

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Ocho family,

It's a privilege and an honor to represent Ocho Cascadas and the Board of Directors in this President's letter to the Members.

What an incredible September we had at Ocho! My wife, Cristy, and I were down in early September working alongside Board Member Steve Farrell and his friend "landscape architect" and owner at Ocho, Rob Bryan. Steve and Rob donated their resources and time to redo the Ocho landscaping throughout! These two went over and above to beautify Ocho everywhere you look. Words cannot express our gratitude for such a gift!



Mark on the job at Ocho

During the maintenance project I was able to work closely with Rosario and the outside contractors to get the entire building cleaned and complete the repairs that were needed. While addressing repairs on the Villa 9 pool we had the opportunity to resurface that pool in mosaic tile which compliments my Father's original design. We will start the new pool re-surfacing program on all the pools next year.

The maintenance season also allowed us to paint the interior and exterior of the building, replace some of the palapas, refinish carpentry, repair water leaks, polish flooring, see to electrical and plumbing issues and the list goes on! We tackled a lot this maintenance season and it shows!

In my opinion this was the biggest improvement we've made to Ocho since we opened in 2014 and the place looks beautiful! Let's not be afraid of a maintenance fee

increase as long as it continues to benefit the Members. As we can see there is so much work that goes into keeping up with Ocho's high standards and ability to create such a unique vacation experience!

It takes a dedicated team to continue our Family's philosophy and vision for Ocho Cascadas. I believe we have that team now. My Mom, our family, and my wife and I are truly grateful and appreciate all the supervision and dedication that the Board, TPI and the onsite management displays on a day to day basis.

Sincerely yours,



Chairman, Ocho Cascadas Board of Directors 



# MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

Here we are in October and weeks of maintenance are over, it was quite a challenge this year and I only have words of thanks for the Board of Directors and each one of you Ocho family, Ocho staff and especially Steve Farrell and Rob Bryan without them the gardening project would not have been completed.

I personally want to thank the staff of Ocho, we have great talents full of professionalism and there is great teamwork. I admire the commitment and dedication of each one of them, the family that was formed throughout this my first year is unmatched.

Winter is a brilliant time of year to visit Ocho Cascadas. There are countless reasons for solo travelers, families, and adventure lovers to escape to the beautiful, sunny Puerto Vallarta. The weather is perfect for a jungle hike, an afternoon sail, a relaxing massage, or basically anything that lovely Puerto Vallarta has to offer, as the duo dynamic Marcell and Angie at front desk.

We are ready to welcome you dear Ocho member in your home away from home!

Rosario Chávez  
General Manager 🌀



## The Art & Market Marina Vallarta Season 2022-2023 Kicks Off

Listen to the sounds of music drifting throughout the Marina, smell the fresh artisan foods and see the bright paintings or crafts lining the boardwalk during one of the most popular events in Puerto Vallarta...

There is something special every Thursday night, starting this October 27th, 2022 and until until May 2023, when the Art & Market Marina Vallarta takes place in this Puerto Vallarta micro-destination.

From 6:00pm until 10:00pm, this farmer's market becomes the ideal place to enjoy gastronomic delights and buy typical items made handcrafted by local artisans.

"The Art & Market Marina Vallarta keeps a very Mexican and very Vallarta style. This cultural event takes place in a sophisticated environment mixed with all the

traditional of a town celebrating the beginning of a very promising high season," says Antonio García, administrator of the Asociación de Residentes Marina Vallarta, A.C.

The Art & Market Marina Vallarta includes multiple cultural expressions of artisans, merchants, painters, artists and young people who seek to promote what they do best with their talent and skill. 🌀

## Presenting Madonnari Festival Puerto Vallarta 2022

From November 11th to 13th, 2022, the Puerto Vallarta's downtown will be the home of the Madonnari Festival, an event that returns after three years of absence due to the health contingency.

Madonnari Festival is an annual 3-day cultural event showcasing elaborate chalk paintings created by artists of all ages directly on the sidewalks of Puerto Vallarta's downtown.

For this edition, the participation of more than 100 people is expected, so they will be freely capturing their work in the Puerto Vallarta's main square and the side corridors of the Municipal Palace.

Madonnari Festival Puerto Vallarta is organized by the Committees of Sister Cities of Puerto Vallarta and Santa Bárbara, with the support of the City Council.

This year, the first two places in the adult category will win a ticket and their expenses paid from Puerto Vallarta to Santa Bárbara, where they will have the opportunity to participate in the festival of that city next year.

