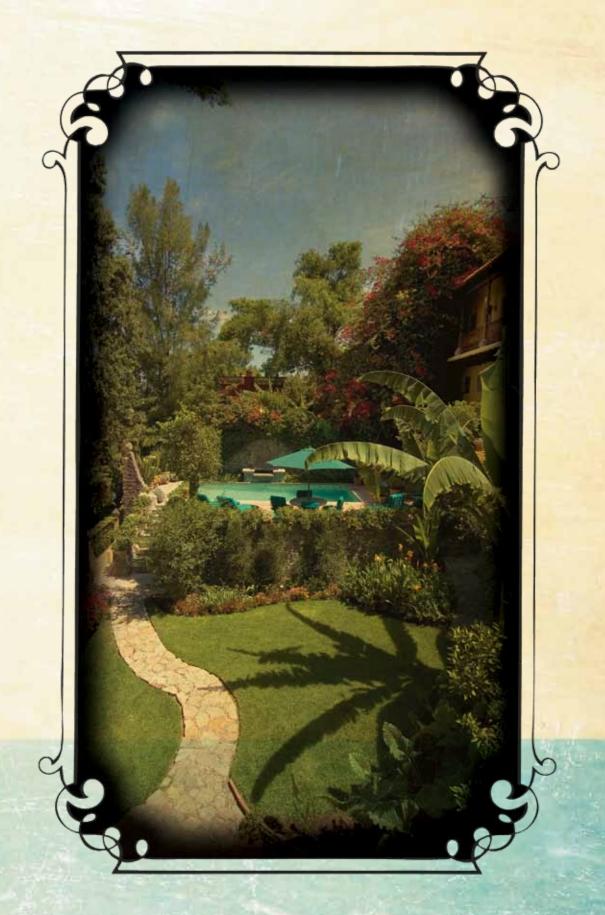


Casa Chorro

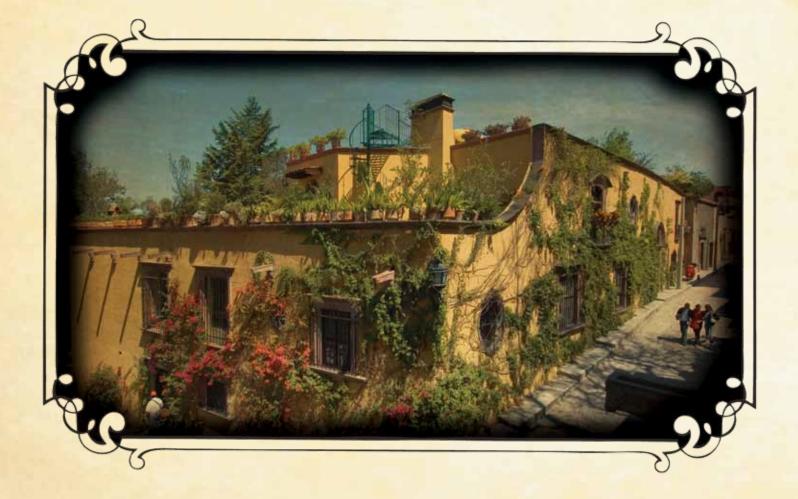
Calle Chorro #39 San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato 37700 52.415.152.1838 / 646.201.5334



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Brief History of San Miguel de Allende



Father Juan de San Miguel, a Franciscan missionary who was born in Spain, founded San Miguel de Allende in 1542. The original settlement of San Miguel was an Indian mission near the present railroad station, and was named for Father Juan's own patron saint. It was known as San Miguel Viejo. During the later part of the 16th Century, the settlement was moved near the springs of El Chorro. The town flourished with farming, ranching and tanneries. San Miguel Viejo became San Miguel Grande.

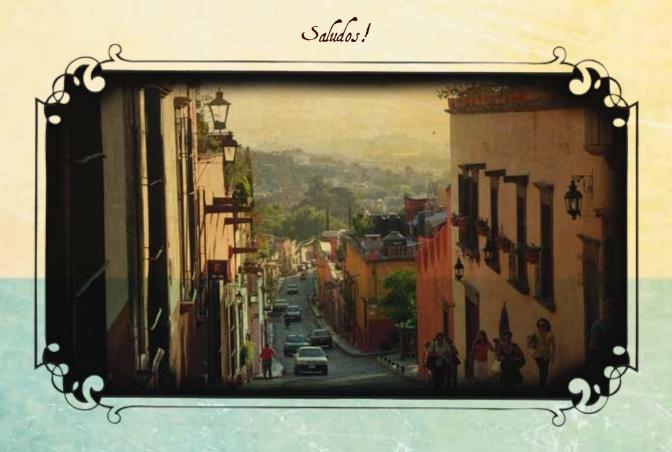
The heroes of the independence movement were born in San Miguel Grande: General Ignacio Allende, Father Miguel Hidalgo, José Mariano Jiménez, and Juan Aldama. Allende joined forces with Father Hidalgo (the parish priest in nearby Dolores). On September 16, 1810, Father Hidalgo delivered his Cry of Independence speech (El Grito). The cry led to revolution.



