



Can you identify the Taino warrior's face carved by wind and water into the cliff alongside Royal Isabela's 12th hole?

## A Labor of Love

*Royal Isabela, your winter escape to a Caribbean crown jewel.*

ISABELA, PUERTO RICO: According to *Guinness World Records*, it took 27,200 man-hours, or the equivalent of one person working 40-hour work weeks for 13 years, to piece together the world's largest jigsaw puzzle.

Brothers Stanley and Charlie Pasarell were just as tenacious, taking years to amass 78 parcels of land, from 44 different owners, to cobble together four miles of shoreline with two miles of sandy beach along the unspoiled coastal cliffs of northwestern Puerto Rico.

The result is Royal Isabela, a private resort community located 72 miles west of San Juan. The Hart Howerton designed Spanish Colonial-style is home to La Casa, a farm-to-table restaurant, an open-air bar, the Library Lounge, a swimming pool and fitness center, tennis, and croquet courts.

"The golf course was designed on foot, not a computer," praised Stanley. "Sand dunes were transformed into bunkers, areas where rainwater pooled became ponds, and trees felled by hurricanes remained natural obstacles."

### COME FOR A WEEKEND, STAY FOR A LIFETIME

Royal Isabela offers 20 individually decorated, 1,500 square foot, one-bedroom casitas with private plunge pools, deep soaking tubs, plush bathrobes, Frette linens, and speedy Internet. "We offer stay-and-play packages for a respite from winter," said Stanley. "Many that visit for a long weekend, join for a lifetime. Our dues are probably less than your home club and we have no initiation fee. Our closest peers on island have initiation fees exceeding \$50,000 and dues 30 percent higher than ours." ■

**Getting to Royal Isabela:** Passports are not required for travel to Puerto Rico. It is a 90-minute highway drive from San Juan Airport (SJU). United, JetBlue, and Spirit Airlines offer winter service from the United States into Aguadilla International Airport (BQN), 10 miles away.

**For more information** on membership and stay-and-play packages, please visit [RoyallIsabela.com](http://RoyallIsabela.com).

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"**We are entrepreneurs.** Our family roots date back to early Spanish colonization. Our maternal grandmother was the daughter of Puerto Rican novelist Dr. Manuel Zeno Gandia and we're direct descendants of El Capitan Correa, who defended an attack from the British in the 1650s. Our club's name pays homage to Queen Isabella who commissioned Columbus to set sail. He landed only a couple of miles from where our clubhouse now sits."

— STANLEY PASARELL, FOUNDER AND CO-OWNER