

Mexico Real Estate Fractional Ownership - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

Smart Money Buy USD \$249,000 for a 1/12 Share of a Spectacular 10,000 sq/ft \$3M Beachfront Penthouse

The model we are using to give you an education into the world of Fractional Ownership in Mexico is based on the one of the best programs and properties that we have analyzed anywhere in Mexico and other popular destinations around the world where Fractional Ownership is growing in popularity.

The property we have chosen is a beachfront condominium project located in Mazatlan, Mexico named Tiara Sands. This property is being developed by a Canadian based company **Oceanside Developments International**, the company is very strong financially and they have an excellent track record of success building condominiums in Mazatlan, Mexico.

The Fractional Ownership program for Tiara Sands is structured for a 1/12 Fractional Ownership of a Luxurious Penthouse that has 5 bed rooms and 5 bathrooms a gourmet chef's kitchen **5691 sq ft** that is air conditioned also featuring 6 very spacious balconies totaling **4500 sq ft** overlooking the Pacific Ocean, pool and marina.

Each share is being offered at **USD \$249,000.00** with an in-house financing package. The total usable square footage is **10,191 sq ft** and that makes this price point exceptional and we have not be able to equal this property in our search for exceptional value for the money invested. This property has every amenity you can imagine and is perfect for the extended family for vacations and holidays.

This article will be the first in a series of five articles to help guide you to a full understanding of Fractional Ownership in Mexico. In this first article we will be highlighting Fractional Ownership in Mexico in the areas that will help you understand the financial advantages this new trend in real estate ownership has. You may very well be surprised that Fractional Ownership meets and exceeds many of the financial demands necessary to be called the proverbial "**Smart Money Buy**" in today's fragile economy, especially when purchasing real estate that you will only be using part of the year. Fractional Ownership can be the best use of your real estate investment capital when compared to your actual usage. It is the smart money way to really have a percentage ownership interest in one or multiple properties with reasonable operating and maintenance expenses and **it is not a timeshare or a rights of usage contract**, it is real ownership with all of the benefits of real property ownership.

Is Fractional Ownership For You?

Why should you even consider "**Fractional Ownership in Mexico**" as an option to whole ownership? Let's delve into some of the facts and start the educational process of comparing Fractional Ownership in Mexico to the other ownership alternatives and usage rights in the ever changing real estate markets throughout Mexico and the world.

Most people find out while on their quest to purchase real estate in Mexico, that they are faced with several options and obstacles before they can make a buying decision. The biggest decision in this process **is to justify the cost of the real estate in Mexico verses their actual usage**.

This fact alone has sidelined many would be buyers who can not come to Mexico often enough to justify parting with their cash to buy a home or condominium.

Some of those that do buy real estate in Mexico with the hopes of renting out their home or condo unit and hiring a property management company to handle everything for them....with the hope to defray expenses and then to only find out that they spend a lot of time managing the management company and experiencing high fees for that privilege of wondering if all is well with their property in Mexico. It is not uncommon for some people to purchase on an impulse before they get to know an area very well and then after getting to know that area better they find out that they have bought in an area that would not have been their first choice and they get stuck with a harder resale. With the pervasive economic issues in the USA and the discounted properties in Mexico, right now there is a generational opportunity for the buyers who can act on the best prices and financing that the financially sound developers are offering. With the ever expanding need for the BOOMERS to vest in their retirement and /or second home(s) while being bombarding with the political and financial mess in the USA day in and day out, many buyers are acting on the real estate opportunities in Mexico now.

The positive growth of Mexico will soon be pushing the demand for prime properties in Mexico again and it will certainly result in the appreciation of real estate values. The appreciation of real estate in Mexico will be a reality much faster than USA real estate market will see for at least the next 5 to 8 years and it could be 10 years. Many BOOMERS have been out of the market due to the economy and the negative press Mexico has been enduring for the past 3 years and they are not willing to lose more time and miss the best values they will see for many more years to come. With the sensational press now calming down some due to the real areas of concern being revealed, the "Smart Money Buyers" are now lining up to take advantage of the situation. Another good reason is that you could possibly sell your share of the ownership to a friend or family member of one of the other share owners if you want to sell or more importantly if you need to sell. There are other positive aspects, for instance if you want to exchange dates within the ownership pool it is generally an easy task to do by trading or buying extra dates at discounted prices and it is an owner to owner transaction.

Size Really Does Matter

Try this example on for size; let's say that you have 10 years before you retire and you have the ability, to take 4 weeks per year, every one week every three months, or two weeks every six months, Fractional Ownership could be the answer to

owning a much nicer property. Imagine going to a 10,000 sq/ft Penthouse totally furnished with the very best of everything and it is valued at USD \$3,000,000 **and it is yours for just under USD \$ 250,000**. The amount of time you can afford to use it is the same amount of time you would spend if you invested the same USD \$250,000 on a middle of the road 1500 sq/ft condominium. In summary, the time and the money are the same but the size; the view, the furnishings, the enjoyment and the value are not. In 10 years your ability to sell your 1/12 share in a property like this could be better.

Fractional Ownership can be a very good investment if you buy in a financially sound project that has all of “the three L’s” and great amenities. Did I say three L’s...what I meant to say was the four L’s because **the fourth L is for “Lifestyle”** and that means many different things to people. For me it means convenience to the beach, the pool, the marina, fishing, golf, the restaurants, grocery store, cultural centers, and lastly for me shopping however (shopping is the top of and bottom of my wife and daughters list with restaurants, pool and beach in between).

Tiara Sands offers potential buyers a “try it before you buy it program” allowing you to come to Mazatlan and spend three wonderful days and nights to try out the facilities before you buy. As their guest for the accommodations, you will be able to appreciate the facilities along with their promise of a **no pressure sales pitch** that really sets this organization heads above the others.

[Fractional Ownership Information for Mazatlan Mexico – Get your Mazatlan Mexico Tiara Sands Fractional Ownership Try before you buy Info-Package Opt-in](#)

The following frequently asked questions and answers, will be a good place to start getting you somewhat informed. In the next four articles we will get more detailed as to why this new trend is growing rapidly worldwide. We will be showcasing why the sophisticated buyer wants the ability to own several properties in different locations, therefore expanding not only the investment opportunity, but the enjoyment of different locations and cultures and for many the different seasons.

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

1. **Q.** What is Fractional Ownership? **A.** Shared ownership that allows a property to be sold in multiple shares to like-minded individuals, rather than being sold as traditional whole ownership.
2. **Q.** Is Fractional Ownership really deeded property? **A.** Yes it is, each owner of a share is considered to be “Tenants in Common”, meaning multiple owners of one property. Or, a corporation can own the property and with each owner owning shares in the corporation.
3. **Q.** Are all of the Fractional Owners equal in their rights to sell? **A.** Yes, via a legal document that contains the Contractual Rights, Responsibilities and Obligations of all the owners.
4. **Q.** Can more than one family or individual own a 1/12 share? **A.** Yes, individuals can form a partnership to control ownership or hold title as tenants in common. It will be up to the partnership to allocate time.
5. **Q.** How much usage can I have? **A.** Usage of the property is dictated by the number of Shares of the Fractional Ownership that is based on a revolving calendar.
6. **Q.** How do I book my time? **A.** Each owner has one week in a sequential order (1-12) which is then repeated until each owner has selected 4 weeks per share. The rotation will advance each year. When a person prefers more than 2 consecutive weeks, they have the ability to trade with another owner.
7. **Q.** Can I rent my weeks to someone else? **A.** Yes, the rental revenue is yours but as an owner you are responsible to ensure the unit is left in the same condition as it was before renting.
8. **Q.** Who will manage the property day to day? **A.** Tiara Sands has an on site property manager who ensures that the property is well maintained for the owners, their guests and renters. Tiara Sands also offers special concierge services for owners, their guests and renters. These services are in addition to the HOA fees and maintenance scheduled fees. The onsite concierge can arrange a Chef to cook for you and your guests, pre-stock the pantry, bar, reserve Golf and Sport Fishing and provide many other personalized guest services.
9. **Q.** Does the developer attach additional fees on top of the actual costs of the Insurance, Taxes, and annual maintenance costs? **A.** No, not at Tiara Sands and it is this important fact that separates this property from the majority of other Fractional Ownership.
10. **Q.** Is there a Home Owners Association (HOA)? **A.** Yes, Tiara Sands has a very good HOA program and the HOA keeps all of the property owners informed of the latest events through a news letter and dedicated website.
11. **Q.** Is the building insurance coverage included in HOA fees? **A.** Yes, the building insurance is covered in HOA fees, as well as the contents insurance that is covered under monthly ownership fees.
12. **Q.** How will maintenance be carried out? **A.** contingency fund will be built up by the ownership group and used for repairs and maintenance as needed or determined by owners and the property manager. There are 4 weeks in the calendar that will be allocated to maintenance. Although these weeks are for maintenance they will be available to owners as bonus weeks. Each 1/12 owner will receive an extra bonus week once every 3 years based on the same draw for the original sequential order.

To receive the next four articles containing additional information regarding Fractional Ownership and the financial advantages in more detail please provide your information in the form below:

About the Author: Henry Altman is the CEO of Escapeartist Mexico, a real estate developer and property owner in Mexico. He is the former President of Coldwell Banker Affiliates of Central America. For more information on this article or Escapeartist

Mexico please opt-in with your name e-mail address and phone number and Henry will contact you. You will receive **“Escape To Mexico Magazine”** it's about, **“The Real Mexico”**.

Medical Vacations and Boutique Hotels - The New Healthcare Network - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

The days of going overseas solely for cosmetic surgery and recovering in the sun with a frilly umbrella drink are gone. Now patients are opting to go abroad for cheaper deals on hip replacements, dentistry and infertility treatment. The most commonly sought out procedures are still cosmetic and elective surgeries, but we have seen an increase in travelling for addiction therapy, obesity treatment, fertility treatment and hair transplants. As with most topics, the controversy associated with this practice has only added to the appeal of it! Health insurance cutbacks around the globe have meant countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Poland, Thailand, Turkey, Malaysia and Singapore, Belgium, Colombia, Bulgaria, Poland and the Czech Republic have seen increasing numbers of medical tourists.