On March 8, 1826, the Guanajuato state government honored Allende's heroism by renaming San Miguel El Grande to San Miguel de Allende. In 1926, it was declared a national monument that preserves the historical nature of this colonial town.

With the establishment in the 1950s of the Instituto Allende, an art and language school, the foreign population began to grow in San Miguel. Now it is known as a haven for artists, writers and students of language, cooking and the arts. It is also known for its colorful fiestas, bullfights and as a destination for those attending the Day of the Dead and Easter ceremonies. As a major cultural center, San Miguel hosts many events including the International Short Film festival, the Guitar Festival and the Chamber Music Festival. In 2008, San Miguel was designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. It has consistently been voted by the readers of *Conde Nast Traveller* as one of the top ten travel destinations.

You will find San Miguel de Allende charming, courteous, friendly and remarkably well-preserved. We hope that this book will help you to enjoy and learn about San Miguel and its surrounding areas such as Guanajuato, Pozos, San Gabriel, Dolores Hidalgo and Querétaro. We invite you to return and experience some of the beautiful festivals that are unique to our town.





Casa Dragones: The Tequila of San Miguel



During the late 1700s, San Miguel de Allende was situated at the crossroads of the lucrative silver trade in Mexico. The Dragones of San Miguel, an elite calvary of the queens army, garnered much influence and power in business and trade throughout the region. The Dragones eventually began questioning the heavy taxes imposed on the Mexican people, and formed alliances with influential leaders in the church, including Father Hidalgo, to seek independence from Spain. General Ignacio Allende, head of the army and leader of the Dragones, worked closely with Father Hidalgo to spark one of the movements that eventually led to the Mexican Independence of 1810.



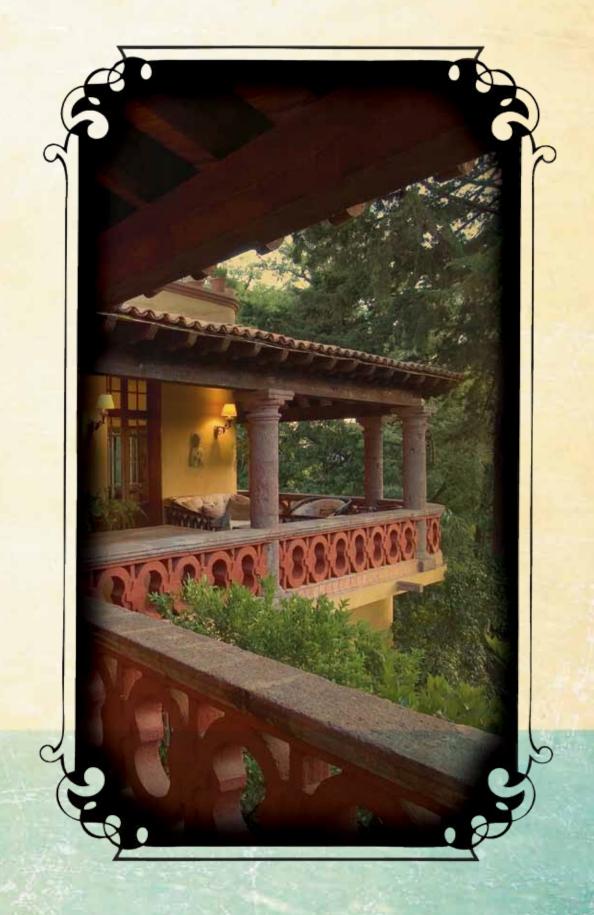
Today, San Miguel is home to a new tequila that is inspired by the legendary Dragones of San Miguel. Crafted by hand with meticulous attention to detail, Tequila Casa Dragones is 100% Pure Blue Agave Joven Tequila, a gentle blend of platinum tequila with a hint of extra añejo for an unusually smooth taste. It's the world's first true sipping tequila. Each limited edition bottle of Casa Dragones is hand-engraved using the traditional Mexican technique of "Pepita." Individually signed, numbered and delivered in an elegant crystal decanter, Tequila Casa Dragones is unique in every way—a testament to the courage and independent spirit of the Dragones of San Miguel.

If you are interested in purchasing a bottle of Casa Dragones, it is now available at La Europea in San Miguel, Canal #13. If you would like to know more about Casa Dragones, please contact Sandra Chollet at schollet@casadragones.com.

