



The restaurants in Puerto Vallarta have been evolving for decades and offer quite an array of incredible options ... from small carts and casual spots to local cafes and high end dining. No matter where you are visiting from, you will not be disappointed in Puerto Vallarta's culinary scene.

This list is loosely organized from casual to high end ...

Food stands: The most famous ones in Vallarta are found outside Farmacia Guadalajara and attract eclectic groups of people ... from locales to all types of tourists. They are delicious, cheap and definitely a fun experience... especially after the bars. (L/D)

Salud: Casual with an emphasis on healthy and clean local and/or organic ingredients. Amazing smoothies and wraps ... perfect for tucking into your beach bag. Very friendly staff and operated by a lovely couple from Seattle. (B/L)

Barra Light: A great place for healthy options. Famous for their paninis, smoothies and create your own salad bar full of fresh ingredients. Great morning egg dishes ... air conditioned and friendly staff. (B/L/D)

Swell: This is one of the oldest and smallest beach bars in Vallarta, tucked away next to El Dorado. It's a great place to set up for a day at the beach with good food, great prices and friendly and attentive staff. (B/L)

Elixir: A small lounge featuring exquisite hand crafted cocktails. A unique menu with drinks featuring multiple ingredients ... all made with love and a keen understanding of the intricacies of flavors and liquors. (L/D)

Coco's: Probably Vallarta's most well known and well loved breakfast spot, featuring a large open-air courtyard. Famous for their food and incredibly friendly staff. A definite must before hitting the beach. (B/L/D)

Daiquiri Dicks: An old Vallarta staple that has recently been completely renovated. Indoor/outdoor dining next to the beach. Good cocktails, friendly staff and great people watching. (B/L/D)

La Traviata: A great Italian restaurant located on the top floor of a building offering amazing classics (pizzas and pastas) with sweeping views of the bay. It's always packed with friendly locals. Take an uber as it's not downtown

La Palapa: One of Vallarta's oldest high end restaurants. It's located right on the beach and offers dining in the sand. Check out the photos on the way to the bathroom as they show Puerto Vallarta's history throughout the decades. (B/L/D)

El Dorado: Another high end beachside restaurant that has a long history in Vallarta. Spend a day at their beach club or go to the restaurant for great service, food, and strong drinks. If you're looking for crab enchiladas you have come to the right place. (B, L, D)

Barcelona Tapas: Inexpensive with an interesting location, take a cab as it's hard to find. Their sangria is famous and save room for their chocolate lava cake. (D)

Casa Isabel: A large yellow hotel with a great open air restaurant featuring a moderately priced menu. Its location higher up on a hill above the freeway gives it an amazing view of the ocean. Fun happy hour! (D)

Tre Piatti: An intimate restaurant featuring high end Italian dishes run by a highly trained husband and wife team. The dishes are small, delicious and expertly prepared. (D)

La Capella: This restaurant is in a beautiful old open air chapel and serves a lovely brunch buffet. It offers an incredible view over the town and the ocean beyond, all while bells ring in the church below. It is Hacienda San Angel's sister property and requires a reservation. (D)

The Iguana at Casa Kimberly: The one and only ... Elizabeth Taylor's former residence. This boutique hotel and restaurant is a must. Large, beautiful and filled with photographs and reminders of a beautiful bygone era. It has a famous bridge that goes over the street and connects to an adjoining property where Richard Burton once lived. A great piece of old Hollywood history (D)

Café des Artistes: The restaurant used to be the best in town, but now there are several competing for this title. It has a stunning, multi level outdoor garden dining area ... very romantic. Make reservations well ahead and always ask to sit in the garden. (D)

Hacienda San Angel: Probably Vallarta's most beautiful and well loved high end restaurant. It is located in Richard Burton's first house (before Elizabeth Taylor) which has been converted into a gorgeous boutique hotel with a world renowned rooftop restaurant. Take a cab as it's hard to find and definitely does not look like much from the street. It's expensive by Vallarta standards, but never disappoints. Their Sunday brunch buffet is wonderful and well priced. (D)

Kaiser Maximilian: Named after Mexico's only emperor who was of Austrian descent. This restaurant features an elegant decor with arched parota windows and doors and offers guests seating inside or outside on the sidewalk. Open early for breakfast/brunch which has a relaxed feel while dinner affords a more high end approach with an undeniable austrian flare. (B/L/D)