

The final stretch of holes on the Corales Course is nicknamed Devil's Elbow, daring players to bite off as much of the shoreline as possible. The 17th hole ranks as one of the toughest on all Tours.

Sailing the Ocean Blue

*Puntacana Resort & Club
defines sustainable development.*

PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: In grammar school, it was common for students to recite the jingle, "In 1492, Columbus Sailed the Ocean Blue," as a catchy phrase to remember Christopher Columbus discovered what is now the United States. In fact, Columbus did not discover the mainland. He was the first European to set sight on the Bahamas and later Hispaniola, now split into Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Upon reaching the islands, he believed his crew had reached East Asia, in particular Japan.

A DREAM TURNS INTO REALITY

In 1969, a group of American investors bought 30 square miles of undeveloped land bordering five miles of the east coast of the Dominican Republic. The land was mostly impenetrable jungle, with no access roads and only a handful of small fishing villages dotted along the coast. But, the beaches were some of the most beautiful in the world with their white sand, coconut palms, crystal clear waters, and protective coral reefs.

Sensing an opportunity, Frank Rainieri envisioned a resort community where vacationers, particularly Americans, would flock to the warm sunshine and gin-colored waters. Originally called Punta Borrachon (drunken

point), Rainieri knew the name wouldn't be appealing to vacationers (unless you were trying to attract Spring Breakers), so he renamed the region Punta Cana. His first project was a 10-villa hotel called the Puntacana Beach Resort.

At that time, the nearest airport was four hours away, so it was clear that transportation was a pressing issue. When the airport at Puntacana officially opened, it received a paltry 2,976 passengers in its first year. Today, the international airport welcomes eight million passengers annually with non-stop airline service offered by 81 airlines from 28 countries.

With 40,000+ hotel rooms in the area, Punta Cana has become the economic backbone of the Dominican Republic. By building the infrastructure, Frank Rainieri and his company Grupo PUNTACANA have turned a once in-

Tortuga Bay is comprised of 13 beachfront villas designed by the late Oscar de la Renta.



Did you know? The ocean is blue because water absorbs colors in the red part of the light spectrum. Like a filter, this leaves behind colors in the blue part of the spectrum for us to see. The ocean may also take on green, red, or other hues as light bounces off floating sediments and particles in the water.



hospitable coastline into a booming industry responsible for a quarter of the country's gross domestic product. His sense of corporate responsibility is admirable—profits from the airport are invested in community projects. Interest-free educational loans, medical facilities, and an ecological foundation to protect and preserve the land and marine life are all part of his mission to promote sustainable development.

"I really feel like a server," expressed Rainieri. "I'm full of satisfaction because when you turn thousands of people who are living decently, who have a future, who have their children healthy, it brings immense fulfillment."

TOUR PROVEN, PLAYER APPROVED

Puntacana Resort & Club is home to the Caribbean's ultimate beach and golf experience. Amenities abound with access to 45 holes of championship golf (home to an annual PGA TOUR event), miles of white sand beaches, tennis courts, a world-class spa, endless water sports, and gourmet restaurants. Luxury accommodations include the AAA Five Diamond Tortuga Bay, The Westin Puntacana Resort & Club, and home and apartment rentals at The Estates Experience.

The fifth edition of the Corales Puntacana Championship was recently held at the Tom Fazio designed Corales Golf Club. "Hosting a PGA TOUR event in the Dominican Republic is an honor. It's an affirmation of our golf facilities and we are thrilled to present ourselves on the international golf stage," beamed Rainieri.

"Corales is a bold golf course," said Tom Fazio. "It's one of the few great courses in the world with a series of holes that play directly alongside the ocean. The roar of the crashing waves can be faintly heard and the white foam of the surf can be seen catching the air. The stamina and nerves of some of the best players in the world are tested during competition on Devil's Elbow, the finishing three holes playing over the cliff-lined Bay of Corales." ■



Grupo PUNTACANA is a proud member of "Pack for a Purpose," an initiative that allows travelers to have a lasting impact on the Dominican Republic. Vacationers are asked to bring supplies for area schools and medical clinics that have an invaluable impact on the lives of local children and families.

For more information on seasonal offers, please visit PuntaCana.com.