

CASA DE CAMPO

The Dominican Republic's polo paradise



If you're seeking the thrill of polo, the Casa de Campo facilities are among the best in the Caribbean. Club member Tania Evans is an avid polo player shares her experiences:

The best part of playing polo in Casa de Campo: The ponies – they are athletic, very sound, sane and comfortable. Decently trained and accustomed to strangers aboard, these ponies know the game and help the rider make the play. The Club de Polo breeds its own polo ponies. Mares are selected based on performance in polo competition. They are bred to imported stallions from fine lines in Argentina, Brazil, England and America. These lines are also crossed with the locally developed ranch pony that has some criollo and 20th century quarterhorse stock.”

The play: Visiting players can find a tournament as high as the 14-goal level because there are a lot of private ponies and serious local players. The grooms

themselves are rated as high as 4 goals. It's not uncommon to have a 12-goal practice going on among visiting pros.

The highlights: For me, it's the 0-2 goal women's international tournament which began in 2008 and will develop into a world-class event. Other favorites are the annual 3-goal Masters, created for the over 50-player and the Moet-Hennessy Tournament.

The atmosphere: The next best thing is the Dominican hospitality. You walk into the polo office and feel like it's your own club. The staff is very friendly whether you're a 6-goaler

from Argentina or a retired hunter/jumper rider who wants to give polo a try between golf games. The club manager, a 4-goaler from Argentina, gives lessons to beginners. You can stick and ball with any of numerous 2-goalers. Experienced players will find themselves in scrimmages with skilled grooms and local players. Sometimes the Club will put together a scrimmage just for you! *For more information, visit casadecampo.com.*

