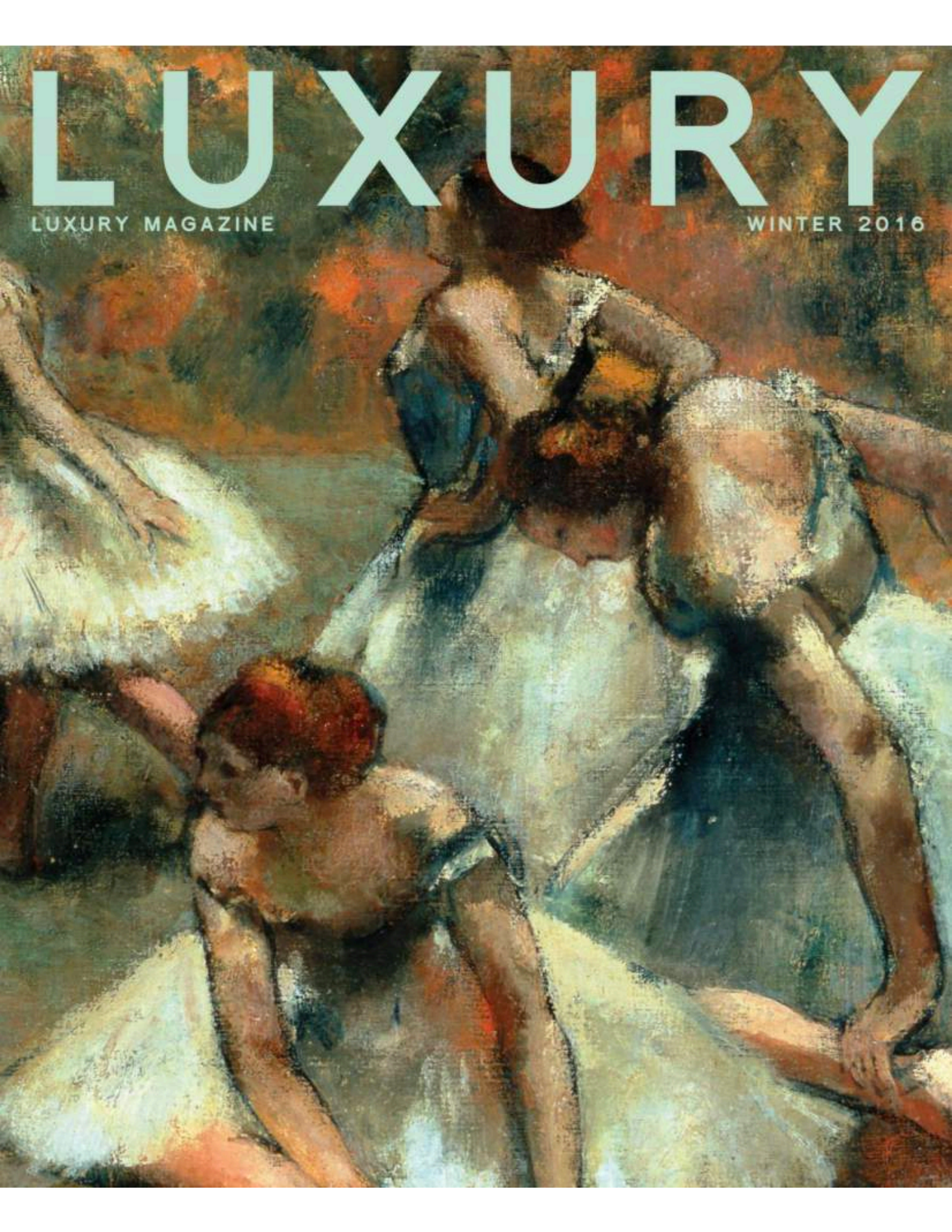


LUXURY

LUXURY MAGAZINE

WINTER 2016





LOS CABOS, MEXICO

Two years after Hurricane Odile, a category 3 storm, decimated Los Cabos, Mexico, wreaking havoc on hotels and residences and putting a virtual halt on tourism, the popular vacation destination at the tip of the Baja Peninsula has not just recovered—it's hotter than ever. World-class luxury resorts like the One&Only Palmilla, Las Ventanas, Esperanza, and the Resort at Pedregal have used the devastating destruction as an opportunity for large-scale, multimillion-dollar renovations and upgrades, while new properties such as the JW Marriott Los Cabos and The Cape, a Thompson hotel, have added to the dynamic scene. Next up, December 2016 will see the opening of Chileno Bay—a 60-room Auberge Resort connected to a Discovery Land Company residential development and Tom Fazio-designed golf course; a Nobu hotel, Ritz-Carlton Reserve, Montage resort, and Park Hyatt are set to open in 2017; and the Four Seasons is due to open by the end of 2018. In fact, over the next three years, the destination plans to add an impressive 3,800 hotel rooms throughout the region, which consists of two main towns, San José del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas, bordered by the Pacific Ocean and the Sea of Cortés on one side, and dramatic desert scenery on the other. Naturally, with the hotel business booming, there has been an impressive increase in surrounding attractions as well, with two new golf courses (the par-72, 18-hole Greg Norman Design Golf Course at Rancho San Lucas Los Cabos and the 36-hole Jack Nicklaus Signature Course at Puerto Los Cabos), countless residential constructions, improved flight connectivity—including new routes to San Diego, Seattle, Baltimore, Houston, and Washington, D.C.—and exciting culinary offerings (such as Cocina de Autor at Grand Velas Los Cabos, La Biblioteca de Tequila at the Breathless Resort & Spa, Cabos San Lucas, and Nido at Mar Adentro). The growth is so significant that a new road connecting San José del Cabo, Cabo San Lucas, and the airport has been built, shortening travel time along the tourist corridor. With so much action, the biggest challenge facing travelers these days is determining which property to choose.





Bottom left: Robert Heck; middle, Nicholas Sargenti

Clockwise from opposite left: The just-opened Chileno Bay; joining the scene in 2018, the Four Seasons Los Cabos at Costa Palmas development will offer 79 whole-ownership residences and custom single-family homes as well as a 145-room hotel; the 28,000-square-foot Ty Warner Mansion at Las Ventanas; the Resort at Pedregal; the brand-new four-bedroom Villa One at the One&Only Palmilla.

