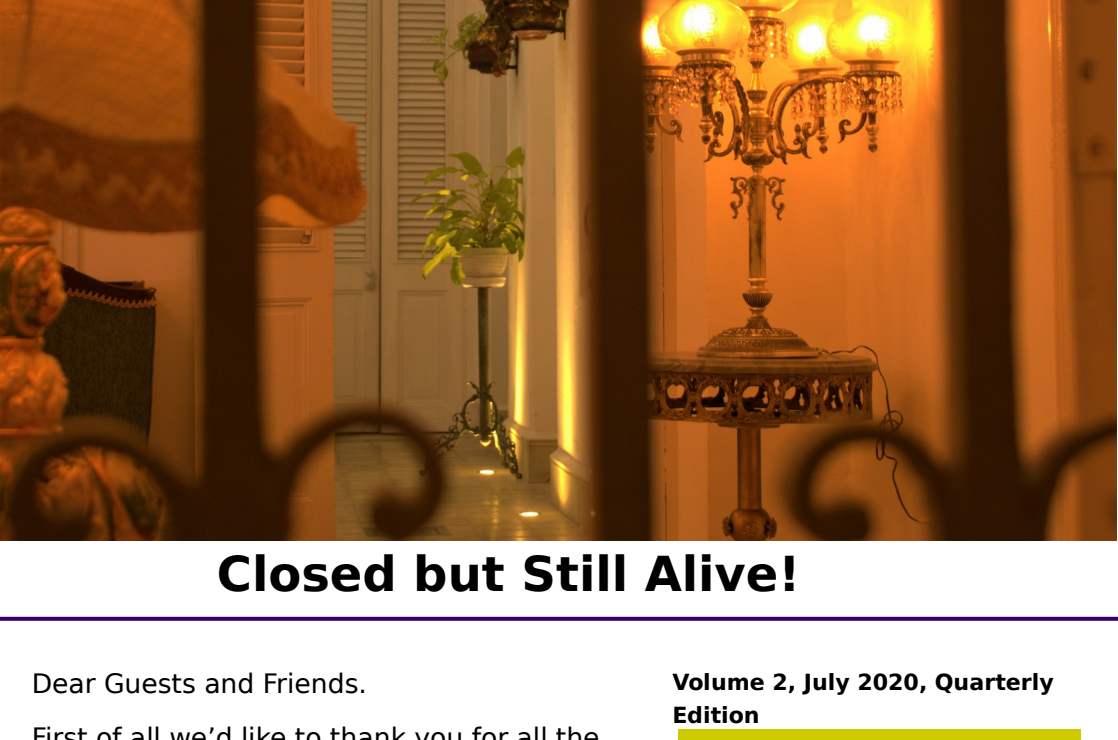


Vapor 156 Boutique Hotel Newsletter



Closed but Still Alive!

Dear Guests and Friends.

First of all we'd like to thank you for all the social media support by following and liking our posts and stories and sending us your valuable comments. The articles in this newsletter cover topics you've been interested in. We really appreciate your suggestions which guide our way forward. With the Vapor 156 song we start to bring even more of Cuban Music and Dance to our House.

Covid-19 forced us to close the Hotel in March and we still do not know when the government and the health situation will allow us to reopen. We use the time as best as we can to renovate the third floor and create a roof terrace with view to Havana Bay, so that our Boutique Hotel will be even more appealing to you when we can welcome you back. We share with you our ideas and the progress we have made so far.

Stay tuned, stay with us, more news and surprises are coming.

Best wishes.

Dirk & Elizandro

Hotel Owners

Volume 2, July 2020, Quarterly Edition

On this issue:

VAPOR 156 SONG! Read about candidates songs, the story about our song and when you can listen to or dance with all of them at the hotel.

RENOVATION IS A FACT.

Catch up with renovation and all the improvements on the third floor and the roof terrace.

COVID-19 IN CUBA.

Have a sum up about real time situation, impact on people's life, expectations and new sanitation protocols on airports, hotels, restaurants, bars and public places.

Contact Us!

If you have any questions or you'd like to make any comments, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Email: info@vapor156.com

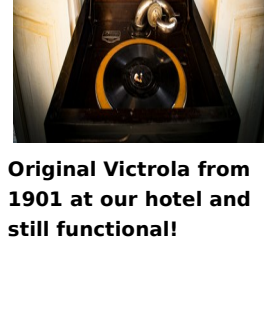
To get full copy of previous newsletters, click [here](#)



Follow Us!