With spending cuts expected to hit every insurance policy soon and cutbacks are already everywhere, Escapeartist has had more people inquire about [overseas medical tourism](#) than ever before. Medical tourism is a rapidly growing industry. Long waiting lists and expensive private care have meant that 2.65 million consumers have recently been, or are planning to go, abroad for medical procedures. So, we are asking our medical professionals, how does a patient ensure they are getting the best value without risking their health, and what are you doing to capture this market share?

Domestic medical tourism is currently at about \$2.1 billion that Americans spend outside the U.S. on health care. The number of medical tourists is expected to grow as health care costs rise and more people lose their health insurance.

For decades people came to the United States to get sophisticated treatments that weren't available in their native lands. Now, the traffic flows in many directions, as physicians and hospitals in developing countries begin to catch up with the U.S. Medical professionals constantly caution this as a high risk decision but proponents argue that the practice of medical travel will ultimately make for a better health care system.

Competition is a good thing, especially if you're competing on the basis of quality and price, not either-or. For now, traveling abroad for treatment offers a viable, affordable alternative for many people. To be competitive in this space, companies will have to say, 'We can offer a better outcome, and, oh, by the way, you can also save a lot of money.' Booking through an agent or operator will mean that you can negotiate all-inclusive packages.

Escapeartist can assist you when competing with those agents. With our Medical Vacation program, you can offer that all inclusive package to the large number of inquiries for no upfront fees. Escapeartist will promote your services that we currently receive in high demand through this performance based marketing campaign.

Escapeartist has initiated a program designed to introduce YOUR Escape to our subscribers through the Escape From America newsletter. For no upfront charges, your business can benefit from the direct exposure offered through the newsletter. With approximately 400,000 subscribers currently receiving our newsletter each week and over 1 million unique visits to our site daily, we reach hundreds of thousands of travelers seeking deals for their planned escape.

If you are a doctor performing these highly sought out procedures or if you have a resort and you network with exceptional surgeons, let Escapeartist know! We can package these offers and get them in front of the consumers who are seeking them. Patients are putting price before their health with some of these facilities. If you are willing to reduce your fees to attract these patients seeking your services, contact Escapeartist TODAY!

Medical tourism will continue to be on people's agenda in time of economic hardship and insurance benefit cuts, how are you going to capture those patients with all the options available to them today?

Introduce Your Medical Vacation and Tourism Deals through the Escapeartist Deals program

The most successful offer to promote will be a medical tourist package for 2 with 3 nights stays in a hotel or resort, meals each night, and a voucher towards your medical procedure. The total package valued at \$3000 we will sell that for \$1500. As a bonus we will also include 3 more editorials in the Escapeartist Magazine online newsletter.

Escapeartist will work with you to create custom travel packages to present exclusively to the subscribers of newsletter and if no one buys your offer, there is no charge for the exposure.

The types of offers we are currently accepting for this program are:

Escape package deals to unique destinations which include a hotel stay up to 7 nights, meals, spa treatments and adventure options.

Ask Escapeartist how you can participate with an all-inclusive Medical Vacation package.

To learn more about Medical Vacations visit our Blog ==>> [CLICK HERE](#)

Quality of Life When you Live Overseas vs. Living on Faith in the USA - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

As the numbers of expats continues to increase in the “less developed” countries of the world, those who have made this life changing decision are expressing their reasons for leaving their respective countries in different ways than before.

In years past, people expressed a desire to live in a different climate, or an interest in experiencing other cultures and learning a new language. Of course, there are many who wanted to make their dollars go farther in a country where living expenses were much lower than in North America or Europe. All these are valid reasons for setting up shop in a new location, but the world climate has changed drastically in the past decade and has presented several more important reasons that some people now find it necessary to leave their home countries. One of the main reasons is that many feel they have lost their faith in the hope that things will get better.

The post 9/11 world is very different than it was in the 80's or 90's. Iraq, Iran, Afganastan, Lybia, N. Korea, Venezuela, Greece, Spain, China, Russia, Great Britain, the United States, and many other countries are in the news on a daily basis for economic, political and military reasons and the numbers of people who disagree with their government's policies continues to grow on a daily basis. In the US, many have finally come to the harsh realization that the government is and has been operating outside of the confines of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights to the point that it is now expected and indeed accepted as the standard. A recent CNN poll indicated that 74% of Americans believe that the political system is broken and 51% believe there will be “major political upheaval” in the next 10 years.

Many Americans now understand that the governmental institutions that were formed by the founding fathers to protect the people from a tyranny have been compromised.

The electoral system has been corrupted. Voting machines manufactured and controlled by Sequoia and Diebold have been exposed as being influenced by political and corporate interests (you can't vote 'em out). The judicial system is corrupted, evident by the numerous un-constitutional decisions and the refusal to hear critically important cases that threaten political and corporate interests, (you can't have them arrested). The mainstream media has been corrupted. The court of public opinion is manipulated by the same corporate and political interests, so as to prevent Americans from knowing the truth about how we have been led to this sad state.

Is it any wonder why so many in western countries are fleeing what they see as a formation of an atmosphere that nurtures and promotes despotism?

The Forest for the Trees

I suppose it's a mixture of feeling guilty and lucky at the same time. Having left the U.S. almost two years ago in the hopes of finding a place where things were a little less stressful and where people were a bit more... human. I say that not because I feel the people of the U.S. have lost their humanity, but because the living conditions imposed by an increasingly totalitarian corporate plutocracy have become inhumane.

Being swallowed and assimilated by the “corporate borg” happens over a period of time and is not noticed or perceived until one is completely consumed by it to the point that there seems to be no other way of living. Boiling the frog.

Maybe I am still being naive, having grown up in the era of peace and love, too much of an idealist, thinking that the world could actually evolve into a culture that values the human spirit where charity, compassion and a genuine feeling of self satisfaction from helping others overrules the desire for self gratification. (Smacks of idealism, doesn't it?)

But then, what's wrong with hoping and striving for the ideal? After all, if you don't shoot for the stars, you'll never make it to the moon.)

My own experiences in the US had left me with a sense of betrayal. Over a period of time I have seen people whom I trusted and cared for be seduced by the pursuit of the almighty dollar and the things it can buy, while losing sight of their own life mission and principals. The chase of financial security has its price in the form of sacrificing the values that helped to make the US the wonderful country that it once was. I suppose that the slow and incremental advance of mandatory corporatism into the lives and psyche of America was inevitable, given that so many grew up in an era of prosperity and decadence. The idea that “Money makes the world go 'round” has been mistakenly prioritized to supercede basic human necessities and common sense. Sorry. That doesn't work for me. I am a human being first. Maintaining my status as a corporate entity known as a “person” doesn't even register on my 'to do' list.

For many Americans, the thought of leaving the “sanctuary” of the US with all its familiar surroundings is a bit scary. At first, my intentions were to see how the “other half” of the Americas lived. I had heard of the simpler lifestyle, the more laid back attitude of Latin Americans and of course the fact that the dollar goes a lot farther.

What I found was much, much more.

Living in a culture that has a higher regard and awareness of its humanity and is more in touch with the rhythms of the seasons has a tendency to bring one to the realization that all the intoxicating creature comforts available in the so called “first world” countries can't hold a candle to what is offered in a more simple, rural environment.

When faced with the reality that it is the simple things in life that are important, all the other things like possessions, status, recognition and peer acceptance fade away.

Food, shelter, clothing, friends, family and love are re-established as the priorities and are recognized as the indicators of true wealth.

Until America and the rest of the rest of the "first world" sheds it's misguided priorities and liberates itself from the corporate stranglehold that has polluted its values, the numbers of those hoping to "Escape from America" and become expats will continue to increase.

About the author: Dave vonKleist is an activist/musician and a broadcaster for 30 years. A talk show host for 15 years, he has been involved with many controversial issues such as the 9/11 attack and an advocate for veterans rights.

He now resides in San Rafael, Argentina

Spiritual Journey: My Journey Home - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

My heart was racing, my mind running a mile a minute, and my shoulders were solid bricks of tense muscle. Subtle, and not-so-subtle, anxiety had become a way of life for me. At 27, I was running myself ragged, over-scheduling and under self-nurturing. My body was in a constant state of fight or flight.

Thus was my physical/emotional/mental state of being as I sat down in my seat for the plane ride from New York City to [Nosara, Costa Rica](#) for an August 2009 [Conference for the Institute of Integrative Nutrition](#) (IIN).

Take it from me. Sometimes deep, peaceful, and healing journeys don't start out very "Spiritual".

Uncomfortable with just sitting and being, I began making a list of everything I wanted to accomplish while on my retreat. As I wrote, head of IIN and my mentor, Joshua, walked down the aisle, greeting the other students on my plane.

Then, he stopped at my seat.

Smiling and annoyingly centered, he asked, "So what are your intentions for your trip to Costa Rica?"

I looked down at my list I had been creating and read aloud:

1. Learn to Surf
2. Go Hiking
3. Make new friends
4. Eat good food
5. Work out every day
6. Write in my Journal
7. Try Zip Line

"And there's a lot more I want to do, but I'm not done yet."

He listened attentively, nodding his head.

Then, with a glint in his eye, he said, "Cora, I have been observing you as my student for the past couple of years. My perception is that you are always "on". In fact, you are a TEN at being "on". How about you have ONE intention for Costa Rica?"

I swallowed, afraid of what was to come next.

"For this trip, what if your only intention is allowing yourself to turn it OFF for once."

My eyes bulged and my chin dropped to the floor.

My mentor walked down the aisle, leaving me in a state of mild shock and disbelief.

No one had ever told me anything of the sort before. I could turn it off? The world wouldn't end? My friends and family would be okay?

Tears ran down my cheeks and I blubbered my way through pages and pages of journaling, claiming my ONE true intention for my Costa Rican trip:

I was allowing myself to turn it OFF.