The first recorded street-painting competition and 'festival' was held in London in 1906. 🌀





## New Assistant Manager

Rosario has announced the hiring of a new Operation Assistant for Ocho Cascadas. David Uribe started on Friday, November 18. He was born in a small beach town, San Pancho (also called San Francisco), Nayarit, about an hour's drive north-west of P.V., and raised in San Jose, Nayarit. He has worked in the hotel business for the past 20 years. In 2006 he took up the study of English and French in Puerto Vallarta. Doing so opened numerous doors for him in the hospitality business in Puerto Vallarta. He worked at Westin Regina at the Front Desk, and while there he was awarded Supervisor of the Year in 2016. He has also worked at the AM Resorts, Nuevo Vallarta as a Night manager, Hotel Pelicanos Grand as a resort manager and Hotel Tropicana as a Room Division Manager. He brings 9 years of management experience in the hospitality industry to us.

David has a son, Alejandro, that was born in 2011. And he aspires for have his son join him in the hospitality business in Puerto Vallarta. David enjoys his time off with his family and son.

Please welcome David to the Ocho Cascadas family! 🍷

## Meet Your Board Of Director: Brian Jacobs

I was born & raised in Gilroy, CA, half an hour south of San Jose, CA. Graduated from Cal Poly, SLO with a degree in accounting. Worked for Deloitte, Haskins & Sells (a large accounting firm) in San Jose, settling in the emerging business practice.

I left Deloitte and moved to St. Helena in the Napa Valley 1986, finding that the town of 5,000 had eight accounting firms, and settled into the wine industry. I actually met my wife, Marge about a week after moving to St. Helena. She worked at the client where I was doing my first year-end audit work. We met, and I ran into her a couple of days later walking to my office, she was dropping off her 2 boys at day care. She thought I might need a ride to the client, and offered to take me. I thought that she was about the most beautiful woman that I had ever seen, and was incredibly sweet & thoughtful as well. Though I didn't need a ride, I almost got in the car...but alas, it was tax season. We got together about ten years later, each on our second try, she with two boys close to finishing high school, me with two younger girls in elementary school. We lived on the valley floor near Rutherford for a few years before finding our home for almost 20 years, a mid-century modern home on a hillside that we named Chateau Fiasco for all of the work we had to do to it, both to the house itself, and the couple of acres of forest that surrounded the house. Our marriage survived three remodels, and we had poured our passion into making it our own special place.

Marge and I keep pretty busy, all of our four children are married, we had 3 weddings in four years starting in 2016, and this last year we welcomed 3 granddaughters in seven months, bringing the total granddaughter count to five.

I left public accounting in about 1989, working first as a controller for a start-up winery, followed by Chief Financial Officer for a wine sales and marketing company that doubled in size during the three or so years that I was there. I began my consulting practice in late 1995, basically becoming a part time CFO for vineyards and wineries.

I helped a friend make wine in 1986, and first made my own wine (Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel) in 1987 with a partner, continuing for 7 or 8 years. Took about 10 years off when my two daughters were young, and life got complicated by a failed marriage, but after getting married to Marge, my best friend, in 1998 things started to settle down.

Marge and I have a cabin in the Sierras, an hour or so north of Truckee. Three or four friends have joined me for an annual fishing trip/poker game there every year (except covid, 2020,) for over 30 years. Over a poker game in 2005, five of us decided that we should be making wine...We dove in headfirst, as Marge used to say, "A bunch of middle-aged men throwing money at their hobby." While she was probably right, I think I prefer to think that we were throwing money at a passion...Our first vintage was 2006, and have made wine every year except 2020, the year the fires ruined the Napa Valley harvest, and incidentally, burned our home to the ground as well. Winemaking is an incredible pursuit that requires hard work, due care, and a thirst for knowledge. It can humble you easily, but as far as I know, it won't kill you, so it is a safe way to live on the edge.

My father purchased a chalk circle on the ground at Club Cascadas de Baja in 1987. I first visited in 1988, and visited a few more times before obtaining his membership in about 2001. Marge and I went every year for more than 10 years. My dad had made me aware of the Gidding's previous resort, Ocho Cascadas, but mentioned that he hadn't figured out how to stay there. Fast forward to 2010, when three-year memberships became available at Ocho. We purchased an interval in Villa 6 without visiting. We visited again after the remodel, and couldn't resist...We Love Puerto Vallarta and the surrounding area, and never seem to run out of doing things we enjoy while there.