VAPOR 156 SONG!

The idea came from guests who started to suggest why if we live in a country with a musical spectrum so rich, where well-known musical rhythms were born we didn't have a song that could identify us. We loved the idea and very soon we embraced it starting a campaign on social media. Lots of friends and Vapor 156 family members joined us and began to send us comments and suggestions. At the same time we went on our own research and guess what? We found out there are more than 300 songs dedicated to Havana! In different languages (Spanish, English, German), from different parts of the world!



Original Victrola from 1901 at our hotel and still functional!

Mambo, Cha-cha, Salsa, Son, Bolero, Mariachi, Rap, Jazz are just examples of the diverse musical genres but we got to select one! We carefully listened to more than 120 suggestions, analyzed them all and created a top-ten list to finally select among all "Un Violin para Chano".

"Un Violin para Chano" (A Violin to Chano) is a song dedicated to **Luciano Pozo González** better known as **Chano Pozo**, a famous Cuban drummer, composer, rumba singer and dancer. He was born in Havana, on January 7th, 1915 and died in New York, on December 3rd, 1948. Also known as The Cuban Drum, he was a revolutionary among Jazz drummers and he grafted a new and vigorous energy into the Jazz, particularly in North America.

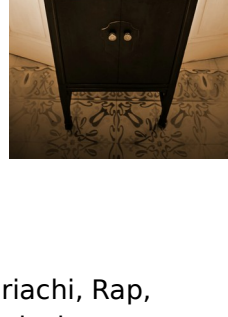
He composed 112 melodies, among them "Manteca", a classic Afro-Cuban jazz piece. He learned to master the Batá drums playing at Abakuá ceremonies, a secret Afro-Cuban society. He played with important jazz musicians such as Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, John Lewis, Kenny Clarke and Félix Chappottín.

Beny Moré, mourned his death in a song and Lázaro Dagoberto González composed "Un Violin pa' Chano" to honor him using as a key instrument the violin, first of all because this instrument has a strong Afro-Cuban religious connotation. It's used in masses called "violin play" to express sorrow and respect for the Orishas (gods, goddesses) and for the dead. Lázaro Dagoberto is also a virtuous violin player as you can listen to in the song. It's a high tempo Cuban salsa with many elements of rumba and jazz. The song conveys the revolutionary spirit of our hotel and cultural project. It's glamorous, colorful, stylish, powerful, vigorous, energetic and authentically Cuban, reasons that led us to select it.

Now you can enjoy this song along with all suggested ones at the hotel while you are having breakfast, dinner or simply having a good Mojito. To get the full playlist on Spotify, click [here](#)



Vapor 156, colonial patio. An ideal spot to listen to music, dance and share family and friendly moments.



RENOVATION IS A FACT.



Mirador on the roof terrace

From the moment we bought the property we've been continuously working on restoration and improvements to bring back the architectural values of the house.

The first stage of the restoration process took place last year on the first two floors. As a result new features were added to the rooms, bathrooms and the patio as well as three balconies were built on the second floor to make our guests feel at home though away from home. We decorated the house recreating the atmosphere from the time it was built. But we had other renovating ideas in mind.

Undoubtedly we have respectfully kept restoring the colonial architecture of the house but this time we will decorate the third floor in a vintage style. Guests who love this particular kind of art will have the opportunity to closely get in touch and live under the influence of this very peculiar ambiance.

Lamps, furniture, hangers, among many other objects in the lobby and the rooms will evoke you memories from the second half of the XX Century and will become living moments of your trip to Havana. It will be like you got back in time.



Details are really important to us. For that reason white marble stairs that allow the access to this floor will be carefully restored along with room doors and windows. Floors will have colonial tiles.

