.com) (Tell him Mark sent you.)*
- **Sushi n Go**, another sushi restaurant is on Calle 11 (aka Andres Quintana Roo Avenida) one block from the waterfront, north side of the street.
- **Taqueria el Sitio** on 2nd Street, between Avenida 5 & 10 across from the taxi headquarters. Excellent fish tacos. Smallish tortillas, with mountainous piles of hot pescado. 10 pesos each and well worth it. Get there early, they close around 12:30pm or whenever they're done cooking...Fish is fried in a large cast iron pot on open flames!!! As local as you can get.
- **Thai Noodle Bar** *This is the sister restaurant of Rock N Java. Food prices range from \$40 pesos to \$90 pesos and the menu is refreshing and delicious. Expect great Thai food and sushi. Their new location is on the lower level of the Mega grocery store location. 4-11PM. Call for delivery 869-2794 AC/WiFi. <http://www.rocknjavacozumel.com/noodlebarenglish/>*
- **Wet Wendy's Margarita Bar and Restaurant**, on 5<sup>th</sup> about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a block north of the square. Chad and Clara are known for their congenial spirits and massive margaritas. In the fall of 2010, they tore the old place down and started on a new bar and restaurant. The new bar was complete in December, 2010. Their new restaurant area was finished in January, 2011. A fun dinner/drink place with the largest drinks you have ever seen. We always seem to end up there after a night on the square for an after dinner cocktail. WW has quickly become the place to meet old and new friends. There is music on occasional nights. [www.WetWendy's.com](http://www.WetWendy's.com) Outdoor/partial covered dining.
- **Le Tres Marias** is more geared towards locals than tourists and opened in July, 2008. Their website (it is in Spanish) is [www.ltmcozumel.com](http://www.ltmcozumel.com). It is located on 65th Avenue just past the Naval Base going south. Great beef and chicken dishes from Monterey area. Cost of food is between 50 and 75 pesos per person. Menus are in Spanish at this time. The hours are from 2:00 PM until 11:00 PM, Tuesday through Sunday.

*The local Americans consider this a good food (and cheap) find.*

- *Woody's* opened in December of 2008. It is located on the NE corner of the square, behind the 7-11 Store on 5th.. For those that know Cozumel, this is the old location of Baby Reef. Emphasis is on fresh bar food-not frozen. If you are looking for a great burger, this is the place. It is owned by one of the former bartenders of Kelley's, Greg and the former co-owner of Scuba Shack, Roberto. They have a couple of TV's for the game. Cold beer-\$1.50 Indoor and outdoor seating. Nice place to hang out and down a beer. If you catch fish, they will cook it for you. We took fillets from the dorado we caught and Greg did a great job with it. It is worth calling ahead to let him know you want to do this. This allows him to customize your dish for you. AC.

## Moderate-Priced Restaurants

- *Albinos* We've driven past this place numerous times, but never stopped it's a bit off the beaten path and not within walking distance of the town square on 20th Avenida between Calles 10 and 12 Norte. Quite honestly, it looks like a tree house with the thatch roof. It is family run and the food is very good. Denise had the coconut shrimp and I had the grouper. Eat on the second floor for a nice breeze. They have amazing bacon wrapped shrimp with bechamel sauce. They also close at 8pm so for a relaxed evening, best to get there at around 6pm latest since they really do CLOSE the doors at 8pm. (They won't kick you out at 8, though.) They also serve lobster but we didn't try it as it was out of season when we were there.
- *Abuelo Gerardo*, just north of the Catholic Church at 10th Avenida and 2 Norte. This is another family run restaurant on Cozumel. El Abuelo Gerado is Spanish for Grandfather Gerard, the patriarch. Service is from early morning to late at night. They have open-air indoor and garden seating. Lobster meals are in the high teens. Avoid paying in dollars or, as in most establishments, you will pay a much higher price due to the exchange rates.

We're definitely not food snobs and we are polite and gracious at all the places we eat. We had heard we would get warm service, a congenial atmosphere and good food at reasonable prices. A local friend questioned our decision to go there for dinner, but we told him we were dead set on trying it based on recommendations of other locals.

We arrived about 8:40 PM to a nearly empty restaurant. Our waiter was gruff and seemed more interested in looking outdoors for something down the street. Ten minutes later, our drinks arrived. Denise ordered the lobster "as you like it" and I ordered the grouper filet "as you like it" and asked for it to be cooked "a la Vera Cruz". Our waiter (Denise said he was the "Soup Nazi") told me I couldn't get it cooked that way. He recommended the garlic and butter and I concurred. He harrumphed again and left. I was getting a bad vibe about this place...

*The meal was unceremoniously placed on our table and the waiter disappeared. Denise had two small lobster tails and I had three small grouper filets. We found them underneath the pile of French fries we didn't know we ordered. We were expecting rice and vegetables, not fries. (We have later learned this is a substitution they make, but don't tell you.) It was late and we were hungry. I finally caught the waiter's eye and requested ketchup. A few minutes later he brought me an empty bottle of ketchup-it held enough for two fries. Another five minutes passed and I scored a second bottle that almost had enough for both of us. Denise liked her lobster. It was pretty obvious that the three filets had been cooked at different times as the third filet was dry and had a different taste. My food was average at best. The fries were standard fare.*

*To top it off, our waiter added his tip ("propina") to the check. In speaking with other people who frequently visit the island, their experience has mirrored ours. I wish we had known this beforehand. We love to support the locals, I'm not sure if it is worth the risk of having a bad meal on your vacation. Reviews by others have mimicked our experience or have been just the opposite. We'll give them another shot at wowing us on a later trip. They are also open for breakfast, which we hear is very good.*