While we are still in recovery mode after losing our home and almost all of our belongings to the Glass Fire in September 2020, we purchased a home in St. Helena that requires a lot less attention than our beloved Chateau Fiasco, (it came with



a gardener...) it has a great fenced yard that our English Bulldog, Rosie, loves to sun and chase her ball around in. Our last pieces of replacement furniture were delivered about two hours before we left for Ocho Cascadas in early October of this year. We have become more grateful for all of our blessings, and count Ocho Cascadas as an important one.

Editor's Note: Brian and his group take wine making very seriously and have SO MUCH FUN doing so! I was invited to participate in their Pinot Noir pressing and barreling in September. And their wines are fantastic, as evidenced by results from the CA State Fair competition:



## Meet Your Board of Director: Robin Duysen

Living in Walnut Creek, California, my wife, Janis, and I have been married for 28 years. We are blessed to have our family (including 4 grown children and their wonderful families) all living in the surrounding San Francisco Bay Area.

I've spent my career as financial executive (CFO, CPA), and I still stay busy working with a local medical device/technology company. With her passion/talent for design and architecture, Janis still owns a staging and interior design company. I'm an avid college football fan (supporting both of my schools – Nebraska and LSU), and enjoy golf and exercise activities. Possessing a "green thumb", Janis spends her free time gardening.

Our family history and love of Ocho Cascadas dates back to 1998, when we stumbled on it through a friend's recommendation. Hearing stories of this magical "Ocho", we (site unseen)

purchased the remaining years of a lease, and have never looked back.

In watching its transformation over the years, we've been amazed by the incredible renovation work at Ocho Cascadas (i.e., the air conditioning and elevators have been "game changers"), and of course, the customer service experience has been taken to a totally new level.

Our extended family enjoys the Ocho experience, and with several villas, we have an entire group down in late July. We are particularly fond of watching the late afternoon clouds build up over the jungle, seeing the warm rains/thunderstorms move in, and afterward enjoying the fantastic sunsets.

My sincere interest in serving on the Ocho Cascadas Board is to ensure that its magical experience continues into the future, and can be shared with new generations. 🍷

## Ocho Cascadas Staff Spotlight

Raul is the newest addition to the 8 Cascadas roster. He has a great responsibility in his hands, for he is in charge of transporting our Staff, 8's most valuable asset, to and from the workplace. Hailing from the beautiful state of San Luis Potosi (Julia Roberts and Brad Pitt filmed "The Mexican" here), he has lived in Puerto Vallarta for the last 14 years, so he can almost call himself a local. His parents debated on whether to call him Cupid or Valentin, due to the fact his birthday is February 14th.

He has a 23 year old daughter named Daniela who just obtained an International Commerce degree and whom he is very proud of. On his day off, you might find him at the beach working on his tan or watching Netflix. His favorite genre is Horror and is currently watching "Narcos: Mexico" and "Casa de Papel", both of which he recommends anyone to watch.

One of his favorite movies is "The Godfather" (the first one obviously).

In the music department, he is very much into the music of the decade that welcomed him to this world, but he also likes bands like Queen, Nirvana and Depeche Mode.

Standing at about 6 feet tall, he has been very helpful to the maids when not busy bringing them to work or out buying supplies for Ocho.

He has proven to be a valuable asset to Ocho.

Welcome Raul! 🍷



# Ocho Cascadas Wedding!

Editor's Note: The message below was sent to Dave Stoenner by a Member who allowed us to re-print her note. Their clan held a wedding in the penthouse and their families rented every villa in week 26 for the event!

Dave and Luisa,

I wanted to write to you to tell you how amazing the wedding was - how beautiful it was and how all the staff at Ocho went above and beyond. Everyone was blown away with the beauty of the architecture and the scenery. Ocho is a one of a kind place. Marcel was amazing and everyone that stayed at Ocho - in EVERY villa raved about how helpful he was. Always smiling and always willing to do whatever was necessary to help. Rosario was fantastic, she explained anything that needed explaining with patience and a smile. She was so helpful with all of our guests, helping them get where they wanted to go and making sure the taxi drivers knew where we wanted to go - and how much it would cost us to get there. Odette was amazing - she is so organized and she pays attention to detail. She sent us messages reminding us of when we had appointments with the florist or makeup artist and reminders of the addresses. She stepped in and communicated for us making sure English and Spanish were translated correctly and that we all knew what we were doing! Her suggestion for the flowers and the makeup were perfect. The flowers really made a difference - especially the bouquet that sat on the concrete coffee table bottom (after the groom accidentally broke the top). It actually made some of the wedding photos. They delivered exactly what we asked for and were on time and pleasant. Thank you! All of you!

