

FEATURED ARTICLE



Punta Cana Resort & Club, a Unique Dominican Republic Retreat With Its Own International Airport, VIP Terminal, Private Customs Service, Boutique Hotel, Two Golf Courses and Super Luxury Amenities

Oscar de la Renta and Haydee Rainieri jointly made oceanfront Tortuga Bay one of the world's most elegant boutique hotels. Oscar designed the interiors of all 13 villas and Haydee, as Sr. VP of Hospitality, directs its high standard of service.

BY EDWARD F. PAZDUR, CHAIRMAN & CEO

PUNTA CANA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: Oscar de la Renta, one of the world's most influential couturiers and a partner-owner of PUNTACANA Resort & Club, visits his luxurious retreat as often as time permits. "Whenever I'm here," says Oscar, "I go out on the second floor balcony of my Corales home, look over the shimmering sea and say: God, thank you! My Corales home has Fazio's golf course as my front yard and an oceanfront beach as my backyard. It's the ultimate island lifestyle.



PUNTACANA'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL

"Although the Dominican Republic is an extraordinary island with a terrific climate, its biggest treasure is its people. I have traveled all over the world," revealed Oscar, "and found foreigners are treated as outsiders. Here, foreigners are treated as guests."

A BOUNTEOUS COMMUNITY

Oscar is right about the Dominican's citizenry. Let's not forget its amenities. PUNTACANA Resort & Club is a bounteous resort community with its own international airport; a VIP lounge; a private Customs service; Corales, a residential community with distinctive, super-luxury oceanfront estates; two championship golf courses, Corales, designed by Tom Fazio and La Cana, designed by P.B. Dye; Six Senses Spa; a tennis center with six Har-Tru (clay) courts lighted for night play; eight world-class restaurants; tasteful late night lounges; full service marina; deluxe hotel rooms; and, would you believe, much more!

"Americans are now discovering PUNTACANA Resort & Club," said Frank Elias Rainieri, real estate director and son of founder-CEO Frank Rainieri. "Our company has grown 20 percent annually for over 20 years. We employ thousands of people and our businesses generate over 12 percent of the country's GDP. We project the Punta Cana region will eventually have 50,000 hotel rooms, 20 golf courses, and about 8,000 Americans living here," vaunted Frank Elias.

PUNTACANA'S CENTERPIECE: TORTUGA BAY

"Ten years ago, Americans represented 5 percent of our visitors. Today it's over 35 percent. Over 60 percent of our Tortuga Bay guests make a return reservation when they check out. That validates a world-class experience," said Frank Elias. "Oscar de la Renta designed Tortuga's interior. It consists of 13 beachfront bungalows with walk-in showers, Jacuzzi tubs, plush bedding, hi-speed Internet access, flat screen TVs, and your own golf car with a cell phone that dials the concierge. I always suggest that couples with young children request the first floor so they can open the living room doors and let the kids frolic on the sandy white beach."



A natural extension of Tortuga is the newly refurbished PUNTACANA Hotel, a 105-acre setting along three miles of beach with one-, two- and three-bedroom accommodations. One- and two-level suites with spacious living areas are also available.

EXACTING AND DELIGHTFUL GOLF EXPERIENCES

Golf matches up to be as good or equal to PUNTACANA's lodging accommodations and real estate. Director of Golf Jay Overton says, "We will eventually host four golf courses. You can now play La Cana, designed by P.B. Dye, and Corales, designed by Tom Fazio. The third, Dye's Hacienda course, is under construction and scheduled to open late this year. We have a cap of only 325 members," said Overton. "That's a low number considering Corales will have a broad international membership."



Fazio's View: "Our Corales course has been built on a visually stunning landmark site," said Fazio. "Four holes play hard along the ocean with only rock edges separating the course from the surf. It took hard work and persistence to get it done right. I think guests will be very impressed with the golf course and oceanfront super luxury homes that make up the Corales community."

P.B. Dye's View: P.B., son of renowned golf course designer Pete Dye and a PUNTACANA resident, designed two of the resort's golf courses, La Cana and soon to open Hacienda. "There are ocean views from 12 of our holes at La Cana," said P. B. "I've routed both courses to take advantage of prevailing trade winds and it really works well. It is so beautiful here that I've built my home on the 7th fairway and permanently live here. For me, the colors in the sky and the Caribbean Sea are breathtaking. There is nothing like it!"



FRANK R. RAINIERI,
PRESIDENT & CEO,
GRUPO PUNTACANA

FRANK R. RAINIERI: ONE OF A KIND

Frank R. Rainieri, 63, founder of PUNTACANA Resort & Club, is a dimensional and multi-faceted gentleman whose tastes and perspectives are shaped by the world around him and not only by his homeland. He has never been, nor ever will be, a typical developer. He is first and foremost a patriot devoted to educate and improve the welfare of his fellow Dominicans. His journey and goal did not go unnoticed. President Ronald Reagan acknowledged it in 1985 when he made Rainieri the first foreigner to receive America's prestigious Presidential Citation for exceptional community service. The citation was presented to Rainieri by President Reagan in the White House Rose Garden on June 14, 1985.

The development of PUNTACANA dates back to 1971 when Rainieri, then a young Dominican entrepreneur, first met Theodore W. Kheel, a prominent attorney and labor mediator in New York. Rainieri sold Kheel on the idea of creating a partnership to construct a world-class residential golf community in the Dominican Republic. Kheel, impressed with Rainieri's conviction and concept, bought into the idea, approved a guarded partnership desired by Rainieri and launched a promising future for the Dominican Republic and its citizens.

Corporate responsibility is borne by the Rainieri family. Frank Rainieri is president and CEO; his wife Haydee Kuret de Rainieri is Sr. VP of Hospitality; son Frank Elias Rainieri is real estate director; daughter Paola Rainieri de Diaz is PR and marketing director; and daughter Francesca Rainieri is administrative executive director.

HAYDEE RAINIERI'S CHALLENGE

Haydee Rainieri has challenged the Dominican Republic to work harder toward improving quality and competitiveness, to make changes in the tax code to treat tourism as exports. "By 2019 tourism will represent US\$8 billion in revenue for the Dominican Republic," said Haydee, "doubling the present figure of US\$4 billion."

MAKING A DREAM COME TRUE

Everything went according to plan, albeit slowly, with some ups and downs. PUNTACANA Resort & Club has evolved over the past 39 years into a firm called GRUPO PUNTACANA with only four partners: Frank Rainieri; Theodore Kheel; world-renown couturier, Oscar de la Renta; and celebrated crooner of romantic ballads, Julio Iglesias. Today, GRUPO PUNTACANA supports its lifestyle and resort amenities with its own international airport, its own waste treatment facility, a bilingual international school, modern telecommunications, healthcare, security, jobs, a comfortable community to house its employees and one of the country's biggest source of revenue by providing jobs and paying taxes.

"I realized that life is to share," said Rainieri. "I always thought I should help others. Our country still has a lot of people who don't own a house, don't have medical facilities and too many cannot read nor write."



He has attacked this problem by providing classes at PUNTACANA with computer courses, reading, writing, grammar, etc. It is a mandatory program for all GRUPO PUNTACANA employees.

At 63, Rainieri's health is good, his marriage and family are thriving, his business is flourishing and his desire to give back is unchecked. President Kennedy, who often asked Americans to shift domestic energies from receiving to giving, would find in Frank R. Rainieri the inspiration he envisioned.

For more information, please visit puntacana.com or phone toll free (888) 442-2262.