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An Evening At Casa Natalia

■ San Jose's boutique hotel wins award for best in town

BY CAROLYN RAPP

Last week, Casa Natalia hotel owners Natalie and Loic Tenoux greeted guests at the entrance to their hotel for an evening of dinner and celebration. Casa Natalia recently won the award for the best hotel of its type in Mexico from Conde Nast, an accolade that the Tenoux

family say was "totally unexpected" and a shock when they first got the phone call from New York City with the good news.

They opened their doors to friends and guests for a presentation of the award, and as a way of showing their thanks to the community,

with wine and appetizers from their full-service restaurant Mi Cocina. The couple will be flying New York to receive their award later this month, where they will pick up their trophy.

Casa Natalia Hotel sits on the main drag in San Jose, in front of the plaza.

It's a boutique hotel, with only 16 well-appointed Mexican looking rooms. Each room has a theme. There's the Conch Room or the Coco Room, and there is a balcony outside each room overlooking the small pool. It's like a little oasis, right in the middle of this historic city's downtown. The quaint property is lushly lined with Florida palms, which trace the water fountains through the property all the way outside.

The cost of the rooms ranges from \$285 to \$310 a night, which includes a wide variety of food to choose from on their breakfast menu. You can fill out your menu the night before, and fresh breakfast will be tossed on your porch at a time you specify. That's about as close to breakfast in bed as it gets. Staff will arrange transportation and spa services; you can even have an in-room massage. And the best part of this place? No small kids allowed. This is a place for relaxation, an

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adult getaway tucked into town; it would be ideal for honeymooners, too. Just remember, this is not a resort, there is no beach.

There is a small bar that overlooks the pool area if you care to have a cocktail

Nast award for best hotel of its kind in Mexico. "It is an honor for the entire town," he stated.

Natalia and her husband Loic have owned the hotel for 10 years. It can be a nice change of pace from the big



Hotel owners Natalia and Loic posed proudly during a celebration for receiving the Conde Nast award.

in the evening before you go out to lunch or dinner, or enjoy a beverage at the pool.

beach resorts (Casa Natalia does offer free shuttle transport to the beach), and a

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Jason Wagner (818) 788-5353 Office
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At the celebration, many family and friends of the owners showed up to enjoy a quiet evening at the hotel. But one of the special guests of the night was our new mayor, Rene Nunez, who gave a speech about how proud he was to know Natalia and Loic, and how especially proud he was that they received the Conde

pleasant place to enjoy dinner, too, if you're just in town for a night, at Mi Cocina. For reservations, or to find out how to book a special event at Casa Natalia, call 624-146-7100 or email marab@casanatalia.com. Learn more at their website, www.casanatalia.com.

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