



## **TORTUGA BAY HONORED WITH THE AAA FIVE DIAMOND AWARD FOR 2011**

*The Oscar de la Renta Designed Hotel is the First in the Dominican Republic to Receive the Prestigious Designation*

**NEW YORK, NY (June 24, 2010)**— Tortuga Bay, the luxury boutique hotel designed by Oscar de la Renta, has been honored with The AAA Five Star Diamond Award for 2011. The hotel is the first in the Dominican Republic and one of only four hotels in the Caribbean to ever receive this distinction.

The AAA Five Diamond Award for hotels and restaurants is reserved for properties that exemplify the highest level of excellence in every facet of operation. Only one-third of 1 percent of the over 31,000 properties approved by AAA achieve this designation.

Tortuga Bay, which opened at the PUNTACANA Resort & Club in 2006, has received much attention for its guest experience, including VIP transport from the airport, access to the exclusive Bamboo Restaurant and Six Senses Spa, and ability to play the resort's two golf courses, the Tom Fazio-designed Corales and P.B. Dye-designed La Cana. The many amenities available to guests make the PUNTACANA Resort & Club the Caribbean's premier golf and beach resort destination.

"We are sincerely honored and humbled for Tortuga Bay to be recognized by both AAA and American Express with these prestigious honors" said Frank Rainieri, President and CEO of Grupo PUNTACANA. "The focus at Tortuga Bay has always been to create a memorable experience for our guests and I am so proud that the hard work of our staff is being rewarded in such a wonderful way."

This honor follows this month's earlier announcement that the hotel was named to the American Express Fine Hotels & Resorts Program. The program is a Card benefit of U.S.-issued Platinum and Centurion® Cards, where in Card members enjoy special amenities when staying with luxury partner hotels around the world.

"It is our goal that guests are treated with incomparable service from the moment their plane touches down in Punta Cana," said Vincenzo Calcerano, General Manager of Tortuga Bay. "It is easy to have a relaxing trip when you are in a setting as beautiful as PUNTACANA Resort & Club, staying in a luxurious villa. However, it takes more than that to make a trip unforgettable. It is our job to ensure an unbelievable experience for all guests who choose to stay with us, and I'm so pleased that our staff is being recognized for their efforts."

Tortuga Bay is a Leading Small Hotel of the World and a member of Virtuoso and Signature Travel Network.

### **About PUNTACANA Resort & Club**

The development of Grupo PUNTACANA dates back to 1969 when Dominican businessman and hotelier Frank R. Rainieri and Theodore W. Kheel, the prominent New York attorney and labor mediator, created a partnership to construct a resort and real estate community that respects the natural habitat of Punta Cana while offering a world-class vacation experience. Maintaining a dedication to sustainable tourism, PUNTACANA Resort & Club has since grown to encompass over 26 square miles and now includes Tortuga Bay; Six Senses Spa; the PUNTACANA Ecological Foundation; four residential communities (Corales, Hacienda, Marina and Arrecife); a full-service marina; nine restaurants; a shopping village; two 18-hole golf courses; and Punta Cana International Airport, a modern facility that incorporates innovative and eco-friendly design. In

1997, Julio Iglesias and Oscar de la Renta joined the Group as co-investors and have made PUNTACANA Resort & Club their home. Currently, Punta Cana is the most highly visited Caribbean destination and is easily accessible from all over the globe.

# # #

**Press contact:**

Kayleigh Horvath

HL Group

212.529.5533

[khorvath@hlgrp.com](mailto:khorvath@hlgrp.com)