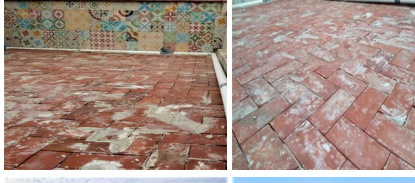
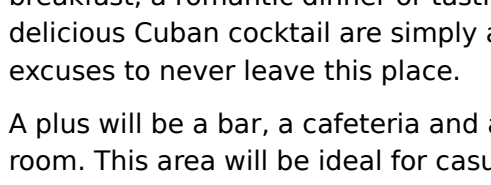
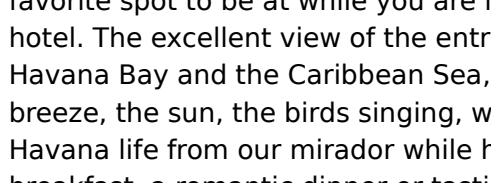
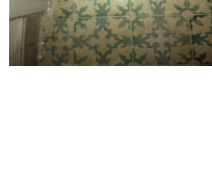
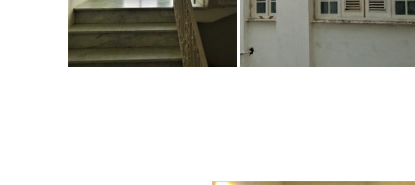
Once we finish remodeling the third floor, 4 new rooms will be ready to get to the total amount of 12. They will be equipped with all amenities and comfort.

This new room availability will give us the chance to host you together with your big family, group of friends and colleagues or as solo of course if you prefer.

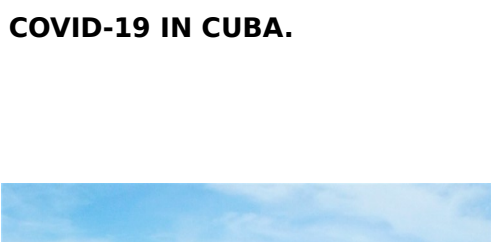
But this is not all. We've created a new area on the roof.

Unquestionably the roof terrace will be your favorite spot to be at while you are in the hotel. The excellent view of the entrance to Havana Bay and the Caribbean Sea, the sea breeze, the sun, the birds singing, watching Havana life from our mirador while having breakfast, a romantic dinner or tasting a delicious Cuban cocktail are simply amazing excuses to never leave this place.

A plus will be a bar, a cafeteria and a massage room. This area will be ideal for casual or formal meetings, to have your dancing lessons, relax while reading a good book or smoke a good Cuban cigar. We can assure you this will be one of your instagramable Havana spots!



COVID-19 IN CUBA.

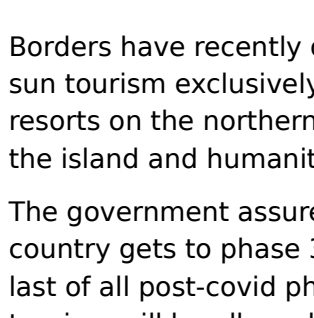


Borders have recently opened to sea & sun tourism exclusively to beach resorts on the northern key coast of the island and humanitarian flights.

The government assures once the country gets to phase 3, which is the last of all post-covid phases, then city tourism will be allowed but no official date has been announced at the moment.

Since the first COVID cases were reported in Cuba last March, the Cuban government started to implement measures to stop the pandemic.

The actions have strengthened the Cuban health care system to fight the disease and considerably reduced it to almost no cases. Nowadays only Havana reports cases, the rest of the country has managed to completely contained it, reporting none. That's why Havana still remains under lockdown, isolated from the rest of the country. Public transportation from and to Havana inside the country continues banned.



Predictions bet on the end of the year or January 2021, though non official sources have declared this might occur sooner taking into account the economic actions the government has started to implement in the last days to accelerate the Cuban economy recovery and to respect contracts signed with foreign hotel companies, airlines and travel agencies for the coming touristic season starting on next November.

Undoubtedly the actions have got their way through to solve the situation but at high costs with a strong impact on people's everyday life. Goods shortage, people standing for hours on long lines outside stores and government rationing policy are at hand.

Private businesses are practically all closed. Only a few have recently started to open. Restaurants, bars and public places are only allowed to operate up to 50% of their total capacity under tight sanitation protocols. Face masks, chlorine hands washing and social distancing are among the most significant regulations. To disrespect them is an act of law violation.

Once borders are finally open, all visitors on arrival will have a real-time PCR test at international airports. Those tested positive for SARS-Cov-2 will be sent to Cuban hospitals for treatment.

But there are some good news. E-commerce and some government services have started to launch online platforms, home delivery services have considerably increased as well as people's awareness and social responsibility towards the pandemic. Medical research and studies to find a Cuban vaccine are also government actions together with health packages as a tourism modality.

