

The Robb Report COLLECTION™

Real Estate and Home Design

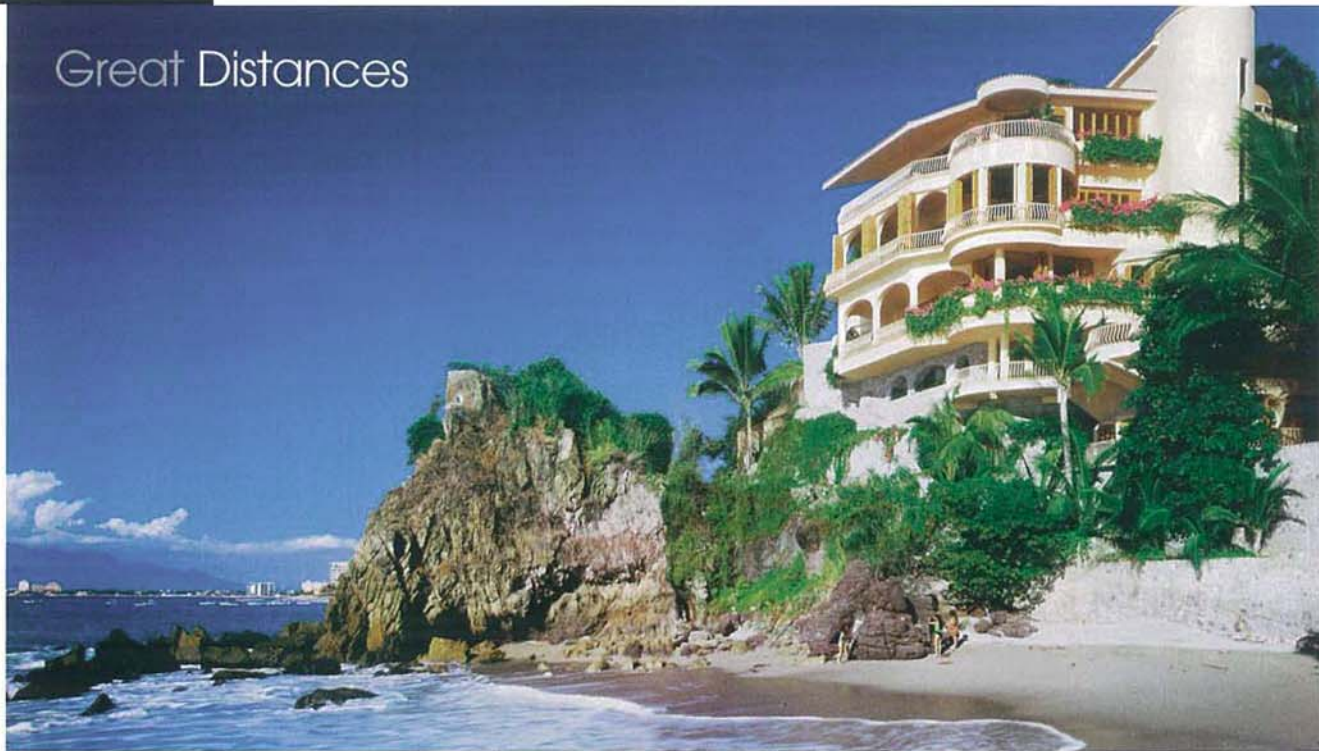
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Home All-Stars

PRODUCTS AND DESIGN THAT DEFINE AN ERA

Great Distances



Mexico

THE APPEAL OF MEXICO INCLUDES a richly varied culture and the advantage of being close to the States. “[Puerto Vallarta is] no longer the sleepy town where *Night of the Iguana* was filmed,” says Chris Webster of Webster Enterprises, which currently represents properties ranging from \$1.8 million to \$7.2 million in the region. “There’s a big international airport, and Puerto Vallarta—the best of all the coastal environments and the gateway to the area—has expanded by 100 miles. To the north, Punta de Mita is setting the world on fire. It appeals to those who want the best amenities and new, fine materials.”

“The development of Puerto Vallarta, Punta de Mita and the Nayarit coast is a special phenomenon for Mexico,” notes Alexis Burwell of La Punta Realty. The number of occupants is restricted, and the low density preserves the environment and creates “balance that is essential for the high-end coastal lifestyle that people dream about,” he says.

South of Puerto Vallarta, Webster says, “along the Costa Alegre, you have other bastions of wealth, exclusivity and fantasy fulfillment: Las Alamandas, Costa Careyes, El Tamarindo and eventually Isla Navidad.”

The Mexican government has recently changed some of its real estate legislation, making it easier for foreigners to

buy and develop land. Benefiting tremendously from these relaxed mandates is Los Cabos corridor, on the Baja Peninsula. “It has experienced phenomenal growth in the last 10 to 20 years; some prices have doubled over the last three years,” says Webster. In addition, development is now spreading north to the capital city of La Paz, where ambitious luxury communities like Paraiso del Mar and Marina CostaBaja are taking shape.

If you can tear yourself away from the beach, look to hacienda-rich San Miguel de Allende, notes Webster. “It has a colonial atmosphere and beautiful countryside,” he says, “and from Houston or Dallas you can fly there in about two hours door to door.”



Top: The 20,000-square-foot Villa Estrella Mar (\$7.2 million) near Puerto Vallarta. Above: The patio of a home in Guanajuato.