

Wide-Eyed At EDEN ROC CAP CANA

“Nowhere else in the world is there a golf experience like this.” – JACK NICKLAUS

By Mark Pazdur, Publisher

CAP CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Trips to the Dominican Republic are always a highlight of my year. This summer, I was fortunate to travel with my family to Eden Roc at Cap Cana, an all-suite boutique hotel.

Eden Roc is the only Relais & Châteaux property in the Dominican Republic. Located 10 minutes from Punta Cana International Airport, the convenience of a short drive to the resort is undeniable. While my travels would take me to Punta Cana often, it had been almost a decade since my last visit to Cap Cana.

Cap Cana is a 30,000-acre master planned community that had its fair share of bruises during the past decade. I was intrigued to see first-hand how the ambitious development with a Jack Nicklaus Signature Course and full-service marina had transformed itself from a private real estate endeavor into one of the world’s finest vacation destinations. I left impressed.



Water isn't the only hazard you will encounter.



Beachfront view from our suite's living room.

NOWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD

Multiple rooming choices are available at Eden Roc at Cap Cana, ranging from modern suites to luxury stand-alone villas (all with private pools). If you are looking for an option wherein your entire family can congregate, I recommend a two-bedroom beachfront suite located a stone’s throw from Eden Roc’s stunning resort pool and private powder sand beach. With interior design by Milan-based designer, Marina Nova, aesthetics remind me of what you find on the French and Italian Rivas. My daughters were particularly enthralled with the integrated room technology—featuring wall-mounted iPads that control everything from surround sound to booking dinner reservations.

The resort’s restaurants (Mediterraneo, La Palapa, and Blue) offer a mix of American and Caribbean cuisine. On our final night, we splurged with a fine dinner at Mediterraneo, the most formal of three choices. Our four-course meal concluded with chocolate soufflés that were the hit of the evening!

Early next year, Eden Roc at Cap Cana will unveil its new spa, providing an oasis to pamper yourself. “Eden Roc will bring a new standard of wellness to the Dominican Republic,” touted Pedro Castillo, spa director. “We will not rest until we attain a Forbes Five-Star status for our spa. Many of our treatments [including Thalassoo therapy] will focus on the benefits of salt water for body rejuvenation.”

A short cart ride away from the hotel is the Jack Nicklaus Signature Course at Punta Espada.

The morning of my golf game, I awoke “wide-eyed” 30 minutes before my 6 A.M. wake-up call in anticipation of the day. With eight holes directly on the water, the course is sensory overload. I finished with the same golf ball I started with, shot 80, and came away with an appreciation of what makes the course a must-play in the Caribbean.

As my family started our trek back to Los Angeles, we were in agreement that the warmth of the Dominican people is only outdone by the country’s year-round balmy temperatures. ■

For more information on winter packages, please visit EdenRocCapCana.com.