

ACCESS

Dominican Republic

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Boutique Hotel Tortuga Bay Will Receive "Five Diamond" Award by AAA

Tortuga Bay boutique hotel

The American Automobile Association (AAA) will award its most important award, the "Five Diamond" certificate, to the Tortuga Bay boutique hotel, situated in Puntacana Resorts & Club. The certificate in excellence will be awarded for the outstanding services the boutique hotel offers its guests. Because of this distinction the hotel will appear in the organization's website at the end of the year and will also be included in the "AAA Caribbean Tour Book" for 2011. The latter is the organization's top-rated guide for the region. The Tortuga Bay is situated right on the world-class beaches of Puntacana Resorts & Club. The 15 villas that make up the boutique hotel were decorated by world-famous Dominican fashion designer Oscar de la Renta. It also offers pristine golf courses and spa.

The American Automobile Association (AAA) will award is "Five Diamond" category, corresponding to the year 2011, to the Tortuga Bay boutique hotel, situated in one of the Caribbean's finest resorts, the Puntacana Resort & Club, in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

The AAA, with 51 million affiliates in



the US, Canada and other countries, edited its first hotel guide in 1917. It has only given the "Five Diamond" category to one percent of the thirty-one thousand hotels and resorts that appear in its directory.

This category is awarded to hotels which, after being carefully evaluated and inspected, show a world-class level of excellence in all its operational phases. The organization carries out periodic inspections in order to issue this award.

In November the official announcement will be made regarding the "Five Diamond" award to Tortuga Bay. After the issuance of this particular category, the boutique hotel will appear in the official AAA website (AAA.com) beginning in December. It will also appear in the 2011 "AAA Caribbean Tour Book," which will

also be put into circulation in December.

The Tortuga Bay is a boutique hotel consisting of 15 luxurious villas (50 rooms). All were built around the theme of wood and tropical materials, with a specific design geared to blending the villas into the surrounding lush tropical environment. All were decorated by world-famous fashion designer Oscar de la Renta. It was the first Dominican hotel to enter into the world network of luxury hotels known as "Leading Hotels of the World."

The hotel is situated right on the beach and is surrounded by two world-class golf courses designed by Tom Fasio and P.B. Dye. It also includes the Spa Six Sense. Specialized magazines such as Vogue and Travel & Leisure, as well as Town & Country, have given exclusive coverage to the hotel.

In 2008, "The Leading Small Hotels of the World" gave Puntacana Resorts & Club, and the Punta Cana Ecological Foundation the "Excellence Award" for their environmentally friendly practices. In 2010, the Spanish edition of the Conde Nast Travel magazine named it the "Best International Resort."



Isabel Caraña and Paola Dimitri

Dominicans: World's Best Hosts for the Visiting Tourist

The Dominican Republic was recently selected by the Travel-ranking organization of Spain, as the country that best receives and treats tourists. The recognition was awarded based on a recent survey carried out by Travel Agent magazine amongst travel agents in Spain. During the 2008-2009 period, the country received 470,000 Spanish tourists.

The Dominican Republic was awarded the prize for the "Country that Best Treats Tourists." The award was issued during the XVIII Travel-ranking Awards in Spain. The award was presented by the Secretary General of Spain's Tourism Institute, Isabel Garaña, to the Dominican Republic's

Director of the country's Tourism Promotion Office for Spain and Portugal, Paola Dimitri Buonpensiere. The award ceremony is organized annually by the magazine Travel Agent, and the winners are chosen through surveys carried out amongst 800 travel agents in Spain. Thirty-one awards are issued in various categories.

In the airline category, the German carrier Lufthansa received first prize. Three important international hotel chains, all operating in the Dominican Republic, also received various awards. These chains were the Meliá, the Barceló and Hilton chain of hotels. The latter received the award for best foreign hotel chain.

DR, Italy, Holland, Poland and Spain Dominate the World Kiteboarding Competition

Dominican Ariel Corniel won the IX World Kiteboarding Championship 2010, held in Cabarete – on the country's north coast – with the participation of 52 competitors representing 20 countries. Competitors from other countries – Spain, Italy, Holland and Poland – also took home various awards. Cabarete was once a sleepy fishing village, near the city of Puerto Plata. Today, it has become the Caribbean Mecca for the practice of aquatic sports, especially windsurfing and kiteboarding.

Dominican Ariel Corniel was the overall winner of the IX World Kiteboarding Championship 2010, held June 16-18 in the town of Cabarete. Fifty-two competitors, representing 20 nations, participated in the international event which was sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism of the Dominican Republic.

Cabarete was once a sleepy and isolated fishing community near Puerto Plata, the country's most important north coast city. Today, Cabarete is the Caribbean Mecca for the practice of various aquatic sports, such as windsurfing and kiteboarding. Eighteen-year-old Corniel faced the hardest international competitors in this particular sport, specifically Kevin Lengere from Holland who came in second in the overall competition.



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Ariel Corniel



Palacio de Bellas Artes

International Art

The International Art Fair (FIART 2010) will be held between August 31 through September 5 in Santo Domingo. Participants will include 38 art galleries, featuring 180 artists from Europe, the Americas and the Caribbean, and the Dominican Republic.

The Fair will be held in Santo Domingo's Palace of Fine Arts, situated in in downtown Santo Domingo. Exhibits will feature paintings, sculpture, ensembles, video-art, photography and other expressions of art.

Investment Opportunities in the Dominican Republic

Currently the Dominican Republic occupies position number 86 in the worldwide ranking known as the "Economic Freedom Index." This survey is carried out by the Wall Street Journal and the Heritage Foundation. In the overall ranking carried out the Dominican Republic received a 60.3 out of 100, a 1.1% improvement over the percentage received last year. Measurement for the survey is carried out by completing a 10-issue evaluation, which includes the following categories: Entrepreneurial Freedom, Investment Freedom, Trade Freedom, Financial Freedom, Fiscal Freedom, Property Rights, Government Spending, Corruption, Monetary Freedom and Labor Freedom. The Heritage Foundation explained that the Dominican Republic improved its overall percentage points in entrepreneurial freedom, investment freedom and labor freedom.

Your opinion is important
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