Ask the staff to arrange a visit to La Casa Dragones, the original stables of the Dragones cavalry dating all the way back to 1671, located at Recreo #16.

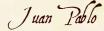


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Manager

In charge of Casa Chorro and the needs of the guests. Can answer any question about San Miguel or activities in the area. Can arrange transport, sightseeing or special needs with him. Bilingual.



On premises supervisor

Responsible for the day-to-day operation of the house. Can answer any question about the house. Arrange your meal preferences with him. Works from 7am to 3pm, Sun until 1pm; but lives on site and is on call after hours. Push second button on intercom in kitchen to reach him or dial his cell number: 415-114-0663. Bilingual.



Maid

Cleans the rooms and common areas and also helps in the kitchen. Works from 7am to 3pm, Sun until 1pm. Some English.



Maid

Cleans the rooms and common areas and also helps in the kitchen. Works from 7am to 3pm, Sun until 1pm. Spanish only.

Modesta

Cook

Prepares breakfast and lunch. Works from 7am to 3pm, Sun until 1pm. Little bit of English.



Gardener and in-house service

Works from 7 am to 3 pm, Sun until 1pm. Spanish only.

Simon

Gardener and in-house service

Works from 7 am - 3 pm, Sun till 1 pm. Spanish only.

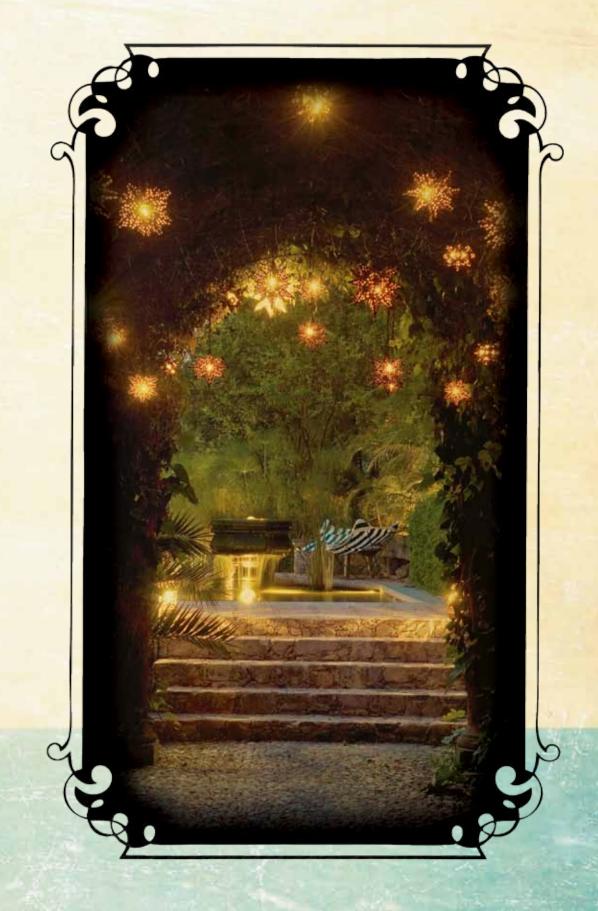
After hours, on the weekend or holidays, if you have an emergency, you can call Juan Pablo's cellular phone: 415 103 0436.

You might want to put this telephone number in your wallet.

Overtime

If you want the staff to work after their regular hours to cook/serve dinner, grill or have a cocktail party, you should pay them each \$50 pesos per hour for overtime services. On Sundays or celebration days (Christmas, etc.) it is \$70 pesos an hour per person. If you'd prefer to schedule a staff member in the afternoon and evening, make arrangements with Juan Pablo or Pepe.









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Tipping

Tipping is an important part of the income of the staff. We request that each occupied bedroom tip \$100 USD per week for all the staff. At the end of the stay, the tips can be given to Juan Pablo or Pepe for distribution to all the staff.

If you think the staff is wonderful, then of course you can tip more. The money will help them and their families and will be greatly appreciated.

House Leys

If you need a house key, please ask Pepe for one. Please return the key before your departure. If not, you will be charged \$50 pesos.

Checkout Time

Checkout time is 10 am.

Once the telephone bills have been checked, you will receive your security deposit refund or balance. This takes three months. Our telephone bills are presented every two months in Mexico, hence the time delay.

If you have any items that were broken, we would appreciate it if you would let us know. It doesn't cost much to replace things and we would like to have everything ready for the next renter.

Parking

The parking area behind the gates can accommodate two cars.

Please let Pepe know if you need to use it.

Food and Drink Storage

Guests can store any food or drink in the refrigerator. Or Casa Chorro can buy all the things you want with a 20% commission.