- **Ambar** *A nice looking bar with outdoor and indoor dining located just south of the square on 5th. We haven't eaten there, but the reviews we have heard from friends are good. Cheap beer (\$1) if you want to sit on the plaza and people watch. A/C inside. Occasional bands at night.*
- **Blue Angel Resort Restaurant**, *located south of town on Melgar is now offering Mexican Night and an early bird menu on Sundays, Blue Angel's Chef, Martita, has recently started offering a special Mexican style menu on Sunday nights from 4 - 8 pm. Enjoy her special homemade creations with fresh margaritas or \$1.50 national beers. Blue Angel*
- **La Choza** *For authentic home style Mexican cuisine try La Choza, a restaurant featuring interesting soups, condiments, nightly specials and what we think is the best flan in Cozumel. The price of your entree at lunch and dinner includes a choice of soups. If you visit here for lunch, ask about the daily specials. Prices for the unadvertised lunch specials will be significantly cheaper than similar meals on the menu but your waiter won't mention them unless you ask. Lunch and dinner favorites are the pork in tomato sauce and seafood either grilled or Vera Cruz style. La Choza serves very good beef fajitas in Cozumel and great margaritas. This place is a good choice for breakfast too. The mustard based chip sauce is excellent.*

*When they were at the old location, we would almost always eat there at least once or twice with every visit to the island. The food is simple, but wonderfully prepared. Denise gets the garlic shrimp, which is awesome. Mark likes the Vera Cruz fish and fajitas. The margaritas*

are huge and potent...be careful. The noodle soup is very good and HOT. Some of our local friends, poo-poo this place as being a bit touristy, but we eat there late at night and disagree with them.

A fire moved them from the corner of 10th. They are still on 10th and about 25 yards from their old location between Avenida Rosado Salas and Calle 3. We have to admit, we miss the ambience of the old place. The new place seems too sterile and too big. It is also a lot noisier due to the hard ceilings vs. the old thatch roof. We ate there in 1/09 and it just didn't seem the same as the old laid back "see and be seen" joint. The food is still very good and judging by the crowds, others agree. No A/C, but they do have ceiling fans. \$6-15pp

- **The Danube** is located on the fourth floor of the building called Plaza i-95 across from Puerta Maya, the southernmost cruise ship pier. This is owned by the Kwok family who run Chi's (Chinese) downtown. The restaurant features two Culinary Institute of America chefs and the presentation of the food doesn't disappoint. They serve various types of skewered meals, grouper, coconut shrimp, shrimp and scallop ravioli and some killer deserts. The interior is AC'd and there is outdoor seating with a great view of the cruise ship area. They are open Mon-Sat from 10AM-4PM or until the last cruise ship has left. They are open for dinner on Friday and Saturday nights until 11 PM and these dinners are a little more upscale with live saxophone music. Our guess is, given their early closing times this place will cater mostly to cruise ship people on non-dinner nights. 987-989-6349 x107
- **Del Sur** moved in July, 2010 to the intersection of Calle 3 and Avenida 5 Sur. Renee, the owner, is very personable. He is from Mexico City and his wife is from Argentina. His new place is very nice with modern, clean decor and AC. The empanadas are the flakiest you have ever eaten. Try the beef or chicken empanadas. The chorizo isn't bad, either. The beef and chicken ones were 24 pesos each. Renee explains his "art" and the flavors thoroughly. This place is a must stop if you want freshly made (not frozen) empanadas. Three or four are enough for a light meal. He also serves quiche for those wanting something different. Friends swear by the "complete" Brazilian meals which are in the \$12-25 range. We had Te lo Llevamos deliver dinner to us one night and it was still warm and tasty. AC
- **El Moro** You might not be able to find El Moro by yourself (and once you get there you'll think you're in the wrong place) so take a cab if you can't read a map. It's in a residential neighborhood off the main road a few blocks north of the "Big Conch" circle on 65th. It is located on Ave 75 Bis between Calle 2 and Calle 4.

Everything on the menu is good, especially the seafood and the hand written specials. It's owned by relatives of the owners of Los Morros Del Morrito and offers a similar menu.

*It's true that it's hard to find. I think we drove around the first time for about an hour looking for it...and the island just isn't that big! We've eaten there 10-12 times and it is still one of our "must eat" places. It is not a fancy place. There is no air conditioning, but the food is great and the service is very friendly. Their sign is hard to see. Even as you drive past it, you think you are in the wrong neighborhood. The easiest way to get there is to get on 65th. Turn east on Calle 4 and then right on Ave 75 Bis. (not 75). There may be some hand-painted signs located high on the telephone poles directing you to El Moro, but I wouldn't count on it. Look at the photos inside and you may recognize some of the Hollywood stars who have eaten there. At the completion of your meal, they typically offer a small shot of a liqueur called Ixtabentun that is very good.*

*If you happen to catch/spear any fish, they will offer recommendations for cooking it for you. All you need to do beforehand is scale and gut your fish. We did this on one of our ventures and it was excellent! Prices have crept up a bit, but it is still a place worth finding. \$8-18 pp.*

- ***Jeannie's Waffle House*** moved from the front of the Vista Del Mar Hotel to the waterfront at the corner of Ave. R. Melgar and Ave. 11 a few years ago. While bi-lingual menus are available and the staff speaks some English, your waiter will give you a menu "book" with pictures of each dish so if you can't make yourself understood in either Spanish or English, you can just point at the picture of what you want. In addition to doing a pretty good job with the usual breakfast fare, it offers a decent in-house bakery. It is not owned by the original Jeannie anymore, but still a place to chill out over breakfast.