This might sound simple to many of you, but for me this was a deeply profound shift. What I came to realize through my journaling was that as a young child I had decided that it was my role in life to be peppy, entertaining and fun. In a world that wasn't always happy and magical, I chose to be the bearer of all good things. The other role I unconsciously gave myself was that of the Social Coordinator in any group setting.

I didn't believe that it was okay for me to feel down, quiet, sad, or angry. That was for other people. As I saw things it was my role to support them. So for at least 23 years, I had played this character to near perfection.

And then, Joshua gave me permission to take off my costume. To just be me. To stop performing. To turn it off. To come Home to myself.

And Nosara, [Costa Rica](#) was the ideal place to begin this new chapter in my life.

Nosara is located in the Nicoya Peninsula on the Pacific Coast of [Costa Rica](#). It is a small village known for its traditional native culture, abundant wildlife, fantastic surfing, and yoga schools and retreats. The Nicoya Peninsula is also a "Blue Zone"

(<http://www.bluezones.com/>) , one of only five areas of the world known for having the most people over 100 years of age, still living active lifestyles.

Coming from the Big Apple, I felt like everything in Nosara was in slow motion. I was physically sick for the first day or so. When I gave myself permission to turn it off, my body received the memo also! Self-care began immediately.

My beautiful retreat-mates gifted me a birthday body treatment at Tica Massage (<http://ticamassage.com/>) I received my massage from Richard, the owner of Tica. During the session, he rotated my arms and legs quite a bit.

“Stop helping me move your legs,” Richard advised. “Just relax and let go.”

I laughed to myself. Even with my intention to surrender and turn it off, I was still having challenges with this concept.

“This is always so hard for Americans,” Richard continued. “We seem to think everything in life has to take so much effort.”

Did he know my Nosara intention? Was he reading my mind? Richard reminded me of exactly what I needed to hear. This allowed me to deepen further into my new way of being.

Instead of starting the morning connecting with others, I would go off by myself, usually to Zen Cafe (<http://www.facebook.com/zencafecostarica?sk=wall>). There I would meditate, write Morning Pages, and check in with myself. At first this was slightly uncomfortable, but soon this routine became a beautiful way for me to start each day by connecting within, with Source.

In the past, I would have signed up for every possible group activity and been the main facilitator of these events. This time, I stepped back from that responsibility and habit and really asked myself what I “felt” like doing or not doing. My friends went horseback riding (<http://www.bocanosaratours.com/>). I said no thank you. My friends embarked on the Zip Line Adventures (<http://www.misskyanopytour.com/>). I opted for a quiet day on the beach. Some did a group surf class. I chose a surf class where I would be alone. (<http://www.surfingnosara.com/>) ip

I was also living my life aligned with my intuition. I didn’t schedule anything. I just surrendered to the unfolding of my day, and whatever form that might take. Because I let go of my script or schedule, my days were filled with magic and miracles. I joined an impromptu drive to a deserted beach to watch the sunset. Afterwards, we ate at La Dolce Vita (<http://www.visitnosara.com/restaurants.html>), an absolute gem of a restaurant nestled in the trees of the jungle.

I also said YES to a night time swim in the ocean with two soul friends. There was a storm in the distance with beautiful lightning, and the warm water surrounding my body was deeply healing.

None of these experiences were planned. They were beautiful gifts the Universe gave me when I let go, turned it off, and stayed in the present moment. I was also in a place of receiving, because I stopped doing and giving so much all the time. I was coming back into balance.

On my last full day in Nosara, I woke up and felt moved to turn over a card from my Oracle Tarot Deck. The card that came forward was “The Soulmates” card.

“Whoah!” I thought to myself. “What does this mean? Have I met my soulmate? But wait, I’m married. Hmmmm...what is going on?”

Perplexed, I went to the gym located at Tica Massage and I jumped onto the elliptical. Contemplating the message of the card, I suddenly felt a surge of light entering in through the top of my head.

Then I heard the words, “You are your own Soulmate.”

Following is a poem I wrote about this experience:

“You are your own soulmate”

These words came to me

on the elliptical in a Costa Rican gym

how completely random

YET the true answer to all my questions

For so long I have been searching

for wholeness

traveling, journeying, connecting

outside of myself

Looking for that missing piece

that extra assurance

that I was a Child of God

a person of worth

Wondering if it was really my husband

or a guru or a deep friendship, almost romantic

that provided this Soulmate role.

She was inside me all along

This Soulmate

And suddenly this action of "finding myself"

transforms into something that can only be described

as a Homecoming.

A coming home to myself, God, my true Soulmate

And I cried as I loved myself

for the first time

Finally, I accepted me, all of me, the Prodigal Daughter

Wrapped in my own embrace and God's light

I cried

and came Home.

My experience in Nosara was not a formal "Spiritual Journey", but it became one very quickly. I awakened to my own wholeness and Divinity on a very deep level and began a whole new way of relating to myself and the world. I am forever changed from this experience and deeply grateful for this trip away from my apartment in NYC that in the end, led me to my true Home.

About the author: Cora Poage is a Board Certified Holistic Health Coach and is the owner of Sexy Soul Wellness (<http://sexysoulwellness.com/>). She also earned an MA in Spiritual Psychology. Cora's specialty is guiding her clients in co-manifesting the body AND life of their dreams through intuitive eating, exercising and living. She guarantees that her clients will love their bodies, own their power, and live their dreams. She is a writer and speaker who has been featured on Kris Carr's website, Crazy Sexy Life, and was recently interviewed for Gabrielle Bernstein, INC. She is also a guest teacher for her alma mater, the Institute of Integrative Nutrition where she leads classes on Soul Centered Coaching and Business. Cora spent her late teens and early 20's struggling with a diet and weight control addiction. Her dream and passion is to assist other people in finding freedom from weight and body concerns and in living the life of their dreams.

Expats Living in New Zealand - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

New Zealand is renowned for its scenic beauty, and being an area that is roughly the size of the state of California means that it is all quite accessible. New Zealand's 15,134 km (9,404 mi) of coastline, lined with many beautiful beaches, offers plenty of access to the ocean and its bounty, while features that vary from deep fjords in the far south to subtropical kauri forests in the far north, the Southern Alps that dominate the larger South Island, and the volcanoes accompanied by their steamy thermal pools that define the North Island present a surprising amount of natural diversity to enjoy.

With a population of just four million people, even with a booming tourist industry that draws outdoor lovers of all types year round, you will not feel the crush of humanity anywhere in New Zealand. The pace of life is slower here, the "Kiwis" as the locals are called, are laid back, and the lifestyle, refreshingly simple. Along with the famed sheep farming, wine cultivation has become a big part of New Zealand's culture and economy, and a growing film industry is another a boon to the economy.

The weather is often characterized as "mild," but at the same time, it is fast-moving and therefore unpredictable. Winter means chilly temperatures in parts of the country. This past winter was exceptionally cold, bringing icy winds and snow to areas in the north that had never seen it before. But other than the rare extreme weather event, the mountains get enough snow for skiing and snowboarding in the winter, while lower altitudes only occasionally get snow in the south. The north enjoys a climate that is more typical of subtropical islands, and the eastern parts of New Zealand are generally milder than the west, where springtime tends to be windy and rainy. Summertime is sunny and warm throughout the island nation.

Although housing costs and taxes on imports do not place New Zealand at the bottom of the cost of living scale, what you get in return is a high quality of life in terms of outdoor pursuits, a low population density, a low crime rate, a society that values time spent with family and friends, and an excellent health care system with very reasonable costs. In fact, the nation's largest city, Auckland, is consistently rated at the top of the surveys of the most livable cities in the world for these very reasons.

Wellington

Wellington, at the far end of the North Island from Auckland, is the capital of New Zealand, although it only comes in third in population size. It also appears in the top range of quality of life listings. The city center is compact but replete with a lively arts and cultural scene. It's standing as the most remote capital city in the world highlights New Zealand's isolation, which could be seen as both a blessing and a curse. For anyone trying to "get away from it all," you can't get much further out of the way than this while still enjoying a world-class cultural experience. On the other hand, the distance can be a major issue for those who need to stay closely connected with loved ones.

Sharon is an experienced expat, having lived in Wellington for fifteen years. She offers some great insights into a few of the difficulties that expats can experience. But she got through it all and lives to tell us a little about her experience:

J.B. : *Where did you come from originally?*

I'm originally from Indiana, but moved around a bit after finishing my Master's in Clinical Psychology. I move to New Zealand after finding my now husband (New Zealander) while living in Juneau, Alaska.

J.B. : *Why did you choose to live in New Zealand?*

Blame the Internet. My husband and I both have the same last name. So, no, we didn't met via internet dating sites. Back then I did a Google search of my last name and around 15 responses came up with the same name. To do the same Google search today I would get millions of responses. I wrote to a few of the Rumsey's listed and my husband and I just continued writing. Quickly it resulted in daily emails and regular phone calls. He came to Alaska for a month's holiday and then the rest is history. We are both very happy and have a beautiful 10 year old son.

J.B. : *What do you like about it?*

It was hard at first – for the first 2 years here I found it difficult. People may speak the same language (for the most part) but customs and attitudes are not the same and as the person relocating I had to do the changing and adapting. I think that for a person to move overseas they really should have an open mind and hopefully some experience of at least taking holidays overseas as well. I think if you move to any new country with set ideas and with a small minded attitude – a person will probably fail in adapting to any new setting. Some American 'ideals' and 'attitudes' are very toxic outside of American borders and rightly so people are very put off by this type of behavior.

J.B. : *What don't you like about it?*

I miss the convenience of one stop shopping – not necessarily at malls, but just going to Walmart and knowing I can get all I need in one shop. Also, in the beginning you miss things you can't get in NZ. But slowly over time you either forget those items and find replacements you like or you just enjoy them when they are found and overindulge when home. But I've been in NZ since 1996 – and to tell you the truth, now I see American things more and more and I will smile fondly at them and just walk by. About the only things I obsessed about was having Cherrios sent over so I could feed them to my son as a toddler. Odd – but a behavior I just couldn't seem to shake. Nowadays you can actually buy a few varieties of Cheerios – but now I don't even buy them. I guess I've just gotten over them. And have moved on and feel more at home.

