



GUADALAJARA, LAND OF PAULINA MATOS

THE BEAUTIFUL ACTRESS SHARES HER LOVE FOR HER HOMETOWN, 'THE PEARL OF JALISCO'

With a captivating landscape and a historic city center full of colonial architecture, Guadalajara—the land that gave birth to some of Mexico’s biggest traditions and products, like mariachis and tequila—has become an art scene and the center of a burgeoning technology industry much like Silicon Valley. Paulina Matos, a native of Guadalajara, wanted to be an actress but didn’t pursue her dream due to her introversion. An invitation to a casting call at a young age in Tapalpa, a magical village in Jalisco, gave her the opportunity to discover what the profession was like and inspired her to make the decision to study performing arts in Mexico City. “People were really surprised when I told them that I wanted to be an actress. An acquaintance’s sister was studying production and

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“I ALWAYS REMEMBER THE SCENT OF GUADALAJARA. IT SMELLS LIKE WET EARTH, AND I TAKE IT WITH ME EVERYWHERE”

COURTESY OF PAULINA MATOS

Guadalajara, the land where actress Paulina Matos was born, is a city in constant growth and is becoming a center for the development of technology.

Paulina shares that one of the things she misses the most from the 'Pearl of Jalisco' since she moved away are its orange and pink sunsets.



Eating tacos at Tacos Juan is the first thing the actress does after arriving at the airport.



One of her favorite areas is Colonia Americana. Here you'll find the restaurant Hueso, that she recommends for its open kitchen concept, communal tables, and unusual décor.

invited me to a casting call; I went and they picked me. My mom told me: 'Go, try it out and that's how you'll know if it's what you want to do.' It was five days in a row. I came back happy, in love." At age 26, Paulina has already appeared in *telenovelas* such as *Doña Bárbara* and movies like *Como te ves, me vi* and *Lo más sencillo es complicarlo todo*. "I always remember the scent of Guadalajara. It smells like wet earth, and I take that with me wherever I go. The sunsets with pink and orange hues are also beautiful. I came to appreciate them more after moving to Mexico City."

Paulina confesses that the first thing she does when she arrives at the airport is to eat barbecue tacos at **Tacos Juan**, and like all good Guadalarans she loves tequila. "My favorite tequila is **Don Julio 70**. I drink it

straight. Another incredible activity to do in Guadalajara is to visit the farms where they make tequila. There are trains and tours, and that's how you see how they transform the agave." Although she has had a lot of success on television, she prefers film. "Film is more dedicated, it's more patient. You have to build a choreography from beginning to end. Television is faster. In film, you enjoy each scene more. You have the time and opportunity to give that much more."

"Guadalajara is a growing city. Even though I left six years ago; it's my home. Last year I went back for six months. It was a very different experience from when I was in prep school and into other things. I realized that it's a city that doesn't owe anything to any other city. It has something for everyone. Now, it also has great food, with new restaurants, chefs, concepts, good service, and places that are visually attractive."

Her family home is in **Zapopan**, a



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The Colonia Americana (or *Barrio francés*) has the best restaurants, art galleries, exhibitions, and bars.

residential neighborhood, but her favorite parts of the city are **Colonia Americana**, **Providencia**, and **Tlaquepaque**. "I love Colonia Americana, which is also known as *Barrio francés*, where Guadalajara was born; it takes you to a completely different time. You have the best restaurants, art galleries, exhibitions, bars; you can find everything there. The cycling culture is also growing. There are night tours by bike." While exploring this area, Paulina recommends eating at **Hueso**, chef Adolfo Cadena's restaurant—with an open concept kitchen, communal tables, and a very unusual décor. Also recommended are the art galleries **Travesía Cuatro** and **Tiro al Blanco**. "To hear music, an incredible place is **Galgo**. Wednesdays they play live jazz, and Thursdays, live blues," she adds. In **Providencia** she suggests visiting the restaurant **Lula Bistro**, a typical home with beautiful gardens and modern touches. Having won numerous awards, it offers a unique signature cuisine and gourmet seasonal menu.

Tlaquepaque is a small neighborhood in the metropolitan area with colorful architecture and large artisanal pottery workshops like **Taller Paco Padilla**, that has preserved ancestral production techniques for generations. "It's Jalisco in a

nutshell, in one place, a very important place to visit. The main strip is full of wonderful restaurants, and art and design stores. The restaurant **El Abajeño** is a good place to listen to mariachis and eat typical *cazuelas*."

When she wants inspiration, Paulina visits one of the many forests in the city. "One good thing about Guadalajara is that there is a lot of nature. There are a lot of forests: the **Bosque de la Primavera**, the **Bosque de los Colomos**. **La Barranca de Huentitán** is 20 minutes from my house. It's a place that has thermal springs, lush vegetation, and impressive views." She also likes to wear clothes by the designers **Julia y Renata** and admires **José Noe Suro's** ceramics.

"In this profession, one day you're here and the next day you're somewhere else, but what I always take with me from Guadalajara wherever I go is that feeling of family, togetherness, love, and good food. I'm a person who loves sharing."

Paulina tells us she lives in Miami now and is taping the series *Mi familia perfecta*, in which her character plays soccer. "What I like about this career is that it always pushes you to learn more. I've done things that I never would have thought of if I weren't an actress." ■

—ANGELA LANG

24 HOURS IN GUADALAJARA

"Food, culture, and fun. You have to mix all three in one day. Breakfast at **Palreal** is delicious. The coffee is so good, the atmosphere, the music; everything is very organic. **El Hospicio Cabañas** is something you can't miss. It's now a World Heritage Site and a very interesting and beautiful place. The art they exhibit is very good. The sculptures on the esplanade are by **Alejandro Colunga** and inside are murals by **José Clemente Orozco**, one of Mexico's best muralists. You definitely have to try the typical food, the *tortas ahogadas* in the center of the city. One of the restaurants that I like the most right now is **Magno Brasserie**, in Colonia Americana. The **Restaurante Alcalde** is also very good, with fresh food, everything from the market, seasonal—a relaxed atmosphere. I like going out at night; to go dancing, **Dinsmoor GDL** is really cool and has good DJs."

