

## Mexico Leading the Way in Adult Luxury All-Inclusive Travel

By Jerry Landress, Mexico Director

**T**he adult only – or adult friendly – ultra-luxury-all-inclusive resort has emerged as a new category of luxury vacation travel almost exclusively in the Mexican Caribbean.

Clearly there are several fine properties that are either adult only, all-inclusive, luxury, or serve the ultra-affluent market segment. However, few can claim, let alone deliver, all of these elements.

By “adult friendly”, I am suggesting that the resorts featured have a restricted age limit (typically 12-16 years and above) or are structured in a way to offer limited accommodations for children. Another important criteria is they all have dining options that rival the area’s best free-standing restaurants. Gourmet is the operative measurement.

Yes, it is rare that a resort property can meet the strict requirements of AAA’s highest Diamond ratings and still provide all-inclusive services suitable for the most discriminating traveler. However, I will present four such examples based on my own personal experiences after a recent visit to the region.

First, let me define the Mexican Caribbean. It is the region of Mexico that begins in Cancun and literally stretches south to Belize along the Yucatan peninsula.

The four resorts highlighted are all located between the center of Cancun and Playa Del Carmen, in the heart of Riviera Maya.

Riviera Maya is a tourism phenomenon that has erupted over the last 20 years into one of the most attractive tourism destinations in the world. It unofficially begins just south of Cancun (Puerto Morelos) and wanders south approximately 60 miles through of untouched mangrove jungle and Maya ruins to Tulum.

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Grand Velas Riviera Maya Ultra – Luxury Adult Only *Grand Class*



Opened in 2008, the luxurious all inclusive luxury resort – Grand Velas Riviera Maya – is one of the newest resorts in Riviera Maya to distinguish itself with a Five Diamond AAA Rating. And the recognition is well deserved.

Set on over 80 acres of protected mangroves, jungle and natural freshwater wells, locally known as cenotes, Grand Velas provides its guests over 1,000 feet of carefully preserved pristine white sand beach to enjoy and explore.

*Grand Class* is the adult only section of Grand Velas Riviera Maya and offers 89 luxurious one-bedroom suites that are elegantly intimate. The Grand Class Suites are well-appointed 1,377 square feet, one-bedroom units, elegantly decorated with imported furnishings, designer amenities, beautiful Mexican artwork and a stunning oceanfront view.

Other unique conveniences include an interior Jacuzzi, an oversized “Rainy” shower and a walk-in closet with motion controlled lighting for total ease. The large and very private terrace provides the perfect ambience for a morning coffee or romantic dinner catered from their gourmet restaurants and supported by 24-hour room service.

It is easy to enjoy the entire day by your own plunge pool on the terrace overlooking the blue waters of the Caribbean at this Mayan Riviera resort. I can honestly say that the photos in the brochures and on their website do not come close to showing the spaciousness or quality of the suites in *Grand Class*.

Choosing the *Grand Class* for your vacation is like staying in a fine beach front boutique hotel without compromising the conveniences available throughout the entire resort complex. Think of it as 90 rooms, supported by three restaurants, private adults only pool, swim-up bar, lounge sports bar, butlers dedicated to every floor and service that is so personalized that you immediately feel like you have been visiting the hotel for years.

Speaking of gourmet dining, the *Grand Class* wing is home the resort’s signature restaurant, *Cocina de Autor*, where world-renowned chefs Bruno Oteiza and Mikel Alonso create haute Spanish cuisine that is beyond compare.

*Cocina De Autor* received the AAA Five Diamond Award in 2013 and 2014, making it the only restaurant in an all-inclusive resort to ever receive the award in 100 years of AAA.

The *Sky Bar*, prime for sunset viewing with tasty drinks before and after dinner offers a chic lounge setting and nightly entertainment and conveniently separates the *Grand Class*’ contribution to fine French cuisine, *Piaf*. The romantic ambience of this restaurant is captivated from the very entrance: stunning curtains of Swarovsky crystals and perfectly designed lighting create an atmosphere of fine extravagance.

Or enjoy a more casual atmosphere at the *Bistro*, open for breakfast lunch and dinner located in the center of the action in *Grand Class*. All of the resort’s eight restaurants are just as inviting and are a short walk or only minutes away by air conditioned shuttle.

Of course, all *Grand Class* guests enjoy the full array of the resort’s outstanding facilities, such as the 90,000 sq. ft. Grand Velas Riviera Maya Spa, which was named “Best Spa in the World” by Virtuoso travel agents in 2010, a world-class meeting and conference center, gymnasium, and the list goes on.

Grand Velas Riviera Maya ranks among the most complete beach resorts complexes I have ever visited.

[www.rivieramaya.grandvelas.com](http://www.rivieramaya.grandvelas.com)

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