

Cancun and Riviera Maya Travel

Riviera Maya's Grand Residences

By Michelle da Silva Richmond

A Resort With Class

1 of 10

< Previous Next >



The posh lobby paves the way for a luxurious stay

M. Richmond

The [Riviera Maya's](#) newest kid-on-the-block resort opened in December 2013 on a secluded strip of beach midway between [Cancun](#) and [Playa del Carmen Maya](#), close to charming [Puerto Morelos](#).

Currently there are 103 lavish suites. While it is a "work in progress," in that an additional wing will be added within the next three years, the resort offers seamless service in a luxurious enclave.

A member of the elite [Leading Hotels of the World](#), the resort adds new meaning to the Mexican adage, "*mi casa es su casa*," (my home is your home) offering a host of personal touches which encourage a long stay and extended family and friends visits.

On check-in, guests are treated to a refreshing "designer" [Margarita](#) - which changes daily - and given a good-luck pendant depicting [Hanab Ku](#), a "supreme god" in [Maya mythology](#).



Indoor-outdoor dining at El Faro Grill

M. Richmond

Currently, there are three dining venues. El Faro Grill dishes up fresh seafood and prime steaks with a Mediterranean touch, while the Lobby Café and Bar serves as a casual meeting place in which you can grab a cold drink and sandwiches while enjoying live entertainment on weekends.

The Heaven Beach Bar specializes in casual beach and poolside snacks along with frosty drinks. Expansion plans call for the addition of a Steakhouse and a Mexican and Italian restaurant.



M. Richmond

Whether you select a Junior Suite or opt for a one, two or three-bedroom Master Suite or even decide to splurge on the posh two or four bedroom Penthouse suite, you won't be disappointed.

The 646 sq. ft Junior Suites can accommodate two guests with either a king or two double beds, a comfortable seating area, kitchenette and full marble bathroom. Breathtaking ocean views and outdoor Jacuzzi on a private terrace offer total tranquility.

The one-bedroom 1,862 sq. ft Master Suites accommodate up to five guests with a large bedroom with a king-size bed, full gourmet kitchen, living and dining room and two Murphy beds. With one and a half bathrooms (one with Jacuzzi), laundry room and a large terrace with another Jacuzzi, you'll get a sense of a true "home away from home" - in a very luxurious setting.



Four pools promise a refreshing splash

M. Richmond

With four pools to choose from (for laps, kids, adults and family), a tranquil sea, soft sandy beach and plenty of water sports and beach games, you'll have plenty to do. The resort also offers a variety of activities and classes including [Zumba](#), Spanish, [Salsa](#), aqua fitness, tennis and card games daily.

Sign up at the resort sports desk for other activities. Bicycles, snorkeling gear, boogie boards, golf clubs and volleyballs as well as kayaks and sailboats are available. The resort offers a free catamaran sail one night a week.

Golfers can select from 12 area championship golf courses by booking tee times with the Concierge while tennis players can sign up for a game or lessons on the resort's private courts.



Supervised activities are available for kids and teens

M. Richmond

Children ages 4 - 12 will find plenty to do in the fully equipped Kid's Club with supervised activities ranging from games, to movies, face painting and crafts - including piñata-making. Bathrooms (his and hers) in the Kid's Club offer diminutive toilets and sinks which can accommodate the tiniest guests.

For teens 13 - 16 there is ping-pong, Xbox, games and more to captivate their attention should they tire of the sun, sand and surf.



Maya massage ritual begins on the beach with the mournful wail of the conch.

M. Richmond

As you would expect in such a luxurious haven catering to creature comforts, a beauty salon and full service spa promising a slate of massages, facials and body wraps. The Maya massage soothes not only the body, but the soul as it opens with a "spiritual cleansing" beginning with the mournful call of the conch shell and a mystical rite involving herbs and special prayers. Experience this special ritual either on the beach or on your terrace for heightened awareness.

The resort's expansion plans call for an eventual "mega" spa, but for now, good things really do come in small packages.



A state-of-the-art fitness center is open daily.

M. Richmond

You don't have to miss a beat of your daily exercise routine when you're away from home while you're at Grand Residences. Cardio machines (with TV), stair climbers, stationary bikes, elliptical machines and weights will keep you in shape. A personal trainer is also available - should you wish to "go the extra mile."



The Gourmet Food Market offers snack and refreshments to savor in your suite.

M. Richmond

Snacks, drinks and food basics are available at the well-stocked Gourmet Food Market. Select from a variety of freshly baked goods and deli treats along with fruit and vegetables to have in your suite.

An assortment of drinks ranging from soda, beer, liquors and fine wines are also on tap. Local items such as coffee from Chiapas, honey from the Yucatán, and chocolate from Oaxaca and Tabasco, as well as hot sauces and Mexican vanilla are conveniently packaged to carry home at the end of your stay.

Some cosmetics and sun care products and drugstore sundries and over-the-counter medicines are also available. The Gourmet Food Market is open daily from 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.



High tea is served daily on the lobby patio

M. Richmond

Just as they do in Great Britain, Grand Residences serves an authentic high tea every afternoon from 4 - 5 p.m. on the lobby terrace. It claims to be the only resort in Cancun or the Riviera Maya that honors this charming ritual.

More than having a "spot of tea," this is an event in itself and well worth trying. A variety of teas are brewed at your table, highlighted by typical - and necessary - accompaniments such as scones with clotted cream and jelly, cucumber sandwiches and delicate homemade pastries.

The resort even has a "tea sommelier" who conducts workshops on the delicate art of picking and brewing the perfect tea.



Weddings and special events are special here

M. Richmond

If you choose to say, "I Do," renew your vows or celebrate any special occasion, the resort is ready when you are.

<http://gocancun.about.com/od/Destination-Weddings/ss/Riviera-Mayas-Grand-Residences.htm>