



*Bienvenidos!*

MEMBERS' EVENTS & NEWS SPLASHES

WINTER 2020 • ISSUE 2

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

It's an honor and a privilege to be on the Board of Directors and serve as your board's president.

I can remember visiting Puerto Vallarta in the early '70s with my mom and dad and, of course, my little brothers. We loved to surf out front of Conchas Chinas beach and would spend all day in the water surfing, skin diving and spear fishing with our dad.

As kids we would stand out on the beach looking up the hill into the middle of the jungle where we could see Ocho being built; workers running up and down the hillside, pouring concrete floors and putting up block walls. Of course, at that time we really didn't have a complete understanding of our parents' vision to build a unique vacation experience. By the time Ocho was completed, I was older and in high school and after staying at Ocho it was clear that this was a one of a kind property!

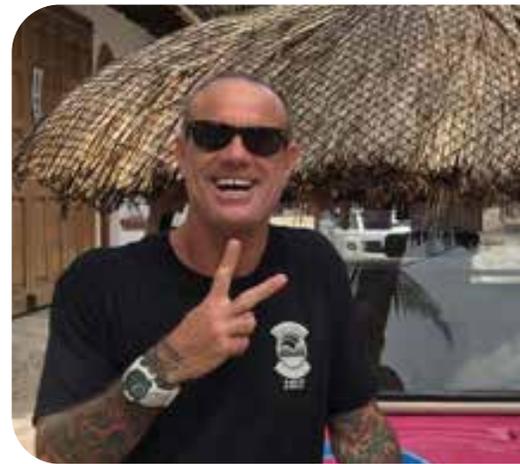
Speeding ahead to 2013 when the Giddings family acquired the property back from the members, we decided to do a complete renovation of Ocho. It was my job to take what was known as an iconic masterpiece of design and artistry and try to enhance what my father originally designed.

This was by no means an easy feat but I was up for the task. With the support of my family and a great construction team, I worked alongside my mother, Patricia Giddings, to take my father's work to a whole new level. Upon completion, we were able to provide our members with a lifestyle and vacation destination like no other.

Now that we've currently weathered through more than 9 months of the COVID-19 virus, a presidential election, and the unrest in America, it's time to recognize the team that keeps our private luxury vacation hideaway in pristine condition. My hat is off to our committed Board of Directors, committee members, Trading Places International, the sales and rental team (Dave and Luisa), and of course our award-winning staff under Ulises, our incredible general manager.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Giddings 



Interested in keeping up to date with things going on at Ocho? Don't forget to sign up for the All About Ocho, an email update that we send out periodically that includes local updates, happenings onsite, and anything else that can help our members stay connected. Members can 'opt out' at any time and if you have questions or information, you'd like to see shared, please let us know.

# MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

During this season at Ocho Cascadas we have been implementing all the safety measures recommended and required by the authorities to ensure that you are well protected for your next holiday visit. We have been inspected by the local authorities and they have confirmed that all health measures are in place. We have also met with all company representatives providing water and land activities, restaurants that have obtained their certification to provide safe service and who are working on limited space available (approximately 50% capacity).

Days are still sunny, and temperature varies during nighttime, so if you are planning to enjoy the pool, the beach or the mountains timing is perfect after rainy season is over. Our floating chef service is an excellent alternative at this time to indulge and enjoy your meals safely in your Villa. Please book this service in advance since it has been a very popular choice lately "mucho bueno." Please keep in mind that you can enjoy your vacation in a safe and fun environment following health protocols by using a face mask, hand sanitizing, physically distancing and avoiding conglomerations of people. We look forward to seeing you very soon and being able to provide you with exceptional service on your next vacation. Don't miss it!

*Ulises Alfaro*  
Manager 



## Ocho Family Spotlight

### Odette Preciado Management Assistant

Some of Odette's functions include taking care of the staff, checking the villas, and spending a few days at the front desk, among other administrative activities.

