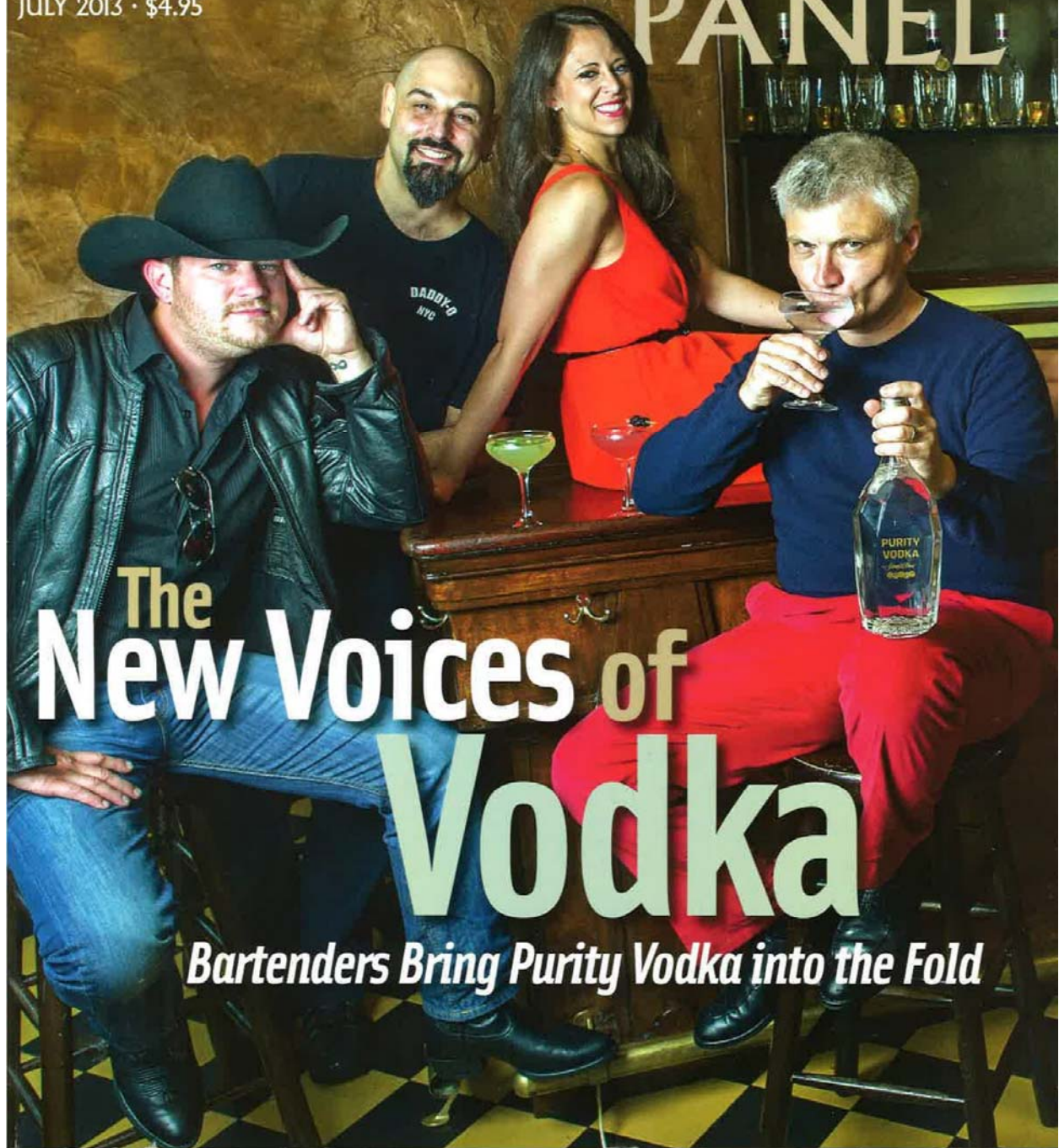


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WORLD TRAVELER

Rendezvous in Mexico



THE PUNTA MITA GOURMET & GOLF CLASSIC COMES OF AGE

by Anthony Dias Blue



**Participating chefs (left to right):
Maycoll Calderón, Mickael Fournier,
Florent Courriol and Sylvan Desbois.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. REGIS PUNTA MITA RESORT

Punta Mita is a 1,500-acre peninsula that juts off the west coast of Mexico, just north of Puerto Vallarta. On this magical spit of land are two luxurious beach resorts and two championship golf courses designed by Jack Nicklaus. For the past three years Punta Mita has been host to the Punta Mita Gourmet & Golf Classic, a long April weekend that incorporates great food, wonderful wine, lots of tequila and a lively golf tournament.

The seeds of this event were planted during a dinner with dynamic Carl Emberson, General Manager of The St. Regis Punta Mita Resort. As the event took shape, Emberson invited Four Seasons Resort Punta Mita, the other property on the peninsula, to participate as well.

This year, the weekend kicked off on the beach at the Four Seasons with a walk-around tasting that featured wines, cocktails, music and finger foods prepared by the resort kitchens and visiting chefs such as Michael Mina, Richard Sandoval and Kaz Okochi. The rest of the weekend featured lunches and dinners at both resorts. Most memorable was a dazzling lunch prepared by Lula Martín del Campo, Mexico's Female Chef of the Year, and a sumptuous beach dinner by Dallas star chef Abraham Salum.

There were cooking demonstrations, wine tastings and tequila cocktails being mixed well into the morning hours. The weekend's signature event was a magnificent beach dinner at the St. Regis that honored Lorena Ochoa, the famed golf champion. The remarkable feast was prepared by six chefs.

The Punta Mita Gourmet & Golf Classic has evolved into one of the world's premier wine and food events. It is a great four-day party, and you don't have to be a golfer to enjoy it to the fullest. If you are interested in attending next year's festivities go to www.puntamitagourmetgolf.com for more information. ■■



**The event includes a vibrant
nightlife component.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. REGIS PUNTA MITA RESORT

