

CASA DE CAMPO RESORT

A Golden Opportunity

Bienvenido to beachfront luxury.

LA ROMANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Pete Dye's connection to Casa de Campo is foundational. He and his wife Alice had been a fixture at the resort for decades as he designed all 90 holes of golf on the 7,000-acre property—63 holes of which are open for guest play.

Teeth of the Dog is the “star of the show” at Casa de Campo. “We have reopened Teeth of the Dog after a one-year renovation,” reported Gilles Gagnon, director of golf emeritus. “We hired Jerry Pate [a long-time friend of Pete Dye] to oversee construction. The ultimate goal was to return the course to its original design from more than 50 years ago. Before the heavy machinery arrived, we hired a company to laser measure [through satellite images] the breaks and contours of



the greens with the hope to replicate the putting surfaces as much as possible.”

The first order of business was to carefully look at vintage black and white photos of the course from the 1970s. “When the resort opened, there was no television, and you had to utilize a human operator to place a phone call [the introduction of the iPhone was still 30 years away],” continued Gagnon. “The area was so undeveloped that chickens and cows outnumbered automobiles. You were definitely ‘off the grid.’”

A LIFELONG FRIEND

“One of my fondest memories was with Pete in the United States. He handed me a large bag of paspalum grass sprigs to take back to the Dominican Republic to test in our



Fun Quotes/Facts about Teeth of the Dog

- “It’s a different world when you are out on the course, a different world altogether. I created 11 holes, and God created seven.” —PETE DYE
- The seven holes along the ocean are known as “Heaven 7.”
- Alice Dye collaborated on the designs of the original tee markers.
- “Pebble Beach may have several holes along the sea, but only Teeth of the Dog has seven holes *in* the sea.” —ANONYMOUS
- Since the inception of *GOLF Magazine’s* “Top 100 Courses in the World” in 1983, the course has been one of only 37 courses to be included in the coveted ranking every year.



Imagine curling your toes in the warm sand at Minitas Beach.



The Spa's (rated four stars by Forbes) 12 treatment rooms are lavishly appointed.



The Shooting Centre has 200+ stations.



Architecture inspired by quaint seaside Mediterranean villages.

Altos de Chavón features a 5,000-seat Grecian-style amphitheater inaugurated by Frank Sinatra in 1982. More recent concerts have included performances by Jennifer Lopez, and Michael Bublé.

tropical conditions," recalled Gilles. "I questioned Pete and asked how I was going to get the bag through agriculture at the airport, and suggested maybe he should bring it on his next trip. His response was, 'Don't worry, I will bail you out of jail if necessary!'"

"We ended up planting the grass on holes No. 5 and No. 8 as a test. It was the first time paspalum grass was utilized on a Caribbean course. It worked, and Teeth of the Dog is now tee-to-green paspalum. Today, there are dozens of variations of the grass around the world customized to fit the climate. I feel we did our small part in the process."

Pete Dye passed away in 2020, and Gilles helped spread his ashes in a pot bunker on hole No. 8. "There wasn't a dry eye in the house," said an emotional Gilles.

"The last time I drove him around the course, I made sure he knew that he did a really, really good job here. We both got a little teary-eyed in the moment.

"As an interesting trivia note, Pete named all of his dogs Sixty. I was with him when Alice asked, 'Why Sixty?' Pete's response, 'That's the fee I paid.' From then on, every dog Pete and Alice had was named Sixty."

SMOOTH TRAVELS

"With so many things [big and small] to discover, you will likely run out of time before seeing all Casa de Campo has to offer," commented Jason Kycek, CMO at the resort. "Our numerous accommodation choices, spa, and culinary delights will impress the most seasoned traveler. When you compare our pricing, our value is apparent.

"I'm also proud to report that American Airlines flies from Miami to La Romana Airport [LRM]. Our airport [only one mile from the resort] is almost within walking distance. Allowing you to be from tarmac to tee in about an hour, even factoring in time for customs.

"Last year, Casa de Campo Resort celebrated its golden anniversary. I think all would agree that fifty years is an inspiring milestone." ■

For information on seasonal packages, please visit CasaDeCampo.com.do.



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