

Sailfish Bay LODGE

Sunrise at Sailfish Bay Resort.



EVENINGS AT SAILFISH BAY found our crew watching sunsets over the ocean and hanging out at the bar drinking the national favorite—Ron Zacapa rum and smoking Cuban cigars. On the first night in camp our hosts grilled dorado fillets and colossal local shrimp for dinner. On the third night, dinner included my favorite, a whole fried snapper with an incredible garlic sauce. The food just kept coming and coming.



The lodge is set on a small barrier island between the small Chiquimulia canal and the Pacific Ocean near Puerto Iztapa, historically, the first port city of Spain in Central America. The staff of twenty is incredibly friendly and at ease with all the guests.

Overseeing the entire operation is Scott Ruprect a Cincinnati native and dedicated sailfish geek. His vigilance to detail and customer service is apparent throughout the resort.

He's a good guy.

Two, two-story bungalows each have

John Freeman's toast to the assembled group included a graceful thank you to all the staff and closed with the words, "life is to be lived." And so we did.




(Left) View from Sailfish Bay Lodge across the canal to Guatemalan volcanoes in the distance. (Above) The grounds at the lodge take advantage of the Guatemalan jungle landscape.

four rooms—two on the top floor and two on the bottom floor. The spacious rooms are designed with a contemporary theme and feature private bath and shower. The bungalows will hold about 16 to 20 fishermen on a five-day visit. After flying into Guatemala City, it's a two-hour shuttle ride the next day and a ten-minute boat ride across the canal to get to the island. Easy stuff.

After a couple days, we had sailfish arms that were way beyond tired, and we wanted to have a look around at something blissfully unrelated to fish. The folks at Sailfish Bay set us up with tours of the ancient Mayan city of Tikal and

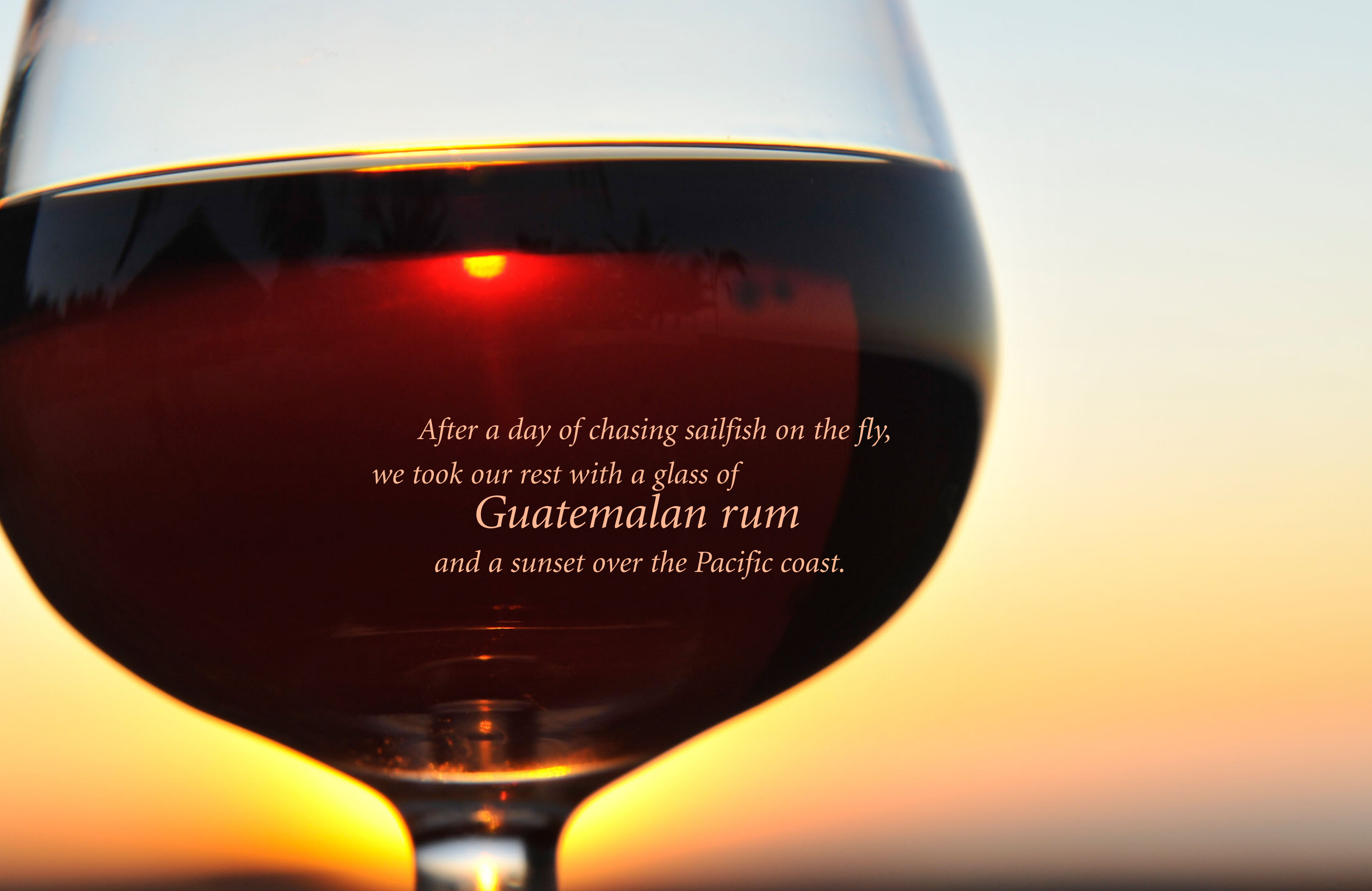
the Spanish Colonial City of Antigua, which are both within easy reach of the lodge. This combination of history, culture and fly fishing comes together beautifully in Guatemala, the center of fly fishing for sailfish. The journey doesn't get much better than this.

For more information on Guatemala, please read Michael Shapiro's personal view on Tikal, Antigua and the beautiful Lake Atitlan in [Around The Bend](#). 

CONTACT INFORMATION:
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(Clockwise from left) The landscaped grounds leading to the bar and pool at Sailfish Bay Resort. A portrait of Scott Ruprecht and the staff at Sailfish Bay Resort. Shrimp Ceviche is on the menu. The rooms at Sailfish Bay are clean and comfortable with views of the Pacific Ocean looking to the south.

A close-up photograph of a glass filled with dark rum. The glass is positioned on the left side of the frame, with the liquid reflecting the warm, golden light of a sunset. The background is a soft, out-of-focus gradient of orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset over a body of water. The text is overlaid on the dark liquid of the glass.

*After a day of chasing sailfish on the fly,
we took our rest with a glass of
Guatemalan rum
and a sunset over the Pacific coast.*



(Clockwise from top left) Cocktails from the bar at Sailfish Bay. The chefs prepare grilled shrimp and deep fried snapper at the restaurant. Deep friend snapper in a garlic sauce is a client favorite at Sailfish Bay Resort. Interior view of the restaurant at the lodge.