Puerto Vallarta has been Odette's home for 13 years. She came to Puerto Vallarta to study tourism and made the decision to stay in this beautiful bay. She has been married for 8 years; she and her husband have a dog and a cat, but no kids yet. She has been working at Ocho Cascadas for 6 years. She is happy and grateful to be working here at beautiful Ocho. She believes that Ocho Cascadas has contributed a lot to her professional and personal life, giving her more experience and teaching her many things. She hopes to continue working here for many years as she grows to achieve her goals and dreams.

She is originally from Tecolotlán, a small town on the outskirts of Guadalajara. She is 31 years old, and she believes that her best skills are decorating and creating things. Photography is one of her favorite hobbies. She also enjoys going on vacation to places with cold weather, along with being with her family and friends. She loves good movies and good tea. 



## TELL US YOUR STORY!

We'd love to hear from you! Will you share your comments, stories, and vacation photos with us?

Please send your story and fun and pretty (high-res) vacation shots to Trading Places International, Attn: DRO Admin at 25510 Commercentre Drive, Suite 100, Lake Forest, CA 92630 or email [droadmin@tradingplaces.com](mailto:droadmin@tradingplaces.com). 

# THE FRONT DESK TEAM

Getting to know the awesome Ocho reception team a bit more!



## Marcell

Did you know that Marcell is from Puerto Vallarta?

He really knows pretty much everything about the city! He is 35 years old, single and still looking for his true love.

He enjoys welding and reading and considers them both his favorite hobbies. He also likes to go out with friends and explore the jungle. His favorite places to visit on his days off are el Tuito y San Sebastian del Oeste. They are both small towns around Puerto Vallarta that have a very pleasant cool climate.

Marcell has an exceptionally good ability to repair things and above everything else, he loves to cook. He is also very sociable, friendly and loves to chat.



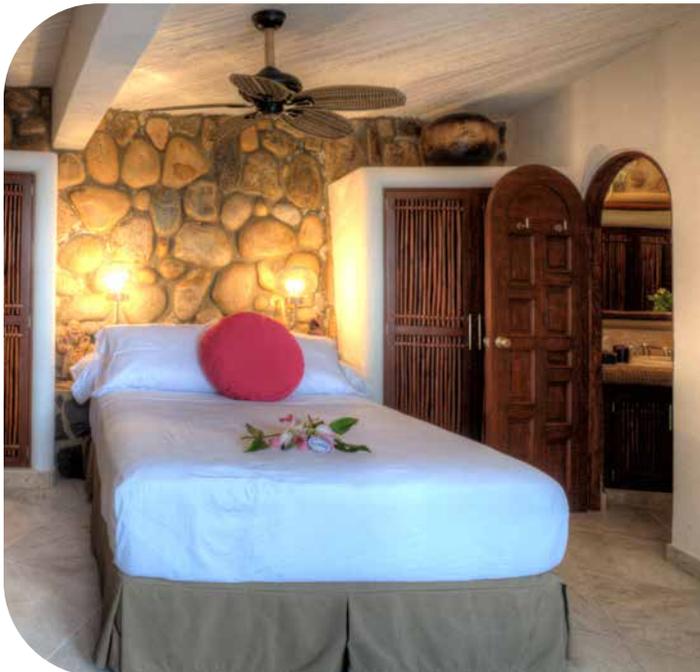
## Noé

Born in Aguascalientes Mexico, Noe found his home in Puerto Vallarta 5 years ago. Today, he is the humorous guy that welcomes you every Thursday with jokes and information about almost anything you need to know to enjoy your vacation.

His hobbies are watching movies and talking to people, reading a good book every now and then, eating and drinking coffee (he is addicted). Fun Fact: he is not a fan of seafood, but he loves Mexican food.

He loves pop music and Mexican culture. Noe always has a song in mind to quote in any conversation or joke. Once you start a conversation it is hard not to laugh or to stop laughing once you start!

