



Customer Review Summary

Richard K.

Beautiful home.

Jul 28, 2018

We loved the clean beautiful tropical home with the large pool and outside area. The maids and overseer took care of our every need. The food was excellently prepared. It was a great experience for our family.

delores t.

9 days in Paradise

Jun 1, 2018

This villa was the perfect place for a girl's trip to celebrate my 70th birthday. The staff was exceptional, always willing to accommodate whatever we asked. We took a couple of excursions, had massage therapists come to us but most of the time we were lounging by and in the beautiful pool. We did not discover the book that described the meals that were available until almost the end of our time there but what the staff prepared for us was always delicious. If you want a relaxing vacation I highly recommend renting this villa. You won't be disappointed.

Keri B.

Best vacation ever!!

Dec 4, 2017

From seeing my name at the airport to the snack served on departure day everything was better than I expected. The home & the people who take care of it & the guests are the best I have ever encountered.

Brad Y.

Thanksgiving in paradise

NOV 17, 2017

My family and in-laws all went here for Thanksgiving this year (and am just now getting around to writing the review given the holidays). There were 13 of us - 8 adults, 5 kids. The house is wonderful, the location excellent and the staff.... well, let me simply say one would be very hard pressed to have a single complaint! It was a truly special week, and one we are all still talking about. (Each morning that I come downstairs at my actual home and find that Ingri isn't

there fixing breakfast I am a little bit disappointed....) The kids wanted to do nothing but swim and drink virgin strawberry daiquiris all day, and the adults were happy to oblige them as we just lounged in or by the pool with beers and drinks and snacks brought to us all day long until it was time to return to the covered patio for another amazing meal. From the house, we walked to the beach 3x, two different restaurants, and the casino within Ocean World. In addition, on the first day, an individual came by the house and talked to us about tour options and booked us on a waterfall climb and a snorkeling trip via catamaran. Masseuses and hair braiders came to the house during the week. It was truly incredible. We will be back!

craig b.

Best place! Nicest and most trustworthy people. :)

Jun 9, 2017

We took a group of 20 people to the DR for a mission trip. Our trip would not have been the same without finding these accommodations. Best place, nicest staff, awesome pool, food, 2 minutes from beach, trustworthy house manager/cooks/security guard. They go the extra mile, are so knowledgeable, and made our trip everything it was. I highly recommend this place

May S

Totally amazing!!

Apr 8, 2017

Our stay at Villa Vista Del Mar was nothing but totally amazing. We were met at the airport by Julio (our go-to-person for everything) and treated like royalty for the entire stay. The Villa was immaculate and the maids maintained it that way, even with 5 kids under the age of 10 running rampant through the entire house and pool area. The grounds were very clean and very well kept. The grass was so luxurious, it was like stepping on cushions. The pool was cleaned every morning and the water was always crystal clear. Mercy and Glenny did all of the cooking, cleaning and laundry. The meals were fabulous and I'm sure everyone weighed much more going home than we arrived. We informed Mercy in the morning how many would be there for each meal that day, and she prepared meals for the number of people required. Her ability to cook just the right amount with little waste and little left over food with that many children astounded all of us. Julio looked after the grocery end of things for us, so the cupboards were never empty of snacks and drinks and any requests were quickly taken care of. The floor plan of the home fit our needs perfectly. Coming from a cooler climate, the air conditioning in the bedrooms was well appreciated, although with all of the ceiling fans and the breezes blowing through the home, it never got unbearably hot even with the oven on to cook meals. When I first started looking for a Villa, I contacted a few different places. Cindy made a great impression. I felt totally comfortable corresponding with her and she answered many questions very quickly. I never once felt any trepidation planning our holiday with her and everything we asked for, we received and then some! I would not hesitate for a second in recommending this home for anyone looking for this type of accommodation for a holiday. We were all completely impressed!!

Adam C.

Great Stay...would stay again.

Mar 19, 2017

I think the prior reviews are pretty accurate. The home is a good base for exploring places such as the 27 waterfalls, Country World, Ocean World, or just hanging out at the house pool or local beach. The food prepared by staff is good. We tried a restaurant or two, (such as Chris & Maddy's) which was okay. The little market (Juan's) is great for cheap sodas and ice cream....and a couple times we were short a dollar or so on cash...but always let us pay them the next day. The only complaint would be the wifi at the home. The internet coming into the home is actually pretty fast (when I plugged the ethernet line directly into my laptop I got decent high speed internet). However, the home's wireless router belongs in a museum....a simple/inexpensive upgrade to the home's wifi would make it much easier to check in with the office (sometimes a necessary evil).

Sandra G.

All-Inclusive with a Personal Touch!

Mar 6, 2017

My friends and I can't say enough good about our week at Vista Del Mar! We were in disbelief the entire time, and commented repeatedly about how amazed we were with the pampering and personalized service we were receiving every minute of the day. The cooking, the cleanliness, the attitude of the staff,...every little detail was spot on and beyond anything we have experienced or would dare to expect! Now, the bar is set very high! Can't wait to return!

Elissa M.

A week in Paradise

Aug 22, 2016

We were a family of 12, ages 10 to 77, and everyone had a great time! The villa is just as represented on their web site. It is very clean and well kept. The staff, Julio, Mercy and Glennie, were wonderful. Mercy and Glennie prepared 3 meals a day. The food was good and fresh - not gourmet but tasty. It is not spicy - except for the chicken salad. you get a list of foods to choose from ahead of time and can add or delete what you want. The Wi-Fi works well as does the cable TV. The electricity is compatible with US current. The only problem that we had was, although the bedrooms have A.C. so you have no problem sleeping, the rest of the villa is not. There are lots of fans but, since we were there for a very hot August week, we felt uncomfortable sitting in the living room watching the Olympics. I would love to return during the cooler months. Nothing like Pina coladas in the pool!

Miner

Fantastic. Everything described is there and more.

Jul 1, 2016

celebrated our 50th anniversary at this villa with our 14 member strong kids and grandkids. We were totally delighted and satisfied. Having the three staff members around 7 days a week is very nice. Nobody in the group had to do anything, but enjoy life. For any large group that wants to visit the North Coast of the Dominican Republic, this villa is heaven.

Cathy S.

Fantastic Holiday

Jun 14, 2016

Julio, Mercy, and Ingrid have spoiled us totally! The vacation began at the airport, where we didn't have to worry about finding our way - and it continued with fun trips, relaxation, great food and such nice people. The Villa is absolutely beautiful. Our group's ages are spread from 18 to 78, but Gus worked with us to find tours that were right for everyone. The family favorites were the catamaran and snorkeling for all, and the Jeep safari for the younger folks. We especially enjoyed Mercy's cooking and having everything all set up for us so we could eat when we wanted to. I can't say enough about how friendly and considerate all of the staff were to our family; Ingrid wouldn't let us do anything. The beautiful setting and being surrounded by friendly people made this trip one of our favorites.

Anonymous

Perfectly well rounded

Jun 13, 2016

There are many reviews covering all of the wonderful aspects of staying here, but the most important theme for our group of 11 ranging from 19yo to 70yo was how perfect the trip as a whole was. Julio, Mercy, Ingrid, and Gus made sure our biggest problem was figuring out what days we wanted to do all of the amazing things, including days of rest and relaxation in the pool at home. The villa, country, people, and activities were all perfect.

Sheryl H.

The best vacation you will have!

Jun 12, 2016

You will be waited on 100%! A glorious experience. You won't lift a finger to do anything. Lots of fun and laughter. The people here are simply amazing, fun and friendly. Snorkeling an absolute must. The staff here work hard to make sure your every need is met. Wonderful meals prepared every day in this beautiful Villa. Would not hesitate to come back!

Melinda W.

Absolutely Wonderful Vacation - 5 unforgettable days

May 14, 2016

Our villa was absolutely gorgeous!!! Our friends and us still can't find words to describe how great a time we had. The villa was very clean and well appointed. Always got a good night's rest. But waking daily to fresh coffee and breakfast prepared and served outdoors, was more than anyone could ask. We spent a great deal of time in the pool and relaxing in the spacious

outdoor patio area. The service we received was beyond our expectations and we would definitely return again!

Kathie H.

Paradise home away from home

Mar 31, 2016

I can't begin to say how much it meant to our family of 14 (3 months to 76 years) to be welcomed into this home for the celebration of our 40th wedding anniversary. We planned this once in a lifetime experience for a year and owner, Cindy was there for us every step of the way. She turned herself inside out to make this a perfect family holiday as we continued to provide her with challenge after challenge. Houseman, Julio and his wife, Mercy and their daughter, Ingrid were true angels sent to create heaven on earth for us during our 12 days at the Villa. We had two different medical situations in our family while there and Julio went above and beyond the call of duty telling us "no problema; you are our guests". No problem was too big or silly to be solved. We came to call him Saint Julio. Likewise, Mercy's extraordinary cooking and Ingrid's excellent care of us endeared them to us forever. Tears flowed when we left in great thanksgiving for the wonderful memories made for our children and grands. We will never forget our very special time at Villa Vista del Mar. Thank you, Cindy, Julio, Mercy and Ingrid.

Sue K

A FABULOUS FAMILY HOME TO RELAX & ENJOY

Mar 20, 2016

As a three generational Family of 16 (ages 3 -76) we enjoyed every aspect of the Villa, the surrounds & the atmosphere created by Julio, Mercy, Ingrid & Charro....Pedro & Pioduring our week long stay. We especially enjoyed the varied gathering places within the Villa..be it large bedroom, pool side, outdoor patio, indoor living room, dining spaces and the card room...where the kids..ages 6, 6, 8 & 10 were taught to play poker by their grandfather!!!!!! The Bedroom on the main floor was a must for us as we have one member with mobility issues. It worked a treat! We took two excursions..a City Tour where an air conditioned bus was all ours. We requested an add on...'the market'..it was fabulous!.. The Catamaran Day Trip took 12 of us as well as others to see the DR from seaward. The snorkelling an added bonus for some. Easter week-end was billed as a busy time but we found the atmosphere at Cofresi to be a snapshot of local flavour...this is sometimes missing when one moves into a resort setting and stays there...we loved the action on the beach. All past reviews have spoken of the wonderful meals prepared by Mercy. Each day we eagerly awaited supper hour to see what had been prepared for us and we were never disappointed. Even the vegetarian in our midst was always delighted with her choices. We enjoyed an evening of fresh fish purchased on the day by Julio, as well as a special order birthday cake..decorated as a baseball diamond...what else, after all it is the Dominican Republic. With the functions on phones today...we were able to translate into Spanish conversations that otherwise would not have happened...and in reverse..we translated Spanish into English much to the delight of all. Those conversations

happened often, over food, recipes, lifestyle & family. We know the staff moved on to the next group of guests, who were waiting in the wings when we left, and they too will be treated with respect and kindness...as if they are the only people who matter! From a Canadian perspective Villa Vista Del Mar was the perfect site from which to enjoy a family holiday in warm, refreshing, relaxing surroundings....and that was needed as we waited an hour plus on the tarmac as the plane was de iced twice before we could leave Halifax.... S. Kelly...Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Christine L.