Water

Casa Chorro realizes that guests are rightly concerned with their health and safety. We take all necessary precautions to properly clean all your foods and vegetables. All your food is carefully inspected and UV sterilized water is used in our kitchen. The carafes in your bedroom and bathroom are filled with bottled water, and UV sterilized water runs from all the faucets, though we recommend you drink from the carafes for added safety and to minimize use of bottled water. We use a recycling service so please leave all your empty bottles and cans on the kitchen counter so they can be recycled. Whenever possible refill bottles from the large dispenser in the kitchen. We do not recommend you use the ice maker on the refrigerator. Bags of ice are in the freezer.

Laundry is not included in rental charge (except towels). Surcharge depends on the quantity of laundry. Please try to conserve water by reporting any running toilets and leaks. Please be conservative with towel usage. Thank you!

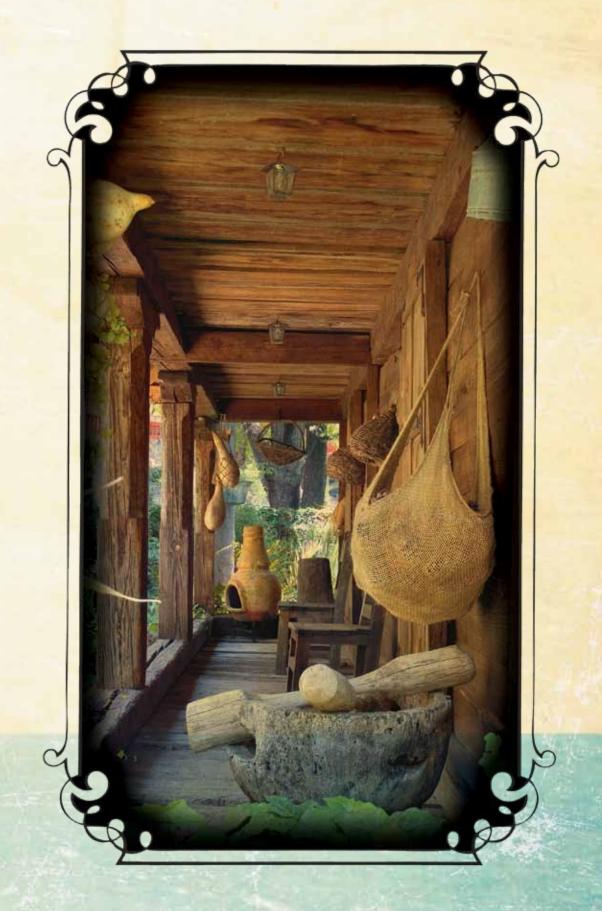
Propane gas for heating the pool is an extra charge (\$70 USD/day)

Dud | Ju | Stereo | I god Dock

Please ask Pepe to help you work these systems before you attempt to! There are two phones located in the house. The black phone is local and the silver phone is a local NY City number, an internet phone (646.201.5334).

Important

The house is rented as is. Please respect that the owners have arranged their houses to their own preference. We simply cannot make changes to accommodate a guest's individual preferences. Thank you for your understanding.



Telephone | Internet





Local calls

Use black phones for all local calls. You have 100 free local calls. After the 100 free local calls, there is a charge for each additional call. Also, calling a cellular telephone incurs a charge against the home telephone. To call a local number in San Miguel simply turn on the black phone and dial the seven digit local extension number. Any charges will be deducted from your security deposit.

The silver internet phone provides free calls to the U.S. or Canada. Simply turn the phone on, dial 1 plus area code and number.

Broadband internet service is available in the office. An additional ethernet cable is also provided for additional laptops. Wireless coverage extends to the living room and outdoor terrace. Please do not add software or change existing settings on the desktop computer.

Fax machine is located in the cabinet under the window in the office.

Fax: 52 415 154 4627

Long distance calls

Please use your calling cards for the long distance calls. Here are the numbers to access your calling cards:

> AT&T - 001 800 462 4240 MCI - 001 800 674 7000 Sprint - 001 800 877 8000 Canadian Bell - 001 800 123 0200

To call collect, dial 090 for the International Operator. They speak English. Dialing San Miguel directly from the U.S.: dial 011 + 52 + 415 + seven digit local number. To call a cell number from the U.S., include a "1" right before "415." Dialing local cell phone numbers from within San Miguel: If calling from a U.S. cell phone, simply dial 415 and omit everything before. If using a land line, dial (044) 415 and the seven digit number. Calling cellular phones is a \$2.50 pesos charge per minute plus tax and connection fees. San Miguel is in the same zone as the Central Zone in the U.S., one hour behind the Eastern Time Zone and two hours ahead of the Pacific Time Zone.

The following U.S. cellular phone carriers should work in San Miguel: Verizon, AT&T/Cingular, T Mobile

If you have one of these phones but are not getting service, try calling your provider and have international calling switched on.

