

Dominican

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sorts would likely have a similar number of rooms. That means roughly 3,500 guests could eventually be chasing the 200-odd rounds available daily at Playa Grande. Banco Central realizes the dilemma and is reportedly already considering building at least one more course to accommodate the additional guests.

But it's hard to imagine a new course vying with the existing, 7,046-yard, Jones-designed layout. One seasoned golf writer who rates courses for a major U.S. consumer golf publication, said he gave Playa Grande the highest rating he has awarded any new course in the past 10 years.

The quality of the new layout shows the government is serious about making the Dominican Republic a popular golf destination. Known more as an exporter of professional baseball players than an importer of golfers, this island nation now boasts two world-class layouts among its 15-course supply. The country's other notable layout is Pete Dye-designed Casa de Campo on the Dominican's southwest shore, a four-hour drive from Playa Grande.

Given its tropical climate and friendly people, a few more courses like Playa Grande could make the Dominican Republic the Caribbean's major golf destination.

Alfonso

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would all do well to spend more time modeling respect by conducting ourselves in a respectful way toward our customers, especially our junior customers. I think we spend way too much time expecting respect. I really believe my Dad and my Uncle Mario had the right idea. They taught respect by example. They used to say you'll never get it, until you give it. However, as wise as I think my Dad and Uncle Mario are (Dad is 83 and Uncle Mario is 81), there is no doubt about it, the Bible says it best in Proverbs:22-6: "Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old, he will not depart from it."

I think it's time we focus more of our energy on giving R-E-S-P-E-C-T rather than spending so much time and energy complaining about not getting it. What do you think?

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AGC purchases England's St. Mellion International G&CC

CORNWALL, England — American Golf (UK) Ltd. has purchased St. Mellion International Golf and Country Club in Cornwall from Martin and Hermon Bond. The purchase represents the 12th acquisition for American Golf-UK, which has tripled in size in the last four years. More importantly, the St. Mellion acquisition establishes American Golf in the premium class

destination golf market here in Britain. A further four to seven acquisitions are expected in 1998 and early 1999.

American Golf, American Golf-UK's parent company, based in Santa Monica, Calif., is the world's largest operator of private golf clubs, resorts, and public courses with 275 locations in the United States and Britain.

Aside from two championship 18-hole

courses, to include the Jack Nicklaus course opened in 1988, St. Mellion International has hotel, conference/catering, pool and leisure facilities, holiday accommodation and timeshare operations. Significant capital investment will be made to enhance St. Mellion's current amenities and additional development opportunities exist to enlarge the facility and amenities.

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