*Another Cozumel tradition for us. We've lost track of how many breakfasts we've had here. Since they moved to the waterfront, there is always a wonderful breeze and we tend to linger over yet another cup of coffee. They are known for their waffles, but everything is good. It is one of our favorite morning spots if we have nothing to do but watch the world go by. We used to consider this a cheap eats place, but the prices have bumped up a bit since the new location opened. (Gotta pay the oceanfront rent!) They are now open for breakfast lunch and dinner. They have bands on some nights and happy hour specials. A/C and outdoor seating.*

- ***Jeannie's Waffle House (#2)*** at the Casona Real Hotel on Avenida Jaurez has closed.
- ***Kelley's-*** If you're missing home, stop by Kelley's. Gene Kelley (yep, that's his real name) is the owner and is always there. There is usually a game on and the beers are always flowing. He has satellite TV and is more than happy to change it to your game. There are numerous flat panel TV's at the bar. (Motto: "If you're drinking, you can watch anything you want.") It's a very popular place with the Americans who live there. The food is good, but people really go there for the socializing and to catch their team on TV. All the US barflies hang out there at some point. They are located on 10th between

*1st and Rosado Salas (south of the square). You need to stop here for a beer if nothing else. There may be live bands on the weekends. There are coupons for a free cold one in this binder. The ribs and fish & chips are good. \$3 beers. 878-4738*

*If there is an important game on that is not picked up on the 180+ channels we receive, Kelley's will have it on. The cross-eyed, black cat is named Misha.*

- ***Kondesa** has a great location on 5th Avenue, south of the square between Calle 5th and Calle 7. It features more traditional Mexican fare with a modern approach. It is owned by Kris (of Kinta fame) and his brother, Jason so you know it will be good. Open Tuesday-Sunday, 5:30pm-10:30pm. For reservations call 869-1085. \$120-150 pesos/meal puts it at the upper end of the moderately priced meal, but you can't beat the ambiance. We had dinner there in March and again in May, 2011. Jason and Kris have another winner and you won't be disappointed. Wednesday offers 2 x 1 mojitos and 2 x 1 nachos from 6 - 8 pm weekly.*
- ***La Casa de Morena** is another one of our favorite places. They offer covered and garden seating. The Pescado a la Vera Cruz is fantastic. The coconut shrimp is also very good. Be very careful with their salsa, it's made with habaneros. Need we say more? They will also clean & cook your fish catch for \$60 pesos per person. If have enough fish, ask them to make some ceviche for you. It is excellent. We took a large fish there in July of 2011 and had them cook it. Our food bill for four people, including the ceviche, was \$21 USD! They take credit cards. Located on 10th between 3rd and 5th Sur. Garden and covered seating. \$8-15pp*
- ***El Maharaja** has been in business for years on the island supplying food to hotels and restaurants. Now they have a new grocery and deli restaurant location on Avenida 15 between Avenida Rosada Salas and Calle 1 (near the Pepita motel). They now sell premium food goods to the public. They have a bakery and small grocery area. They serve breakfast at 7 AM. AC Hours: Mon-Sat: 7am- 9pm Sun: 8am-2pm.*
- ***MosaiCoz** The place on the square to see and be seen. If you want to meet someone for lunch or dinner and you want to kick back, this is the place. It's a good place to be for the Sunday festival on the square. In the evening, they offer a tasty wood fired pizza cooked in a brick oven (after 7 PM) they built themselves. The pizzas are said to be for one, but if you are light eaters, two can split one. This is the former location of Bianca and Georgini's. You'll still catch Bianca making sure everything is perfect. If you like your pizza crust crunchy, you need to tell them. It's a great place to order a cheap bucket of beers and watch people walk by. Of note, during dinner hours they may require you to order food. Look for the large umbrella's at the SE corner of the square. If it is raining hard, they may be closed as they have no indoor seating \$6-10 pp.*

- **Carlos N Charlies/Senor Frogs** *This is where the cruise ship people go during the day. We've never eaten there for no other reason that it is packed with cruise ship people who are a bit boisterous. The food appears tasty and the portions are a decent size. A good late night dance place if the island is crowded. Located on Rafael Melgar near the downtown cruise ship pier. Write down 5 songs you want to hear and give the DJ a couple of bucks and he'll play them for you-especially if the place is dead. We threw our own drunken dance party there one night....a party of four! The music upstairs at the Frog's rocks a little harder on the weekend and is more of a dance place. When CnC's closes, the Frog picks up the slack. A/C*
- **Casa Denis** *is a small place with outside sidewalk and courtyard seating and what many consider the best choice for moderately priced dining in the downtown square area. It features a traditional Mexican menu including empanadas, tacos, soups, sandwiches and full dinners. It is located on the SE corner of the square, just slightly east of Avenida 5. The food costs are reasonable, but a large margarita will run you about \$60 pesos.*

*This is Cozumel's most famous restaurant probably because Jackie Onassis ate here. Of course, she's dead now, so that doesn't speak well of the food, I guess. ;-)* Its menu is Mexican and we've always had a good meal there. All of our meals have been great. Mention their website and you will get a free drink with dinner. ([www.casadenis.com](http://www.casadenis.com)) This is also a good lunch place. Breakfast is served in their courtyard. \$8-18pp.