Lalo and Victor - that is a whole other fantastic combination. The two of them work together very well. They worked hard to ensure that we were taken care of and the food was absolutely over the top. Lalo is amazing - the homemade bread! The seafood pasta - wow - the sushi...the steak - the dessert - it was all amazing. You could not get better food in any restaurant anywhere in the world. Victor was terrific - he helped so much with the wedding and making sure we had enough alcohol, taking care of all of our guests, and making sure that no one took my husband's expensive sipping tequila! The whole experience was over the top. It was perfect and beautiful and such a relaxing way to have a wedding.

I can't begin to thank you enough. I have loved Ocho since I was 16 years old, and it was a dream to become an owner... and now my kids and grandkids will now have a love for Ocho that hopefully will keep them coming for many many years.

Thank you so very much!

Jennifer Ober 



Hello Ocho Familia

It has been another fantastic year and I want to wish everyone a joyful holiday season and a happy 2023.

We are down to some June through August and a few October weeks for sale.

Sad to say that we have some owners who have asked us to list their prime winter weeks for sale. Sorry to see them go but this is a great opportunity for those of you who only want winter weeks. Inventory comes and goes VERY quickly, so call, text, or email me and I will be happy to send you the current list of these great weeks/villas.

Luisa

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# Local Grocery Shopping

By Barbara MacGregor

If you're like many people, the idea of grocery shopping and cooking isn't at the top of your list of vacation highlights. But if you're like me, with the open-air view from the Villa's kitchen, cooking isn't such a bad way to spend part of the day!

Our family was curious to find fresh food and wanted to shop where the locals shop. The city tours Luisa used to offer were a great start! We grabbed a map from the front desk and started exploring and weren't shy about asking people on the street where they shopped. Last year, we found most of what we were looking for, all within walking distance of each other. The search is part of the adventure!

Gene Stangel and his girlfriend JoAnn offered to take my list and map to seek out our finds, as well as new places. (They supplied the photos in this article. Thank you, Gene and JoAnn!) We hope this overview helps those of you who also want to shop locally and create your own fresh meals in your beautiful Villa.

**Map your route:** You can take a cab to these locations, or you can do a "shopping route" that would take in almost all of the places below within about 12-14 blocks from the bus stop at Basilio Badillo. Starting from the bus stop, walk one block north and turn right onto Cd de America, then east a few blocks, stopping at Colin's and Colin's. Then one block north, turn right on Lázaro Cárdenas, two more blocks east for fresh fruits and veggies at Mercado Municipal Emiliano Zapata. Then walk west to Constitucion, then right to Al Guero's fish Market. Then south back to Basilio Badillo to Eulo's and Vinos America.

## Groceries

Looking for familiar brands from the U.S.? You might want to check out Casa Gourmet, Constitución 208, 2&1/2 blocks north of Basilio Badillo and on the west side of Constitucion. You might pay a bit more, but sometimes comfort food is just what you need.

Another option is Mercado Ollin, at Lázaro Cárdenas 205, ¼ block east of the park on the north side of the street.



## Seafood

There are a couple seafood markets near each other, but the largest (and arguably best) is El Guero, located on the east side of Calle Constitucion at the intersection of 5 de Febrero.



## Produce

Thanks to Luisa's city tours, we found our favorite produce market. Mercado Municipal Emiliano Zapata is made up of two fresh fruit and veggie stores. Our favorite of the two is La California at Calle Camichín 24. This market is located at the corner of Lázaro Cárdenas and Camichim.



Directly across the street to the west is Frutas Baca at Lazaro Cardenas 544 (also located at the corner of Lázaro Cárdenas and Camichin).



## Meat

There are many fine meat markets in PV (no, I don't mean bars where you can make new friends!). Colin's is one that's close to home. Officially called Obrador y Caniceria Colin, it's located on the south side of Calle de America-Tecoman (note: west, this street is named Venustanio-Carranza) and 1/2 block east of Calle Jacarandas.



## Bakeries

Right next door to Colin's meat market is Collin's Panaderia! Great selection of fresh breads. (To get to the bakery, go down a narrow hallway just west of the meat market.)

If pastries are more to your liking, check out Eulo's Panaderia y Pasteleria at Basilio Badillo 244, 1/4 block west of Calle Ignacio Vallarta, and across the street from Freddy Tucan's.



## Liquor

After all that walking and shopping, it might be time for an adult beverage. There are many, many options in PV. Here are a couple of options within walking distance.

