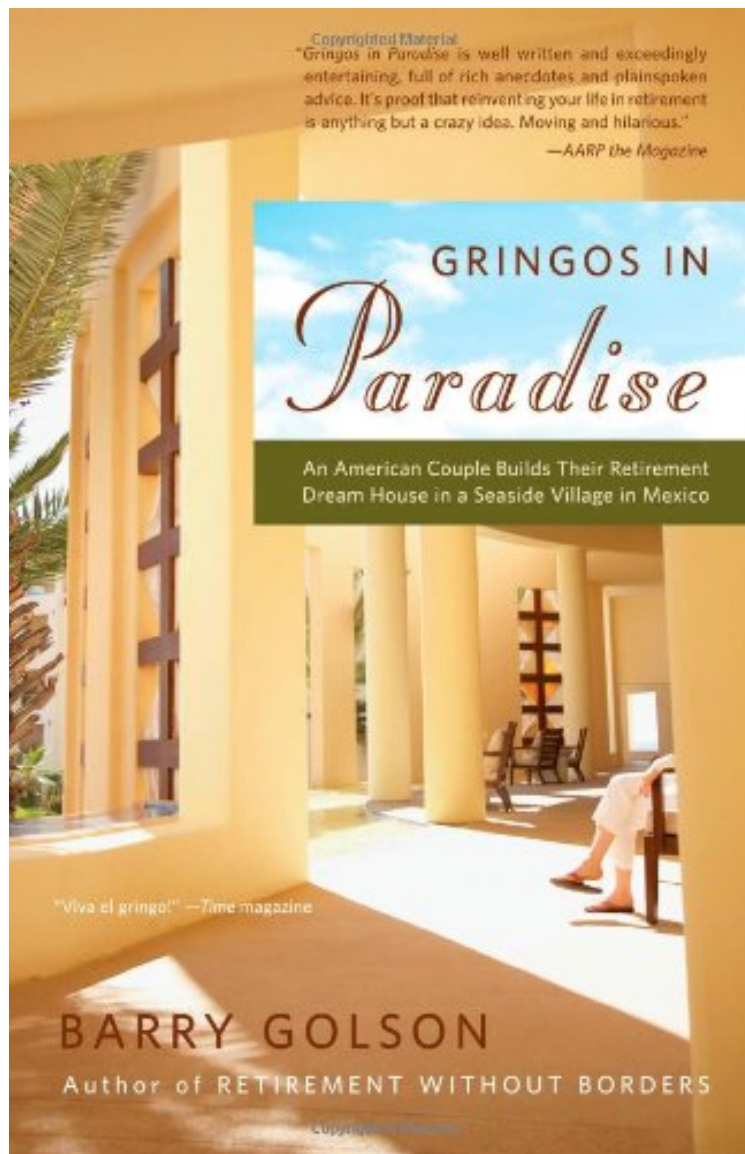


(Ebook pdf) Gringos in Paradise: An American Couple Builds Their Retirement Dream House in a Seaside Village in Mexico

Gringos in Paradise: An American Couple Builds Their Retirement Dream House in a Seaside Village in Mexico

Barry Golson

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Barry Golson : Gringos in Paradise: An American Couple Builds Their Retirement Dream House in a Seaside Village in Mexico before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Gringos in Paradise: An American Couple Builds Their Retirement Dream House in a Seaside Village in Mexico:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not a book about "Lucky Mexico, we Americans are here!"...but rather "How lucky we are, to be living in your Mexico!" By Stavis Bay USA Great insight into the process, experience of moving to Mexico, re-establishing a home base in a foreign land. Very well written, I felt present with them each step of the way. The approach of the author was to show honor to the 'true' residents of this small Mexico village by the sea, learning to trust those he met, as they began the process of buying land, building their dream home. Lessons were learned, friendships established, and a most beautiful house was built by the end of the book. The author doesn't portray he and his wife as "lucky Mexico, we are here!", but rather "how lucky we are, to be living in your Mexico" The respect for the locals came through loud and clear and that made their journey shared even more inviting for me! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Must read! By wayne chiavacci The dream of building our home and Mexico and the Mexican go-arounds and the obstacles we have have survived are similar. I laughed out loud and it felt good! We love our home in San Felipe, Baja Norte, overlooking the beautiful Sea of Cortez! We have been blessed! Would I do it all over again? You betcha! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good read By Just Lau Well written and captivating. Additionally a cautionary tale. It had me longing for the simple life where folks met walking through the plaza and electrical outages were just part of the lifestyle. Then I became saddened when they became consumed by the building of a large, perfect, financially draining house. I was hoping for a happily ever after, I didn't get that feeling as the story ended.