Noe is always looking to make new friends and get to know different cultures, ideas and ways of living. He has a curious mind which is full of answers. 🌀



## Tips from the Front Desk Staff

Our fantastic front desk team of Noe and Marcell are your key to getting your vacation off to a great start. They can help with everything from ordering flowers for your villa, convenient grocery delivery, airport transfers, floating chef service, massage reservations, car rentals and so much more. They are also the local experts on what to see, what to do and where to eat in town. Please send in your pre-arrival form at least one week before your arrival. The request form can be found on the Ocho Cascadas website under the SERVICES tab, or by entering the URL address: <https://www.ochocascadas.com/before-you-arrive.aspx>

# TRAVELLING AMID COVID-19



Hello everyone from Ocho Cascadas– we bit the bullet and boarded American Airlines and flew down to our favorite resort... Ocho Cascadas – one of the most iconic architectural destinations in all of Mexico. We are ensconced in 6,000 sq. ft. of fab-you-lus luxury complete with private chef, houseman and maid! The airline was picture perfect for sanitation and our arrival at the airport was also equally safe.

Travelling amid COVID is challenging but take it from us – choose your travels carefully and you can still enjoy adventures!! Virtual hugs – *David & Dale* 🍷

Hi Ulises,

JoAnn and I had yet another wonderful visit these past 2-weeks at Ocho Cascadas. And I wanted to pass on a few comments upon reflecting about the visit.

The changes that you have had to make to deal with the COVID virus are both prudent, effective and insignificant in their impact on enjoying our stay. It was clear from the time we got off the airplane that all of PV is taking COVID precautions very seriously. By the time we reached Ocho Cascadas I had had my temperature taken and hands sanitized a half dozen times. And our bags had also been sanitized! Your entire staff was very careful at all times with masks, hand sanitizers, etc. It was the same everywhere in PV we went. I felt completely safe. In fact, I believe that Ocho Cascadas and all of PV are taking more proactive COVID measures than are being taken here in Northern CA where we live. I do, however, miss the Friday evening cocktail parties and the opportunity to meet the staff and other guests. But COVID will, eventually, pass.

JoAnn and I were talking about what makes Ocho Cascadas such a wonderful place to visit. There are many reasons, to be sure, but one we talked most about is your front desk staff: Noe, Odette and Marcell are THE BEST! You have chosen them wisely! They are always congenial, friendly, and above all, HELPFUL! We had a chance to tour the newly opened hotel next door. The architect did a marvelous job with re-making the facility. If ever I am unable to stay at Ocho, it will be high on my list of desirable options!

Regards,  
*Gene Stagel* 🍷

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Communication Committee is always looking for fun stories or pictures from members or guests. Please forward any story or picture you would like to share to [Droadmin@tradingplaces.com](mailto:Droadmin@tradingplaces.com). 🍷



# Traditions in Mexico

Day of the Dead, a bit of our history...

The Day of the Dead is a traditional Mexican celebration that honors the dead. It takes place on November 1st and 2nd and is linked to the Catholic celebrations of Dia de los Muertos and All Saints Day.

It is a festival that is celebrated mainly in Mexico and has been adopted in several Latin American countries.

On an altar you can find the following items most represented:

- Portrait of the deceased
- Flowers
- Bread
- Candy skulls
- Candles
- Food offerings
- Pumpkins
- Confetti
- Alcoholic beverages
- And in some cases, personal items of the deceased.

Part of the tradition also includes going to the cemetery with your family to decorate the graves of those who have already left. On November 2nd a religious mass is held in their honor. On some occasions, mass is held within the cemetery itself.

It is believed that November 2nd is the day where the deceased return and enjoy the things that are left as an offering on their altars or graves. The Day of Dead is a way of commemorating life and death. The biggest celebrations in Mexico are held in Patzcuaro Michoacán. 🍷



## HAPPY MEMBER COMMENTS

*At Ocho, we feel like friends and family. The villas are what attracted us to the property... the staff is why we knew it was the right place to be.*

*Fantastic staff - everyone is great!!!*

*Your staff is excellent. We love it here.*

*There is no one who fails to do well. Congratulations.*

*Outstanding! Customer service skills are excellent!*

*As always, thank you for taking the time to fill out comment cards with comments and suggestions! If you happen to forget to fill it out a comment card during your stay, you can go online and fill out the form by going to the Ocho webpage, scrolling down to the bottom, and clicking on the How Are we Doing? button. Your feedback is appreciated and allows us to know the areas in which we are doing well and how we can help improve your vacation experience.*