Vinos America: a large liquor store with a broad selection of wine from around the world and many unusual tequilas and beers, at Basilio Badillo 284. 1/4 block west of Constitucion.

Or try El Coyul: a smaller store, and lower prices, sometimes carry's items not available at Vinos America, located 1/4 block east of Calle Insurgentes on the south side of Basilio Badillo, and across the street from CMQ Hospital.



## Flowers

And don't forget how lovely fresh flowers look on your table! Spare Ocho's landscaping and get yourself to this delightful market Gene and JoAnn discovered. Vivero el Eden is located approximately two blocks west of Mercado Municipal on the south side of Lázaro Cárdena.



## New Landscaping throughout Ocho Cascadas

One of the first things you will notice when next visiting our beautiful Ocho Cascadas is how MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL it is! This is, in part, due to a significant project undertaken during the September maintenance period by long-time owner Rob Bryan and Board Member Steve Farrell, to replace the landscaping throughout the facility. Between the two of them and Cesar Cordero, our landscape maintenance guy, they removed all of the plants, rebuilt the planter boxes, cleared the planter drains and replanted over 1,100 new plants! You will be amazed by the varied colors and textures of the lush new plants. And you will now see Cesar at Ocho Cascadas 2 days a week maintaining our new landscaping. Here are some pictures of the new landscaping, now only 2 months old (and some which have already doubled in size!)



## Walking into Town: Calle Santa Barbara Remains Closed

We are sorry to report that as of Nov. '22, the walking path into PV via Calle Santa Barbara remains closed to pedestrians and cars at the site if the washed-out condominium construction project. However, there has been some work done at the site, stabilization of the rock face on the north side of the site and the foundation of the Villa directly above the road. While visiting in late November, there were about 4 or 5 people working at the site.



At Calle Santa Barbara looking north



From the beach looking northeast; site of the landslide. Note the "rock-bolts" that have been installed on the left face of the site



# Waterfall Operations

Members often ask about the waterfall operation at Ocho Cascadas. The waterfalls are, after all, the facility's "Namesake"! The Board of Directors recently made the decision to adjust the waterfall operations to the middle of the afternoon; from 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. each day except Thursdays. On Thursdays the waterfalls will operate from 4:00p.m. until 7:00p.m., greeting Members upon their return to Ocho Cascadas. The primary influence for this recent change was based on input from many Members thru the comment cards completed at the end of Members' stay. The Ocho Cascadas Manager reviews all of these comments with the Board of Directors on a regular basis.



## Ocho Cascadas 2023 Annual Meeting

Please mark your calendars for the Ocho Cascadas Association 2023 Annual Meeting which will be held in Orange County, CA on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. We invite all of our members to join us for this meeting.

At the 2023 Annual Meeting, all three seats on the Board will need to be filled.

Do you love Ocho and want to help keep Ocho the wonderful haven that it is? Can you bring something new and fresh to the table? Does your background provide perspective that might benefit the Board? Will your strengths make the Board stronger as a whole?

Serving a term on the Board of Directors is your opportunity to make an impact on the future of Ocho by becoming involved in the decision-making process. (You must be a member of the association in good standing to submit your nomination.)

If you have an interest in serving on the Board of Directors or have questions about what being a Board member entails, please contact [droadmin@tradingplaces.com](mailto:droadmin@tradingplaces.com) or send your request and contact information to the address below. We will be happy to answer your questions and/or send you the nomination form. Thank you!

US Mail: Trading Places International

Attn: DRO Admin

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## Happy Member Comments

*Don't forget to post your story to our Facebook page at  
[www.facebook.com/ochocascadas](http://www.facebook.com/ochocascadas)*

"It's amazing. Beautiful place, incredible staff!"

"Club Ocho Cascadas is simply put — "WOW AMAZING." We are thrilled to finally be members and look forward to our annual weeks in our chosen villas. What architect Edward Giddings built was a masterpiece and he single-handedly put the tourism scene in Puerto Vallarta on the map. It's a spectacular hidden gem and many of us hope our little secret doesn't spread too far. It's truly the most peaceful place in all of Mexico and especially Puerto Vallarta"

"EVERYTHING! Amazing staff and accommodations"

"It's a beautiful private resort high up on the mountain with amazing views and awesome staff there to assist you with anything you need."

"Love it here! Beautiful views!"

Stunning villas and views from the hills of Conchas Chinas just south of the old town of Puerto Vallarta. If you want to experience total relaxation, this is the place to go. Private chefs and spa services come to your villa. The ultimate experience! Views to die for!

"If you need relaxing this is the place very beautiful"