- **Chi** *is a Chinese restaurant open on Cozumel's beautiful waterfront. Chi is owned by a long-time Cozumel restaurateur, and some elements and menu items of local favorite Sam's Wok were brought to Chi. The new location is probably one of the best views on the waterfront, and a prime place to watch the carnival Parade. The service is very attentive. The owners personally thank everyone as they leave the restaurant. Located on Melgar at Calle 3 on the second floor above Pizza Hut. We ate there in 2011 for Carnival. They have indoor and outdoor seating and while the food is good, it isn't great in our opinion. Besides, I can get Chinese food anytime I want when I am stateside. A/C*
- **El Capi Navegante** *If you eat there frequently, on occasion you may get an excellent meal but it has a tendency to be inconsistent. As you might expect from this place's name, the menu is primarily seafood. On a good night, the conch ceviche, Caesar salad and Octopus Mexican style are all recommended. On a bad night, you'll wish you had eaten somewhere else. El Capi is located on Ave 10 near Calle 3.*

*The lobster thermidor is very good when it is good. Other times it is just average. This used to be one of our favorite restaurants, but when we were hit up for a time share while seated and eating, we were done with it. The timeshare issue was solved with a simple, no thank you. A/C*

- **Las Palmeras Restaurant** is on the central square across from the ferry pier and because everyone knows it, a good place to meet at as in "I'll meet you at 8 at Las Palmeras." Insist on a street side table. The mariachi band is not the best in the world but is sincere. The food is decent and considering the location, really not badly overpriced (at least not on the menu.) However, be sure to check your written bill carefully as the waiters sometimes attempt to tell you how much you owe without providing a written check and/or overcharge on the bill they provide you and try to pocket the difference. This is another good place to try the Cochinta Pibil. Unless you're really hungry, a single order of the fresh fruit is enough for two at breakfast.

*This is the place to go and watch the world go by, literally. It is situated across the street from the people ferry pier and is on one of the busiest corners in town. A nice place to toss back a few and veg out. We've never had issues with our check as mentioned above and include it as an FYI only. The food is good, but not anything to write home about. Surprisingly, a lot of vacationing Mexican nationals eat here. I would have thought it was too touristy for them. Breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

- **Ernesto's Fajita Factory** You'll find a good version of Texas style fajitas at Ernesto's Fajita Factory. While the downtown location on Ave. R. Melgar is now closed, there is still one in the south hotel district near the Casa Del Mar. The portions are large but not cheap by local standards. On the other hand, daily breakfast specials here are a good deal.

*A landmark in Cozumel. We've never eaten there as it is south of town and we are rarely in that area during lunch, but other people swear by it. It has been rebuilt since Wilma.*

- **French Quarter** is located on Ave. 5 about a block south of the square. Cajun and Creole are the specialties of French Quarter. We have had several wonderful meals there. The upstairs palapa seating provides a nice breeze, as well as a nice view of the city. A nice cigar type bar is downstairs with a good selection of top-shelf alcohol and two satellite TV's for the game. They have a killer special for Monday Night Football that includes \$1 drafts and a \$5 all you can eat dinner menu that varies from spaghetti to hamburgers, fried chicken/mashed pots, ribs, gumbo & etc. This is another US expats drinking establishment. FQ is transitioning to a new owner in 2011. There's no word as to what changes are planned. In the back of our review binder is a discount coupon for French Quarter. Cozumel Insider's printed tabloid found in local stores may have a 50% off coupon. \$8-15pp Happy Hour 5-7. Closed Tuesdays 978-872-6321
- **La Veranda (formerly D'Pub)** is located 2 blocks from the Main Plaza on Calle 4 Norte between 5 and 10. As the name implies, the outside tables sit on a porch overlooking a nice small garden, which makes a pleasant setting for a cold drink. The food includes influences from all over the Caribbean. La Veranda is owned by Ernesto of local fajita

fame. *A romantic dinner place for a special occasion. Very good food. You won't be disappointed.*

- **La Conchita del Caribe** is located on 65<sup>th</sup> between 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. This place gets good reviews by many people, however we were less than enthused. For being off the beaten path, we expected the food to be a little cheaper. A fish fillet dinner was in the \$10-15 range. If you want, you can walk into the open kitchen and pick your fish out of the cooler. If more than one person wants the whole fried fish, pick out a larger one and share. The species of fish will vary depending on what they caught that day. If available, try the hog fish or snapper. The best value priced item offered at Conchita is the "whole fried fish." If you select this option, be sure to go up to the kitchen counter area with the waiter and select the fresh fish you want. By the counter there will be a cooler packed with ice and various fish. Once you select the type and size you want, the chef will then weigh it and prepare it to your specifications-grilled or fried. Given the location, you'll probably be pleasantly surprised to find that English is spoken here and they have English menus. The place is spotless with an impressive amount of stainless steel and off street parking right out front. Open 9AM to 7PM. AC. 987-872-5888 VISA/MC
- **La Jarocho** opened in 2010 and is located on Avenida 65th just south of 11th<sup>h</sup>. It is palapa covered open air dining with the typical plastic chairs and tables. A very nice dining experience, but again a little pricey for the location. I had the marisco (seafood) soup at 95 pesos. It was very good and a meal in itself. Denise was unimpressed with her garlic fish fillet (120 pesos?). A good place for a meal, but not cheap eats for being this far back if you want seafood. For tacos and things like that, the prices were much better and our friends that ate with us loved their meal. As this is open air, bug spray might be a good idea at night to keep away the mosquitoes. 11 AM until late at night.
- **La Mission** is another good Mexican restaurant that has unadvertised inexpensive lunch specials that you won't know about unless you specifically ask about them. For dinner, the shrimp entrees are good as are the traditional Mexican dishes including flan and the flaming coffees. They are located on Calle 3 less than a block off the waterfront.

*Another island landmark. It used to be one of our favorites when we first starting going to the island. Since then, we have found so many other great restaurants, it has fallen off our list-not for any reason except there are just so many great places. They occasionally have good lobster deals. To get the same food at a lower price, visit La Parilla Mission on 30th.*

- **La Nueva Mission II** The prices at La Nueva Mission II fall somewhere between moderate and expensive category but we list it here with the other Mission location to avoid confusion. Beto Miranda, the owner of both Missions and a long time Cozumel restaurateur has opened this place at his beautiful mission style home just off of Ave. B. Juarez & Ave. 55. Tables wrap around the veranda of the hacienda and spill out onto

the lawn. The downstairs of the home is open for dinner guests to have a look around. Towards the back of the property Beto keeps his pet monkey and two African lions in cages. Some may find the housing conditions of the animals offensive but others see the same thing and find it an amazing sight. The menu includes all the standard Mexican favorites and the service is usually very good. You're paying a little extra for the atmosphere but for a special occasion, it is probably worth it.

