

"I didn't have to create anything. It's already here." – PETE DYE



# Celebrating a NEW DIRECTION

Teeth of the Dog Golf Course

*Casa de Campo, a tropical playground in the Dominican Republic, completes its \$40 million renewal.*

LA ROMANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: "An important aspect of life is immersing yourself in various cultures," commented Robert Birtel, director of golf operations at Casa de Campo Resort. "The rewards far outweigh the fear of change."



**CASA DE CAMPO** is home to Altos de Chavón, an artisan's village modeled after a 16th century Mediterranean city with boutiques, museums, and a 5,000-seat Grecian-style amphitheater inaugurated by Frank Sinatra in 1982.

**THE STORY BEHIND CASA DE CAMPO:** LA ROMANA was home to the single largest sugar-producing mill in the world in the late 1960s. Owned by the Gulf+Western empire, the mill was one of the largest employers in the Dominican Republic. Company executive, Alvaro Carta, knew for his employees to prosper, diversification beyond sugar production was critical. Thus, a push toward creating a tourist destination was born. More than 300 Dominican workers hand-carved the first of three Pete Dye designs from a rugged coral landscape in 1970. Upon hearing the workers refer to the sharp coral rock with its canine teeth as "diente de perro" (which means teeth of the dog in Spanish), naming the course Teeth of the Dog seemed fitting.

Robert's mantra was put to the test last year. "We were living in Puerto Rico," remembered Birtel. "My wife had accepted a job the same day I learned of the prospect at Casa de Campo. We both felt the opportunity was worth the move and after a series of interviews, we were packing our bags."

Casa de Campo Resort, spanning 7,000 tropical acres on the southeastern coast of the Dominican Republic is home to three Pete Dye courses (Teeth of the Dog, Dye Fore and The Links), the 370-slip Marina & Yacht Club, Polo & Equestrian Club, La Terraza Tennis Center, and 245-acre Shooting Club.

"With a choice of three courses, our reputation as an international destination for golf is warranted," said Birtel. "The Teeth of the Dog is in your face seaside golf. With sea-spray hitting your face on several holes, it is as close to full-contact golf you can get.

"Dye Fore offers cliff-side golf with panoramic views of the Caribbean. At several points, you can see the river, the ocean, and mountains in one snapshot.

"The Links, is our most friendly design. It is simply fun, entertaining golf."

### A NEW DIRECTION

"We have always been a leader in setting luxury travel trends, but never has our resort seen this level of additions and advancements happen at the same time," said Daniel Hernandez, general manager of Casa De Campo Resort. "Renovations to our 64-room Pete Dye Lodge are complete, our new fitness center is open, and our stunning family pool is ready to enjoy.



"We have consulted with the best interior designers, culinary experts, and activity directors to create a destination unto itself. Unlike the other resorts dotting the Dominican landscape, there is no need to contact tour operators for day excursions. Almost all of our sporting products—from equestrian to shooting clays—are on-site."

If you are looking for an authentic, in-the-wild sporting experience, the resort's 245-acre Shooting Center will have great appeal. "We have over 200 stations for sporting clays, not to mention trap and skeet shooting, plus our main feature, a 110-foot tower that projects sporting clays, one of the largest in the world," boasted Hernandez. ■

*Getting there:* La Romana Airport (LRM), five minutes from the resort is serviced year-round by JetBlue Airways from JFK, New York and seasonally by American Airlines from Miami (MIA). All major airline carriers fly into Punta Cana Airport (PUJ), 40 minutes away. Passports are required for travel. The Dominican Republic is on Eastern Standard Time.

For information on packages, visit [casadecampo.com.do](http://casadecampo.com.do).



(Left) The new fitness center; and (above) the pool, now complete and ready to enjoy.