Where to stay... **For family-friendly fun:** One&Only Palmilla (from \$905; oneandonlyresorts.com) has always been one of the top high-end Cabo resorts for children, with a dedicated infinity-edged family pool, children's play areas, and one of the most swimmable beaches. Following a seven-month renovation, the 174-room resort reopened with Villa One, a hillside lodge perfect for families, with four bedrooms, a private screening room, and 14,000 square feet of indoor/outdoor space. **For design lovers:** Situated in the upscale Puerto Los Cabos community, the 299-room JW Marriott Los Cabos (from \$460; jwmarriott.com) is the first hotel ever created by renowned architect Jim Olson, of the Seattle-based firm Olson Kundig. Book one of the 45 guest rooms at the exclusive Griffin Club (from \$640), a boutique hotel-within-hotel with its own private beach, pool, and butler and chef services. **For a bachelor or bachelorette party:** Since debuting in June 2015, The Cape, a Thompson Hotel (from \$499; thompsonhotels.com) has quickly become the go-to spot for the stylish younger set looking for some fun. Overlooking the iconic El Arco rock formation, the property offers multiple areas for socializing—including a gorgeous infinity pool with a swim-up bar, numerous restaurants, and the sixth-story lounge and beer garden Rooftop at The Cape, the area's only (and thus largest) rooftop lounge—as well as easy access to the action in downtown Cabo San Lucas, located just a short cab ride away. **For a romance:** The intimate 57-room Esperanza, an Auberge Resort (from \$750; esperanza.aubergeresorts.com) also offers 36 elegant seaside residences and 60 villas (from \$1,100) that feature spacious terraces with private plunge pools. **For the most dramatic dinner:** Located on 27 acres at the southernmost tip of the Baja Peninsula, 113-room The Resort at Pedregal (from \$675; theresortatpedregal.com) has one of Cabo's most stunning restaurants, El Farallon. Tucked into the cliffs suspended over the Pacific, the venue features an "ocean-to-table" menu, allowing guests to choose from an array of fresh fish caught that day in the surrounding waters—enjoyed al fresco as the waves crash below. **For the ultimate privacy:** Having undergone a nine-month renovation after the hurricane, Rosewood's Las Ventanas al Paraíso (from \$640; rosewoodhotels.com) has now unveiled its new Ty Warner Mansion, which was in development for four years and named after the Beanie Babies founder, who purchased the property in 2004. The 28,000-square-foot villa offers all of the amenities of the resort in an exclusive setting, with its own beachfront infinity pool, swim-up bar, and personal spa, as well as a hacienda-style chef's kitchen, expansive terrace, and two oceanfront master suites. ▸

—Amanda Eberstein