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year's contest doesn't have much support in the way of sponsors, except for some assistance from the local tourism office, so the \$10,000 purse will come from the Central Surf Shop. Angel touches his chest with his hand and said, "this year we have to do the contest from the heart."

I walked to the MexPipe and stood on the beach watching surfers ride consistent waves. The hypnotic poetry in motion of the undulating sea put me in a trance. I am not alone in my rapture. People from all over the world come to experience the powerful Puerto surf. Some watch, others ride. What does surfing the perfect Puerto wave feel like? An Australian named Chris explained surfing to me in layperson's term. "The offshore breeze straightens the surf and makes a triangle to form a peak," said Chris. "Then you take off on a board into a deep, hollow barrel of a tube and emerge through the back. It feels pretty damn good. Surfing has the most adrenaline of any sport. That's why I surf."

On my last night in Puerto I had dinner at the open air restaurant of the swanky Hotel Santa Fe, overlooking the endless expanse of the Pacific Ocean. I ate a vegetarian tamale wrapped in a banana leaf and drank a Margarita. I reflected on my Puerto adventures and flashed back on iguanas basking in the sun; surfboards and taxicabs; mermaids and turtles; and smiling fishermen. Looking out over the setting sun, I saw a man beating his chest and lovers walking hand in hand. Night falls soon, and we all wanted a final look at the sea.

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