Blending casual charm with luxury accomodations

Mar 13, 2016

I stayed at the villa with a group of 9 yogis. We practiced daily in the mornings in the outdoor patio area, which was great because of the ceiling fans and curtains to deal with any early morning bugs or blinding sunrises. The villa and staff went above and beyond our expectations. This location is beautiful, the views are stunning and the people are amazing. It is a safe neighborhood with a modest beach. I am usually not one for "staying in" when I go on vacation but the villa was so nice it was hard to leave! We got in house massages, hair braiding and pedicures. Also, we took trips to Paradise Island and the 27 waterfalls. We all can't wait to go back! Thank you.

john s.

Thoroughly enjoyed the property and especially the staff. Julio's family were great hosts!

Mar 5, 2016

We were unfortunately hit with a round of viruses that tore through the whole family. Julio and his family certainly earned their tips helping to take care of all of us. Their pleasant personalities and efficiency were very much appreciated. The home and pool were lovely and very comfortable for the 10 of us. The food was excellent and well stocked. The entire family agreed that this is a place we would recommend to all, and one that we would return to at a later date.

William C.

Wonderful vacation with friends at Vista Del Mar in Playa Cofressi!

Feb 26, 2016

Our house was beautiful - the pool was amazing - and the staff couldn't have been better! On our first day there a couple of us had fantastic massages outside on the second floor balcony! We had wonderful tours into the country side arranged by Gus and all of the arrangements were flawless. The only downside was that some of our group got sick and we assume it could have been from meals that we had outside of the Villa or possible carelessness regarding the drinking water - even though we had bottled water even in our bathrooms. It was hard to come home!!

Anna W.

Couldn't Have Been Better!

Feb 5, 2016

From Julio meeting us at the airport on arrival, to him dropping us off for departure, this was a week of truly amazing beauty, pampering, and general memory-making that we will cherish always! We were a group of eight adults - six siblings and two spouses - looking for that once-in-a-lifetime vacation experience, and we found it at this beautiful villa in Cofresi Playa! The rooms were spacious and clean, the pool was well maintained and inviting, the meals prepared by Mercy and Ingrid were delicious and plentiful (they even accommodated the two vegetarians in our group!), and everything we needed was provided with a smile. We couldn't have asked for better service! Cindy was EXTREMELY helpful in answering all our questions beforehand. She connected us with Gus, who helped us arrange excursions for the week - including having two women come to the villa to provide massages and facials for us! - so we were able to see some of the local area and enjoy the beauty of both the mountains and ocean. We were within walking distance of the beach and a few restaurants and shops. Everyone we met was friendly and helpful. The only disappointment was that we couldn't stay longer! Thanks, Cindy and staff, for a truly wonderful week!

Emilie d.

Great place for a great price!

Nov 26, 2015

My time at Playa Cofresi was unforgettable! We did not have to lift a finger the entire time we were there and it was an incredibly relaxing vacation! The food and drinks were wonderful. The entire house was very clean and accommodating. And the hammock on the balcony is the perfect place to watch the sunset!

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Dmoney

An absolute gem!!

Oct 23, 2015

While yes this villa seems too good to be true, it's not. The pictures don't actually do it justice. Our group included 4 couples but the villa could have accommodated a much larger group comfortably. The staff though was the real value in this villa. Julio, Mercy, and Ingrid were so unbelievably attentive and focused on making your vacation the best ever it blew us away. We only had one meal away from our home away from home. I would recommend you do the same. Mercy is a fabulous cook and cooking is my part time hobby. Julio did whatever needed to get done and did it now. Gus came to the Villa Sunday morning and we had all our excursions planned and paid for within an hour, all we did was enjoy, and did we ever. The Jeep Safari was a wonderful way to see the real Dominican and was an outstanding value for what you received. The owner Cindy was so incredibly accommodating and responsive it was a true joy to work with her. My e-mails were normally answered within an hour or so. If you and your family or friends want a truly relaxing vacation in a luxury destination then this is what you've been looking for. Thanks to Cindy and the whole staff at the Villa for making our vacation one to remember.

Catalina M.

Amazing vacation

Aug 4, 2015

Help

This was one of the best vacation rentals I booked. The house is amazing, we were 10 girls and we felt like we barely filled half the house, even with our 20 suitcases (we were gone a week). The staff is truest what made the experience. Julio, Mercy and their daughter were very nice, helpful, hard working and respectful people. By the time I woke up they would already be at the house, Julio would be cleaning the pool each morning and the ladies were preparing breakfast I. The kitchen. We would be served coffee and then breakfast. Out of the week we were there, we had 2 excursions and 1 day we walked down to the beach which is a 5 minute walk. Other days we stayed at the house in the pool. They cleaned the house and prepared lunch. Also before the left each night they prepared dinner and left it in the kitchen, the table would be set, all we had to do was eat. The food was delicious, Julio did some shopping before we arrived and went to the store as needed, extra charge but worth it. On days we went on excursion we would arrive home and have dinner waiting. It was a sad day when we had to leave this place to fly home. The house is in a great location, felt safe, we are 10 girls so that was important. I would definitely rent this property again. One thing I'd like to point out to future renters is that there were mosquitos on the patio area were we sat and bug spray is not on my list of items to pack when going somewhere tropical so you may want to add it to yours.

Julio was kind enough to go out and buy us some bugs spray. If your there for a few days I would recommend doing an excursion or 2, we rented a boat and went to paradise island and then we went hiking and jumped into 12 waterfalls/zip lines. Bother were fantastic and unforgettable experiences. It was truly one of my best vacations and extremely relaxing. Warning: you may not want to leave!

Deborah C.

Sep 2, 2015

Amazing vacation!

Jul 17, 2015

I must say that this was one of the best family vacations that we have ever been on! This was our 15th year of family vacations with teens included. Gus was a great help in deciding what to do with the teens each day. We all enjoyed hiking up the 7 waterfalls then slid and jumped back down. We also had a guide join us in leading the teens in a "surprise" hike to the top of Mount Isabel de Torres with a cable car ride back down the mountain. 3 long strenuous hours of hiking! We also enjoyed swimming with the dolphins, snorkeling and exploring a bit on our own. Best of all, the staff was just amazing. My daughter was thrilled to find out that the clothes she could not find were being washed for her each day! The food that was prepared for us was delicious and we went home with a few new recipes. This was a TRUE vacation.

Very Happy Traveler

Amazing family vacation

Apr 17, 2015

I went to Playa Cofresi with my husband, small child, friends of ours who also have a small child and another couple. We had the BEST time. The house is gorgeous with an amazing staff. Macy (who is the head cook and housekeeper) was fabulous. We never had anything but great things to say about all the breakfasts and lunches she made for us. As well as the cocktails. The pina colada was outstanding and the crowd favorite turned out to be the frozen rum punch...order one and I guarantee you will be ordering more. We went out for dinner every night and again had fantastic food. We hired a nanny to come to the house every day from 11am until we got home from dinner, usually around 10pm. She was able to watch both babies without any problems. I would HIGHLY recommend hiring her if you are traveling with children, it really adds to your ability to relax. I don't know the exact spelling of her name, but it sounds like Sobayda. We also hired a masseuse, Hector, to come to the house for an hour long massage out on the terrace. It was unreal. So relaxing and refreshing. The pool area is perfection, with shaded seats and lots of suntanning spots. The outdoor open air patio was probably my favorite feature of the house. It is where we ate breakfast and lunch and also where we sat in the evenings for pre-dinner drinks. The weather was perfect everyday so we were fortunate enough to be able to be outside at all hours of the day unless we were sleeping. Staying at this house really felt like staying at a luxury resort. Everything was taken care of for us, from the cooking, to the cleaning and laundry. Laundry! When we traveled

home we did not have heaps of laundry to do like we normally do after a vacation. I would recommend this house to ANYONE that enjoys relaxation, pampering, sun, fun, drinks, and food all at an affordable price!

Kim

Can't wait to go back!

Apr 17, 2015

I visited Villa Vista del Mar with my husband, 7 month old son, my parents, and another couple including their 9 month old son. From the moment we arrived at the house, I was completely relaxed. We had a babysitter come to the house from 11am-10pm each day to help take care of the kids. She played with the kids and took care of everything. The house was cared for by Mercey and I ate like a queen the entire time! The food was amazing and each meal was delicious. The house was also a treat! There were plenty of spots to take naps in the sun or shade. We played lawn games and had drinks outside on the various patios at night. We even had massages one day on the upstairs terrace!

MJ P.

Trip of a Lifetime!

Mar 24, 2015

We visited this villa in Puerto Plata from March 25 until March 29 this past week. It was FABULOUS. There were 13 of us celebrating my Mother's 80th birthday and every one of us had an extraordinary amount of space in this gorgeous, spotless home. There is plenty of sun and shade for everyone and the house can accommodate any age. Mercy, Ingrid and Julio took such good care of us that we could not possibly "want" for a thing. The food was amazing and it just kept coming. Each breakfast, lunch and dinner was a surprise (Julio offered to show us but we didn't want to know) and Mercy is the best cook out there. The food, drinks, everything were so amazing, we were all stuffed to the gills after each meal. There are things to walk to very nearby, but the home was so lovely we just did not want to leave. Amazingly, there are air conditioning units in every single bedroom so you can remain cool at night and sleep like a top. There is WiFi so you don't have to miss out on posting to FB or to Twitter so everyone knows what a fabulous time you are having! The owner of this home is unbelievably accommodating, understanding and just wants to share this lovely experience with you. She sent us beautiful documents which outlined every single thing about the place. I printed a bunch and passed them out so people could read up on them before the trip. For example, the home has both 220 and 110 voltage so you don't need your converters. Many of the paintings in the home were painted by the owners Mother and you can just feel the love and coziness, even though the house is so big. Julio was so accommodating. We all came in from the airport together, but needed a separate trip to pick up a family member. Julio always got us everywhere we needed to be on time. He is just wonderful. The entire family is warm and gracious. There is a safe for valuables and a security guard who stays around the place all night. We hired a local photographer to come to the house for a family portrait. This was a

wise decision because the pictures turned out gorgeous. I cannot thank this owner and her staff enough for these unbelievable memories that we all have. I will definitely want to return! We all loved it, especially the birthday girl!

Brian S.

