



***Bryan Townsend's  
May 2010 Newsletter***

- **I'm Back!** Welcome everyone to the new version of my newsletter. Each issue will feature a mix of photos, short commentaries on restaurants, cultural events and information on life in San Miguel and real estate. We have an excellent new website and I hope everyone will take a look at it whether you are currently in the market either to buy or sell a home. Here is the url:

<http://www.realtysanmiguel.com/>



- **This Month's Photo:** A panorama of San Miguel's churches viewed from San Antonio.
- **Restaurants in San Miguel**  
Now here's a trend I really like—Woolis Kaban is no longer the only restaurant in San Miguel that specializes in Mexican regional cuisine. The new one is Diablo on Pila Seca just above Zacateros and the specialty is food from Oaxaca. The menu is focused on several typical dishes like tamales, moles (the sauce, not the rodent), and a giant tostada with chicken or arrachera, very filling. Prices are very reasonable. Miguel, the owner/chef tells me that he plans to feature a dish from a different part of Mexico each month. I'm looking forward to that!

- **Links about Mexico**

Adding to my commentary last month about crime in Mexico is this excellent article that also helps to put things in perspective:

<http://www.banderasnews.com/0907/eded-economicreality.htm>

Here is another one on Michelle Obama's recent trip in which she says it is safe to travel to Mexico:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/lady-michelle-obama-mexico-safe-travel/story?id=10377081>

Here's an article from Canada's National Post about Mexico's economic performance:

<http://www.financialpost.com/story.html?id=2785596>

- **All About the Weather**

What a green spring we are having. The bugambiglia are spectacular and everything seems to be just bursting with flowers and new growth. I guess that rain we had in the winter was really a benefit.

- **Real Estate Market Trends**

The trend toward more and more activity continues with lots of sales in all price ranges. Favored areas seem to be Centro, near-Centro, and San Antonio. There have been several large lot sales at prices from around \$100,000 to \$300,000 in San Rafael, Candelaria and the surrounding countryside.

- **Cultural Events**

There have been a few small events such as a guitar mini-festival at Teatro Santa Ana and my own week-long series of talks on music. They covered the philosophy of music, a brief history of music from 1200 AD to 2001 and, most popular, an introduction to Dmitri Shostakovich. What we are all waiting for, of course, is the Chamber Music Festival, which usually takes place in the first two weeks of August. More on that as information becomes available.

- **Festivals**

May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the "Fiesta de las Cruces" or Festival of Santa Cruz in which construction workers are celebrated. Typically, anyone building a house puts on a special meal for the workers. The tradition originates in Spain but is celebrated all over Latin America. In Mexico, the celebration of the Holy Cross began at the dawn of the 16th century, when Captain Juan de Grijalba gave the name *Isla de la Santa Cruz* to the island now known as Cozumel, Quintana Roo. The holiday is celebrated in Mexico mainly by guilds and unions involved in construction. A cross adorned with flowers and paper is placed in a high position on a building in the process of construction.

The workers then celebrate with local cuisine and alcoholic beverages such as tequila, mescal, and local beer.

**Featured Properties:**

- Under \$250,000 USD –Charming Bargain in Atascadero



*This new listing, just coming on the market, is in one of the most peaceful parts of San Miguel, with treed streets looking onto the Charco del Ingenio nature preserve. But it is still only a fifteen minute walk to the Jardin. Two bedrooms, 2.5 baths and a lovely garden. But what really sets this one apart is the sense of space and lots of natural light. Every ceiling on both floors is a boveda, even in the bathrooms! If you are looking for a modestly priced hideaway that you can be really comfortable in, this is the one. So new, it isn't even on the website yet...*

- Under \$100,000 USD –Amazing Value in La Lejona II



*Just around the corner from the Mega, this little house is perfect for a single person, couple or as a studio or commercial space. Properties in this price range are moving fast, so don't delay.  
Only \$89,000 USD!*

[http://www.realtysanmiguel.com/MLS/search\\_property748.html](http://www.realtysanmiguel.com/MLS/search_property748.html)

- Under \$350,000 USD –Living in Paradise



*Now up on the web and still available in Balcones, this gorgeous condo with pool and extensive, beautifully maintained gardens is waiting for you. Just a short, easy walk to the Jardin, restaurants, art galleries and cultural events, make this your choice for a pied-à-terre in San Miguel. Give me a call or drop me an email to see this property.*

[http://www.realtysanmiguel.com/MLS/search\\_property730.html](http://www.realtysanmiguel.com/MLS/search_property730.html)

- \$1 million and up: Centro Perfection on Zacateros



*Located in the heart of San Miguel amidst art galleries and restaurants, this 7600 sq ft property with three master suites unites traditional design with the latest in technological convenience. From the spacious terrace you have a spectacular view of the churches and surrounding countryside. Constructed with loving attention to detail, you will find three different styles of boveda, unexcelled cabinetry and a variety of tile treatments. There is an elevator to whisk you from the ground to the roof terrace, internet wiring throughout, a fully equipped home theater, air-conditioned gymnasium with resilient matting and mirrored walls, a wine cellar with built-in cooler and a mezzanine style library. The kitchen is features fine antiqued cabinetry, granite counters and a full range of high-end appliances. Open design with southern exposure ensures natural light throughout.*

[http://www.realtysanmiguel.com/MLS/search\\_property436.html](http://www.realtysanmiguel.com/MLS/search_property436.html)

- Under \$150,000 USD –Big Country Lot



*Big country lot in Los Labradores--perfect for the quiet life. Over a thousand square meters with a lovely view of the mountains and quiet, rolling countryside. Just minutes north of town on the road to Dolores Hidalgo. Enclosed community with many services, underground wiring.*

[http://www.realtysanmiguel.com/MLS/search\\_property689.html](http://www.realtysanmiguel.com/MLS/search_property689.html)

- **Realty San Miguel** is a newer company that specializes in a high level of personal service. We have many testimonials from happy clients that you can read on our website:

<http://www.realtysanmiguel.com/testimonials.html>

- If you want to know more about available properties, just email me at [bryan@realtysanmiguel.com](mailto:bryan@realtysanmiguel.com)

or call my cell phone: 044 415 109-2496

*This Realty San Miguel newsletter was edited by Bryan Townsend.*



Salida a Celaya #27, Across from Longhorn Smokehouse  
415-185-8311 Office  
044-415-109-2496 Cell, 214-550-4898 within the US