*We ate there a couple of times when we didn't venture deep into the town. The food was good, but has fallen off of our list for no other reason that we support places off the beaten path. To get the same food at a lower price, visit La Parilla Mission on 30th. Several friends thought the lobster was an excellent value.*

- **HC de Monterrey-** You'll find it on Ave. 5 Sur between Calle 9 and 9 Bis. at the dead end near the cemetery. This south of the square. They are open every day for lunch and dinner, from 1pm to 10pm.

The service is very quick. Normally the word "tender" is not something you think of when you think of arrachera, but HC de Monterrey is a great restaurant on Cozumel where you can find arrachera that is not only tender, but also delicious, and the prices are quite reasonable. The "arrachera national" includes arrachera (seasoned skirt steak) and they will grill it and serve it to your order...rare, medium or well done. Even well done, this beef is very tender. Along with that you can have your choice of a grilled onion (cebolla) or a baked potato (papa). They have a sauce for your meat and provide sour cream with garlic for your baked potato. The cost is 115 pesos which at the current local exchange rate is about \$10 U.S.

- **La Parilla Mission-** Owned by the same people that own the popular La Mission on Melgar, this is a less commercial version of the same, but with simpler décor. We ate there as a large group and they took care of us and split the checks. The food was good and the quantities were perfect. The breakfasts are really good and inexpensive (\$2.50). There are 5-6 breakfast choices and it's really good. Lunch/Dinner are great as well. They do a huge take-out business. Lots and lots of people coming in and taking out food in to-go boxes and many more stacked up on the counter. They have home delivery.

*Americans and locals can be found here. \$6-10 pp for dinner. Located on Avenida 30 between Calles 2 & 4 on the west side of the road.*

- **Olive/Le Chef** is on Avenida 5 at the intersection of Calle 5 Sur. Same owners each time but they change the name back and forth. Expect a four course meal, with a glass of wine that pairs well with the dish. Not too big of a dish, but not a small tapa-like meal. This can be a pricey place to eat, but it is good. AC with a few sidewalk café seats. Good wine selection.

- **La Perlita**, locate between 65 Bis and 70th and Calle 10 (a Bis street is parallel to the main street number) is a bit out of the way, but if you want a break from downtown restaurants and are looking for a palapa type atmosphere give it a try. They serve excellent seafood, great salsa, and at \$130 pesos (2010), a nicely priced lobster. Also on the menu: Camarones a la Diablo (Shrimp in Hot Sauce) and Camarones al mojo de ajo (Shrimp in Garlic Sauce). Give Perlita credit for trying to help out the reefs for adding the tasty, but invasive, Lionfish to the menu. Locals eat here and you might be the only non-local so you will get the full Cozumel experience. \$10-15pp 987-869-8343 Open for breakfast, lunch and an early dinner. They close around 7 PM.
- **Pescaderia San Carlos** If you look real close, you can find the name of San Carlos across the bottom of the front wall but in all likelihood, the first thing that will catch your eye when you arrive at this restaurant will be the word PESCADERIA in blue. Regardless of what you call it, this is a great little fish place back in the neighborhoods. They sell a lot of to go orders of both cooked and fresh fish but in back are a couple tables where you can dine in. The conch ceviche is usually very fresh and a single serving at \$40 pesos is an ample appetizer for a table of 6. A plate lunch with a fillet entrée is \$45-\$50 pesos. A whole fried fish for one starts at around \$60 pesos but can go higher depending on the weight. If you want, you can walk into the open kitchen and pick your fish out of the cooler. If more than one person wants the whole fried fish, pick out a larger one and share. The species of fish will vary depending on what they caught that day but if available, try the hog fish. Given the location, you'll probably be pleasantly surprised to find that English is spoken here. The easiest way to get to San Carlos is to drive east out Calle 11 past 30 and take a left onto Ave. 50 Bis. That will be the second Ave. 50 (bis) you come to. San Carlos is on the right between A.R. Salas and Calle 3. Open 9AM to 5PM.

*This place gets rave reviews by everyone who wants a "local's" experience. We still haven't made it there yet.*

- **Pizza Rolandi**- has re-opened in the former ANSU location on the waterfront on Melgar at the intersection of Calle 11, near Margaritaville at the end of February, 2010. If you have ever eaten at Rolandi's in Playa or Isla Mujeres, you too will be excited about this family owned place. This is a nice, yet homey restaurant, specializing in seafood and Italian dishes (fish kabobs, tuna steaks, ravioli, pizza, etc.). Rolandi's is a perfect combo of Guido's and Primas with fair prices and good sized portions. They also have a decent wine selection. \$8-15pp w/o drinks. Open 11 AM to around midnight. Reservations are not required. 872-1097. Happy Hour 4-6pm

*Visit the upstairs Tequila 1.5 patio out back over the water for a really lovely view with neat seating arrangements. Club music plays over the speakers. AC*

- **Puerto Abrigo Restaurant/Snack Bar** This is the marina just North of town and easy walking distance from Nah Ha. It opened in summer of '09. It is a second floor palapa bar with a commanding view of the marina. This is a good place to rub elbows with the locals and fishing enthusiasts. It would also be a good place for the spouse to wait and see what the "great fisherman" has brought home for dinner. It features a big screen TV, live and recorded music. They open late in the afternoon and stay open till 11pm. It is closed on Monday.

