



## **Spanish Colonial Charm and Modern Luxuries Abound at Casas del XVI Top Luxury Boutique Hotel in Santo Domingo’s Emerging Ciudad Colonial**

Nestled in the heart of the New World’s oldest city, Santo Domingo’s colonial district, the Ciudad Colonial, the boutique hotel, Casas del XVI is the first of its kind in the Dominican Republic – made up of an exclusive collection of newly renovated colonial houses dating back to the Spanish conquistadors.

Maintaining the integrity of the stunning, romantic architecture, the hotel preserves the beauty of the homes that make up the old town neighborhood, offering guests accommodations in 14 rooms spread between five individual houses each reminiscent of the island’s earliest European settlers.

The property will eventually expand to include 20 homes in the colonial neighborhood, including the collection, Casa de los Barcos, which was originally owned by “Pilot Alonso Perez Roldan,” who traveled with Christopher Columbus on his early expeditions to the Americas. Since its inception, it was conceived as an inn and was one of the first stone houses built on the east side of Mercedes street. During the conservation phase of the house, some depictions of galleons that refer to the former owner of the property appeared beneath the layers of plastering and paint – thus inspiring designer Patricia Reid, to make navigation a central theme of the décor.

### **Historical and Cultural Themed Decor Mesmerizes Guests in Sumptuous Rooms and Suites**

With a focus on preserving the original architecture, celebrating the vibrant Dominican culture and drawing upon the area’s international influences, the interior of each house is decorated according to a theme relating to Dominican culture and Spanish Colonial history.

Featuring an eclectic mix of ancient artifacts, local artwork and handcrafted local and international furniture, the cozy interior of each house enchants guests with its colonial charm. The international style evokes a sense of seamless luxury and brings modern sophistication to the historic surroundings, as a butler in each home attends to guests every need.

### **Casa del Arbol Enchants with a Shaded Traditional Spanish Courtyard**

The first house, Casa del Arbol, is located just steps from Duarte Park and the Dominican convent, and minutes away from Colón Park and America's First Cathedral. Decorated around the theme of the “Pineapple,” a symbol of hospitality to the indigenous people, the décor reflects the Dominican culture featuring local artwork, modern carved furniture and antique tropical pieces. The house itself is a centuries old typical colonial corner house. Perimeter halls are lined with street forming bays that incase a charming, private, interior Spanish-style courtyard.

### **Relish the Discovery of the New World at Casa de los Mapas**

The next abode, Casa de los Mapas, or the House of Maps, dates back to the first Spanish settlers. The original structure was preserved and restored during recent renovations, romantically blending modern luxuries with old world charm. The luxurious rooms open out onto a central courtyard with lush tropical vegetation and a welcoming swimming pool open to guests.

Vintage maps from early exploration of the colony adorn the walls of the home's interior. Handcrafted Dominican art, plantation and mother of pearl inlaid furnishings and patterned, romantic tile flooring evoke a tropical ambience that transports guests back in time.

### **Relish the Colonial Architecture of Brand New, Casa Macorís**

The third house, Casa Macorís, opened in August 2015 and was originally part of the Convento de los Dominicos grounds during the time of the Spanish settlers. Guests enjoy in the calming chime of nearby church bells throughout the day, as they relish the house's timeless ambience. Thick walls and an interior garden offer a refreshingly cool interior with spaces designed for enjoyment and pure relaxation.

Dotted with historic accents, each room features a distinct design scheme, while still keeping with the theme of the house. Four poster-beds reign throughout with a timeless elegance that is beautifully complimented by accents with contemporary appeal. Bathrooms are bright and modern, featuring stunning local art and deep soaking tubs.

### **A Sense of Seclusion, Casa del Diseñador**

A fourth residence, Casa del Diseñador, opened in January 2017. This new home has a freshness and ambience, which transports guests back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Upon entering the building, guests are welcomed by brick floors and thick white walls. The spacious rooms are highlighted with bright colors, light fabrics, and images of the tropics are interwoven into the home's décor while maintaining modern amenities.

Other unique characteristics of Casa del Diseñador include the social areas, a perfect place to relax with intimate corners washed in neutral colors. This environment gives a sense of seclusion, privacy and tranquility accentuated by the neighboring church bells and running water from the courtyard plunge pool.

### **An Antillean-Style Household, Casa Antillana**

The fifth residence, Casa Antillana, opened in September 2017. This new house sits on the property originally owned by the Friars of the Order of Santo Domingo. In the second decade of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, city officials granted occupation of these lands to the Friars making it one of the first monasteries founded in the Americas by Spanish Settlers.

Casa Antillana received its name from the recreation of former Antillean homes characterized with touches of tropical décor, elegance and Caribbean vibrancy. The house embodies that same elegance and effervescence through the personality



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emanating from tall doors painted in white with touches of green to the furniture embossed with tropical prints.

### **A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Santo Domingo's Ciudad Colonial, Experiences a Revival**

Casas del XVI is located in the heart of Santo Domingo's Ciudad Colonial, or the colonial district of the historic city. Experiencing a vibrant revival, the Ciudad Colonial is home to the first cathedral, hospital, customs house and university in the Americas, all of which date back to Christopher Columbus' arrival on the island of Hispaniola in 1492.

Today, the area is a mosaic of museums, recondite theaters, ancient monuments, outdoor cafes, delectable restaurants, enchanting nightlife and romantic colonial houses. Centrally located along the cobblestone streets of this cultural paradise, Casas del XVI offers travelers an authentic, friendly, bohemian experience in the ultimate walking city for history buffs and arts enthusiasts.

Guests at Casas del XVI can choose from endless excursions suited to a variety of interests. Possibilities include Old City guided strolls, tours of the colonial churches, a flavors of the city tour and tasting series at the area's finest restaurants, a rum experience at the historic Ron Barcelo distillery, a golf challenge at the Las Lagunas Country Club, a chocolate, clay and sugar tour and many more.

Casas del XVI is managed by Prohotel International based in Houston, Texas. For more information visit [www.casasdelxvi.com](http://www.casasdelxvi.com) or call (855) 849-6396.

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