COMMENTARY

Mole, "drowned sandwiches" and margaritas: Where a travel writer eats in Mexico

Travel writer Chaya Milchtein's food-based guide to Guadalajara and Puerto Vallarta

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Marival Armony

I'll admit something to you: I've always kind of looked down my nose at all-inclusive resorts. Why would you travel somewhere and stay in a resort instead of exploring the city?

Well, as it turns out, you can have the best of both worlds. The Marival Armony resort was simply magnificent. From the luxurious jacuzzi that stretched into the jungle to the massive balcony with views of the ocean that took my breath away, every part of the resort was thoughtfully considered.

But the dinner on the beach is really what sealed the deal.

It was easily the most romantic meal I've ever enjoyed. My wife and I were guided down to the beach and greeted by a candlelit pergola, set with a full tablescape. The meal was timed perfectly to the sunset, so we got to enjoy the views of the oceans, the twilight and, of course, each other. The food was worthy of the magnificent setup. Our meal celebrated seafood, with a massive main course of two lobster tails per person, served with the lobster head. But my favorite parts of the meal were the delicate small-form courses, including a tuna tartare and perfectly-cooked scallops.