*Entradas/appetizers range from 60-160 pesos. They have guacamole, quesadillas, cheese, fish or chicken fingers, coconut shrimp with a tropical salsa is the one for 160 pesos. Seafood ranges from 80 pesos for the octopus coctel (pulpo), to 160 pesos for mixed sea food ceviche. The rest of the menu ranges from 60 pesos for tuna sandwich to 110 pesos for chicken fajitas. Other menu items included burgers, tacos and burritos. They have a full bar. (Bacardi 35 pesos, Absolute 50 pesos, Buchanan's whisky 80 pesos, Beer 20 pesos. The menu is in Spanish, so it helps to know a little Spanglish.*

- **Sonora Grill** features steaks and seafood. While flavorful, the steaks are "Mexican Style" and a bit chewy for American taste. The soupa de lima, beef kabob, beefsteak tacos and lobster (at about \$13 the last time we ate there) are all good. Located between Ave 10 & 15 on Ave. B. Juarez.

*Another one of our old favorites. It has seating upstairs and is nicely decorated with traditional Mexican décor. The lobster tail is also very good, but smaller than Prima's was. They offer a very good club sandwich for breakfast. When we were there in January, 2007 we had a decent meal (I thought), but Denise was unimpressed and said we should take it off the list. I still like the food and the upstairs seating, but what do I know? I'm just a guy!*

- **Acuario Restaurant** (now where **Margaritaville** is) Acuario was destroyed by Hurricane Wilma and has been replaced by Margaritaville. We won't be reviewing Margaritaville- too touristy for us. We did hear the margaritas were the worst on the island! Go figure. They occasionally have live bands. The outdoor seating in the rear is a pleasant place to go at night for a drink. You need to really like Jimmy Buffet music if you go here. Hey, wait a minute...Buffet music/Margaritaville? Is there a connection? Hmmm.
- **Del Museo** is located on the second floor of the Cozumel Museum on Ave. Rafael Melgar and it provides a very nice view of the downtown beach area. To date, the only meals we've eaten there are breakfast but we've heard it is a decent choice for lunch or dinner as well. This is another great outdoor place for breakfast and lunch and a favorite with locals. Try the freshly made carrot/orange juice combo. This is a nice power walk from Nah Ha and a few blocks south of the airport road on Melgar. See a piece of art on the wall you like? Buy it. Some of the artwork in Nah Ha was bought in

*the museum. It is a great place to start the day. More Cozumel "business" gets accomplished here than you can imagine.*

- **Rock'n Java** serves a very good breakfast and lunch including a broad list of vegetarian meals and homemade deserts. It's located on the waterfront near the main Dive Paradise office -just north of the Barracuda Hotel. Open 7am-10pm daily. Home/hotel delivery: 872-4405

*One of our favorite places for breakfast, but we've had a great lunch there, too. Everything is so fresh and wonderfully prepared. You really can't go wrong with anything you order. Another local's favorite. If you are a vegetarian, this is a good place to go. If you are throwing a party, they can cater it for you. They have free wireless internet and a book exchange. (Leave 2, take 1 is their rule of thumb.) Leave your change in the Cozumel Animal Shelter donation box by the door. They really need your help. (A/C) \$5-8 pp for breakfast.*

- The **Diamond Bakery & Restaurant** near the pharmacy on the corner of Ave 15 also offers excellent deserts as well as good sandwiches.
- **La Canalla/Red Door** has closed.
- **Asian Garden** The Chinese Restaurant Asian Garden located on the Ave. 5 mall next to the downtown Banamex is another recent closure. But if you're getting tired of tacos, there is still an Oriental alternative in Cozumel. The same owners have opened Sams Wok in the palapa mall across the road from Puerto Maya (cruise ship pier) just south of the El Cid La Ceiba Hotel. Our understanding is that the location was picked to cater more to cruise ship crews than to tourists. We haven't tried the new location yet but found the original Asian Garden a bit more expensive than the typical Chinese back home and while it wasn't the best Chinese meal we've ever had, the food was actually pretty good.
- **El Turix** is located on the square in front of the Corpus Christi Church on Calle 17 Sur between Ave. 20 & 25. The owners of El Turix, Rafael and Maruca, treat their guests to a home style Yucatan cuisine with preparations and dishes not found in very many other local restaurants. While the menu has recently changed and the price of eating there has risen, the food is still very good. If offered on the evening you go there, this is an excellent place to try conchinita pibil, pork that is slow roasted in banana leaves producing a consistency and flavor that is somewhat similar to North Carolina style bar-b-que. Another featured dish is zodobachoy, a tamalé stuffed with ground pumpkin seeds and wrapped in chaya, a locally grown green similar to grape leaf. The deserts here are also excellent. If available, the coconut pie is not to be missed. The kitchen in this place is spotless, the service friendly and the food is good.

- **Tiki-Tok** Is North of the square by a couple of blocks on Melgar. It is on the second floor, next to the old cinema. At night, they have live bands (check schedules). Toward the ocean, the tables and chairs are "in the sand". Very clean and it looks like your typical beach bar. Service was very good. We had chicken and fish tacos for lunch in July & October, 2009. Both were good but maybe a little pricey for what you got at \$10-12/pp. The view of the ocean and service is excellent! Great bands play here late at night.
- **Toro's Place** is another place you'd probably walk right past and not give it a second thought. It is near McDonald's on Ave. Melgar and is an open air restaurant on the second floor. We had lunch and a couple of beers in April, 2009. We had an order of tacos. It was good, but not knock-your-socks-off great as some websites claim. Great views of the water and very clean. A good alternative lunch place with a view if you are looking for something different than in the square. Like Tiki Tok, you pay for the view in the price of the food.

