

Caribbean

Once largely reliant on a traditional sun, sand and sea tourism strategy, the Caribbean has embraced the golf boom of recent years with the zeal of the converted. Pete Dye, Greg Norman, Tom McBroom and other top architects have left their marks at high-end resorts by either revamping existing courses or building entirely new showpieces. Here, nine of the Caribbean's very best — from a Canadian-designed course with bunkers that mimic the pounding surf to jungle fairways where chattering green monkeys outnumber the paying guests.



Golf's Front Nine

Brian Kendall

TEETH OF THE DOG, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

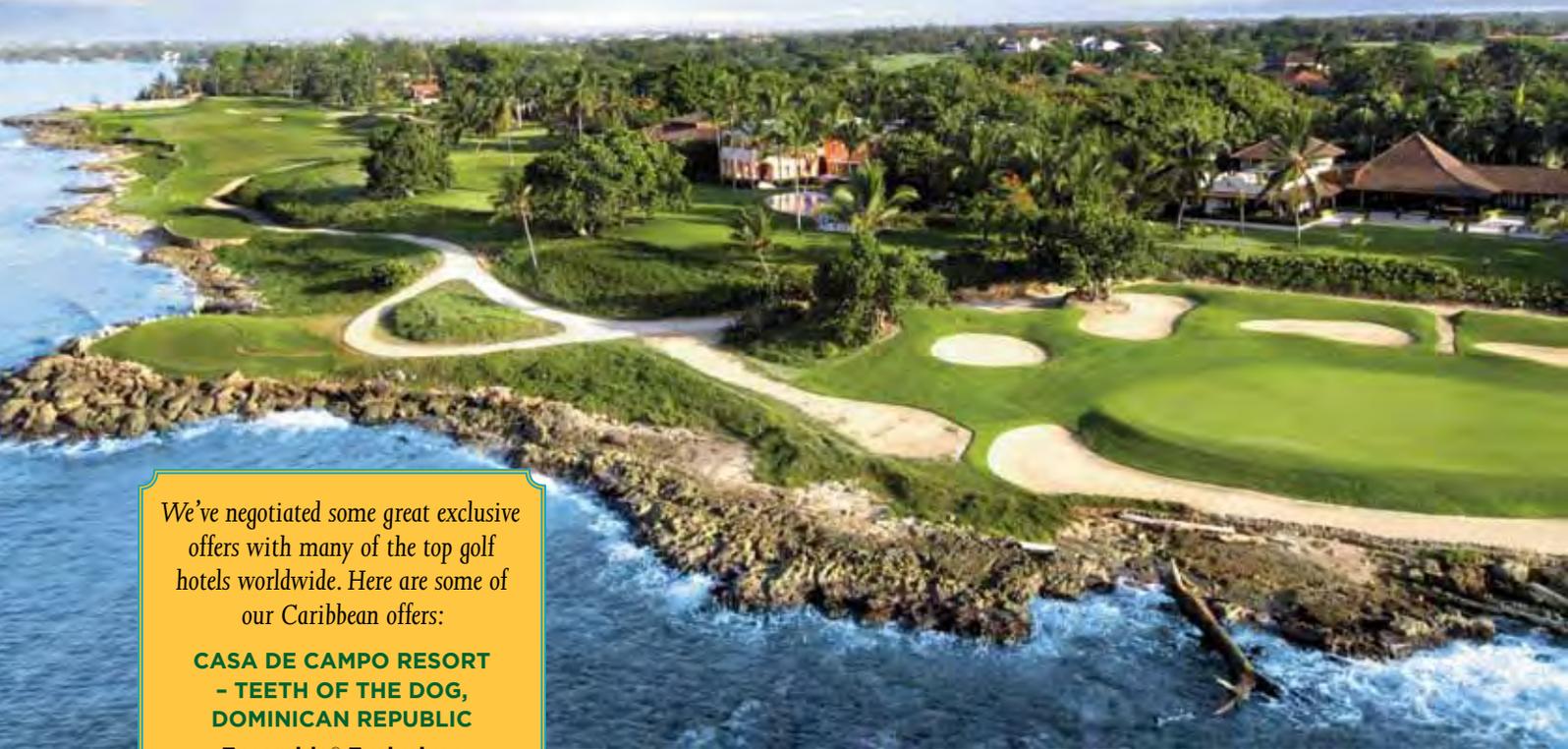
One of the world's elite resorts, Casa de Campo is most famous as the home of Teeth of the Dog, a Pete Dye-designed masterwork unforgettable for its seven ocean-side holes—including the eponymous 16th, a treacherous par three set in a rock cove roughly shaped like a dog's snapping jaws. Two more Dye-designed jewels, The Links and Dye Fore, complete the all-star golf roster at a 2,833-hectare retreat that attracts a Who's Who of the social registry and entertainment world.

CUISINART GOLF CLUB, ANGUILLA

A tropical paradise made popular by Brad Pitt, Celine Dion, Robert De Niro and other A-list celebrities, Anguilla is home to Cuisinart Golf Club (formerly Temenos Golf Club), one of the Caribbean's most graceful and challenging courses. Designed by Greg Norman, golf's Great White Shark, the course offers invitingly wide fairways, although golfers who spray the ball will pay the penalty in roughs of packed sand and prickly underbrush. Tougher still is playing through the gale-force trade winds almost constantly blowing from the east. On a really blustery day, holding a green on even a short par three demands the surgically precise shot-making ability of the Shark himself.

BLACK PEARL, ROATAN

A favourite haunt of the cognoscenti for its world-class scuba diving and relaxed expatriate vibe, the Honduran island of Roatan made a splash with the launch of Black Pearl in 2011. Pete Dye and his son Perry carved Roatan's first course through the rolling jungle surrounding luxurious Pristine Bay Resort. Black Pearl starts almost at the ocean's edge before climbing into hills covered in palms and gumbo-limbo trees. Visual drama is added by waste bunkers contoured to repel inferior approach shots. A more pleasing distraction is provided by the sweeping ocean views from no fewer than 14 holes.