Fantastic

Mar 15, 2015

What a fabulous time our family had at Villa Vista Del Mar. This was the first time staying in a villa - we typically do an all-inclusive resort - and we LOVED it. The villa is gorgeous, the pool is wonderful, the outdoor areas are incredible. My wife and I took 4 out of six children plus our son-in-law and one grandchild (6 months). Since this was our first time with a villa and staff, we weren't completely sure how we were going to feel about it. It took about 2 hours before we all realized, "this is heaven." Julio, Mercy, and Ingrid made everything so relaxing and comfortable. The meals were tremendous, and the service exquisite. We felt so close to all of them. The location of this villa was perfect for us. Just a couple minutes from the beach and a couple minutes more to Ocean World. The beach is a very natural setting - exactly what we wanted on this trip. I especially enjoyed the way the lush green grass grew right up to the edge of the beach in a park-like setting. It was a real treat. Truth is, though, that we spent most of our time lounging around by the pool and enjoying another Pina Colada delivered by Ingrid with a beautiful smile. One of the highlights for us, too, was the massages on the upper decks. We arranged for "couples" - two at a time - and 6 of us had absolutely delightful full-hour massages. We honestly considered setting it up to do again another day... just not enough days in the week. Everyone agreed this was one of the best vacations we've had. We're already working on dates for next year. And next time we hope to have the other two children and three grandchildren. What great memories for the family. Oh, I almost forgot. Cindy was awesome. I'm absolutely certain we drove her nuts as we prepared for our trip. We had so many questions and considerations. She was always responsive and helpful and went well above and beyond in making sure we felt comfortable as the time for our visit drew near. Her energy in our preparation had a significant impact on our experience. Thanks Cindy!

kelita d.

Amazing is an Understatement

Mar 10, 2015

I don't even know where to begin. We booked Villa Del Mar for a 5 day vacation. The house was absolutely gorgeous. There were 8 of us total and we felt right at home. The villa is so spacious that we didn't even use all of the rooms. I can not say enough wonderful things about the staff. From the moment we arrived we were welcomed with huge friendly smiles and made to feel completely comfortable. Julio was there for whatever we needed and was eager to ensure we were well taken care of. Merci, the chef, is nothing short of extraordinary. You can really tell she puts her heart into her food. Every meal was perfect and timely. Ingrid was so attentive to ensuring we were comfortable. They even washed our clothes!! A private tour

guide can to visit us to inform us of all activities in the area allowing us to schedule them right then and their. We did a 3 hour 12 waterfall adventure, ziplining, horseback riding, massages etc.. I recommend this villa 150%. The owner is very professional and answered any and all questions leading up to our vacation very timely. We really enjoyed ourselves and are already planning on returning again.

Lorna V.

Absolutely amazing

Jan 10, 2015

5 of us girls booked this villa for a ten day vacation. I had only seen photos and read the reviews however there are times that photos are not actual. This villa is nicer than the photos. The house staff is more than amazing. Julio, Mercy and Ingrid made our stay fabulous. They are a family which made the entire stay feel very much family oriented. They cook, clean, pamper us with no shortcuts. So many of my friends want to go to this villa so if you are thinking about booking, you best do it as the calendar fills up quickly. The rooms are big with most having an en suite. We had massages right at the house along with manicures, pedicures, hair braids etc. You never have to leave the villa:) I would definitely go back even if it was only two of us, the rental price is so reasonable and the house staff and villa are worth more than a million bucks.

Alan R.

Fun in Puerta Plata

Dec 26, 2014

The facilities at this villa were fantastic, especially the huge pool area. The help were helpful, courteous, and competent while still being unobtrusive.

Jim S.

All that we expected and more

Dec 18, 2014

We chose the property based on the pictures and the reviews. Cindy was great to work with. We found everything in the reviews to be true with one exception. I was skeptical about Gus but he proved to be great to work. Julio was waiting for us when we arrived at the airport and his wife Mercy greeted us with snack and cold drinks. We had a hard time getting used to be catered to but we were always greeted with a smile. Mercy is not a mind reader so if you are not getting what you expect or hope for, let her know. The beach is close but not for those expecting the sandy white beaches that you usually find at resorts. The catamaran trip is a must! My wife and I worried about needing to fill every day with an excursion of some sort but for those that want to relax in a roomy and comfortable home, Playa Confresi cannot be beat. Don't over think it--book it.

Steph

Unforgettable!!!

Dec 5, 2014

This was the very first vacation that my grandparents had been outside of Canada and they couldn't have been happier! Julio and Mercy made the whole vacation an amazing experience! We did not eat out at any of the restaurants because Mercy is such an amazing cook! The Villa was absolutely gorgeous and had everything necessary to make it a very special and relaxing vacation! I would definitely recommend staying at Vista del Mar Playa Cofresi! Thank you to Cindy and John for renting us this beautiful Villa and a HUGE thank you to Julio and Mercy for making our trip absolutely unforgettable!!!

Phil F.

fabulous caribbean vacation

Nov 14, 2014

recently stayed at the villa vista del mar, I expected much and quite happily received a lot more than anticipated. the villa itself is very impressive, large rooms exquisitly furnished, the house art work was in a word, "unbelievable". the larger than life pool was always clean and most enjoyable. The outside furniture was first class. The on-site maintenance personnel cleaned the pool, grounds and furniture daily. The cook prepared meals that justified "eating in" rather than going out to a restaurant, of which there were many and all very good. The housekeeping personnel made the beds and cleaned the rooms, scrubbed the baths and all in all kept the villa spotless. Obviously I enjoyed a wonderful time at Vills Vista Del Mar. Looking forward to my next visit in the coming year.

Jordann L.

WOW! WHEN CAN WE GO BACK?!

Oct 13, 2014

The title of this review says it all...we had such an incredible time in Playa Cofresi. From the perfect weather to the beautiful and pristine home, to the incredible staff- I have nothing but wonderful things to say and would highly recommend to anyone! The food: can I eat like this everyday? Incredibly fresh, well made, well presented and DELICIOUS. The pool/scenery: The perfect backdrop of tropical trees, blue sky and water are the ideal view while you relax by the pool (and get served Pina Colada's!) House: Incredible comfortable, clean and spacious. Truly like being in a 5 star hotel with the comforts of home! So much look forward to my next vacation in the DR at this incredible getaway!

JR from New Jersey

Paradise!

Sep 26, 2014

Stay at the villa couldn't have been more perfect, weather was a 10, accommodations were very clean and comfortable, and Macy's cooking was unbelievable!! She made several Dominican dishes, beefsteak benehana(?) our favorite was mouth watering. Honestly, her cooking is better than going out. Went down with several family members and we had a blast.

We didn't have a car and relied on taxis which were reliable. Would definitely return to the DR and stay at this Villa.

Tina

What an amazing honeymoon!

Sep 21, 2014

We picked this place as our honeymoon. Julio and Mercy were amazing! The weather was beautiful every single day, and the house was just a palace! Extremely clean, air conditioned, and very nice rooms to relax in. Julio picked us up and brought us back to the airport and his English is excellent! Cindy was amazing to work with and had all of our meals prepared ahead of time. All we had to do is just sit by the pool and sip on our drinks! It was simply amazing! Definitely paradise!

Jennifer M.

AMAZING trip

Aug 1, 2014

We had an absolutely wonderful time. The staff were so kind and helpful and even pitched in with our daughter. Cindy was incredibly responsive and made everything very easy. We could not have imagined a better location and level of service for our family vacation.

Emmanuelle B.

Most unbelievable views!

Jul 29, 2014

The villa offers the most unbelievable views of the ocean and nearby mountains, breathtaking and scenic. The whole villa is stylishly decorated and offers complete amenities. The rooms are huge and airy, and the beds are clean and comfortable. The kitchen is fully equipped. Overall, this is the perfect place to relax, getaway and forget everything.

Eddy

Playa Cofresi – A True Paradise.

Jul 14, 2014

Our Vacation in Cofresi was a combination 50th birthday for me and graduation for my son. My wife knew I had always dreamed of a vacation home with staff as an option. I was gifted with this vacation many months before our arrival date. Right from the get go, our host was available to us to answer all of our questions, from what to pack (very little), to what to do, and what to expect. She also was most helpful in guiding us in menu options. I can only say that dining out is truly not necessary as you will not find better meals than what is served by Miss Macy and Miss Ingrid. The cost of dining at Playa Cofresi makes vacation here incredibly reasonable. The home is located a block from the beach, but we usually would walk the beach and then lounge poolside as we were catered to like royalty. The deck is expansive and could easily accommodate 20 plus. Plenty of shade options and the pool itself was always crystal. Macy and Ingrid were always popping out offering us our favorite beverages or introducing us

to one of their famous concoctions. The home, offers any amenity you can think of. All the bedrooms have individual a/c to stay chilled if desired and the common rooms stay cool with many fans and natural breezes. But, as beautiful and luxurious as the home is, it is the wonderful people who made our vacation unforgettable. From the moment we were picked up at the airport by Mr. Julio every need was met. All meals prepared, all shopping was taken care of. Food and drink were served to us with smiles the entire time. Security was provided by Pablo and his assistant each day. We were privileged to get to know these wonderful people and establish a friendship, a true heartfelt relationship. Our entire family looks forward to our next visit to Playa Cofresi and time with our "new" family. Eddy

Anonymous

Haddox-Tarnow-Fagan Family Vacation May 2014

May 14, 2014

Up until now I have never wrote a review, so I will do my best to articulate our experience at the Villa. First I will start by saying the staff at this Villa is by far the best I have ever encountered. I surely would use all of the characters in this review to go on and on about them! Julio does a great job of translating and keeping the grounds in pristine condition and his wife, Mercy, is quite possibly the nicest lady I have had the pleasure to meet..... and the woman can COOK!!! Everything that she prepared for us was delicious. We had 2 people in our group with food allergies and restrictions and 1 that is a picky eater but she was able to work within those limitations and create some amazing dishes! We did not book our excursions through Gus. We did not care for him at all and in fact, we were quite taken aback by his cocky attitude and pushy nature. Not only did he show up an hour before his scheduled time, but was quite adamant that we should make our plans right there, without our husbands (they were out walking the beach and touring the bars killing time until Gus was scheduled to come), but upon their return, Gus wanted us to immediately pick our excursions without opportunity to discuss it... this clearly did not sit well with our group! So, not a fan of Gus or his personality. We did find another tour guide at a local restaurant/bar, and we ended up having a great time for the week touring different things. My biggest suggestion when you rent this location..... EAT AT THE VILLA!!!! first and foremost, no food that we had, including the food down town Puerta Plata, even came close to Mercy's cooking! 2ndly, I got food poisoning from Chris and Maddy's (bad fish! gamble you take traveling off season I guess) and 3rdly, the local Mexican taco joint on the beach charged us 25% tax.... YES TWENTY-FIVE you read that correctly! Total rip off and the food was NOT good at all. About the most enjoyable meal that we had outside the villa was the Italian restaurant on the beach, they had decent pizza, but nothing like our home of Chicago ha! I would choose Mercy's cooking any day over anything offered outside the house. Finally, Mercy was an angel during my food poisoning. The others went on the scheduled excursion and she stayed with me and made a home remedy and checked on me very frequently and did her best to keep me hydrated and cool. We would definitely return and tell our friends. Great place!

Stephanie S.

Relaxing, refreshing and luxurious stay at the Villa that has it all!