## Expensive/Nicer Restaurants

- **Kinta** opened in December, 2007, and is on Avenida 5 between Calles 2 and 4, across from Zermatt's bakery and ISIS a few doors down. The chef, Chris Wallenta, is from Guido's (see above) with training from the French Culinary school of Manhattan, New York. It is Mexican Bistro menu. Mexican food with a modern fusion twist and modern, upscale interior. The setting is very nice and small bistro like. The black bean soup is delicious. The chili relleno and the Pescado ala Kinta are both excellent. It is non-smoking. The prices are reasonable, the quality excellent and the wine selection is good. Kinta has a free lot for its customers. It's around the corner from the restaurant- on Calle 4 between Aves. 5 & 10, north side of the street & very close to Ave. 5. There is a pay parking lot right across the street or park on Melgar and walk the one block in.

They have garden seating which is our favorite place to eat. If the weather is "iffy" eat inside as the garden has limited canopy protection from heavy rains. Reservations are recommended if you want garden seating and don't want to wait. (987) 869-0544. They have a small bar if you need to wait for a table. Closed on Mondays. AC.

When Chris learned we were there for Denise's birthday, he surprised her with a desert for two. You can't go wrong here! \$12-20 pp w/o appetizer. Tell Chris that Mark and Denise from Nah Ha sent you and you will know you are among friends! Look for Panchita the "house cat" lurking in the bushes.

- **Sorrisi-** Is located on Calle 3 Sur,  $\frac{1}{2}$  block off of Melgar. It is a nice "date" place or special occasion. I thought the food was a bit pricey, but Denise thought it was fairly

priced. Four people for dinner and a bottle of wine was \$140 with tip. The food was excellent and service was great as well. They also serve Italian ices and gelato. Update 8/09- Some of the reviews we have read recently have been less than stellar. A/C. \$12-20pp

- **La Cocay Restaurant-** On Calle 8 (north of the square), between 10th and 15th on the south side of the street is owned by Kathy & Gary Klein. They moved from Corpus Christi and the magic is still there. This is a special occasion place and it is the one of the best places to eat on the island. Covered indoor seating or garden seating is available. Denise had the chicken dish and I had the Wahoo special. They both were the best meals we had had on the island. The weather was pleasant, the wait staff kept our water, bread and drinks full and our meals were cooked perfectly. This is not a cheap dinner by Coz standards, but well worth the \$15-25pp. La Cocay is also open from 7 am-12 noon for breakfast.
- **La Casa del Habano** is a place where you can come enjoy soccer on TV with friends, dinner, or the unique Cozumel sunsets from their deck with a nice glass of wine. Their menu has been designed to share and includes things like tapas and steaks. They are easy to find in front of the people ferry pier on Melgar \$10-30pp. 987-876-1226
- **Especias-** This is another favorite for us. Adrian, the owner, is always there to greet his guests and make them feel at home. He is a member of the "Casa Denis" family. The menu is small, but there are several specials every night. It is on the second level of a building, so you need to look for it. It has indoor seating and a small outdoor balcony. We enjoy the balcony when the weather is nice. Located on Calle 3 between Aves. 5 & 10 on the second floor. Meals are in the \$10-20 pp. Try the bacon wrapped shrimp...numbingly good. Mention you learned about Especias on Trip Advisor or have the Can-Do map on you and Adrian, will give you a free bottle of wine with dinner. 6-11PM. Acoustic guitars Th-Sat. Closed on Sunday. 987-872-4483 or 987-869-7947
- **Guido's-** is located on Ave. Rafael Melgar on the north end of the town proper and while it is not cheap, it is very good. Along with the pizza, they offer a very nice salad, "puff" garlic bread, various Northern Italian specials and homemade sangria. Garden diners find themselves under a canopy of bougainvillea and philodendra vines and are treated to an eclectic mix of recorded music. This is a great choice for a late, leisurely lunch. Reservations 872-0946 AC and garden seating.

This is an old favorite of ours. Sit in the quaint courtyard garden if you go. It is located to the left of the kitchen. Don't forget to look for the restaurant cat. (It might be hanging out in the tree right next to you.). The puff garlic "bread" is wonderful and light. It is basically what they use as their pizza crust with garlic butter spread all over it. Our favorite pizza is the Margarita that almost serves two (\$15). The meals here will satisfy without stuffing you. It is also a nice lunch place. While we enjoy the environment, if you

want a good wood fired pizza, try Bianca's on the square- it costs a lot less. \$8-15 pp. A/C in the front.

We took some grouper we caught for them to cook. For \$10pp they cooked the most incredible meal we have had. I'm guessing if I had let them have some of the fish, the meal would have been cheaper. Denise eats lunch there all the time with her friends.

In the fall of 2009, an expansion of the garden dining area was in the works. Let's hope it keeps the intimacy of the old garden. When we went by 1/10, I couldn't see what was different from the street.

- **el Bistro**-has relocated back to the restaurant called Olive.
- **Fratelli's Italian Restaurant** has relocated to the old Manati location at one of the rare wooden buildings on the island on the SE corner of Calle 8 and Avenida 10. Their hours are 2pm-12am. The food is great and prices are upper end for a meal unless you go for the pizza. There is a nice ambience & nice people. There's both indoor & outdoor seating. Gabriel, the owner worked for Rolandi's for 8 yrs. in Cancun & Isla Mujeres.
- **La Lobsteria**- A romantic place for dinner in one of the oldest structures on the island. Candlelit with indoor and outdoor seating. Absolutely delightful, inside and out! This new intimate little treasure has charming thatched roof and casual decor. Lobsteria offers delicious food, reasonable prices, fine service and romantic candlelight atmosphere. Menu is varied, but seafood is the highlight. Located on the SE corner of Calle 5th and 7 Sur, a several blocks south of the square.