Toll Free Airline offices in Mexico

American Airlines - 01 800 904 6000 Continental - 01 800 900 5000 Delta Airlines - 01 800 902 2100 Aeromexico - 01 800 021 4000 Mexicana Airlines - 01 800 502 2000

Meloful telephone numbers

Emergency (911) - 152 0911

Red Cross Ambulance - 152 4121

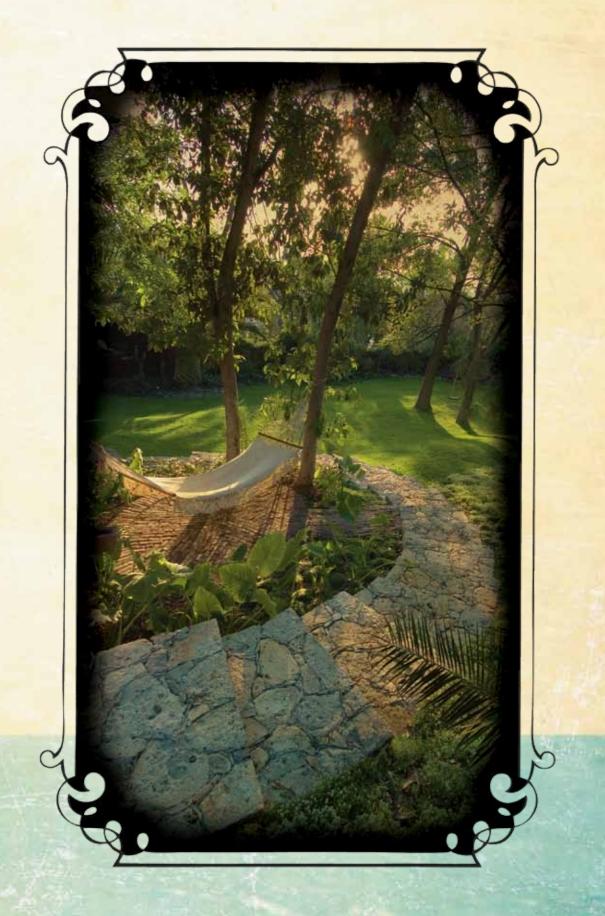
Fire Departament - 152 2888

Police - 152 0022

U.S. Consulate - 152 2357

U.S. Embassy - 01 5 209 9100

Canadian Embassy - 01 5 724 7900







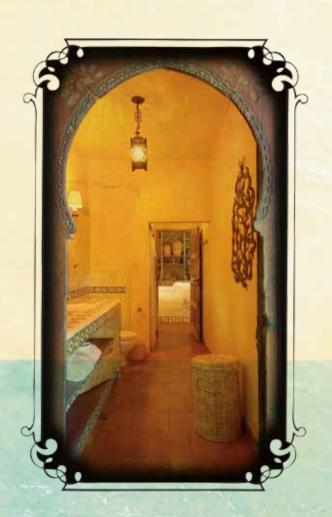


Hospital de la Fe

Libramiento a Dolores 43 152-2233 (Appointments) 152-2545 (Emergency)

Hospital Angeles Queretaro

Bernardino del Razo No. 21, Col. Ensueño, C.P. 76178
Santiago de Querétaro, Qro. México.
442 192-3000





Dr. Salvador Quiroz Saenz

Internal Medicine & Nephrology
Hospital de la Fe
152-2233 or 152-2329

Dr. Marta Silvia Azcarate

General Practioner
152-1944 (Office)
044 415-0232 (Cellular)
Provides 24-Hour Housecalls

*Both doctors speak English, have treated people we know and come highly recommended



Botica Agundis (Chelo's)

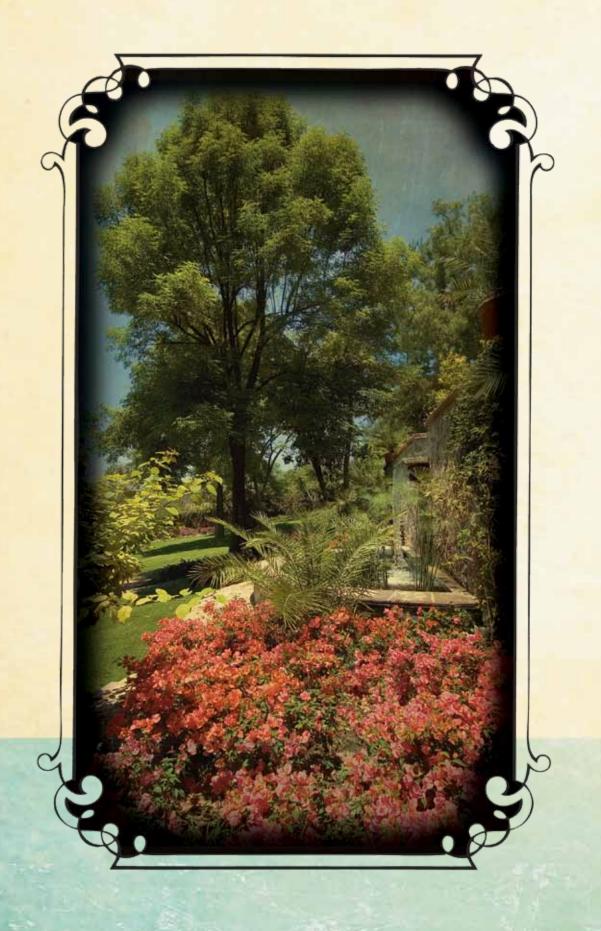
Always open but expensive!
Canal #26
152-1190