May 9, 2014

This Villa is a bit like a dream come true. The homeowners have found the perfect balance; combining the amenities of a luxurious hotel, but the comforts of a rental home all in one. The staff was very inviting and accommodating the entire time, making us feel at home and like family. This house would be perfect for a big group, but also an idyllic and romantic getaway for two like we had. I don't think we could have found another place to make us happier during our stay, it does not compare to other tropical vacations we've had. This Villa and the outdoor patio/pool area provide all the space and amenities you could hope for, plenty of dining space (we dined outside for every meal!), endless comfortable chairs to lounge on in the sun or shade, balconies off the bedrooms (best way to wake up in the morning, or open the doors for an afternoon nap!), breathtaking views from all angles, and so many fun things to do nearby. All in all, by the time we were leaving we were already plotting out a time to come back. This was the PERFECT vacation, and we can't wait to return one day!

SHARON M.

Our experiences.....

May 2, 2014

Our group of 5 really enjoyed this villa. Julio was at the airport to greet us and transport us. He even let us make a brief stop at La Sirena for wine and booze. Upon arrival at the house, Nelsida and Mercy greeted us with delicious pina coladas. They also served us a nice snack. Very gracious ladies. I chose the middle master suite upstairs. The only complaint about this room is there is no tv. There is a lovely balcony right outside your door. The 'ladies' kept the house immaculate. They were always cleaning and mopping, when they weren't cooking. We had our breakfast al fresco each morning on the patio. Delicious meals, always accompanied by fresh fruit. I agree with previous posters about the helicopters...annoying. Julio is invaluable....always there to help us translate and answer our questions. He kept the pool pristine. On day 2 Gus came to arrange our excursion. We had done our homework and knew what we wanted, the Puerto Plata City tour....which included the fort and the tram. Jose came for us the next day promptly at 9. He was very informative. My only complaint is that he took us to a couple places that we hadn't asked to go to....and at each one there was somebody looking to 'guide' us....and looking for a tip to do so. Obviously pre-arranged. Rachel and her friend came to give us massages and mani/pedi. Lovely girls. There are hampers in each room and the 'ladies' would empty them each morning and do our laundry. How nice to come home from a trip with CLEAN clothes! We were very disappointed in the beaches. We arrived on a Sat. and took a walk down....crowded and filthy. It seems everybody just leaves their garbage right where they sit. It was worse on Sun. The only beach we enjoyed was at Cabarete, about an hour away. And \$100 cab ride. I did have a problem with having to provide dinner each night for the security guard. If we were eating out there often was nothing substantial in our fridge to give him. It became a challenge each night to provide a suitable meal. Would I return to this villa? Yes, if it was located elsewhere. Puerto Plata did not impress me at all. Cindy was

very easy to deal with. And the staff was like family...we hated to leave them. Thanks for a nice trip.

irene

A most relaxing vacation

Apr 9, 2014

I stayed here for 8 days to relax and rewind. The staff was attentive but low keyed in their attention to my friends and me. I was concerned about using/drinking the water, but at this place there was absolutely no issue because the staff provided bottle water or must have boiled any other cooking water they used. I had a truly delightful time relaxing at the house and at the nearby beach.

Jan

Pampered

Apr 3, 2014

Just returned from a wonderful five days at the Villa Vista del Mar! Every aspects of our stay was relaxing and comfortable. Nelsida pampered us daily with delicious coffee, fresh squeezed juice, hearty meals, and rum drinks. I particularly enjoyed my personal balcony area for my massage, lounging on the sun bed, swimming in the private pool, walking to the beach and swimming in the warm ocean waters! My favorite restaurant was Los Tres Cocos and my favorite adventure was walking through the 27 waterfalls, even if we only did 12! Starting to think about our next trip so we can get to all 27 falls, Felix was amazing!

Tresha E.

Phenomenal place to stay!

Mar 15, 2014

I wanted to take the time to let anyone interested in a vacation know how absolutely amazing this home is! Also, I want to express how much we appreciated Julio and how he was attentive to all of our needs and how kind he was! Our group had tons of questions, more than what he wanted to answer I am sure (haha).....Not sure how begin with Mercy and Nelsida and the gratitude, compassion, caring, genuine, extremely hard working, loving, joking, sweet ladies that I felt so blessed to meet! I could go on and on with the two of them. They both have got to be some of the most amazing women I have met and they are missed by our entire group! This Couples Retreat was the first for our group and I can tell you with the experience we had in this beautiful home and the truly beautiful people that took care of us we will RETURN! I want to thank you for making our process so simple! It was a vacation that will never be forgotten! Thank you again for making our vacation one of a kind! We all feel so blessed!

John M.

FAMILY & FRIENDS - AN EXCEPTIONAL VACTION AT VISTA DEL MAR

Feb 27, 2014

OUR FAMILY OF YOUNG ADULTS AND THEIR FRIENDS PLUS MY WIFE AND I HAD AN OUTSTANDING TIME AT YOUR SPACIOUS HOME IN THE COFRESI AREA OF PUERTO PLATA, DR. IN PARTICULAR, THE STAFF WAS ABSOLUTELY WONDERFUL AND READY TO DO ANYTHING WE ASKED!! THERE WAS GREAT FOOD AND THE SERVICE THE PROVIDED WAS THE BEST. EVERYONE HAD A WONDERFUL TIME AND THE ACCOMMODATIONS WERE EVEN BETTER THAN DESCRIBED ONLINE!!! WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND THIS HOME FOR YOUR VACATION - WHETHER IT INCLUDES ONLY ADULTS - AN ENTIRE FAMILY (LITTLE ONES TOO!) -- OR A MIX OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS. ALSO - THE OWNERS WERE A DREAM TO WORK WITH AND GREAT COMMUNICATORS -- PERFECT COMBINATION!!!

Jeff L

Vista del Mar-velous!

Feb 21, 2014

We could not have been more pleased with our week-long stay at Vista del Mar. The house is wonderful with large bedrooms and comfortable furniture. Especially nice to have so many bedrooms with en suite. Of course, we spent most of our time outside, relaxing on the porch or laying by the pool. The staff at Vista del Mar couldn't be more welcoming. Julio was right there to meet us at the airport and Mercy and Nelsida saw to our every need and cooked delicious meals for us. We did take one day trip to go snorkeling, but otherwise stayed at the house and just chilled out in the wonderful environment and weather. Vista del Mar was the perfect antidote to the cold East Coast weather this year and we're already talking about making a return visit. We highly recommend Vista del Mar for friends and families.

Holly

Great house!

Dec 26, 2013

Our family rented this house and it was a wonderful get-away. Our group, 15 in total, ranged in age from 2.5 to 75 and it was perfect for everyone. We never felt like we were on top of each other and always had room to spread out. For one week, we barely lifted a finger as the wonderful staff took care of our needs. From grocery shopping, to picking up medicine, to cooking and cleaning, to doing our laundry...it was a true vacation. For me, a stay at home mom who cooks and cleans up and does all the household chores, it was FABULOUS not to do any of that for one whole week!!! The staff was unbelievably nice and would do anything for us. They were kind, wonderful with the kids and nice to have around. Julio spoke English well but the 2 women not really at all. There was only one Spanish speaker in our group but we managed to figure things out just fine. The house itself was lovely. All the bedrooms were nicely decorated and comfortable. No complaints about decor, set-up, etc. the pool and patio area were nice as well. Lots of seating in both shade and sun. The house is a quick walk to the small town of Playa Cofressi, where there are a few restaurants, a gift shop, a convenience store and the beach. It is also within walking distance to Ocean World where there is a casino, snorkeling, dolphin experiences, etc. There is one negative to this house and that is the mega resort, Lifestyles, in the town. They throw parties every Thursday and Sunday nights and

because of resort's positioning on the bay, the sound travels up the hill to the residential neighborhoods. The noise from the parties and bands didn't personally bother me because I can sleep through noise like that, but for others in our group, it was a problem. Additionally, the VIPs of this resort are transported to and from the airport via helicopter so there is a ton of helicopter traffic all day long. This was a bummer because it took away some of the peacefulness and beauty. It by no means ruined our vacation, or even came close to casting a shadow over it, however. I would definitely recommend this property but feel like anyone renting the house should be prepared for a bit of noise pollution.

Jess

We found paradise

Oct 18, 2013

This was the best vacation ever. It is as beautiful and as nice as the pictures. The best part is absolutely the staff. They are warm friendly and Macy is one exceptional cook! After one day the six of us were convinced, we found paradise!!

Dr. E.C.

ONE OF THE BEST VACATIONS OUR FAMILY HAS TAKEN

Aug 8, 2013

Being a Dominican native myself, but growing up in the U.S. has allowed me to vacation at wonderful places. For 2013, we decided to vacation in my native country Dominican Republic, since my children had never been there. We began to make arrangements with Cindy, the owner of the villa, I knew that this was going to be a good vacation. She was courteous and truthful from the beginning, and truthful she was. We got to the villa for a 7 day stay. The first person we met was Julio. He was attentive, professional and courteous from the minute we arrived at the villa. Then we met Mercy and Rosa. Two of the most caring, attentive and accommodating workers we have had attending to us while on any vacation. From breakfast to lunch and anything else we wanted, we got. The villa was a paradise on earth. Clean, spacious, bright and beautiful. The pool was maintained each morning by Julio and was always crystal clear. We enjoyed the nearby beach and Ocean World, where one of my daughters swam with the dolphins. It was a unforgettable vacation. My wife and I still talk about it. We will be going there again.

kevin g.

American standards in the Dominican Republic

Jul 11, 2013

My wife is a Dominican American and I grew up around New York City. We have traveled to the DR a number of times and usually the trips are a mix of fun and stress. Our mission on this trip was to visit some of her family and to relax! We accomplished both. We have stayed at hotels in the past and this is the first time we used Homeaway. We were a little skeptical...our expectations were exceeded with Vista Del Mar: Everything that is on the site is true about this property at the time I write this review. If you are considering booking a property this one is

good because: 1. Cindy was very easy to deal with and trustworthy. I contacted 4 owners and one never responded. One responded later and the other at another beach was great as well. This made me feel good about booking Vista Del Mar and working through the details with Cindy. 2. The property was in very good shape for the DR. Everything worked and was clean...it may be silly to have to state this but it is impressive based on my other trips to the DR. 3. You do not have to lift a finger. Julio is helpful. Mercy is a good cook and was very good with my children. Nelsida was friendly and professional. 4. The property is very secluded and very relaxing! 5. The beds and pillows were very comfortable. 6. The food was very good. The only thing that may be of concern is for someone who loves to "live at the beach". The beach was very calm with few waves and a bit dirty. We mostly chilled out at the house and pool and went to Ocean world (walked over). Ocean world was very good and we all had a great time. It is not cheap, but my wife and I agreed it was something the DR should be proud of having. The Marina (again a short walk in the Ocean world complex) has a small restaurant and place to buy drinks and sit. It was a fantastic location and very inexpensive. Our 10 day trip was fantastic and I hate to go home tomorrow.

chris y.