# RESALE AND RENTAL PROGRAM

We are often asked “Can’t I rent or buy a unit privately to save money?” The answer is ‘not really.’ Paying the required taxes in Mexico is difficult for non-residents. So you can either decide to violate the law and take your chances of being caught and penalized, or you can go through the required steps to find a Mexican accountant to pay the 16% added value tax and the 31% personal income tax. When Ocho Cascadas handles the rental or sale, the 16% IVA tax must still be paid to Mexico, but there is no personal income tax. Yes, a commission is paid to cover the expenses, but your transaction is safe, legal and guaranteed. For more information, please contact Sales Director Dave Stoenner in California 949 640 8742, or e-mail [dave@cascadaslegacy.com](mailto:dave@cascadaslegacy.com). He has been directing sales and rentals in Mexico for over 25 years and can to explain the risks and challenges of private transactions as well as the benefits of using the Ocho Cascadas programs for members and guests. 📞

## 2020 Sales Update

Hola Amigos

In spite of all that 2020 threw at us, I am proud to say that we had a successful summer. COVID-19 could not keep the lovers of Ocho Cascadas from wanting more weeks or from deciding to become part of the Ocho family for the first time. Some of our new owners had never even been to Ocho and purchased sight-unseen, others had stayed at Ocho in the past, and some were on-site guests who fell in love with Ocho and Puerto Vallarta. Some of our winter season owners experienced summer in PV for the first time and wanted to own in both seasons....why not?

As always, we appreciate our Members for introducing your friends and family to Ocho. Thank you for your support. Please give a big warm Ocho welcome to our newest members of the Ocho Familia.

Since January 2020, the majority of our new owners purchased shoulder or summer season weeks. Why? Because it’s a spectacular time of year with the amazing warm waters of the Banderas Bay and in your pool, tropical rain in the evening and the spectacular thunder and lightning storms to watch from your terrace. Email me at [luisa@ochocascadas.com](mailto:luisa@ochocascadas.com) or call me at 011-52-322-150-6994 for amazing owner pricing on weeks 23-35.

On a personal note, I want to thank all of our owners and guests for personally reaching out to me just to see how I and your Ocho team were doing during this challenging time. Your caring concern was very much appreciated.

Hasta pronto

*Luisa Anderson*

On-Site Sales 📞



# Members & Memories



## LALO'S KITCHEN AT THE PENTHOUSE





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US POSTAGE  
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## We're getting great reviews!



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



### “Great Space”

We just returned from a 2 week stay at Ocho Cascadas in Villa 5. The staff was helpful with every aspect of our stay, calling taxis, restaurant suggestions, pool maintenance, daily house keeping with nightly turndown service with light cleaning. The concierges were the best! One of the coolest things was the cascading waterfall effect created from one villas pool to the next one below. The views from the balcony are picture book. There are no TVs but we were never bored, we watched the fishing and tour boats go out in the morning, water activity in afternoons and sunsets in the evening. We even watched whales playing in the bay! If you are looking for a place to unwind and take life a little slower and enjoy being outdoors, Ocho Cascadas is the spot. | Terry R.

### “Heaven on Earth”

We just stayed at Ocho Cascadas for a week and can't recommend it highly enough! The views from each individual villa are breathtaking, the ambience superb, staff friendly and extremely helpful and accommodating, and the weather was perfect. We stayed in Villas 9, a 2 bedroom beauty at the top of the hill just below the penthouse. One unique and delightful feature of this property is you can have a chef come into your kitchen and prepare any meal(s) you'd like. There is a menu to choose from and all you do is order the dishes you want about 48 hours in advance, pay for the groceries and the chef's services, and they do the rest from setting the table, preparing the meals to cleanup. We did it our last evening there for dinner and it was beyond memorable. The food was excellent and the evening incomparable. The property is close to shopping and fabulous restaurants, entertainment, the Malecon Boardwalk, the beach, and the Naval Museum. If you want a relaxing, luxurious vacation, this is for you! | carolsO6666UV