Pharmacia Guadalajara

#1 in our book for price and selection!
Ancha de San Antonio #13
154-9078

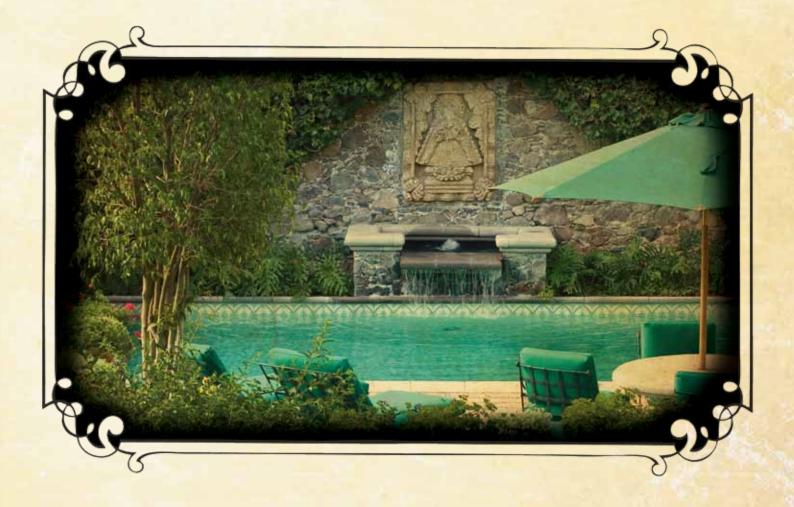
*You'll find many pharmacies in town. These two are our favorites. In Mexico, pharmacists can give some medicines without prescriptions based on your symptoms.

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Resources



Art studios and gallery tour

A visit to the beautiful, historic art schools is a must: Bellas Artes on Hernandez Macias is the best, and boasts the famous Siqueiros mural; and the Instituto Allende on Ancho San Antonio, which has played a vital role in the modern history of San Miguel. Plus, visit the many galleries and studios at La Aurora. There is a private Mask Museum owned and operated by a passionate collector next to his charming bed and breakfast. Worth a visit (and a generous donation to Feed the Hungry). Ask the staff to book a private showing.

Beauty | massage

Directly in your house, you can enjoy and choose your favorite day, hour, place or room for professional body massage, manicures, pedicures and facial treatments. Please make a reservation one day prior with Pepe, or call Jasmine Spa. 152.7973, or after hours: 154.4578 / cell 044.415.111.1299.

Bicycle rental

For wonderful tours of rural areas around San Miguel: Bici Burro, Corner of Hospicio and Barranca (among others).

Boutiques I jewelry

Too numerous to mention here! Just wander around!

Bullfighting

Just walk down Recreo and check the schedule or ask Pepe or Juan Pablo to arrange.

Cooking classes

Sazon (owned by the Orient Express Group), Correo #22, Tel. 154-7671 www.sazon.com

Golf, tennis

Club Malanquin (Malanquin.com)

Gym

Full gym with treadmill. Steam room and Japanese plunge tub.
Upstairs is a massage and yoga room with full bath.

Home décor l'crafts

(Select list—there are so many more!)
Mitu, Pila Seca #3, Centro Tel. 044-415-117-9431
Casa Y Campo, Recreo #98, Centro Tel. 154-5680
Zocalo, Hernández Macías #110 Tel. 152-0663
El Nuevo Mundo, cnr San Francisco and Corregidora
Fabrica de La Aurora (10 min taxi ride on outskirts of town)—many
fine vendors/fabricators here. Check out Finca near the entrance.
Evos, Hernandez (10 min taxi ride on outskirts of town in other direction),
Boulevard de la Conspiration #61, 152-7765



Horseback riding

Coyote Canyon Adventures brings you horseback adventures, hiking, mountain biking, four wheeling, camping, rappelling, hot air ballooning, etc. Reservations & information: Tel. 15-44193 or 044-415-15-13058 info@coyotecanyonadventures.com, www.coyotecanyonadventures.com

If not available, ask Pepe or Juan Pablo for other options.

