

INVESTING IN YOU

*Casa de Campo Resort—
celebrating its
golden anniversary of
delivering the best.*

LA ROMANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:

Ask yourself: Are you an adventurer or do you prefer the status quo? Are you willing to take a calculated opportunity and step outside your comfort zone?

Gilles Gagnon was in that position in the early 1980s with an opportunity to join the golf department at Casa de Campo Resort. “Bill Coore and I were on the short list of candidates for the position,” recalled Gilles, director of golf emeritus and PGA Life Member. “Bill decided to concentrate on golf course design, so I was offered the job.

“It wasn’t a rashly made decision,” continued Gilles. “My wife was pregnant and transportation, communication, and medical care were still in its infancy in the Dominican Republic. Ultimately, we decided to move from the cold climate up north, sold everything, and relocated to Casa de Campo with nothing more than suitcases packed with clothes.”

A SPRAWLING RESORT WORTHY OF ITS OWN ZIP CODE

In addition to its three Dye-designed golf courses, Casa de Campo has a 370-slip Marina & Yacht Club; the Polo & Equestrian Club; La Terraza Tennis Center; a 245-acre Shooting Club; a private powder sand island; a dozen dining options; and a hidden gem of an amenity, Altos de Chavón, an artisan village modeled after a 16th century Mediterranean town.

“When I arrived, a rudimentary airport runway bisected the back of Teeth of the Dog Golf Course and driving required vigilance to avoid donkeys sharing the



TEETH OF THE DOG is the only golf course in the Caribbean that's in GOLF Magazine's "Top 100 Courses in the World," an award the course has held since the list was established in 1983. Heaven 7 refers to Pete Dye's septet of holes sitting against the craggy coral formations rising out of the azure Caribbean Sea.



The Dye Fore Course, located on the highest point on property, offers commanding vistas of the Chavón River and countryside.

roads,” reminisced Gilles. “We also had to keep fingers crossed that our fleet of golf carts had enough juice in the tank to make it around all 18 holes; and our apparel offering in the golf shop was nicknamed ‘Mission Impossible’ because the fabric would disintegrate upon first washing. Even telecommunications required talking to a live AT&T operator to place a call to the States.

“How times have changed since Casa de Campo opened. Today, our resort is connected by modern highways and airports, staffed by English-speaking employees, features speedy Internet connections, and cell service that is likely better than your hometown,” described Gilles. “What hasn’t changed? Access to the best, wide-ranging amenities in the Caribbean with a footprint that is so vast, we can be booked at 100 percent occupancy and you hardly see a soul.” ■

For more information, visit casadecampo.com.do.

