



The Face of Caribbean Golf

“Gilles has been instrumental over the course of his career in positioning Casa de Campo as one of the premier golf destinations in the world.”

– ANDRES PICHARDO ROSENBERG, PRESIDENT,
CASA DE CAMPO RESORT

LA ROMANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: In order to diversify from the sugar business in the late 1960s, Casa de Campo Resort was established on a pristine, oceanfront 7,000-acre parcel of land, equivalent in size to more than 9,000 football fields. Today, the popular resort destination is a self-contained sportsman’s paradise with 90 holes of Pete Dye golf, a 370-slip marina (largest in the Caribbean), a polo club, tennis pavilion, an artisan village, a 245-acre shooting club, beach club, equestrian center, 20 restaurants, and wide-ranging accommodations (all include the use of a personal golf cart).

In May, Gilles Gagnon, director of golf emeritus at Casa de Campo Resort, was inducted into the Caribbean Golf Association Hall of Fame for his myriad of contributions to grow golf in the region. A native of Montreal, Canada, Gilles commemorates 40 years with the resort next year.

“It’s amazing to have witnessed the growth at Casa de



Campo,” praised Gagnon. “When I established roots in the Dominican Republic back in 1980, there was no television, you had to utilize an operator to make a phone call, and there were more donkeys on the road than cars.

“Many don’t realize the resort was almost built just outside Santo Domingo,” continued Gagnon. “When Pete Dye was touring various sites, the oceanfront parcel that is today’s Casa de Campo, excited him with possibilities. I remember Pete commenting, ‘The man upstairs designed seven holes. I designed the rest.’”

Shortly after opening, a *Sports Illustrated* article put Casa de Campo on the map. “It was a real shot in the arm for us,” recalled Gagnon. “The resort was somewhat ahead of its time. The Punta Cana Airport, about a 45-minute drive from Casa de Campo, was nothing but a dirt field. Today, the airport serves 7.6 million passengers annually. I credit our ongoing success to the overall experience. Through the years, Casa de Campo has evolved from an isolated oceanfront 18-hole golf course into a thriving resort community welcoming guests from around the world.” ■

For more information on seasonal golf packages, please visit: casadecampo.com.do.



“CASA DE CAMPO is the Caribbean’s most complete resort. Our famous Teeth of the Dog Course is ranked a ‘World’s 100 Greatest Course’ by *Golf Digest*.”

– GILLES GAGNON