J.B. : *Although English is spoken and the culture is not radically different, have you encountered any difficulties in adjusting to life in New Zealand?*

English is spoken, but the slang is all different. Even some American slang is used differently here – so you should never assume it's taken the same way. Like saying something is "Mickey Mouse" – in American that means it's easy as in an easy A class. Here it means horrible or bad – not taken in a good light.

I would say that the culture is very different from the States. I had to do a lot of adjusting – and it wasn't easy. It drives me crazy how kiwis seem to not notice other people in their vicinity in the supermarket – just leaving their carts (trolleys) in the middle of the aisle and even standing there in your way oblivious to someone trying to get around them. It still bugs me. Kiwis are more English in background – so in working here, I would have to drop names of people to get people to speak to me nicely – or they would be abrupt and quite rude to me. Until I figured that out, I would come home from work in tears.

J.B. : *What has surprised you about New Zealand?*

What has surprised me is that you can love another country as much as your own if you come to it with an open mind and heart. NZ is a beautiful country and when you've lived here as long as I have you can come to love it and consider it home. Another surprise – is seeing your homeland from a different perspective. The grass is greener wherever you find happiness. America with all its brashness doesn't own happiness and it's not always in the right. I think Americans really need to learn to be citizens of the Earth and to embrace the diversity found in other countries.

Diane is another expat who has shared some thoughts on life in New Zealand with [Escape From America Magazine](#). She lives in Wellington and writes the blog, [American In Exile](#), which asks the question many a self-searching expat has asked themselves, "Out of the country, out of the hemisphere, out of her mind?" You can judge for yourself about Diane:

My name is Diane Morgan and I'm originally from Bergen County, New Jersey. I've been living outside of America for nearly 10 years now but have been in NZ for the past four of those.

Although there are at least a million good reasons to move to NZ, including the gorgeous scenery and the laid-back nature of the people, I'm actually here because my husband (then boyfriend!) is Welsh. As it turns out, it was easier for us both to get work visas in New Zealand than it was to migrate to each other's countries, so rather than endure a long distance relationship across the Atlantic while sorting out immigration issues, we moved to the other side of the planet to live and date like normal people.

That said, New Zealand is fantastic, plain and simple. Every corner of the country is beautiful and we love exploring the varied landscapes. The mountains down south are breathtaking but the beaches up north give them a run for their money. As for Wellington, where we live, we're always impressed by the unlikely combination of culture and wilderness. For a city its size, Wellington offers a great mix of restaurants and nightlife, yet there's a surf beach just down the road from my house! It's awesome.

For the most part, there's very little to complain about living in NZ. However there are two things to be aware of should you decide to move down here. The first is that the quality of housing in NZ is generally lower than that in other Westernized countries, by which I mean that kiwi houses are very poorly insulated. It's hard to imagine what this actually means until you spend a winter here, but there's nothing like being in an un-insulated Wellington house when a southerly is blowing in straight from Antarctica. If you're renting, this can mean very large heating bills in winter!

The other downside is that moving to NZ means you are very far away from, well, most other countries in the world. I know this sounds obvious but it means that going home can be both expensive and time-consuming. From Wellington to New Jersey, you're talking three planes, 25 hours, and nearly \$3000 (NZD) round trip. This could impact your decision to move here permanently if you are planning on starting a family, or have aging relatives back in the States.

As for integrating, there's no real language barrier and the kiwis are just as friendly as the Americans so it's not hard to make new friends and get involved in the community.

One thing that has surprised me about New Zealand is that the kiwis seem really willing to give everyone the benefit of the doubt. When I was looking for my first job here, I found that if you show the willingness and determination to work hard, they're willing to give you a shot. They're also really honest people. Not only can you leave your belongings safely at the front of the yoga studio, but it's also not unusual to bring an item up to the register in a store and have the kiwi say, "Don't buy that here... there's a better one across the road – and half the price!" Such encounters restore my faith in humanity!

Christchurch

Christchurch is the second largest city in New Zealand and the primary urban center on the South Island. It has long been known internationally as "The Garden City" for its expansive system of parks and public gardens, but after the earthquake of February 2011 hit the city center hard, plans for rebuilding will limit the height of buildings and increase the extent of parklands even more. As Mayor Bob Parker explained, "It's about a safe, sustainable, high-tech, low-rise city in a garden." While the city is focused on beautiful spaces within its interior, its location on the east coast of the South Island is set amidst a picturesque agricultural region and unmatched natural splendor.

Whitney is an expat from Oregon who is currently living in Christchurch. Her blog is called [Further Than You Think](#), and what I think is that it is a great read for anyone who is interested in learning about what New Zealand has to offer from the point of view of an inquisitive and engaged young woman with an interesting outlook.

J.B. : *Why did you choose to live in New Zealand?*

I lived in New Zealand for a few years as a kid and loved it. I always wanted to live here again, and when I started thinking about going to graduate school it seemed like a good time to make the move.

J.B. : *What do you like about it?*

Life in New Zealand feels a lot more laid-back than living in the US did. It's hard to explain, but everything just feels much less stressful.

J.B. : *What don't you like about it?*

I hate shopping here—this includes shopping for everything from groceries to clothing to furniture. Selection tends to be limited and the prices are high. Whenever I visit the US I usually bring an extra suitcase to fill with clothes.

J.B. : *Although English is spoken and the culture is not radically different, have you encountered any difficulties in adjusting to life in New Zealand?*

I'll occasionally get frustrated when things aren't as easy or convenient as they are in the US. But generally, it's been a pretty easy adjustment.

J.B. : *What has surprised you about New Zealand?*

New Zealand gets a lot of credit for having really beautiful scenery, which it does, but you almost never hear about the urban areas and I was surprised at how cool the cities are. Wellington and Christchurch (pre-quake) are two of the coolest cities I've ever been to: pedestrian-friendly, clean and full of cool, independent shops, restaurants and cafes.

J.B. : *Are you considering staying in New Zealand after you graduate?*

I expect after I graduate I'll go back to the US. I really like living here, but it's just too far from my family for me to want to stay forever.

About the author: *Julie R Butler is a traveler, blogger, writer, and editor who has authored several books, self-published as eBooks, including [Nine Months In Uruguay](#) and [No Stranger To Strange Lands](#) (click [here](#) for more info). Julie presently lives in the sunny wine country of Argentina, where she and husband, Jamie, edit [Expat Daily News](#) and [Expat Daily News Latin America](#).*

What is an Escape Plan and why do you need one? - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that all was vanity; but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dream with open eyes, and make it possible. - T.E. Lawrence

Wishing you could live anywhere in the world on your own terms...but don't know what the first step is to realizing your Escapeartist Dream?

Ted McGrath, a seasoned and very successful businessman in his own right has been helping individuals breakthrough their biggest challenges, live their passion, and create profitable businesses for the last 13 years. After working with thousands of people all across the world, he came to the conclusion that we are all after one thing: A Dream and that no dream will be achieved without having a plan.

So, if you have an Escapeartist Dream – the next logical question is...Do you have an Escape Plan. In accordance with Ted's experience, most people don't. Ted has identified four obstacles prevent people from even starting their Escape Plan he calls them "The Four F's" Fear, Family, Finances and Friends.

Do you want a plan to realize your Escapeartist Dream? If you do read on....

First things first – start thinking about when moving off shore is "How You See Yourself." If you don't see yourself as the type of person who is capable of living offshore then it will never happen. How you see yourself is called your Identity. Your Identity is a set of beliefs that you have about yourself. It's what you believe you are capable of and what is possible in your life. Those beliefs you have are a bundle of thoughts floating around in your head about moving offshore. Those thoughts lead to feelings, which lead to choices, which lead to actions, which lead to results. Those results lead you in a direction in your life which takes you to your ultimate destination, which we call your Destiny. Is it your Destiny to live the Escape Artist Dream? If you see yourself as the type of person that is ready to jump in and live offshore that chances are you will figure out a way to live the life of your dreams, and make it happen. But the reality is that most people have at least one of three things holding them back. Fear, Finances, or Family. Now whether you are the jump in type or have something holding you back, everyone needs a plan. We call this an escape plan.

An Escape plan starts very simply by imagining a bigger future and expanding your current vision of what's possible. Let us give you a sample. Start by going on a very simple journey:

Imagine it's today's date, 1 year into the future, and you are looking back over the last year of your life, what must have happened over the last year for you to look back and say it was the greatest year of your life? Personally, Professionally, Financially, and Fun/Entertainment?

-Simply answer this question by writing for 5-10 minutes straight.

-As you look back at everything you wrote down, ask yourself, What is my most important Goal?

-Then ask yourself, "What is my biggest challenge that's stopping me?"

As you go through this exercise you may come to three very powerful conclusions:

One - Having clarity on who you are, what you want and how you are going to get it is the key to success in any endeavor.

Two – thinking about the future and actually doing it are two separate things.

Three - if you're not able to solve your biggest challenge then your dreams will never fully actualize.

This is why we put together the escape plan. The plan is designed to eliminate your challenges, capitalize on your biggest opportunities, and reinforce what you are already doing well (to increase your confidence that you can live the escape artist dream).

Think about this for a moment. Let's imagine your biggest challenge is your "Fear" of moving offshore. What if we told you we had a scientific technology designed to transform your fear into courage and confidence? Better yet, what if you were not told this, what if Ted helped you transform your fear, what would now be possible in your life? You see, part of our Escape Plan is to help you transform those fears. (and we actually have a scientific technology to do so).

Or, let's imagine that your biggest opportunity right in front of you is to start up your dream business and move offshore. What if we told you we have a formula called "The Passion To Profits Breakthrough Formula" that can help anyone turn their passion, knowledge, and skills into a profitable business and breakthrough whatever obstacle is holding them back from living the Escapeartist Dream. Well, this formula is a critical part of the escape plan because we realize that finances and making money is a huge part of living the Escapeartist dream.