Beautiful villa and AMAZING staff!

May 5, 2013

We had a group of 10 guys for our annual scuba diving trip. This house is amazing! Beautiful, comfortable, well appointed, and the outdoor area with pool is unbelievable. The best part was the staff though. They are so attentive, kinda, and top notch. We had 3 full meals a day that were all spectacular for our entire week long trip and they set the table and cleaned up everything afterwards as well. And when we were hanging by the pool they were more than happy to bring us all drinks throughout the day and make pitchers of Pina Colada's too. It was so relaxing. Very nice safe and quiet area. Not for partiers in my opinion,

Sally K.

We had a wonderful time staying at your villa

Mar 29, 2013

Dear Cindy, I wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed our vacation at your villa. Traveling with a group of 15, which included 7 children, can be very challenging but with the detailed information and great services you provide, it was hassle free. Julio was at the airport with two additional vans to pick us up, a delicious lunch was ready for us when we arrived at the villa, and we were able to enjoy the rest of the day unpacking, swimming and enjoying the scenery. Waking up every morning to a wonderful breakfast Mercy and Rosa had prepared was a special treat. Our second day Gus arrived after breakfast and we chose the tours we wanted for the week plus arranged for massages and pedicures. We enjoyed the jeep safari and waterfall climb, swimming with the dolphins and a catamaran/snorkeling trip. Julio and Mercy were so helpful and went above and beyond what anyone could expect to make sure we had everything we wanted and our every need was met. They are very special people and work so hard. It was a wonderful vacation. Thank you, Sally Kellogg

KC

Excellent Stay!

Mar 22, 2013

Staying at Playa Cofresi was a wonderful experience! It was a perfect setup for 5 ladies having a girls' trip to the Caribbean! The staff and accommodations were fantastic. Maisie and Julio were incredibly accommodating. We woke up each morning to coffee, fresh fruit and a delicious breakfast spread. We went to bed each night with full stomachs - Maisie cooked some of the best food that we had the entire time. The villa was kept SPOTLESS the entire time, yet the staff was never intrusive. My only complaint was that the beach by the villa was not the best -- but getting a taxi to gorgeous beaches nearby was not difficult. Julio arranged that and negotiated prices for us! Overall - amazing villa!! Would go back in a heartbeat.

Kristen J.

A Fabulous Villa & Staf!! Very relaxing vacation!

Mar 15, 2013

The villa was everything we imagined it would be and more. Nelsida and Merci worked so hard every day cooking yummy meals, making sure we had drinks & snacks, and keeping the villa spotless and comfortable! They are truly wonderful people and we enjoyed them so much. The pool was very clean, perfect temperature and plenty big for our group of 8. Our favorite spot to hang out was the covered porch, sitting around the table in the wicker rocking chairs. We spent many hours just enjoying the beautiful weather, drinking yummy drinks, and building more memories for our friendships! The villa was so comfortable and private that we found ourselves spending more time at the villa than we did exploring or taking tours...which was just great with us!

Diane F.

Time at the Villa!

Mar 2, 2013

We stayed in Puerto Plata at the Villa Del Mar for 5 days. Very nice place, great pool, and a wonderful, helpful staff. Would go again! Did the banana catamarran tour which was very nice-and the safari jeep tour/waterfall adventure which was great even in the rain!

Beth

Wonderful stay!

Dec 21, 2012

My family of 17 stayed here for my parent's 50th wedding anniversary. The villa is spotless! The pictures don't do the inside of the home justice. The outside area is amazing for a large family. Besides the pool and outside area, the next best feature was the staff. They prepared amazing meals for us and were very flexible with our schedule of activities. Plus it wasn't even

very expensive for them to feed all of us for the whole week! Having others do all of the cooking, cleaning and laundry took away any stress out of our vacation! Would definitely recommend this place. The only downside is the beach is a 5-10 downhill/uphill walk away, which was difficult for my parents to handle and the beach was good, but not great. Also, the taxis charge so much to get around, that I would recommend renting a car if you think you can handle the crazy Dominican traffic!

Anonymous

Best Vacation Ever

Nov 24, 2012

My Husband and I stayed here for a week for our honeymoon and it was just what we needed. Everything was taken care of before we got there and the staff was wonderful. We arranged our excursions once we got there and it was super easy. We would definitely recommend doing the jeep safari tour to the waterfalls. The house and everything about it was accurate and great. We were so sad to leave but left very very relaxed. We would highly recommend this house and we hope that we can come back one day.

Paul B.

Cofresi Villa

Aug 3, 2012

The Villa exceeded our expectation in all ways. First, each bedroom had ac, however, but we didn't need it due to the constant breeze that came through the villa. The vacation package that was sent to us prior to coming answered our unanswered question about the country, villas, food. Well done Cindy. The location, up on a hill was great. The views from the Villa were spectacular. The staff made us feel like it was our home and there were working for us. The food, drinks, conversations with Julio, made me feel like he was family. Nelsida, cannot say enough about her. Her spirit and dedication to make us feel at home and making sure we had refreshment's, and food was over the top. As most of the reviews stated, the pictures do not do justice to the property. I am a amateur photographer and I had my wide angle lens and took some pictures of the pool area and the outside of the house and I am planning on giving them to Cindy as my gift for finding this gem. I hope to return so I can photograph the inside of the Villa. We cannot wait to return to Villa Confresi again. Pb Boston Mass.

Gebruiker

Beautiful villa, amazing staff.

Jul 14, 2012

I can't begin to tell you what a wonderful time my family had in this beautiful villa. Cindy was so wonderful to work with in the months leading up to our trip. She provided so much information and answered any questions I had promptly. The villa was very clean, spacious and provided all the amenities we needed. We ate at Chris and Mady's one evening for dinner where everyone was so friendly and accommodating to our requests. We took a day trip to Sosua and Cabarete, both well worth the sometimes "white knuckle" taxi ride for some

amazing snorkeling in Sosua and to watch the kitesurfers in Cabarete. By far the best thing about our vacation was Julio and Nelsida. Nelsida's food was amazing and she was so attentive always making sure we didn't need or want anything. The villa was stocked with all of our requests upon our arrival. Julio was so helpful with information and answering questions and running additional errands whenever needed or requested. They were both always smiling and eager to make sure that we were enjoying our vacation. This was by far one of the most relaxing vacations I have ever had thanks to Nelsida and Julio. I would definitely recommend this villa to families/groups small or large.

Laura S.

close to perfect

May 10, 2012

I absolutely loved my stay, it was close to perfect! Picked up at the airport so I didnt need to worry about finding the villa, Snack waiting with smiling caring staff. I had requested a massage for my first evening after traveling. Shortly after I arrived it began to rain so I had a wonderful 2 hour massage while I listened to the rain. The next morning I took the cable car up the mountain, the botanical garden was beautiful. My daily walk at sunrise on the beach and relaxing time in the pool was amazingly relaxing. I especially enjoyed taking the catamaran/snorkeling excursion, whats better than to watch the sails in the wind as the sun reflects off the sea. Needless to say I will go back! Laura

Terry F.

Fantastic Stay in May 2012!!!

May 4, 2012

Our extended family stayed at the Villa Vista Del Mar in early May 2012. Without a doubt, this trip surpassed all expectations. Our group included ten adults and a three year old girl. The staff was wonderful. Julio met us at the airport and drove us safely through the chaos while providing an informative narrative about the city. His English is good and he is an extremely nice man who is very proficient in his job. On our arrival at the house, we were greeted by Mercy & Nelsida with drinks and snacks waiting. These people are excellent at their jobs and extremely trustworthy. We felt comfortable around them and enjoyed watching their interaction with our daughter, who learned a few words of Spanish on the trip. There was also a security guard outside at night, so the property felt very safe and secure. The house was enormous, providing a generous family room while also allowing for privacy upstairs. The pool was the centerpiece of the villa and we spend most of our time there. The views from the villa are great, and the surrounding town was relaxing. There are numerous restaurants to walk to, along with a casino and beach. I have nothing but good things to say about this trip. The highlight for us was the staff, who are so welcoming and warm. The villa is beautiful and atmosphere in the area is very relaxed and comfortable.

Jo-Ann A.

Wonderful stay

Feb 13, 2012

Dear Cindy I have finally found a minute to do this email I just wanted to let you know how much we enjoyed staying at your villa. Walking into the house everyone was just amazed and kept saying "this is even better than the pictures" All your staff were wonderful. The food was delicious; they were so friendly and helpful with suggestions and the day-to-day activities of the household; everything was immaculate and stayed that way inspite of the 7 children and 8 adults. No-one cried when we left but we were very reluctant to leave. We have been singing their praises and telling everyone how great the experience was since we got back. If we have another opportunity we will certainly return. Thank you too for your patience in answering all our questions. best regards

Kelly G.

Fabulous vacation!

Feb 13, 2012

Hi Cindy, I just wanted to let you know that we had a fabulous week in your villa! The house was great and very much lived up to our expectations. And as you said in much of your materials, your staff are fabulous. We did indeed want to bring them home with us!

BONNIE S.

one week in paradise

Jan 31, 2012

I WAS THRILLED TO FIND THE VILLA THROUGH A FRIEND. THE VILLA WAS LARGE AND GRACIOUS. SIPPING DRINKS SO EXPERTLY PREPARED AND SERVED BY THE FRIENDLY STAFF ON THE BACK DECK OVERLOOKING THE POOL AS THE SUN SET WAS MAGICAL. THE FOOD WAS PREPARED WELL AND THE STAFF EVEN REMEMBERED HOW I LIKED MY COFFEE. THE BEACH, JUST A SHORT STROLL AWAY, WAS TURQUIOSE, AND WARM. WE SPENT ONE DAY ON A CATAMARAN, SNORKELING ALONG THE COAST, AND ANOTHER AT THE SPECTACULAR WATERFALLS, CLIMBING UP AND SLIDING DOWN, WE VISITED LOCAL VILLAGES WITH OUR TOUR GROUP. WE SAMPLED SEVERAL OF THE LOCAL RESTAURANTS WHICH WERE VERY GOOD, AND OFTEN CHOSE TO EAT IN THE VILLA AND JUST UNWIND. THE PEOPLE OF THE DOMINICAN WERE FRIENDLY AND INVITING. THE WEEK WENT BY TOO QUICKLY, NEXT YEAR TWO WEEKS OR MORE WOULD SUIT ME. BONNIE AND DENIS

Susan R.

