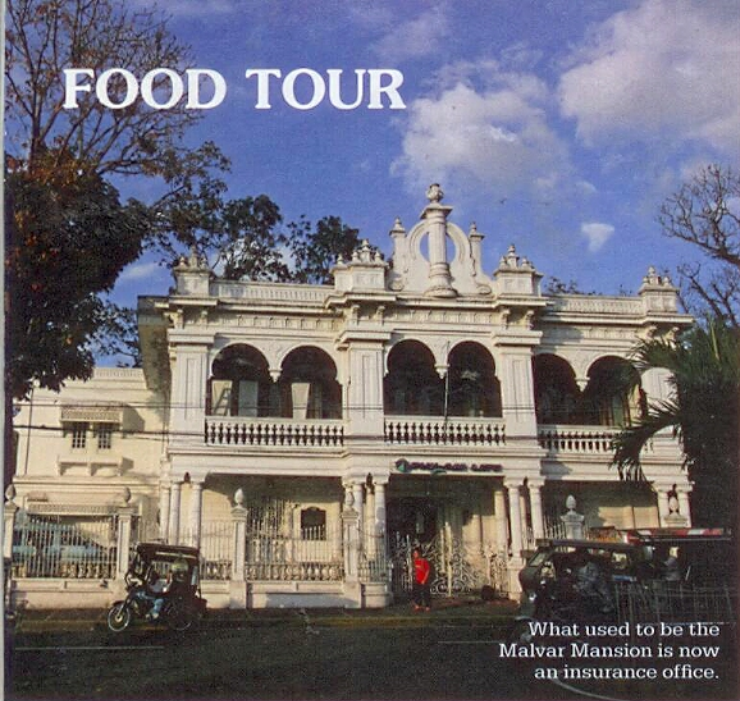


# FOOD TOUR



What used to be the Malvar Mansion is now an insurance office.



This circular home is owned by the Conducto family.

But if it's a unique experience you want while in San Pablo, try lunch at Pandin Lake (see "The Pandin Lake Experience, page 47"). It's about 30 minutes from Casa San Pablo. Imagine dining on bamboo rafts with the women of the place cooking for you, manning the oars and serving you.

Geologists claim that the lakes are circular because they are craters of volcanoes already extinct. And every now and then the lake turns red (locals call it "regla"), and all the fish die and the water emits a foul smell. The scientific explanation is that the microorganisms at that point have multiplied so much producing the red color. Because of that they finish off the oxygen which kills the fish that in turn gives off the foul odor. But once the balance is restored, it's back to the picturesque lake we experienced that day.

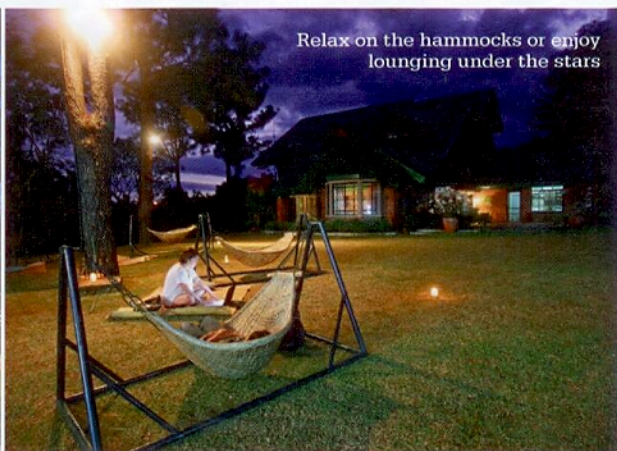
One great thing about the trip to San Pablo is that other Laguna places can be visited as well. In Nagcarlan, there is the underground cemetery. Buy slippers and shoes in Liliw and have a quick *merienda* of pastries and pizza in charming little Arabela as well as have a quick look at the beautiful red brick church at the top of the town.

We didn't have a chance to stop by Colette's Buko Pie stores in San Pablo where it originated, the franchise started by Atty. Regina Bulatao-dela Cruz and Plaridel dela Cruz. But we did stop by so many of them through several towns in search of *buko* pie. Be warned that in the evening, all the *buko* pies have been sold. ■

Try these San Pablo dishes in *Cook's Nook*: *Alpahor*, p.58; *Hipon*, p.58; *Kabasi*, p.57; *Kilawing Labanos*, p.56; *Kulawo*, p.58; *Manok sa Gata*, p.57; *Pinaputok na Tilapia*, p.57; *Sinukmani*, p.57



Red-framed doors and windows and green walls give Casa San Pablo its charm



Relax on the hammocks or enjoy lounging under the stars

## Casa San Pablo

**AS SOON AS YOU** enter Casa San Pablo, you aren't just customers, but house guests, members of the family even. The family matriarch, Vinya Alcantara, greets you as she walks around the place and takes care of her garden. A few of us were lucky enough

to be invited to take a look inside her beautiful country-style home.

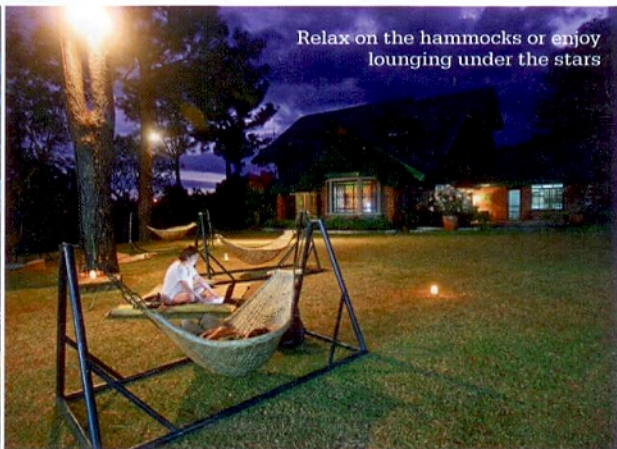
Everywhere you turn, there's something interesting to see such as the red-framed door and windows against the green walls. Enjoy reading the nuggets of interesting information (such as the one about their mix-and-match chairs) and friendly reminders (turn off the water heater before rushing out to write ideas hatched while taking a shower).

Casa San Pablo is a quaint and charming country inn, a peaceful retreat and a place to have traditional Laguna cuisine.

*Gomez Compound, Barangay San Roque, San Pablo City, Laguna. Mobile (0917) 812-6687 and (0920) 962-4083. [www.casasanpablo.com](http://www.casasanpablo.com)*



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