A lot goes into making one of your biggest life decisions ever and leaving anything up to chance that is this important, would not be smart.

This is exactly why we have developed the opportunity for every person who is passionate about living offshore to create a free

Escape Plan with one of our qualified Escape Coaches. Think about how powerful it would be to have someone listen to your dreams, goals, passions, and even challenges for 45 minutes and to help you create a 3 step action plan on how you are going to start moving in the direction of your escape dream. You need a map and strategy to arrive at your destination and live your ultimate destiny without getting lost in the river of fear, finances, and family.

If you are ready to Escape...we have an Escape Plan for you. Get one by [CLICKING HERE](#)

A Genuinely Exciting Opportunity to Purchase One of the Best Known Tourist Estancias in Argentina - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

The sale of [Estancia La Margarita](#) in the Provincia de Buenos Aires () is without doubt, in our opinion at Escape Artist, an incredible buying opportunity for someone. This lovely estancia (I know, I have been there and I loved it) located just 280 kilometers from Buenos Aires is one of the most visible estancias on the internet (just have a look at its [Trip Advisor reviews](#) for starters.

La Margarita is often featured in national papers, magazines and has been featured on numerous TV shows. It has been used for model shoots and this year (Aug 2011) it has been listed not only in Rough Guide, Buenos Aires but also Lonely Planet, Buenos Aires. It has been chosen by the Mayor of Tapalque to make a film promoting tourism in the Provincia de Buenos Aires and is the location for a Argentina film production called "Salome y el Forastero" (Salome and the Forester) which starts filming end of September 2011.

We, at Escape Artist, know the owner David Cummings alias The English Gaucho well (see his blog about life on La Margarita and in Argentina (<http://englishgaucho.blogspot.com/>)). He has written a number of articles about life in Argentina and on La Margarita for us. With this in mind I decided to let David tell his story of why, after seven years he is selling the now famous estancia. I also asked him why he thinks it is such a fantastic opportunity to buy it and what sort of life style it could offer you. Finally, I asked him his price. I think once you have read his story you will agree with me that opportunities like this don't come by often at any price – here's his story.....

"I remember as if it was yesterday the first day I arrived on La Margarita. In fact I had been looking for Estancia La Margarita for a good few years! Well, not literally, it's just that I had a vision of what I wanted to buy here. It had to be, amongst other things, in a location far from the maddening crowd but near enough that if I needed some civilization I wouldn't be too far away. I viewed many properties and gave them all "the closed eyes test". I sat down in the grounds of the property and listened – what I was listening for was the sound of the pampas countryside, cows in fields, horses chatting and the wind in the trees and grass. What I mostly got was the sound of trucks rushing by or the neighbor's radio playing too loud. If the location didn't pass this first test I didn't even bother to look at the rest of the property.

When I arrived at La Margarita I knew even before I arrived at the house it would pass the closed eye test. The thrill of the wonderful one-kilometer drive up to the house and grounds still stays with me. The blue open skies, the cows and horses in the fields and the wonderful bird life was spectacular and to be honest it still is. Believe me, I still get that buzz as I pass the famous white pillars, which mark the entrance to La Margarita. Every time I arrive back at La Margarita after being in the city I stop half way up the drive way to the estancia, I get out of my car and breathe in the fresh air and take in the beauty of the surroundings – I love it I really do. But nothing lasts forever as they say and I am now putting it on the market for various reasons, which, in some way, still hasn't sunk in yet and without wanting got be too dramatic I am sure writing this will bring a few tears to my eyes.

After La Margarita sailed through my closed eyes test it was time to have a look at the property. I really didn't need to since I guess once the closed eyes test had been passed I had already purchased it in my mind. So one day in January 2005 I had the keys to La Margarita and it was mine. I asked my estancia foreman (that made me feel important!) to saddle up a couple of horses and off I rode with Maria my partner at the time into the famous Argentine pampas as estancia owners do! – I can't begin to describe to you how exciting that felt but I am sure you can imagine. As we rode out on that lovely sunny day (honest it really was) we talked excitedly about the future plans for La Margarita as we rode over pampas.

La Margarita had already been opened to guests for about twelve years before I eventually purchased it. Enriqueta Aguilo of the original Aguilo family who had owned La Margarita since it was built in 1873 had opened its doors to the public with good success in the 90s. However, due to personal reasons she had let the estancia slip and guests had almost stopped coming by the time I saw it. However, even though she had neglected it, this was a strong spirited and beautiful estancia and I could see that with some elbow grease and a team of good builders we could get it sorted out. In fact, as it turned out we had a team of about five builders on and off working on La Margarita for about a year or so. Renovating, painting, wiring, putting in new bathrooms, fixing things and converting barns and run down houses into living accommodation – you name it we did it. In the evenings as the builders went home and left us alone on La Margarita we would take a bottle of Malbec and sit in the lovely grounds and drink the wine while looking up at the stars amazed by the shooting star shows offered each night by the clearest night skies you have ever seen.

By the time we had finished renovating, the main estancia house consisted of five bedrooms with private bathrooms with a further three bedrooms with a shared bathroom. There is the huge and inviting living room, complete with a great fireplace – if only that fire place could talk it would talk of the wonderful evenings we have sat around it with guests on the historic Margarita playing music or chatting over a famous Malbec and just generally having a wonderful time.

Outside of the main house there is what we now call Casa Rosada – if you come you will see why! Casa Rosada was in fact the original house in which lived the then foreman of La Margarita when it was built in the 1870s while the owners were building the main house. It is a lovely building but when I purchased the estancia La Casa Rosada needed a fair bit of renovating. After it was renovated I have to say it looked great – a real piece of history revived and I am very proud of it – especially when we have Argentines come and visit and tell us how wonderful they think it is that we were preserving what is a very important part of their heritage.

I decided over time that La Casa Rosada could offer a nice profit centre for La Margarita, which was almost unique in the world of estancias. I had been to many other estancias and also had a look at what other estancias were offering. What I found they weren't offering was self-catering units (and still don't) and La Casa Rosada was perfect for this purpose. I equipped the rooms with small kitchens, bathrooms and put in wood burning stoves and I have to admit it has worked out fabulously. We have a constant stream of guests who are on a tight budget but who want to stay on an estancia but their pennies won't stretch to a stay in the main house where all meals and wine are included – with this facility we could now open the estancia to this market – and it has worked out great – guests love to stay in it.

To be honest I myself could write a book about my time being the owner of Estancia La Margarita but I am aware that's not why you may be reading this and I am also aware that Susan the editor asked me to answer some specific questions so here goes:

What does La Margarita consist of?

The estancia consists of the main estancia house built in 1873 with its five bedrooms with private bathrooms all with fireplaces plus three other bedrooms. There is the lovely one hundred square meter living room plus large kitchen and a dispensa. There is also a large general bathroom, which was the original bathroom of the estancia. The main house has extensive terrace areas. . The house has a large internal patio area – perfect to use in the winter and very colonial. Outside the main house is the TV room, washing area plus covered parking for about 4 cars. There is also a room we reserve for a volunteer we regularly have on La Margarita, which is complete with a wood burning stove and private bathroom. There is a further building, which has a toilet and storage space for freezers etc. Of course, lets not forget the huge swimming pool, which in summer is wonderful and is generally open from Nov until April (if you are brave it can stay open longer).

There is the self-catering house which I have talked about, that is, La Casa Rosada, which consists of four bedrooms with private bathrooms – one of the bedrooms has a living room. There is a huge stone barn built in 1872 which is divided into a workshop, a chapel, a general storage area and there is an another barn for storage of tractors etc. Above this barn is an area, which I have converted to what I call the yoga and chill area –it's huge and has lovely views of the surrounding countryside and a great place to escape- in fact its here that I used to escape to so I could get away from the builders sometimes times in the height of the renovation. There also is a two-bedroom house for the estancia foreman and another studio for his assistant with small kitchen and bathroom. There is a further house, which is nice and private, which I have converted to use recently for myself when the main house is busy. The total land is forty hectares (about 100 acres). There are corrals for horses and the land has a large wood so there are always logs for the fires.

Included in the sale will be all the furniture, the horses, which as I write today are about 15, the milking cows, a bull and about 35 sheep. The tractors and tools are also included in the sale – in fact everything is included that will enable you to receive guests immediately.

Why is buying La Margarita such an exciting opportunity?

For me there are a many reasons why this is a great opportunity. One is simply that all the hard work is already done – not only in the physical sense but in the marketing sense as well. Over the past six years I with my team have put our hearts and souls into making La Margarita what it is today – a much visited, written about and loved estancia. When I purchased it my aim was to make La Margarita one of the best loved estancias in Argentina by offering a place where guests could relax and enjoy the gaucho life style and chill out. A place where they could ride out on horses and enjoy an experience of the real gaucho Argentine pampas both for Argentines and foreigners. I wanted those who came to experience what I had experienced when I first came to La Margarita. I think that if you have a look at what has been written about La Margarita we have succeeded. So much so that the editors of the guides Rough Guide and Lonely Planet put us in their Buenos Aires guides this year – something we are very proud of.

If you purchased La Margarita you would not only be buying somewhere beautiful to live but a turn key business that has been built up over more than 20 years. I say over twenty years because there is no doubt that Enriqueta the former owner did much on her part to make this a wonderful estancia too – we just took it to the next stage. The difference is that we opened up the international market and with the installation of the self-catering units we have opened up another niche market. Of course that's aside from the huge amount of renovation we did over the years. One thing you need not worry about – guests don't come to La Margarita to see me – if only! In fact the guests see very little of me and they don't want to see me a lot or who ever is looking after them. Guests come to La Margarita to enjoy what it offers – not the owner.