A Little Bit of Heaven on Earth

Jan 20, 2012

This was the week we had hoped for! We had anticipated a quiet, restful vacation but we got much more. The villa was spacious, clean and beautiful. The staff was superb. Julio and Nelsida could not do enough for us. They anticipated our every need. Breakfast was laid out and the coffee was brewing before we even opened our eyes in the morning. The meals were wonderful, and the Pina Coladas were the best! The pool was refreshing, while the beaches were close by and pristine. A massage on the terrace was a great way to end the day! Talk

about feeling pampered! WOW! Safety was never an issue-the locals were very friendly. Walking to the Casino in the evening,we felt comfortable and at ease. The fact that we won \$100 in ten minutes added a certain luster to our week! The vacation met every one of our expectations, plus more. We can't wait to reserve another week for next winter. It was the best! Sue and Paul

Patrick O.

Perfect place for a family vacation

Dec 16, 2011

Our vacation was fabulous; all we could have hoped for. The villa is unbelievable -- I have been telling all my friends about it since our return home. It could easily accommodate three couples and, in fact, we're thinking of booking it sometime in the future to share with two other couples. I would say that the description of the villa online doesn't do justice to it. The upstairs has huge bedrooms, each of the three masters with balcony, including hammocks, chairs and tables (not to mention great ocean views). TVs in most rooms if that interests you. The staff was as good as advertised -- and then some. Mercy and Nelsida made great meals for us and kept the villa spotless. and I don't know what we would have done without Julio. Not only was he there for us whenever we needed, but he returned to the villa after hours when the electricity went out and the generator didn't kick on (I understand that that generator has now been replaced... No property is perfect however. In my ideal world, I would also have liked to have some kind of exercise room (e.g., treadmill at least). I'm a runner and found the beach to be too slanted, too "busy" and with high tide to run there; the roads too are not conducive to any meaningful running. Just a thought since there clearly is plenty of room at the villa. Finally, the one complaint we do have relates to the noise from the nearby resort on Fri through Sun from 5:00 pm to 11:00 pm. I don't know what could be done about it (and perhaps it had to do with the holiday season), but the noise and the music played over the loudspeakers made staying out on the porch impossible on those nights.

Michelle C.

A Dream Come True

Oct 25, 2011

could not have asked for a better vacation! Though my trip to Playa Cofresi was short, it was filled with relaxation, amazing food, and good times. We landed in Puerto Plata and we were greeted at the airport by Julio. He drove us back to the villa through the middle of town which allowed us to take in the local culture. We arrived at the villa to a warm welcome from Nelsida and Mercy as well as magnificent aromas of food cooking. The Villa itself is magnificent. It is spacious and meticulously clean. I can't even explain how breathtaking the views are! Waking up in the morning with the sun rising while you relax in one the many rocking chairs was unbelievable. The sun setting over the mountains is a site in itself. You will NEVER have to lift a finger at the villa. Nelsida and Mercy always seemed to appear with a pina colada in hand right when you really wanted one! Their homemade food was amazing; we especially couldn't get enough of Mercy's chicken salad. For dinner, we dined at the local restaurants were the

food was just as delicious! Most of our time was spent relaxing, reading, and napping by the pool. We did venture down to the local beach one day which was amazing with its crystal clear water, soft sand beaches, and the palm trees swaying in the breeze. We also spent a day on a catamaran where we went snorkeling in two different locations. If you plan on doing excursions, do the catamaran, it is well worth it! The only word to describe Playa Cofresi is PARADISE. I have never been so relaxed and stress free on a vacation as I was at the villa. The staff is absolutely amazing, the scenery will take your breath away, and you will never have to worry about a thing. We are already talking about going back next year and I can't wait!

devin m.

Paradise!!!

Oct 25, 2011

What an amazing vacation! I came back from the Dominican Republic feeling relaxed, recharged and just fabulous! The house was absolutely AMAZING! The spacious rooms, cool breeze, awesome pool, fantastic views and wonderful caretakers. Julio, Nelcita and Macia were more than accommodating. They prepared delicious food and drink (pina coladas) all week. Everyday they thoroughly cleaned our rooms and bathrooms and took care of everything! You don't have to think about wanting a pina colada because Macia is probably en route to your raft with a freshly made one! For dinner, we went out and dined at some amazing, local restaurants. If you enjoy rum, you will enjoy your trip to the Dominican Republic. I had at least one rum punch and Cuba Libre every night and they were great! Due to work, I had not been able to take a vacation in a year and a half. This was my first time out of the country and it was a memorable vacation. It was so nice to relax all day in the sun by the pool. One of the days we venture out on a catamaran tour of the coast where we sailed to a few different areas to snorkel in the coral reefs. It was a breathtaking and fun excursion. The villa is located a short walk to the beach which was fantastic. The water was warm and clear and palm trees are always great to see. One of my favorite things about villa is the sunrise in the morning. The sun comes up above the trees in the morning as you sit on the patio reading a book and sipping fresh coffee made by one of the caretakers. It was just great! The worst part of the vacation was leaving paradise! It was an absolutely fantastic trip from start to finish. The best.

Jordann

Amazing!! Highly Recommend!!

Oct 25, 2011

In October, I had the absolute pleasure of spending 5 glorious days at Playa Cofresi. I had seen pictures and imagined how wonderful it would be to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life...but my expectations were far exceeded from the moment I arrived. Julio picked us up from the airport right on time and drove us straight to the house, quickly and safely. I thoroughly enjoyed being able to see a little bit of the culture and town around the house on the ride to and from the airport. Once arriving at the house, we were greeted by the other staff that were already there. Our rooms were meticulously cleaned and our luggage brought

upstairs for us right away. I soon realized how much delicious food I would be eating that week from the first few bites of our "snack" that we were served. Homemade chicken salad, zucchini pancakes, chips and salsa...every bite better than the first. From that point on our days consisted of sleeping, eating, sunbathing, swimming and drinking several pina coladas in the afternoon! The weather was warm and sunny every day, and even when I needed a break from the sun the rocking chairs on the patio or shaded poolside spots were the perfect retreat. In addition to enjoying the gorgeous home and pool, we ventured out to the beach one day and took a catamaran tour. These were perfect excursions and I highly recommend doing them! From swimming in the crystal blue water to snorkeling with fish, we had the best time. In addition to the incredible landscape, perfect weather and fantastic food...I was so pleased by how safe and comfortable I felt in the home during my entire stay. The staff were some of the nicest people I have ever met, and this was easily communicated even with a language barrier. Being in a different country can at times be stressful, but I never had one ounce of stress during my entire trip...which is something I don't think I've ever been able to say on any other vacation!! What a wonderful home, beautiful country and perfect getaway...I highly recommend to all!!

Angela K

Pure Enjoyment

Aug 8, 2011

From beginning to end. This family vacation was a slice of heaven. Julio was awaiting our arrival at the airport. We were a family of four traveling with adults and children. On the drive Julio provided details about the countryside and the local area. Upon arrival at the Villa we were greeted by Nelsada, the wonderful chef and housekeeper. To date we still rant about her fried yuca snacks and delicious dinners. Each morning we awoke to a fantastic breakfast spread served on the veranda. Fresh fruit, juice, eggs, and meat. Daily she served frozen drinks poolside. So wonderful! The villa is immaculate. Convenience of bathrooms in 3 of the bedrooms is a godsend. You can hear the ocean at night from the bedrooms and the balconies. Natural sleep inhibitor. The pool is crystal clear. Many days I sprawled out on the large built-in couch next to the pool. There is an abundance of pool toys and life vest for a large family. My mother and I received massages on the balcony as well as manicures on the veranda. This is a luxury that I indulged in more than once. We ventured down the road into the small town for nightly walks, the beach, and the restaurants. The security guard at the villa assisted the kids with retrieving coconuts from the trees out front. After which they chilled the juice and enjoyed fully. Julio and Nelsada go above and beyond to secure an unparalleled vacation. I recommend this rental for families interested in placing great memories in their family history book.

mike m.

Dominican was a blast!

Jul 22, 2011

Wow- Trip was all it could have been. You have a beautiful home and what can I say about your staff- they are awesome. It was a fantastic week all around

Donte W.

Simply Paradise! Cant wait to go back!

Jul 17, 2011

Dear Cindy, Villa Vista Del Mar is extremely beautiful. From the moment we were picked up from the airport Julio made us feel comfortable, safe, and right at home. Upon arriving at the villa Nelsida had cooked us snacks and had lunch waiting for us, which couldn't have been any better. There was only 4 members in my party, so there was more than enough space in the villa to accommodate more people. The villa was beautifully decorated and had the best views I have ever witnessed. The location is safe, I did notice everyone in the area knows each other which made me feel even more safe. I took a walk around during the day and I had no problem sleeping at night. When I woke in the morning I awoke to the smell of a fresh breakfast being cooked, which brings me to the note that Nelsida is an excellent cook I enjoyed every one of her meals and I wish I could have brought her back to the states. She was very caring, and friendly. Neither she or Pablo speaks much English however this did not stop us from communicating with them, (I speak pretty basic Spanish) She would wash our clothes. Make our bed the service was absolutely impeccable much better than any 4 or 5 star hotel I have ever stayed. When we arrived because we arrived in the late afternoon the following day Gabino came over and presented the tours to us and we enjoyed every tour we chose, when we were not on a tour we spend majority of our time swimming in the pool, enjoying the beautiful views of the ocean, mt. Isabella, and the landscape. There's something to do for everyone, Ocean World is a 5-10 minute talk and I was pretty impressed with the dinner show I wanted to go but did not have enough time. I speak for everyone in my party when I say Villa Vista Del Mar has been the best vacation we have been on, we are all grateful to have had the opportunity and we highly anticipate on returning to the villa. The only thing I would change is the length of our stay. We stayed a day or two less than a full week and wish we would have stayed longer. Thank you Cindy I plan on returning I really enjoyed myself.

Bob and Diane

A piece of heaven found at Villa Vista Del Mar!

Jun 2, 2011

After a long hard year of work, college, and Chemo, our family was ready to escape from the routine of daily living to paradise. We knew we had arrived in paradise from the minute we stepped off the plane! Everyone in the airport was kind and gracious, willing to help an American family traveling with their blind patriarch. Julio met us outside of customs as promised, loaded our luggage and whisked us away to Cofresi. Our anticipation was growing as typical Americans we wondered were the pictures on the website and reviews too good to be true? We pulled up to the villa and first sight of the compound made all those fears dissolve immediately. We were met by the beautiful Mercy and Nelsida with our first pitcher (of many) of frozen pina colodas and we knew from that second on we truly were in Heaven. We could

not believe our eyes. The villa was even more beautiful than the pictures and all the reviews were spot on! Once we all chose our suites, changed into our swim suits, threw our watches, blackberrys and laptops in the safe, we met at the pool which was crystal clear and had so many seating and lounging options which made a five star resort pool area look inferior. My favorite spot on the pool patio was the huge couch I referred to as the throne. Mercy and Nelsida served us our first 'snack' as they like to call it and we all agreed our new favorite was Mercy's chicken salad. Every day Mercy would prepare five star meals all prepared from authentic DR recipes and fresh local ingredients. We looked forward every morning to the fresh mango, papaya, pineapple, banana, cantaloupe and watermelon fruit platters. Mercy knew our food preferences and she decided the daily menu. It was very liberating not to have to make any decisions this week. We always looked forward to mealtime, the house smelled delicious. Nelsida kept the villa spotless, laundry fresh, fresh towels always available and in conjunction with Mercy made the most delicious frozen concoctions that we are thirsting for as we write this. Our libations of choice were pina coladas, rum punch and frozen mojitos. Julio is a great General Manager. He keeps the house in tip top shape, made several runs to the market, granted several special requests and answered a million questions. While in Cofresi we celebrated 2 special birthdays and invited Julio, Mercy and Nelsida's families to come over for a BBQ and had a great time. It was a delightful evening. See part 2 of our review

Frank E.