A Year in Provence meets Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House in this lively and entertaining account of a couple's year building their dream house in Mexico. In 2004, Barry Golson wrote an award-winning article for AARP magazine about Mexican hot spots for retirees longing for a lifestyle they couldn't afford in the United States. A year later, he and his wife Thia were taking part in the growing trend of retiring abroad. They sold their Manhattan apartment, packed up their SUV, and moved to one of those idyllic hot spots, the surfing and fishing village of Sayulita on Mexico's Pacific coast. With humor and charm, Golson details the year he and his wife spent settling into their new life and planning and building their dream home. Sayulita -- population 1,500, not including stray dogs or pelicans -- is a never-dull mixture of traditional Mexican customs and new, gringo-influenced change. Before long, the Golsons had been absorbed into the rhythms and routines of village life: they adopted a pair of iguanas named Iggy Pop and Iggy Mom, got sick and got cured by a doctor who charged them sixteen dollars a visit, made lasting friends with Mexicans and fellow expatriates, and discovered the skill and artistry of local craftsmen. But their daily lives were mostly dedicated to the difficult yet satisfying process of building their house. It took them almost six months to begin building -- nothing is simple (or speedy) in Mexico -- and incredibly, they completed construction in another six. They engaged a Mexican architect, builder, and landscape designer who not only built their home but also changed their lives; encountered uproariously odd bureaucracy; and ultimately experienced a lifetime's worth of education about the challenges and advantages of living in Mexico. The Golsons lived (and are still living) the dream of many -- not only of going off to a tropical paradise but also of building something beautiful, becoming a part of a new world, making lasting friends, and transforming their lives. As much about family and friendship as about house-building, *Gringos in Paradise* is an immensely readable and illuminating book about finding a personal paradise and making it a home.

From Publishers Weekly After a career in publishing (as executive editor of *Playboy* and *TV Guide*), Golson decided it was time to plan for retirement. With a modest nest egg and an urge for sunshine and adventure, he and his wife traveled Mexico researching American retirees for an AARP article that eventually won a Lowell Thomas award and became the seed for this funny and practical book. On impulse, Golson and his wife also bought land in their favorite spot, the Mexican seaside village of Sayulita. Returning to build their home, they realized their cliffside property was impractical; with the remainder of their savings, they bought more land and started their dream house. As with most home-building sagas, they faced obstacles (permit hassles, contractors who backed out) and made errors (the staircase didn't reach the roof) but, magically, the house was ready when the extended family arrived for Thanksgiving. In the end, the house-building process became their vehicle for cultural transplantation; by the time their home was finished, the Golsons knew a lot more about Mexican village life and felt totally comfortable with their new neighbors. (Nov.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "Golson combines wry humor with personal experience in this highly entertaining and informative account of life on Mexico's Pacific coast. His descriptions of the sights, sounds, smells and rhythms of daily village life and insights into Mexican culture and customs are among the best I've ever read. Though not specifically a how-to retirement guide, the book is packed with invaluable, neighbor to neighbor tips. Unlike the usual dry, factual, sleep-inducing retirement guides, I enjoyed this one cover to cover. If *Gringos In Paradise* doesn't give you the Mexico itch, check your vital signs!" -- Carl Franz, author of *The People's Guide to Mexico* "I love risk-takers and Barry Golson is one of them. Consider this: Most Americans don't travel outside the U.S. and fewer than 23 per cent even have passports! But where does it say in the manual you can't broaden your horizons? Golson is a perfect and literal example of someone who's done just that. For all the rest of you, he's also proof that if you define a goal as a dream with a deadline, there's no end to what you can

accomplish -- and experience." -- Peter Greenberg, Travel Editor, NBC Today Show "Not just a useful tale of house-building in the Mexican tropics, but a funny, touching story of how both men and women can be re-invigorated by the challenge of change in their lives." -- Karen Blue, author of *Midlife Mavericks: Women Reinventing Their Lives in Mexico* "This is a great personal story about the choices the boomer generation now faces and about opting for a vigorous life change in the power years." -- Ken Dychtwald, Ph.D., author of *The Power Years: A User's Guide to the Rest of Your Life* "As all wise expats know, paradise isn't a place -- it's a state of mind. Golson's book tells about building a retirement house in Mexico, but between the lines it's really about the harder job of building a new life. I won't be surprised if *Gringos in Paradise* becomes the newest bona fide Boomer Bible." -- James Morgan, author of *Chasing Matisse: A Year in France Living My Dream* "Gringos in Paradise is well written and exceedingly entertaining, full of rich anecdotes and plainspoken advice. It's proof that reinventing your life in retirement is anything but a crazy idea. Moving and hilarious." -- AARP the Magazine "A funny and practical book." -- Publishers Weekly "Golson's overarching experience is one of amiability, creativity, honesty, openhandedness, and a zest for life." -- San Francisco Chronicle

About the Author Barry Golson has written extensively about living and traveling abroad, mostly with a wry twist. *Gringos in Paradise* was selected by Barnes and Noble for its annual "Discover Great Writers" program, to which Golson says, "About time!" He and his wife Thia Golson also wrote *Retirement Without Borders*, which was called "the" guide on how to retire abroad. Golson is a former editor of the *Playboy* interviews, *TV Guide*, and *Forbes.com*. He has written for *The New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Ski*, and *Salon*. His article for AARP the Magazine on Mexico won a Lowell Thomas award. In 2013, with co-author John Blumenthal, he put a toe in the romance field, but couldn't keep a straight face. The result: *Passing Wind of Love: A Hysterical Historical Romance*, a satire not just of romances but of politics, aristocracy, religion, sex, Regency England, barbaric America, and lots more. He and Thia divide their time between New York and Mexico.