Another reason that this is an exciting opportunity is that the leaders of the town of Tapalque have been exploring the possibility that there was warm spring water in the area. Last year they found the warm spa water and its full steam ahead (sorry for the pun) to put natural spa facilities in the town. The Tapalque Municipal has already been approached by a private company to build the spa complex on a 15-acre site. The spas will be near to La Margarita. This will certainly bring more people to the town, which will without doubt certainly bring more guests to La Margarita. Also the Tapalque council leaders have already built and finished a brand new tourist office on the main route, which is due to be opened September 2011. The office will offer info to people who are looking for things to do in the area as more and more Argentines explore their own country. This will no doubt also have the potential to attract more guests to La Margarita. All in all without doubt, the future is bright for La Margarita.

Why I am Selling?

I have asked myself this question a number of times to be honest. The truth is if there is no one to buy it I will not be unhappy and I will continue to run it with my team since I do love it here but I do have my reasons for putting it on the market.

One is personal in that I have spent the past six to seven years building the business of Estancia La Margarita. I am from the UK and I have four grand children and I am ashamed to say that I have only seen them about four times during that time. I now

want to spend more time with them before they themselves get married and I end up with great grand kids without the energy to enjoy them. I have also been offered a partnership in another project, which is in the city of Buenos Aires, and I have accepted it – it will take up quite a bit of my time and I will also need to raise some money. So with the situation with my grandkids and the other projects I have I just don't have time or money to do everything. Also, maybe its time for someone to take La Margarita to its next stage.

Once thing is for sure for me, La Margarita has turned into a success but it has plenty of room for further growth – of that I am 100% sure. The person who buys it will have plenty of opportunity to be creative and to grow the potential that La Margarita offers with the benefit of it being an established business providing a steady flow of guests visiting the estancia giving a secure income stream. For example one way you can grow the estancia more can be found in the words of one of our guests. Every year we have a group of guests come here who are the bosses of the Intercontinental Hotel chain. Last year when they were here I asked one of the bosses what was the trend in travel tourism and what tips he could give me – he said that the trend is to lower the footprint of the food we eat – here on La Margarita the footprint can be got to almost zero. He also said that when he retires (he is a bit young yet) he was going to buy somewhere just like La Margarita.

What type of lifestyle can La Margarita offer you?

I have to say if you were just buying La Margarita to live in and forgot about offering it to guests then La Margarita would be the perfect escape. It would offer you a safe and fabulous lifestyle especially if you love horse riding, the countryside and breathing pure fresh air and eating fresh food. It offers a chance to live the green life in a wonderful setting with views to die for and yet still be in striking distance of the glamour of Buenos Aires. But, there is no doubt it can also offer much, much more.

You have the chance to own and run a really enjoyable business with a steady income stream that can be grown and that offers you the chance of meeting people from all over the world – you will love this part as I do. The way the property is, you have the choice of living in the main house and just renting out the self-catering units for which the demand is definitely growing. Another option is you could live in one side of the large main house and make that totally private and let the other side out to guests along with the self-catering units. Finally, you could live in the small house I have recently converted and rent everything out. There is no doubt that this is a very flexible property and if you have had enough of the hustle and bustle of city life and want to make a new life this really could be for you. And it's in a country, which many are tipping as the place to live for the future (Google multi- millionaire Doug Casey).

What am I asking for La Margarita?

Well, for me La Margarita is priceless and it has been that way for a long, long time for me since it has been a major part of my life over the past seven years. However, everything has a price and I am looking for around 800,000\$US-900,000\$US which without trying to sound like a property sales man sounds cheap to me for what's on offer. For this price you get the property, the turn- key business plus the land. You also get all the tools and tractor plus the furniture in the house. I am also prepared to throw in the Ford Ranger (2008) into the sale if the price is right. You get all rights to the business and the website. I am very happy to stay on to help you get on your feet and show you the ropes for an agreed period of time. Also included are all the animals including, as mentioned, around 15 horses. I am prepared to listen to any ideas you may have re the sale price and I will offer credit if needed, however, one thing is that at least 60% of the agreed price needs be paid. For the rest I am prepared to wait or accept a part exchange. I am also prepared to be a silent partner in La Margarita since I am not leaving Argentina. I am happy to listen to any offers and to any proposals you may have. You will find heaps of info about La Margarita on our website <http://www.estancialamargarita.com> and if you punch in David Cummings Argentina in Google you will find many of the articles I have written about life here. If you need to ask me questions please e-mail me at my personal email address davidpaulcumings@yahoo.co.uk and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Ok that's David story. As I mentioned I have to been to this wonderful estancia and stayed on it and I assure you it is a wonderful and beautiful place and the possibilities it offers are endless– my only surprise is that David is selling La Margarita. However, as he mentioned, nothing is forever and it now opens the door for someone to buy a unique bit of Argentina that as David says is really priceless.

An Emerging Destination For Your Next Wellness Vacation - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

As noted in recent articles on Traveling4Health.com, Panama is an emerging international destination for medical excellence and wellness vacation for foreigners. The Wellness Vacation is a medically supervised health management program for HEALTHY PEOPLE who want to experience a new level of customized service in a spa environment, with a focus on medically driven planning of healthcare and nutrition.

The key to a great Medical Spa Vacation is the combination of spa treatments with wellness management plan that is driven by a baseline health status checkup and a resulting treatment plan that is designed by a personal wellness physician (typically an internal medicine doctor) who is well versed in nutrition and the relationship between proper physical and emotional health habits (body, mind and soul).

Panama represents a GREAT OPTION for Wellness Vacations. Not only will you be impressed with the level of medical expertise, but you will mostly be astounded by the beautifully rich surroundings that are located within a 2 ½ hour flight from Miami.

So, if you are "in the market" for a wellness vacation, here's the "menu": a multi-disciplinary team consisting of a personal physician, nutritionist and spa professional are at your service in a choice of three environments; luxury urban; eco resort in the Panamanian Rain Forest; or an upscale beach resort.

Medical Spa Vacations

"We are pleased to offer a NEW standard for Wellness & Medical Spa Vacation," said Shai Gold, CEO of [International Triage, LLC](http://InternationalTriage.LLC). With the support of Bern Hotel Company of Panama, we pioneered the concept of a multi-environment spa network. While the client is offered unique options, we guarantee that the quality of the customer experience is 100% consistent anywhere you go.

Gold is the former founding V.P. for International medical services at The University of Miami/ Jackson Memorial Medical Center, where his efforts resulted in some 3,000 cases and over \$150 million dollars in revenue from international medical services in a four year period.

"You will be surprised how many people fail to test their baseline health indicators, so our starting point is baseline medical testing (blood, urine, chest x-ray and cardiac exam) which helps our medical team determine the client's health status" said Gold.

"A physician will oversee the implementation of the results of the testing, he said, "So let's say the blood test indicates you need to reduce cholesterol intake. You will have a diet designed by a nutritionist who makes sure you are on the right track with exercise."

"We have to make sure your vital signs are stable in order to participate in specific exercise programs of your choice. If your choice is Pilates, that's very low impact on your cardiovascular system. On the other hand, Zumba is very high impact."

With the treatment plan, designed specifically for you by a physician, you can expect and truly experience a fountain of youth-type rejuvenation both physically and mentally.

"Our local wellness physician supervises the exams and protocols. She is very health conscious and participates at a competitive level in endurance sports," said Gold.

What is a medical spa vacation, and why use it for my whole body health needs?

Truth is, the harder you push yourself and the more you age, the more quality of rest and quality of exercise counts towards your state of mind and your mental and physical ability to bounce-back from anything debilitating.

What do you get when you combine your favorite getaway destination with your most anticipated anti-aging or wellness care desires?

You will benefit from excellent service and quality medical procedures to keep your body looking young and healthy so you can meet all of your fitness and overall wellness goals.

International Triage, used their network of hospitals and physicians in Panama to develop the medical package to be implemented at three of the most famous spa resorts in Panama, all managed by the [Bern Hotel Group](http://BernHotelGroup.com), Panama's leading hotel group.

"We partnered with Glen Champion, VP of the Bern Hotel Group to ensure that there is consistency in the delivery of hospitality and spa services," explained Gold."

Champion was at the Gamboa resort, one of the spa hotel locations, when reached for comments. "I'm actually in the Gamboa Rain forest right now," said Champion, "this is right smack in the jungle alongside the Panama Canal. It's an upscale hotel with a marina and fishing club with trips to the Canal and the Monkey Islands."

“Our hotels will provide a medical concierge where we have the first contact with the medical guest arriving in Panama for medical procedures,” said Champion, “We have a tour operator who picks up the patient from the hotel and takes them to the pre-surgery appointment with the doctor.”

“We partnered with International-Triage to offer two types of service,” said Champion, “1) Medical Spa Vacation, and 2) Hospitality and ground support services for international patients”.

International Triage controls the medical product delivery by having stake-holders in the field who have responsibilities for which they can be held accountable. “We have a medical manager, a physician, who oversees and writes the protocols for the delivery of the medical package service,” said Gold.

Each of the three spa locations is unique while maintaining consistency in services.

According to Champion, quality control of all spa products and services is vital. “As we developed our hotels, we chose to develop our spas under one name and direction,” said Champion, “We elected to combine our name with the Clarins Corporation, calling our spas “Sensory Spas by Clarins.” In this way, all the spas use the same quality luxury essential oils, massage and signature spa treatment protocols.”

The Gamboa Rainforest Resort – Eco Resort – The Rainforest Experience

[The Gamboa Rainforest Resort](#) offers Visitors a Unique Panama Canal Hotel Experience. Just 30 minutes away from Panama City, the resort is a tropical vacation paradise. The [Sensory Spa by Clarins at Gamboa Rainforest Resort](#) offers a quiet, serene, and revitalizing retreat, featuring treatments using natural herbs and minerals.

Playa Bonita Resort & Spa – Beach Resort – The Playa Bonita Experience

[The Playa Bonita Resort & Spa](#) is a beachfront escape near the Panama Canal, just minutes from Panama City. [The Bonita del Mar Spa](#) offers private cabins, saunas, Turkish baths and meditation rooms. The fitness centre’s cardio and weight equipment overlook the pools and ocean.