Your Home away from home with a Spanish

May 2011

Were we ever blessed to have selected Villa Vista Del Mar for our next stop in DR after a few days in Punta Cana. We survived the arduous trip, but enjoyed the challenge of the 8 hour drive, taking us to an incredible restaurant in Santo Domingo,Olivo. A must stop if you ever are in the mood for their pork prepared in their brick oven. We encountered all kinds of sights along our way including every type of weather condition. The highlight of the day, however, was meeting with Julio who got us situated and made us to feel quite at home. The following day and every day thereafter your staff treated us like royalty and made us feel as if we were members of their family. The personal attention was amazing as were the daily meals, most of which were DR favorites, prepared as if we were eating in their home. Not a thing could have been improved upon during our stay. Not that it is a problem of yours, but it was shame that the local public beach was not maintained as well as the Life Styles section. Too bad the locals don't take the pride in ownership that they should, for they live in a beautiful part of the world. Thanks for making our stay memorable and for providing the horse shoes so that we could complete our "international" competition.

PAM T. AND THE GANG

Wonderful Villa Vacation

May 4, 2011

HI CINDY, HOPE ALL IS WELL WITH YOU AND YOURS! I FULLY INTENDED TO EMAIL TO YOU BEFORE NOW BUT MAJOR DEPRESSION SET IN FROM RETURNING HOME AND I AM JUST NOW

SLOWLY SNAPPING OUT OF IT. I'M PRETTY SURE ALL THE OTHER LADIES FEEL THE SAME WAY. I KNOW YOU CAN RELATE TO WHAT WE ARE FEELING AFTER RETURNING HOME FROM SUCH A WONDERFUL VACATION. THE VILLA AND THE STAFF ARE EXCEPTIONAL! WE WERE TREATED WITH SO MUCH KINDNESS AND CONCERN. WE WERE GLAD JULIO SPOKE GOOD ENGLISH, HE WAS VERY HELPFUL IN MANY WAYS. BETWEEN HIS ENGLISH AND OUR LITTLE BIT OF SPANISH, WE GOT ALONG JUST FINE. NELSIDA AND MERCY WERE WONDERFUL COOKS, SO SWEET AND ATTENTIVE TO US. THEY WAITED ON US HAND AND FOOT (SPOILED US ROTTEN). WE FOLKS ARE DEFINITELY NOT USED TO THAT KIND OF TREATMENT, BUT IT SURE WAS NICE!! WE DID LOTS OF FUN THINGS AS WELL, CATAMARAN VENTURE, SNORKELING, JEEP SAFARI AND WATERFALL HIKE (PRETTY STRENUOUS BUT INTERESTING AND FUN-VERY SMART GUIDE, ELVIS GAVE US MUCH INFO ON MANY THINGS). TOOK A CITY TOUR AND RODE HORSES ON THE BEACH. WE HAD AN ABSOLUTE MARVELOUS VACATION AND IT WAS THE BEST BIRTHDAY I HAVE EVER HAD. GONNA START SAVING AND HOPEFULLY WILL GET BACK THERE ONE DAY SOON. THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP AND FOR SHARING SUCH A WONDERFUL PLACE WITH US. KIND REGARDS, PAM T. AND THE GANG

Neil J.

WOW! Vacationing at it's best

Apr 13, 2011

An unbelievable family reunion made possible by the wonderful staff and fantastic home at Vista Del Mar. The house is wonderful and very spacious....accomodating our 4 different families perfectly. We were greeted with a lunch for Kings upon arrival and our grocery package was all in order and menu arranged. It was so wonderful. Julio had to make more trips to the liquor store for us though....man, you drink way more than you think you are going too!!!! The kids loved the pool and the many floats that were there for them to use. Julio was amazing and ready at a moments notice to help with our every odd request!!! Nelsida and Mercy were so attentive and helpful. They made sure that you fully enjoyed your vacation and did not have to lift a finger to help!!! Always a pina colada on their tray!!!! The house was very clean, and kept that way each day by the staff. Laundry was washed and folded and brought upstairs each day. A gentleman stopped by to help us plan our day excursions and arranged for transportation for us. We had massages, pedicures and manicures at the house. We also took in a day at Ocean World, which is just a brisk walk away. The kids enjoyed that immensely, but were probably just as content staying at the house swimming in the pool!!!! An amazing story that we have to share...my husband and I left our backpack at the airport. As soon as we figured this out Julio and Gabino got on the phone to see if they could help us retrieve it. Very unlikely right....WRONG! It was handed in to the airport security with our laptop in tack. Amazing. Just amazing. There is not enough time or space to keep writing all the positives of this house and vacation paradise. All I can say is that for a very particular woman, with standards hard to reach....this experience has supassed my expectations. Please, go there and have a vacation of a lifetime :) Cindy, you were a pleasure to deal with when preparing for our vacation and attentive to the details that we may have overlooked. The Hicks, Moulton, Meiklejohn and White Families

Happy Relaxed Family

Stellar Accommodations and Wonderful Staff

Apr 1, 2011

Dear Cindy, We just returned home to rainy New Jersey after an incredible return stay at your villa in Playa Cofresi. Once again, we couldn't have been more thrilled with the stellar accommodations and attentive, warm and friendly staff who made us feel like family. I didn't think the villa could get much better, but the work you've completed with the expanded poolside patio and outdoor grilling area since our last stay was simply amazing. The villa now offers so much more than even a five star hotel but with the comfort and warmth of a private home. As you know, we spent some time at one of the top ranked, all inclusive resorts in the area because your lovely villa was booked. After our short stay at the resort, we were thrilled to move into the villa. Our spacious rooms in the villa with multiple decks overlooking the ocean, king sized, comfortable beds and new gorgeous bathrooms far exceeded the small room we had at the resort with one tiny deck. One of the many highlights of our stay was watching the sunrise over the Atlantic from our bedroom veranda. Another highlight was the delicious, authentic cooking and the exceptional service provided by Mercy and Nelsida. What a luxury to have three meals a day prepared and served at our convenience and nonstop attention throughout the day to make sure all our needs were addressed. Once again your beautiful villa provided us with a true, relaxing and much needed vacation away from the stresses of east coast living. We can't wait to return again next year!! Lucy

JR from New Jersey

Vista Del Mar - Paradise!!!

Mar 14, 2011

Cindy I just wanted to send you a quick note to let you know as repeat guests, we once again had an absolutely perfect vacation at Villa Vista Del Mar. No worries. Your staff was extremely accommodating. Julio was there at the airport to greet us as soon as we walked out (the arrival through customs is now so easy). The maid, Nelsida had ice cold Presidents and yuccas fritas (muy delicioso) ready upon arrival. My last visit to your Villa was 5 years ago and you've done a beautiful job decorating, updating, adding AC, king beds, etc and making everything so comfortable. The addition of the expanded terrace, outdoor grill and all the beautiful brand new tiled bathrooms...was spectacular! This time we spent one day on Costamber beach, just a short car ride away and would definitely recommend this as a day trip. Thanks for another great vacation JR

Eight Happy Gardeners from Ohio

Truly Paradise

Feb 25, 2011

We are a group of eight master gardeners who take an annual trip together. This year we chose Vista Del Mar and we couldn't have chosen a more beautiful luxurious home away from home. The villa is truly paradise, the scenery stunning and the people warm and friendly. As

promised, Julio was waiting at the airport to deliver us and Mercy and Nelsida had drinks and snacks waiting for our arrival. We absolutely fell in love with the villa and the staff. They were so accommodating and quick to fill our every need. From full fabulous breakfasts on the patio to lobster dinners in the evening; to pina coladas, rum punch, margaritas and cerveza by the pool. The meals were delicious and the weather was sunny and warm. Gus was a wonderful tour agent. We went horseback riding on the beach (a must), waterfall sliding on the jeep safari, cable car riding to the top of Mount Isabella, to the rum factory and the Amber museum and a day trip to Santo Domingo. We also spent a day at Sosua Beach- a gorgeous expanse of aqua blue water with wonderful snorkeling. Nelsida and Indio even took us to downtown Puerto Plata to celebrate Carnival on Sunday afternoon and then out to dance the Maringue at the Rancho Tapico. What fun! We "adopted" Pablo, the sweet night guard and took him coffee in the morning and shared our dinner with him each night. You will find the Dominican people truly appreciate Americans and do everything to help us feel welcome in their country. There are not enough words to express how much we loved the week we spent with the staff. We all cried when we had to leave them. It felt like we were leaving family and will truly miss them. We hope to see them again in the future and to revisit the villa. If you are thinking about vacationing there, don't think twice! You won't regret it. Cindy was exceptionally nice and communicated everything perfectly, making for a perfect vacation. Thank you Cindy, Julio, Mercy, Nelsida and Pablo!