House & garden tours

Departs Sundays from the Public Library. Ask Juan Pablo for more information.

Language schools

There are many. Warren Hardy is one of the best known, and nearby Centro Bilingue, especially for kids. Consult the Atencion for more listings.

Mineral hot springs

La Gruta or Escondido, 15 minutes outside of town, are both delightful.

Ask Pepe to arrange for transport.



Newspapers

ATENCION SAN MIGUEL is the local, bilingual newspaper. Published each Monday and sells out quickly. Available on the Jardin (main garden), at Border Crossings and Espino's. Weekly events such as gallery openings, theater and events, concerts, plays, movie schedule, etc. are listed in the ATENCION.

Playground

A lovely playground is nearby at the north end of Juarez Park.

Post office

Correo 16 Tel.152-008

Taxis & transport

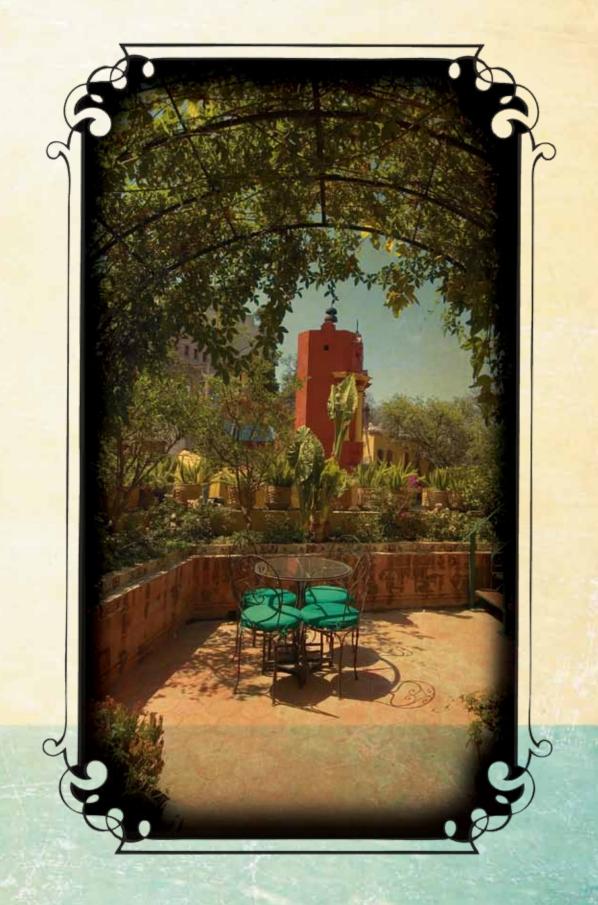
(Spanish-speaking only taxis, approx \$35 pesos to anywhere in town)
152-3134 or 152-4086
Suburbans and cars with English-speaking drivers: arrange with
Pepe or Juan Pablo.

Tourist Info

Tourist Office: Jardin 152-6565
The Insider's Guide to San Miguel.
Written by local, Archie Dean
12th edition, 266 pages
A must-read, comprehensive, updated reference of what to
do in San Miguel (restaurants, shops, schools, festivals, etc.).
Also information about neighboring towns of Dolores Hidalgo
and Guanajuato. Available all over San Miguel!

Yoga

Anabella Cardenas Dugal, Tel. 15-28129 (English-speaking)
The staff can recommend others if needed.







Breakfast In Casa Chorro

The Continental

Juice or fruit Sweet rolls or toast Coffee or tea

From The Farm

Juice or fruit Eggs any style with ham, sausage, bacon or beans Coffee or tea

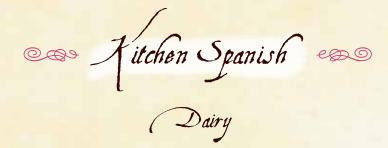
The Blondie

Juice or fruit Pancakes Coffee or tea

The Mexican

Juice or fruit Chilaquiles with red or green sauce Coffee or tea

Other dishes are available (Cereals, various kind of egg etc.). Please ask Pepe.