“In a small area on the side of the pool, people enjoy massages in private cabañas where they can feel and hear the cool breeze off the ocean,” said Champion, “couples love pool-side massages.”

Le Méridien Panama – Urban – The City Experience

[Le Méridien Panama](#) is a chic location on the edge of the Bay of Panama bounded by charming restaurants and vibrant nightlife, all within a few minutes to the financial center and corporate offices. The Sensory Spa is by Clarins.

Finding the perfect solution for your medical spa vacation desires

No matter what treatment you are seeking, you are sure to find just what you are looking for and the wellness experience of your dreams.

The three types of environment suit everyone’s taste, as there is always a luxury to please. You can now benefit from the important addition of excellent medical packages delivered highly skilled and experienced physicians to meet and exceed your wellness goals on every visit, each and every time.

Medical Spas as Medical Recovery Retreats

If you are a client of International Triage recovering from a medical procedure in Panama, your medical case management will include overseeing your in-country recovery care to include healing time and appropriate healing protocols at one of the three wellness spas.

Even when you have completed your medical goal, you can enjoy healing therapies and luxurious spa treatments guided by your personal physician and wellness coach.

You can be assured that the doctors supervising your recovery and wellness are well-educated and specially trained to meet your needs and exceed your standards of quality care.

[Your Medical Spa Vacation Starts Here](#)

[Click to request more information.](#)

About the author: Ilene Little is CEO of [Traveling for Health and Retirement](#). She writes all of the content for the [EscapeArtist Medical Tourism Blog](#).

Reflections on why I emigrated from the USA and retired overseas - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

The population of the planet has doubled in the last 40 years and is predicted to top 7 billion people by October 31, 2011. We are running out of food, water, and other important resources in many locations on this big blue marble. Many people are very worried about tectonic changes in the world's power dynamics. However, that is not the reason I left the formerly greatest nation on earth. My leaving it all behind has more to do with what has happened, is happening, and what will happen on a different level.

The United States reminds me more and more of a self-destructive individual, you know, the ones that cut themselves, consume all types of drugs such as crack cocaine, methamphetamines, heroin, alcohol, and tobacco (and there are many more). This is more than a metaphor, and it is transpiring in spite of the fact that the marginal educational system in the nation has spent huge sums of money and resources to educate the young and most impressionable to the dangers of consuming toxic substances. Perhaps we should make drain cleaner and gasoline illegal as well?

My disillusionment started in about 1980, when Ronald Reagan, a B actor, defeated Jimmy Carter for the presidency of the USA. Americans completely ignored Reagan's non-accomplishments in the Golden State, where he, with the help of some early anti-government and anti-tax enthusiasts, notably Howard Jarvis and Proposition 13, dismantled that which had, until that time, been the shining example of what the United States of America was capable of doing with its fine young minds. The California University system was an institution that was not run as a for-profit enterprise, but was a great experiment in *paying it forward*. Between the end of WWII and the Reagan War on Education in California, hundreds of thousands of young minds had been educated and shaped to innovate, creating what was to become the eight largest economy in the world. Now, look at the state today: terminally indebted, the tax base eroded by self-serving citizens who apparently forgot that they all received a free education, paid for by their parents and grandparents via property taxes.

Subconsciously, I was already looking for an "escape from America" when, in 1974, I moved my family to Costa Rica and bonded with that lovely but corrupt little country; however it was not what I was seeking. After our return to the USA after a couple of years, we moved to Maui, where we were reasonably isolated from the realities of the mainland and world events in general. We had a big garden, two cows (named Chuck and Roast), five cars, a nice boat, a giant house, and I even managed to score one of the first Apple computers (a big disappointment from which I would not recover until I finally broke down and purchased my next computer, a Dell, in 1999).

So things were really going well, but while I was far away, the stench of corruption started to permeate our capital, with the help of lobbyists and corrupt politicians on both sides of the aisle.

Eventually the Evangelicals started to wield their mighty sword of guilt across the nation, starting with the so-called silent majority. The problem with that moniker of course is that they were neither silent nor a majority. But in a nation first settled by the Puritans, where the men subjugated the woman as badly as they are being subjugated by Islam and today's remnants of the buggy riding Mennonites, wearing your religion on your sleeve as a politician became as important as getting corporate political donations.

Then came 9/11! My wife and I were involved in a lucrative business venture that allowed us to travel in a very comfortable tour bus with our dogs all around the nation, from music festival to music festival to music festival. We were south of Denver, visiting my wife's family and taking care of business on that fateful day. At about 8 am, the phone rang in our rig, parked at Cherry Creek Reservoir. It was my friend Barry calling me from West Virginia, urging me to turn on the TV. While I did that he stated to me, "We live in a different world now!" As the picture on my set became focused, I realized with growing horror what a huge event this was. The towers had already collapsed, and all the networks just kept playing the various footages of the planes crashing into the World Trade Center's Twin Towers with their subsequent collapse into piles of dust and rubble.

What I saw rising out of that cloud of dust and rubble was the loss of freedoms and liberty, along with a strengthening of the US police state, which had already surpassed the percentage of incarcerated citizens of any other nation in the world, the privatization of prisons, and the harsh mandatory sentencing guidelines that robbed the judiciary of its ability to apply moderation in certain cases that got caught up in throwing the book at deserving defendants. What exists in this paradox is a clear violation of the separation of powers, that of the legislative and judicial branches. But it has become a major source of income for the US prison industry, which in turn kicks back millions of dollars to the lobbyists, who distribute those funds to elected officials in return for the favor of allowing them to be the authors of policies that are very favorable to them. And out the window goes justice!

And how did I feel about the actual event? I was horrified of course, and mourned the loss of life in that terrible episode that will forever be etched into the nation's psyche. But was I surprised? Not at all! My surprise is at how the United States of America, and particularly the brain-dead president and national security advisor (Bush and Rice) completely ignored the Presidential Daily Briefing of one month before, where the intelligence community warned the President of the United States of America, a legacy low C student at Yale, that Bin-Laden was determined to commit a terrorist attack in the United States, possibly preparing for "hijackings or other types of attacks." And this report was ignored.

Almost half of the US voted for this dunce, but worse, they overwhelmingly reelected the formerly AWOL Texas National Guard member. In his own words, he warned the electorate, and they did not listen to him. They thought it was funny. I wonder if they still think its funny, with the country and the world's economies in shambles.

"I graduated from Yale University with a low C average."

"I was a cheerleader. Yes, really."

"We're going to have the best educated American people in the world." – Verbatim quote, George W. Bush

"Quite frankly, teachers are the only profession that teach our children." – Verbatim quote, Governor George W. Bush

Right after the attacks on the country, Congress convened and rammed through a series of laws, packaged as the misnamed "USA Patriot Act," giving the authorities unprecedented new powers to spy on their own citizens anywhere in the world. No doubt there are bad people out there who wish to do harm to the United States, but the United States has harmed itself much more than all the criminals who perpetrated the actions of 9/11 ever did. We have lost more US citizens in Iraq, fighting a war based on lies, than we lost in the attacks on 9/11. The USA killed untold numbers of innocent Iraqi civilians to fight that unjustifiable war, creating much hatred toward the nation in that region.

The USA justifiably attacked and invaded a rogue country, Afghanistan, to take out its twisted leaders. And now forces have been there almost ten years, at great cost, not to mention that the two unwinnable and misguided wars, combined with irresponsible tax cuts and rebates, have destroyed the nation's fiscal health for years to come. Did the terrorists succeed? Beyond a doubt, if, as G.W. Bush so wisely observed, "They hate us for our freedom!"

That hastily passed USA Patriot Act marked the decline of the ideals that the United States and its constitution stand for. But then came the [imminent domain case of New London](#) before the US Supreme court, which ruled with an astonishing anti-liberty and anti-constitutional 5:4 majority, this time by the more liberal members of the court, that government could seize private property and turn it over to a for-profit private development company. This decision was rendered over six years ago, and the forces that be wasted no time carrying out the evictions. Let the record reflect that, as of September 11, 2011, nothing has been built there, and the area is an overgrown eyesore.

There was a similar but equally disgusting case of the serial bankruptee, Donald Trump, forcing an old lady out of the home she was born in, in Atlantic City, so he could build a parking structure for his soon to be opened and subsequently closed casino.

Day by day, I lost more and more faith in the establishment known as United States Democracy, and soon found myself looking longingly at Mexico, but quickly acknowledging the disaster that loomed around the corner for the Aztec nation in the form of narco-terrorism.

We soon learned about dozens of lobbyists funding congresspersons, writing their own laws, and having the ever-corrupt public servants introduce the same said bills and fighting for them, making all kinds of backroom deals to payback for that golf outing to Scotland on private corporate jets. Were enough citizens sufficiently outraged to march in the streets to bring about change? No! They went about their business like sheep, most of them being completely unaware of the cancer that had been eating at the republic, at the concept of "one man, one vote." Most people in the United States today have no idea who Jack Abramoff was, and I am afraid that they just don't give enough of a damn to get up from their living room furniture to ever raise the kind of ruckus that is necessary to re-establish Democracy. Even if they did, the paramilitary police forces will be ready for them with machine guns, armored personnel carriers, toxic gases, microwave weapons and hundreds of thousands of jack booted, armored storm troopers, ready to oppress popular dissent. But not to worry, I really don't think they have it in them to rise up. They are too concerned with their credit ratings and making sure they have the latest and greatest made in China consumer goods.

Now of course comes your obvious question: Why and how can I live in Argentina, a country that is even more corrupt? The very short answer is: It's not my country! I have no history with any other nation except Switzerland. I only served in the Armed Forces of the USA because I was compelled to do so, and to some extent, I fell for our leader's proclamation that we had to defend freedom in Vietnam. It was somewhat suspicious to me at the time that we were getting involved in a nation engulfed in a full-fledged civil war, in the end killing over one million "Gooks." The reality was that they were human beings with mothers, fathers, children, brothers, sisters, and friends, and the USA killed and maimed an astonishing number of innocents there and in the illegal incursions into neighboring countries.

