

For More Information:

Cathy Kruzic or Amy Larson
Kruzic Communications, Inc.
PH: 303.329.6229

amy@kruzic.com ✂ www.kruzic.com

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**Mazatlan: Rich in Diversity, Culture and
History**

*Founded in 1531, Mazatlan continues to grow and
thrive*

2006 - 2007, Mazatlan, Mexico, ... The diverse city of Mazatlan has often been celebrated as one of the most picturesque towns along the Pacific Mexican Rivera. Officially founded in 1531 by a small group of Spaniards; it was nearly three centuries before a permanent colony was established in the early 1820s.

By the 1700s, gold and silver shipments from the nearby mines at Rosario and Copala poured through Mazatlan's harbor making it one of Mexico's most important ports. Although the harbor is naturally guarded by a collection of small islands, frequent pirate attacks stifled early development. By the 1840s a steady flow of settlers were traveling through Mazatlan on the way to the gold fields of California.

Slowly, the port of Mazatlan began to grow. Although it was attacked by the United States Navy in 1847, and again by the French in 1864, the small pueblo of Mazatlan was able to not only thwart the invaders, but survive. Mazatlan served as the Capitol of the state of Sinaloa from 1859 to 1873 when it had a population of only a few thousand people.

When Porfirio Diaz (1876-1910) took over as president, things changed for the better in Mazatlan. There was a great time of prosperity during his rule as the railroad arrived, the port and lighthouse were modernized, and the cathedral was finished. A new age of education, arts and journalism flourished. The Teatro Rubio was completed in the early 1890s, and quickly became the premier opera house in the Pacific coastal area around Mazatlan. The famous opera star Angela Peralta, the "Mexican Nightingale," gave several recitals there in August 1883 before she and her entire company fell victim to Yellow Fever; they were just a few among the 2,500 citizens the disease claimed during that time.

The 1900s saw Mazatlan as a working port and an important agricultural shipping site via both sea and train. The fishing industry began to boom and since then, only suffered during the war years of 1910-1920.

Mazatlan was "re-discovered" by foreigners in the 1940s as a great place for fishing and became one of Mexico's first large, destination resorts during the 1950s and 1960s. Today, Mazatlan boasts a population of 600,000 and visitors continue to enjoy its fine restaurants, hotels, theaters, art galleries, opera house and chic nightclubs.

The city's "Malecón," or seaside walkway, runs 14 miles along the coast, from Old Mazatlan to the "Zona Dorado," or "Golden Zone." Walking along the Malecón, spectators can watch fishing boats, surfers, parasailers and the bold "clavadistas," who entertain the crowds by diving into a rock-scattered ocean from high platforms. Mazatlan is also known for its bird hunting, world-class saltwater and freshwater fishing. To partake in an

authentic Mexican custom, attend one of the bullfights occurring each Sunday and most holidays from December through April.

Mazatlan offers the beauty and old-world charm of other upscale Mexican destination resorts, without the predictable sea of tourists. The two main areas of Mazatlan include the northern Golden Zone and the southern "El Centro" or Downtown. While the majority of the hotels and restaurants are located in the Zona Dorado, El Centro and Old Mazatlan are treasures often undiscovered by most tourists. At the heart of El Centro lies the Plaza Mechado, which serves up a selection of international cuisine, including the famous Pedro y Lola's, along with festive entertainment and live music.

After excursions to the historic city of Mazatlan, visitors can return to the luxurious enclave of Estrella del Mar for an evening stroll along the beach or indulge in a delectable dinner or nightcap at the clubhouse. Only Estrella del Mar provides the perfect setting to combine sightseeing in town with lazy days camped out by the ocean or perfecting a golf swing.

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Club Acquisition Company (CAC) is a 12-year-old resort and second home development company committed to its strong and expanding corporate presence in the region. A leading residential and resort development and management company, CAC's holdings are located in Mexico and Colorado.