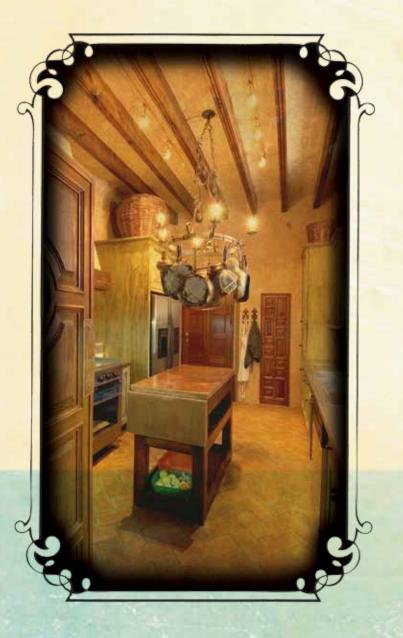
Butter - Mantequilla Cheese - Queso

Cream - Crema

Eggs - Huevos

Milk - Leche

Ice-cream - Helado



Meat | Poultry | Fish

Bacon - Tocino
Chicken - Pollo
Fish - Pescado
Meat - Carne
Hamburger meat - Carne molida
Pork loin - Lomo de puerco
Pork chops - Chuletas de puerco

Fruits and vegetables

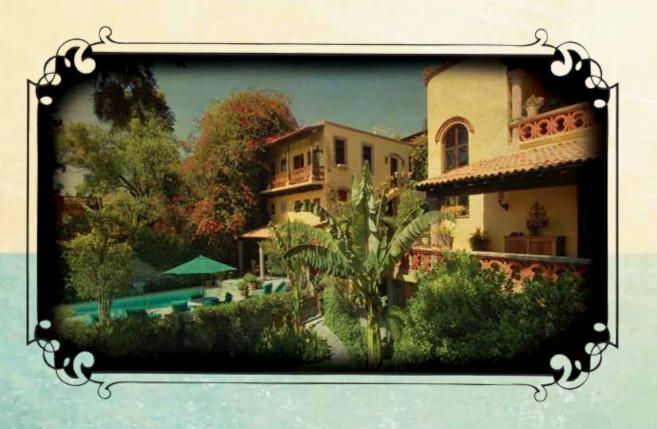
Shrimp - Camarones

Apricots - Chabacanos
Artichoke - Alcachofa
Asparagus - Esparragos
Bananas - Platanos
Broccoli - Brocoli
Carrots - Zanahoria
Celery - Apio
Chili (hot) - Chiles poblanos
Corn - Elote
Cucumber - Pepino
Garlic - Ajo
Grapes - Uvas
Green beans - Ejotes

Green beans - Ejotes
Lettuce - Lechuga
Limes - Limones
Mushrooms - Champiñones
Potatoes - Papas
Onions - Cebollas
Oranges - Naranjas
Pears - Peras
Peas - Chicharos
Peaches - Duraznos
Pineapple - Piña
Plums - Ciruelas
Raisins - Pasas
Strawberries - Fresas
Squash - Calabaza
Tomatoes - Jitomate

Staples

Bread - Pan Salt - Sal Coffee - Café Sugar - Azucar Flour - Harina Tea - Te Jam - Mermelada Vanilla - Vainilla Ketchup - Catsup Vinegar - Vinagre Mayonnaise - Mayonesa Beer - Cerveza Mustard - Mostaza Ice - Hielo Nuts - Nueces Napkin - Servilleta Oil - Aceite Red wine - Vino tinto Pepper - Pimienta White wine - Vino blanco



Watermelon - Sandia







San Miguel offers wonderful dining options for every meal of the day. These options include traditional Mexican, American, Italian, German, French, Chinese, Japanese and Lebanese cuisines. You'll find, like everything else in Mexico, dining is an activity enjoyed at a much slower pace than you'll find in the United States. Your wait staff will never rush you out of the restaurant by dropping off your check before you've finished. They consider it rude to provide you with your "cuenta" (check) before you've asked for it. Comida is the big meal of the day and usually occurs between 2 pm and 5 pm daily and can last several hours. Mexican families don't usually eat dinner before 8 pm or 9 pm. Don't worry; San Miguel restaurants have grown accustomed to serving meals by American dining tradition. However, it's not so easy to find an early morning traditional American breakfast joint.

We don't recommend that foreigners with sensitive stomachs try food sold by street vendors. Many vendors do offer tasty, authentic selections. However, it is difficult to discern which prepare their food with consistent sanitary conditions in mind.

Remember that you're dining in Central Mexico, far from the ocean. Many people assume no matter where they are in Mexico, they'll find fabulous, fresh fish. This isn't always the case in San Miguel. We'll provide a list of restaurants we recommend that can be trusted to always provide fresh selections.

The tipping structure for restaurant service is comparable to United States standards. Fifteen to twenty percent is for good service! Most likely, your checks will be significantly less in San Miguel than they would in any large American city restaurant. We've dined out in San Miguel more often than we've dined in, so we're confident in making restaurant recommendations to our visitors.

We hope you enjoy our recommendations and appreciate any feedback you might offer to share with future guests.

Please check the inserts in the back of this book for our restaurant recommendations.