We have not eaten there since it re-opened in November of 2010. If sitting outdoors, you might need bug spray at certain times of the year. No AC

- **Manati** closed in August, 2008.
- **ANSU** has closed and re-opened as Rolandi's.
- **Olive**- The former Le Chef has combined menus with El Bistro and is now called Olive. The food at Le Chef was excellent. Denise had the ravioli, I had the personal sized chicken Caesar pizza. It kicked Guido's pizza in the butt. See El Bistro's review in the next section. Located at the intersection of Calle 5 and Avenida 5. AC. \$15-18pp 987-878-4391
- **Pancho's Backyard** is a part of the Cinco Soles retail store on the north end of Ave. Rafael Melgar. It is the site of one of the oldest tourist hotels in Cozumel that catered to wealthy Mexican Nationals from the mainland before Cozumel was discovered by gringos. The area that is now the restaurant was formally the hotel lobby and it is a

lovely setting. The food is very good and offers some interesting modern twists on standard Mexican dishes but at a higher price than most other Mexican restaurants in town.

*We ate there about ten years ago. It does have a beautiful setting for dining. Our friend has designated it as having "best chicken tacos on the island". Denise and a friend enjoyed their lunch there in July of 2011..*

- **At Pepe's Grill** the local seafood and steaks are recommended. This is the nicest salad bar in town and can be eaten without worry of picking up a stomach problem. Try to sit upstairs by a window. Sometimes this place is a little pretentious but the food is good. A reservation during the busy seasons and holidays is not a bad idea. It is located on the waterfront on the corner of Ave. Rafael Melgar and Salas. Telephone 872-0213.

*We ate here once a long time ago. The steak was tough, but the waterfront view was wonderful. Dark wood and totally enclosed and air conditioned. Other people have disagreed with our review of this landmark restaurant. The salad bar is impressive. This is owned by the developer of Nah Ha, Pepe Becerra. A/C Telephone 872-0213 or 987-117-6504*

- **At The Lobster House** you can pick out your own lobster and pay for it by weight. If you don't eat lobster, don't bother visiting this place because that's just about all there is on the menu. It is located 2.5 miles north of the center of town across the street from Hotel Playa Azul.

*This place is close to Nah Ha (decent walking distance) and is an intimate, little restaurant. Pretty much the only thing you can order here is lobster. The waiter brings out a few lobster tails of varying sizes and prices and you pick out which one you want. We enjoyed this place, but one thing we remember is that it was so dark there, we had a hard time seeing what we were eating. It was tied for the best lobster in town with la Lobsteria. However, recent reviews from friends have been spotty. This can be an expensive place to eat as you pick your lobster and they weigh it for you. Sides are rice, carrots and cucumbers. Be sure you know how much the lobster weighs when you select it. They have been known to "grow" after cooking. The owner's brother runs the seafood restaurant attached to it (to the right as you face it) and he serves more than lobster. It has gotten good reviews.*

- **Prima-** Sadly, Prima closed on May 15th, 2009. It is the end of a Cozumel favorite. Wynston/Prima's Too will take over the menu of Prima but it is more formal dining and is not "come as you are".
- **Wynston's/Prima's Too/Prima** is across from Chedraui's and on the top of the tower of the el Cantil Norte condo. Very good food at expensive prices. Don't expect to get out

*for less than \$25-30 pp plus drinks. A great skyline view and some of the seating is outdoors. Dress is a bit more than cut off shorts and flip flops but long pants are not required.*

*Wynston's has all the ingredients of an informal elegance and relaxed dining property. Ambiance, décor and the table settings allow you to relax and enjoy your evening in air conditioned comfort and their new outdoor seating. Good selection of wines. The menu offers of seafood, beef, veal, lamb, pasta and chicken dishes. They feature home made breads, ice creams and desserts. The bar offers more than 100 kinds of martinis (try the chocolate one for dessert). The Wynston is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.*

*We've been told the Prima menu and staff was moved to Wynston's. Let's hope so as Wynston's is one of the most expensive restaurants on the island. They had a number of signs on the ground floor of the building in October '09, so I assume they might be struggling a little bit with the "upscale" dress dining concept. See our cheap eats section for Prima's killer breakfast. A/C and outdoor "balcony" seating. [www.thewynston.com](http://www.thewynston.com) Phone: 987-869-1517*

### **American Food Cravings?**

*Where else but in Cozumel would American fast food be considered "expensive". You can find **McDonald's**, **Subway**, and **Domino's** on Ave. Rafael Melgar and Avenida 30. Most of the ingredients are imported from the States, which does help ensure a reasonable facsimile of the food but also contributes to prices that are quite a bit higher than what you find back home.*

*A new and very modern **Burger King** has been built further in town and it even has a drive through. It is located at the new Centro Comercial Leones Plaza at Av. 30 and Calle 1. Let's face it, sometimes you just need a burger fix. At this same location, you will find the Italian Coffee Company. It is a good place for cafe's, cappuccinos and frappes. The paninos and croissants are also good.*

***Dominos** will deliver to Nah Ha if you crave an American style pizza. A thin and crispy large pizza with three toppings is about \$19 US and delivered in about 30 minutes. They will answer in Spanish. Ask for someone who speaks English. You can pick it up yourself on Avenida 30. You can't miss it. It is huge.*

***Pizza Hut** also delivers to Nah Ha and it is good. It is on Calle 3 Sur, just off of Melgar by 100'. They will answer in Spanish. Ask for someone who speaks English. Necesito una persona te habla Ingles', por favor.*

*The Punta Langosta shopping center at the cruise ship pier near downtown is home to a large number of chain restaurants. We've never eaten in any of the Punta Langosta locations of*

*these restaurants but prices will be higher than you would find in a U.S. location of the same chain-especially since some are ocean view. Eateries at Punta Langosta include: **TGIF, Shokumi Sushi, Subway, Burger King, Mama Roma's, Senor Frog's, Carlos 'N Charlie's, Starbucks and Baskin Robbins.***

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