Would I ever consider returning? I seriously doubt it. Every day while scanning the news around the world – financial and otherwise – I lose a little more hope, and at my age, 64, I have absolutely no illusions about the USA ever returning to the days of "The Andy Griffith Show" or to anything close to its former glory. On the contrary, I see a future for the United States that is very bleak indeed. I have serious doubts that President Obama will be reelected. The tragedy of that is not lost on me, even though I am no fan of his. This will allow the next Republican administration to select one to three new [Federalist Society](#) judges to the Supreme Court, cementing their majority. It will happen sooner or later, to the further detriment of the educational system, the ideal of Democracy, and the rights to true freedom, liberty, and justice for all.

Every day I wake up, and thank my parents and grandparents for having been Swiss and bestowing that privilege upon me at birth in Zürich, that lovely but expensive city on the lake.

About the author: Jamie Douglas is an Adventurer, Writer and Photographer with an amazing array of Nikon equipment, and a lifetime of experience traveling and documenting. He currently enjoys the great weather and fine wines of Mendoza, Argentina, and edits [Expat Daily News](#) and [Expat Daily News Latin America](#).

Discovering the Osa Mountain Village Way in Costa Rica - EFAM | Escape From America Magazine | EFAM

When I graduated college, my grandpa made the unfortunate mistake of taking my uncle and I to Belize for some much needed R&R as an opportunity for him to look at some potential land to purchase. We found 17 gorgeous acres nestled up next to a river, lush with natural mango and avocado trees, a massive natural cave, near one of the few nicely paved highways, minutes from a major town and tourist stop. All for a price 1/10th of what it would cost in the United States. He built a huge house on it that runs completely on solar power and water from the spring. It's a life I've always dreamed of and despite the insane number of bug-bites I received, I've been hooked on living the relaxed tropical life ever since...

This article is intended to tell the story of how I made a discovery that has changed the lives of my wife and I. How that life I had always dreamed of has become a reality. We are young (27 & 30), educated, with middle-class incomes in the middle of the rat-race of corporate America. It's a life that constantly leaves you asking, "Honestly, is this the best it's going to get?" Then, one day I happened to be in the right place at the right time but more on that later!

Thanks to Grandpa and his "I just want my grandkids to be happy," speech, months later I found myself waking up every morning headed to my dead-end job dreaming I was somewhere else. It was the same routine every day. And always that fear that one day I will wake up and I'm Grandpa's age looking back at my life thinking of what could have been. Those days all ended with one question before I closed my eyes to sleep at night . . . How can I live a life of adventure, fun, and luxury, yet still look at myself 30 years from now and be proud that I've taken care of my family as a good husband and father? If I had my choice, I'd want to go live in some lush tropical land but not feel like I abandoned all my "adult" responsibilities at the same time. Certainly not an easy thing to do.

I'll admit it . . . I watch the CBS show "Survivor." And yes, I think I could win. Outwit, Outplay, and Outlast, but for me it was more like Outdream since that was as close as I would ever get. Let's see . . . wake up in the morning to the Toucan's perched on the tree next to you, enjoy a breakfast smoothie of fresh picked pineapple, take a waterfall hike and then an afternoon fishing outing, watch the sunset go down while I enjoy my fresh catch and an ice-cold Pina Colada. Yeah, I could get used to that.

So that was the dream. The dream that was a lingering question. The seemingly impossible question of "How?" The more time I spent trying to find a way, the more depressed I became realizing it was probably time to accept my fate. That fate of a piña colada and vibrant red sunset would always have to be a 5 hour plane trip, 40 hours of paid-time-off, and \$4000+ on my 12.24%APR credit card away. Ugh. The more research I did, the more the reality set in . . . I would need to be a millionaire to be able to even come close to my dream. Maybe my 401K would explode to the point that at the ripe young age of seventy I could spend the last good years off my life wasting away on a sandy beach watching young paragliders from afar wishing I was still young enough to do that. That was the reality. But "was" is why I'm writing this today. Because "was" no longer "is."

Sometimes you are in the right place at the right time, see what you have been searching for and are smart enough to take advantage of it when you get the chance (that's how I met my wife after-all). And now, what I had been searching for "is" my reality.

My wife and I own a photography business called [Shutterfire Photography](#) and in an effort to "expand our horizons," I decided to send out a few emails to some newer resorts where I might be able to get the exclusive on destination wedding photography. One search on Craigslist led me to a new adventure resort community and the rest, as they say, is history. . . .

What I discovered is a new phenomenon that is a new wave development. It's not just construction of a home or a business, but of a community. This concept is so simple it's ridiculous and it's slowly becoming what might be the only sure thing in real estate investing. It's a tourist's dream and an investor's dream-come-true. It's a retiree's oasis and dreamer's paradise. It's what home and business should look like and an escape from the rat-race that has become our daily lives. No stress, just fun. Its adventure, meets luxury, meets income, meets the most gorgeous sunsets, stunning wildlife, and equally wonderful people that were looking for something special just like me.

And the best part about it; it's affordable even for a young middle-class struggling Coloradoan such as myself.

Remember the days when communities used to be small, food was grown in the yard, the windmills charged the lights at the house, you locked the kids outside not in their rooms, doors could be left unlocked, the town festival was a weekend event everyone attended, the steak juiced like it was just cut off the cow, a stranger invited you over for dinner because they had a little extra, and you could just sit down and read a good book because you didn't have anything better to do?

No? Me neither.

But in a way, this is the 21st Century version of that. This is the past meets the future, in the present. At least that is what it is for me. It's a concept that takes the best of all things and ideas. Then it makes them attainable by someone such as myself. Because of the astounding return on investment, it's a model that could probably be sold to some filthy rich venture capitalist who could take it and become filthier rich . . . but that's not their style, and certainly not the "Osa Mountain Village Way." They would rather wake up one morning and hear on the news that communities such as theirs are popping up all over the globe. Communities developed by common people who aren't looking to climb Mt. Money-pile, but just want to make enough to live that perfect life they have always dreamed of and will appreciate every second of it.

It really is the best of all worlds.

If you want to just invest in the core of the business to make a great return. You can do that.

If you want to own a gorgeous luxury villa to live and grow old in. You can do that too.

If you want to have a vacation rental where you visit a few weeks out of the year and then rent out the rest of the time, that's a possibility here.

Or, how about owning just 4 weeks of the year so you can take a nice long family vacation each year and collect a little income to pay you back for your investment? Yep, that's possible too. It's a heck of a lot better than a timeshare. Cheaper too!

House-swap it and go to Fiji next year. Start a business on-site and live off of another tourist's dime. It's a millionaire's life at pennies on the dollar. Why should only the super-rich afford to be happy and have fun?

My wife and I were looking for a change, but it had to be the right situation, and this made sense to us.

So, what is it, you are probably asking?

Imagine a 160 home community on 750+ acres that produces its own organic veggies and fruits, fish, chicken, milk and cheese, its own alcohol, coffee... ALL OF THAT... and the high quality food is FREE.

Now imagine a community where you have incredible things to do, including water slides, animal rehab shelters, canopy tours (zip-lines), horseback riding, kayaking, ocean and inland fishing, mountain biking and easy to walk trails through primary forest, a 325 foot ocean view waterfall to rappel, stunning sunset ocean views, and a beautiful solar heated pool with swim-up bar to sit at and have a drink.

And then consider that your villa comes standard with the luxuries of granite countertops, custom doors, trim, and cabinets made on-site, full kitchen, deck, etc. All made from the highest quality by an American builder formerly nominated as the best builder in all of Latin American

A community surrounded by incredible wildlife, where you feel like you are in the middle of the Amazon, yet you're only 20 minutes from banking, shopping, new hospital...etc.

A community of diverse people from all over the world who love life... Regular pool parties, art shows, music, poker parties, and many other events....

A community designed around sustainable technologies to maximize efficiencies and minimize costs and environmental impacts.

Overall, it is everything you need to live the luxury, adventure lifestyle of your dreams at under \$500/month in living expenses

AND all that for a buy-in price that is less than what you are likely to buy your house in the States for.

It is a market proof investment... if the economy stays flat or improves then Osa Mountain Village will be the world's premiere eco-adventure-resort. If the economy fails, Osa Mountain Village will be a GREAT place to live where your food is essentially free, you have all the water and resources you could ever want and while others are living a stressed out struggling life-style, the most difficult question you have to ask yourself is, "Would I like to go fishing today, or relax on the beach?" On top of all that, Osa Mountain Village has been created with zero debt and no marketing budget. All of their sales have come from word-of-mouth advertising and free ads, like Craigslist. Their model is completely transparent so people feel their purchase is secure and so other developers copy them to create similar amazing adventure resort communities.

That is what we found . . . that is Osa Mountain Village. And today I am so proud to announce that construction on our villa is complete. My wife and I are young motivated people, no-where near retirement age, but we own a 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath villa in this tropical paradise of Costa Rica (and yes, the bugs are a fraction in Costa Rica of what they were in Belize). We have gorgeous green granite countertops, an extended deck, and 100% kiln-dried Costa Rican made Guanacaste furniture. We are making plans to build a business as part of the community so that we can live there 6 months out of the year and then return to the U.S. for 6 months, running a small business here as well. We are also working with some of the other residents and builders at Osa Mountain Village to create a fully sustainable orphanage that will redefine what an orphanage should be like in the world. It is the ultimate Pura Vida for a guy like me. And it is the best decision we have ever made in our lives. A decision that had we not said yes, we would be looking back 10 years from now saying, "We should have bought while we had the chance."

All that being said, being a buyer myself who was looking for something different and understands how difficult that can be for many people . . . I just thought this might be that simple something special that you, the reader, may be looking for. If you feel this is right up your alley, feel free to [contact me](#) and I can help get you some more info and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Pura Vida!

<http://www.osamountainvillage6.homestead.com/>