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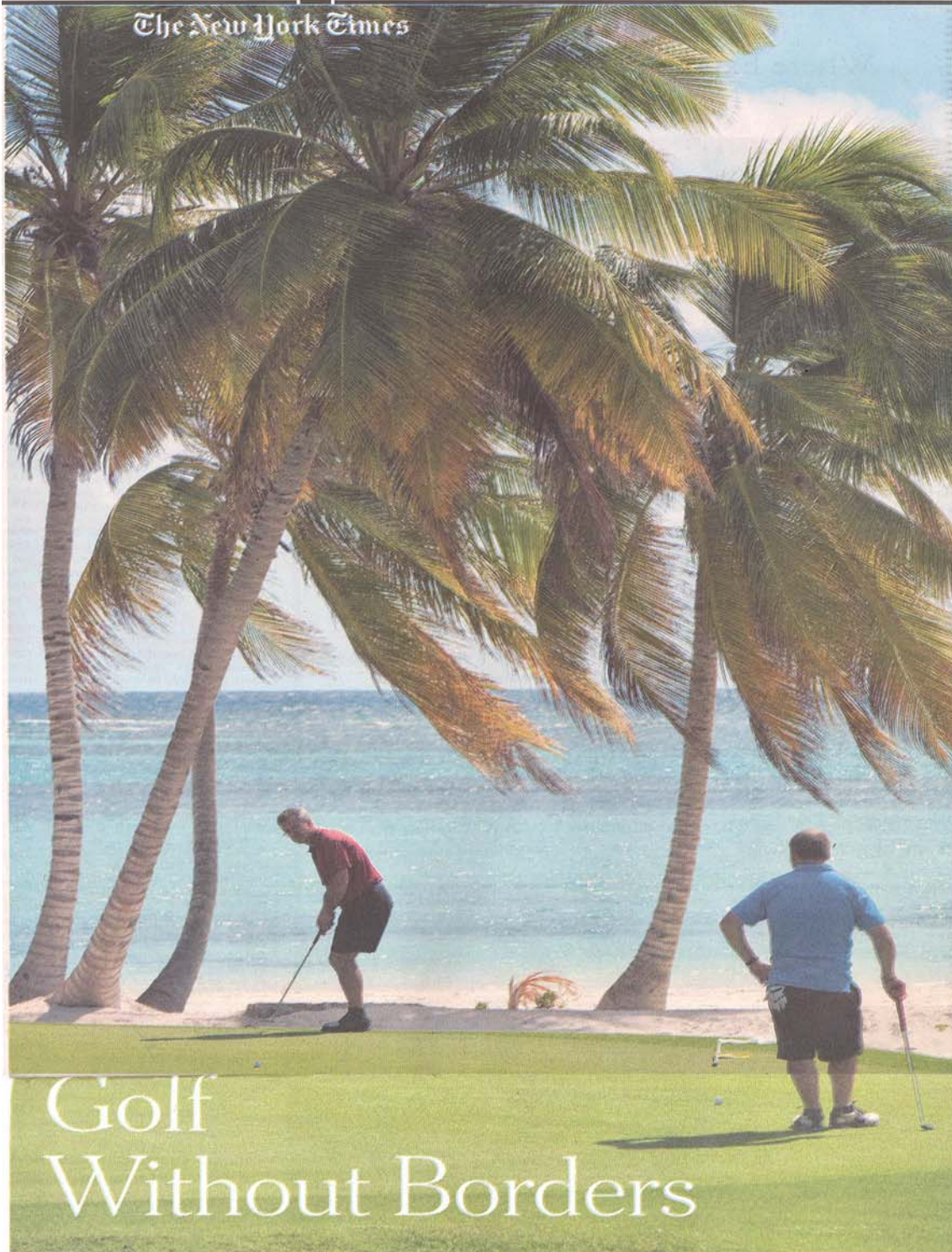
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Golf Without Borders

ON THE GREEN Completing the seventh hole at La Cana in the Dominican Republic, where house sites begin at \$750,000 for a half-acre. MICHAEL FALCO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

From Bermuda to Mexico, 18 Holes Are de Rigueur at Luxury-Home Resorts

By SALLIE BRADY



MICHAEL FALCO FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

SPACE Roberta Finestone and Robert Diamond's house at Punta Cana is 4,200 square feet.

BUYERS seeking high-end golf getaways in the Caribbean have been heading to the Dominican Republic for years; in fact, ever since Casa de Campo opened its Teeth of the Dog course in 1971 in La Romana, the island has been a significant destination for golfers. These days, expansions and new projects are pulling in more prospective buyers.

Casa de Campo itself now has four Pete Dye courses, a new spa, a restaurant by Le Cirque, and new residences that range from \$275,000 to \$1.3 million.

Elsewhere on the island, the Punta Cana Resort & Club is offering two new options. Corales, a 123-villa seaside community, which already counts Oscar de la Renta, Julio Iglesias, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Bunny Williams as residents, has a Tom Fazio course that is scheduled to open this summer. Home sites at Corales start at \$1.8 million for

an acre. Away from the shore at Hacienda, 503 home sites will surround the resort's second course by P. B. Dye, Pete's son, which is scheduled to open in 2009; Hacienda sites start at \$412,000 for a half-acre.

"The golf here is probably the best in the Caribbean," said Robert Diamond, 69, who owns a 4,200-square-foot house with his wife, Roberta Finestone, 64, in La Cana, the resort's first community. Retired from New York's garment industry, they spend 10 months of the year on the island running Home Expressions, a new interior design business, returning to Manhattan for medical check-ups.

Terry Lynn Holland, 55, has a longer commute. The president of Pyramid Precision Machining in San Diego, she returns monthly to her four-bedroom house on the 10th hole at La Cana, where, she says she is likely to see one of the resort's more notable golfers. "Mikhail always pops in for a cold beer when it's raining," she said.

Six miles down the road from Punta Cana is Cap Cana, a 30,000-acre project — twice the size of Manhattan — with Ritz-Carlton and Donald Trump among the developers of a golf, hotel and marina community, with five courses and 1,000 slips.