

Riviera Maya Chef wins Mexico's "Chef of the Year" Award



Pictured Here: Pineapple Shrimp, one of Chef Perez Stone's concoctions on his winning menu which also consisted of Pumpkin Flowers, Black Skin Trout and Chocolate road."

Chef Xavier Perez Stone of [Riviera Maya's Grand Velas Resort](#) has been crowned Mexico's "Chef of the Year" in a recent blind tasting at the prestigious 11th Annual Alimentaria Expo culinary competition. His winning entrée, a black-skin trout and pineapple-colored shrimp dish, wowed the judges with its flavor, preparation and presentation. Chef Perez Stone oversees the Grand Velas Resort's award-winning *Covina de Autor Restaurant*, one of seven in this ultra-luxurious vacation destination on the white sand shores of Playa del Carmen.

At [Grand Velas](#), guests can experience a culinary journey without ever leaving the resort. An array of eateries includes the signature *Cocina de Autor*, the Mexican inspired *Frida*, the French-influenced *Piaf* and the pan-Asian offerings at *Sen Lin*, where traditional Chinese and Japanese favorites combine with tastings from Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.

Award-winning *Frida Restaurant*, under the helm of Chef Ricardo De Vega, serves modern Mexican dishes in an indoor-outdoor setting under a bougainvillea-covered terrace overlooking the beach. Adventurous patrons will want to sample the eatery's tequila trolley when a roving mixologist stops tableside with seasonal margaritas concoctions.

For casual dining, three open-air snack bars, a couple of all-day restaurants and five bars complete the spectrum. You're never far from your next meal.

Staying at an all-inclusive like the [Grand Velas Resort](#) means you know what the total cost of your vacation will be before you leave home. And, unlike many, it is first class all the way. The resort's awards are as prolific as they are impressive. In 2010, The resort's Spa was named the recipient of "Most Excellent Spa Hotel" Award in Mexico and Central America. The same year, Virtuoso Network honored Grand Velas with its "Best Spa in the World" Award.

Spa Specifics: Inspired by the surrounding jungle and water pools of the Yucatan Peninsula, the massage and hydrotherapy therapies draw on traditional and indigenous healing arts. . Included in all spa services is the water journey with various forms of water massage in therapeutic hot and cool pools., Thorough relaxation precedes every service.

Rooms: Every room at [Grand Velas](#) is a suite. You'll find ocean views, robes, slippers and a beach bag along with a fully stocked mini-bar. Room service is at your beck and call.

Pools: The Ambassador area's infinity pool cascades into, well, infinity. The crystalline waters of the Mexican Caribbean are just a nearby stroll away. And of course, whatever your inclination, be it a family getaway or a romantic twosome, you will experience endless ocean views, family friendly programs, and a multitude of age-appropriate water sports.

United flies non-stop from San Francisco International Airport to Cancun International Airport. From there the resort is about 30 minutes drive by rental car, taxi or shuttle bus service, all available at the airport.

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