We've negotiated some great exclusive offers with many of the top golf hotels worldwide. Here are some of our Caribbean offers:

**CASA DE CAMPO RESORT
- TEETH OF THE DOG,
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Ensemble® Exclusives

- ☞ \$200 credit per booking for spa treatment
- ☞ Upgraded room at time of check-in*
- ☞ Early check-in & late check out*

Limited Time Offer

Extended Casa Stay

Enjoy one more day to dine, play, unwind and relax. For a limited time you can get your **3rd or 4th Night Free** — ask for details.

**HALF MOON, A ROCK RESORT -
ROSE HALL, JAMAICA**

Ensemble® Exclusives

Limited Time Offer

Ensemble's Summer Break promotion: Half Moon offers the **4th Night Free** plus **US\$150 resort credit** — ask for details.

- ☞ Full breakfast for two daily in the hotel restaurant
- ☞ Round-trip airport transfers via private air-conditioned motorcoach
- ☞ Upgraded room*
- ☞ Early check-in & late check out*

*all offers based on availability at time of check-in

HALF MOON GOLF CLUB, JAMAICA

Jamaica's dramatic northwest coast provides an idyllic setting for Half Moon Golf Club, a classic design by the legendary Robert Trent Jones Sr. at Half Moon, A RockResort, a plush retreat whose high-society guest list has included Queen Elizabeth II and John and Jacqueline Kennedy. Opened in 1961 and renovated in recent years by Roger Rulewich, the lushly tropical layout flows seamlessly through gentle foothills to the east of Montego Bay. Half Moon's spacious fairways provide inviting targets off the tee. But nasty bunkers and challenging green complexes help stiffen the test at this, one of the Caribbean's flagship courses.

**THE GOLF LINKS AT ROYAL
ISABELA, PUERTO RICO**

Opened in 2011, the Caribbean's newest marquee course curls along rugged bluffs near the popular tourist town of Isabela on Puerto Rico's northwest coast. Native grasses, sand dunes and craggy cliffs all come into play at a wonderfully natural layout designed as the centrepiece of this members-only club (also a housing community and resort). Architect David Pfaff skillfully flows one spectacular hole into the next, but the best of all—and certainly the most thrilling—is the par-three 17th, demanding a heroic 200-yard tee shot over the crashing ocean to a cliff-top green.

**ROYAL ST. KITTS GOLF CLUB,
ST. KITTS**

Brilliantly remodelled by top Canadian architect Tom McBroom, Royal St. Kitts Golf Club put the former British colony on the map of Caribbean golf with its unveiling in 2004. The links-style layout, which McBroom rebuilt on top of a flat and badly irrigated course of the same name near the capital city of Basseterre, includes three thrilling new ocean-side holes on the back nine. Most memorable of all is the par-three 15th, where the green is flanked on both sides with a cascade of bunkers designed to mimic the waves crashing ashore in the background.

**TIERRA DEL SOL GOLF COURSE,
ARUBA**

Situated near the lighthouse on Aruba's desert-like northwest coast, Tierra del Sol Golf Course is a 6,811-yard emerald oasis in an otherwise stark landscape of giant cactus and divi-divi trees. Architect Robert Trent Jones Jr. nestled his greens amid the sun-bleached boulders and cactus, while adding marshes as hazards and to provide a sanctuary for local and migrating birds. Herons, egrets and burrowing owls (Aruba's national bird) are frequent visitors. Far more unnerving are the sizeable lizards seen scurrying across fairways almost constantly buffeted by the prevailing winds.

APES HILL CLUB, BARBADOS

Dipping and twisting through lush jungle, an abandoned coral quarry and a former sugar plantation, Apes Hill Club is the centerpiece of a hilltop residential community offering panoramic views of both the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea. Launched in 2009, the gorgeous 7,150-yard layout by Jeff Potts and Chris Cole winds seamlessly through a still mostly wild landscape where chattering green monkeys are often seen feasting on ackee and breadfruit. Especially thrilling are the jungle holes; 11 to 14, a quartet enthusiastically described by Golf World Magazine as “every bit as dramatic and invigorating” as Augusta National’s Amen Corner.

FOUR SEASONS RESORT NEVIS GOLF COURSE, NEVIS

Attendants indulge guests with Evian spritzes and eucalyptus-scented towels at a posh Robert Trent Jones Jr. design that climbs the slopes of Mount Nevis, a dormant volcano rising 3,232 feet from the jungle floor. But distracted golfers will suffer the consequences at a layout that demands steely focus on every hole. Easily the highlight is the par-five 15th, the highest point on the course, where the carry over a chasm from the back tee is a gargantuan 240 yards—and the solace for failure is the island’s best view of the turquoise Caribbean Sea.



CuisinArt Golf Club, Anguilla



Half Moon Golf Club, Jamaica



Royal St. Kitts Golf Club, St. Kitts

MESA VISTA VILLAS - ENSEMBLE® VILLAS & RESORT COLLECTION, ARUBA

Mesa Vista 54 is a free standing home with 4 bedrooms on two levels that can accommodate up to 8 guests. The home is completely air-conditioned and is located in the **Mesa Vista, Caya Mesa Bista** neighborhood at Tierra Del Sol.

Amenities

- 🌀 Complimentary Yoga classes during your stay
- 🌀 Use of all the amenities of the Spa, such as gym, sauna, steam room and private Jacuzzi
- 🌀 Special spa packages with your stay
- 🌀 Stay and play golf packages for only \$29 p/p, per round