Cathy in CT

Best Family Vacation We've Ever Had

Feb 11, 2011

Hi There Cindy – We really, really had a lovely time. What a wonderful and relaxing vacation, which is saying something considering there were 5 kids in our group aged 2-6! This is by far the best family vacation we've had. The villa had loads of space and seating areas for the kids and adults to spread out, so we never felt like we were cooped up in a hotel room. And having wonderful, friendly staff cooking every meal, including kid food, and even doing your laundry for you just can't be beat. It's not fun eating every meal at a restaurant with small kids, so being able to eat delicious food 'at home' without having to lift a finger was wonderful. The villa really was as beautiful as the pictures promise, and Mercy and Nelsida were absolutely great – so friendly and just the right mix of non-intrusive and solicitous, and amazing cooks to boot! The beach and everything else really was within super-easy walking distance, even with small kids. My only and very minor complaint is that the pool was a bit too cold so we weren't able to swim as much as we would have liked. It wouldn't keep us from coming back, just an FYI for you. It's obvious that the villa is owned by someone who cares greatly for it and not by some anonymous and uncaring management company – it shines through in all the little details, like the personal art and the cupboard full of board games. Thank you again for a truly lovely vacation! Cathy

4 Happy Guests

Enjoyed Every Minute

Nov 2, 2010

Hi Cindy, So sorry for the delay in sending this email. As soon as returned from DR, it was back to the hustle and bustle of the real world. We wanted to let you know that we absolutely enjoyed every minute of this trip. My husband said that it as the best vacation we have been on (and our family does an extensive amount of traveling). Your staff was wonderful. We just can't say enough about Julio, Nelsida, and Pedro. We will definitely return in the future, and will spread the word about your wonderful vacation rental. Thanks so much for a spectacular trip! Alessia

JAX Group

Incredible Time at the Villa

Sep 20, 2010

Hey Cindy. We just wanted to thank you for letting us rent you DR home. We had a most incredible time! The staff you have there was amazing to us!! They were so attentive, great cooks and just so sweet. We couldn't ask for anything better! We did have some issues with the excursions that Gus had sold us. I won't get into much detail because Gabino handled it well and Gus gave us some of our money back. We did the Jeep Safari which was great. However, we had told Gus that one of our girls had a REALLY bad back. It was incredibly bumpy and Stephanie was miserable the whole ride. He also should have told us that she would not be able to climb the 7 waterfalls. We didn't realize how intense it would be. The rest of us absolutely loved it, but Stephanie had to wait for us as we climbed and came back down. Gus was gracious enough to give Stephanie back her full refund The other excursion we did was the Catamaran & Snorkeling trip. It had been canceled all week because the water was too rough. The day we went the driver said the trip was still going even though it didn't look very good out in the water. Well there were about 30+ people on the boat and about 80% got sick. Now of course this is nature, and they should have canceled the trip. I know this is out of your control, but just giving you some info. Gabino handled our concerns very well. One additional note, for your packet, is to inform guests about the travel home. We had some issues through customs. Apparently going home you cannot take blow dryers, flat irons, or anything electronic in your carry on. So we had to check some luggage which wasn't a huge deal, but we had to go through security twice and so on. You know how the airport madness goes. Seriously besides those issues, we had a great time. We mostly enjoyed staying at the villa and relaxing. Again, your staff there is amazing! Thank you! Bridgett

Cynthia T.

Everything We Expected it Would Be and More

Sep 11, 2010

This trip was planned to celebrate my 50th birthday. My sister-in-law and I share the same birthday, so we decided to get-away from it all. We found that the Villa Vista Del Mar offered everything we were looking for; a relaxing environment with wonderful views of the ocean from the balcony -- and the sunrise was absolutely breath taking! The extraordinary house staff definitely went above and beyond to ensure that our stay was exceptional -- as stated in

other reviews, we too hated to leave them. The villa provided all of the amenities of home with the added luxury of being a pampered vacationer! We are already planning our next stay.

17 Happy Guests

Aug 10, 2010

Everything Promised and More

Cindy - The Villa was everything you promised us it would be ...and more. I could go on and on, but the reality of having to take care of myself and family (work, cooking, cleaning, shopping, etc...) now that Julio and family are not in New Jersey with us.... is very time consuming. Your staff spoiled us all and getting back to "real life" at home, has been an adjustment. I have told everyone who will listen what a magnificent home you have and how fabulous our entire stay was. I have sent out the web address to over a dozen friends. Thank you a thousand times for being such a wonderful "vacation angel". Hope to be in contact again soon for another fabulous stay. Sincerely, Adele

Happy Family of 5

Perfect Pampered Vacation

Jul 9, 2010

It is impossible to put into words the experience I had at your beautiful villa. The Orientation book states "Mothers will especially enjoy this vacation". That was an understatement! My husband, 3 children and I stayed at your villa (1st international trip) and can honestly say I was able to sit back & enjoy every moment- Nelsida and Mercey made sure of that. The house itself is amazing, spacious, comfortable; we spent most of the time lounging on the sun deck & swimming. Our favorite spot at night was to sit in the big "lounge couch" staring at the stars. For once I was able to relax, be part of the group instead of worrying about the details. Gus, the tour guy was a great help. He came to the villa & did all the work. We went on the Jeep Safari, an amazing must- do adventure starting with a ride through the country (we brought candy to toss to the children who chased the truck- they were adorable) to the grand finale of the waterfalls. All 5 of us climbed up to the 7th level (I heard there were 22 total!) and cascaded back down. All I can say is WOW. This was a trip we will NEVER forget. We also spent an entire day at Ocean World and loved it so much we easily could have spent 2 days there. We also did the Go-Karts and spent a day at Costamber- a great beach with lots of cold Presidente I cannot tell you how much we loved Nelsida, Mercey & Julio. We originally planned on eating out a few meals but once we tasted their homemade treats we chose to stay in every night. It was the best cooking in the DR! It is decadent being served hot coffee, breakfast-to-order, pina coladas, endless snacks, delicious meals and then go to your room to find clean laundry on your bed. They were so kind and attentive. It was fun to watch my daughter speak Spanish and translate for us. My husband and I do not speak any Spanish but we never had a problem communicating. You truly have wonderful people working for you; they absolutely made this a carefree, stress-free, fun vacation. My one regret is that I booked for only one week. Next year it will definitely be 2 weeks. And yes I was one of those mothers who actually cried when it was time to leave. With your extensive Guides and answering my

endless questions beforehand I felt fully prepared. Your staff took over immediately upon our arrival and made us feel like royalty. And your home was as comfortable as could be. This was a vacation I will never forget. Thank you for an experience of a lifetime. Saly

Kelly B.

2 Family Vacation

Jul 1, 2010

I am way late in writing this review. We are 2 families (4 adults, 8 children) who vacation together every year. We stayed at the villa for one week in July 2010. First of all, dealing with Cindy prior to our arrival made everything go so smoothly (thank you, Cindy!). I made arrangements to purchase food before hand and also arranged for airport pickup for all of us. Oh, and I also asked Cindy to have Gus (the tour operator) stop by the afternoon of our arrival so that we could plan our tours for the week. I wasn't sure how I would feel about having someone wait on me but, like others comments, you get used to it. In fact, they won't have it any other way! The entire staff is great. We spent the most time with Julio, Nelsida and Mercy and they were absolutely fantastic. We had decided to bring a couple of suit cases full of gently used clothing to give to the staff and their large extended families. They were extremely grateful for that. We also packed a ton of school supplies including notebooks, pens, pencils, scissors, glue sticks, construction paper, coloring books, crayons and markers. We wanted to take these items to a local school for distribution. Instead, with the help of Gus and Julio, we decided to stop by different villages during our private jeep tour. The experience for all of us was overwhelming. Our kids (aged 5-14) were even emotional to see how much joy something so small could give to these local children. We were able to capture all of this on video too which made for an unforgettable experience. Other than a couple of excursions, we mainly stayed at the house by the pool. ALL MEALS WERE GREAT and were freshly prepared. Frozen drinks were delicious and we never had an empty glass. We had massage therapists come twice and also had the girls' hair braided. It was a totally relaxing vacation. We would do it again in a heartbeat. In fact, when we got home, I told my sister how great it was and she booked a vacation and stayed at the villa earlier this month. Her group also had a wonderful time and couldn't stop talking about how great the staff was. If you have never had this kind of vacation before, DO IT!!

Anonymous

Wonderful place to stay!

Jun 4, 2010

We stayed in the villa June 5 - June 12, 2010. This was our first trip to the Dominican Republic so we did lots of searching for a private house with air conditioning (extremely important) in the bedrooms, a little bit of space and a pool. After narrowing our choices to a handful of homes, we sent a detailed list of questions to the contacts for each home. Without a doubt, Cindy provided the most complete, helpful information! We exchanged many emails where each question, even if repetitive, was answered completely. I also spoke with her on the phone for further questions and she was very helpful. There are a couple of services that Cindy

provides that were extremely helpful to us. (1) Airport transfer. Driving is at best a game of chance there and we were happy we arranged for the airport pickup. Julio (the houseman) was waiting at the Puerto Plata (POP) airport upon our arrival holding a placard with our name. We quickly departed the airport in air-conditioned comfort! (2) Cindy offers 2 food services although each service is completely customizable. We opted for the 3-4 day food pickup. As a family, we agreed on the types of foods and specific meal requests. We had a strict vegetarian in our group and this was no problem communicating to either Cindy or the house staff. Cindy provides a helpful sample selection of meals and drinks although you are free to add items not on the list. The net result is we enjoyed a variety of home cooked meals! The staff was simply wonderful! Every morning we awoke to fresh coffee, and a freshly prepared breakfast on the covered patio. Lunch was served in the same place and dinner was left on the stove for us since the staff leaves around 4:30 pm. Each day, dirty clothes were removed from the clothes hamper and returned cleaned and folded. Since we were looking for R&R on the vacation, we spent a lot of time at the house lounging by the pool. There are lots of paper-back books in the house (several shelves full) as well as board games. We played scrabble several times a day and enjoyed the house's reliable wi-fi (there are several wi-fi repeaters throughout the house so a signal was available pretty much everywhere). We went on 3 excursions: the city tour (ok but one of the stops included the Brugal Rum Factory which was partially closed and thus, we couldn't take a tour there), catamaran adventure (very nice!) and the waterfall tour (very nice but note that it's pretty strenuous!).

Beccah from New York

Girl weekend paradise

May 19, 2010

When eight women got together in a land far far away, no one thought each and every one of us would be totally happy. But one by one we fell for the charms of this one! One loved the cooking, one loved Julio, one loved the hammock, one loved the maids' generosity and kindness, one just loved that there was a lounge chair for everyone, and everyone loved the pina coladas. This is a great vacation spot for group bonding, and we all loved every moment of it. Thank you to everyone who makes the villa so special!

Happy Navy guest

Great Caribbean Vacation

May 12, 2010

Hi Cindy, Everything was great. Julio and Nelsida are great people. We were treated like royalty from the time we arrived until Julio dropped us off at the airport. Thanks for opening up your home to us. The best food we had the whole trip was everything Nelsida prepared for us. Thanks again, John

Anonymous

A Wonderful Family Getaway

Mar 27, 2010

This villa was perfect for our family. The accommodations and staff were just what we had hoped they would be. We were an extended family of 15, with 6 of the family being age 10 and under. It all lived up to the owner's description, and she could not have been more helpful answering our questions and working out the details. The pool was great. Everything very clean. An ideal rental. Enjoy!

Daniel and Kim

Affordable Vacation w/ Ultra Luxury Accommodations

Feb 26, 2010

This was the most amazing vacation my husband and I have ever had! The accommodations are exquisite and roomy, with both ocean and mountain views, magnificent pool and excellent home made food prepared by the staff! The villa had all updated conveniences new bathrooms, a studio/nursery with wonderful views, a brand new bar/kitchen area by the pool for cold drinks, amazing tropical drinks and snacks made by the lovely staff, spacious sun terrace- fulfilling your every whim! Both my husband and I had massages on the balcony (so inexpensive in US dollars - it was ridiculous - I had an hour pedicure poolside - anything you asked for was provided by the staff who were warm welcoming and extremely friendly. Macy the chef/maid created unbelievable meals with a Dominican flair, local flair, homemade soups, shepherds pie, paella - basically anything you wanted - you would place and order and Julio ran into town for fresh fruit, produce, meats, seafood, and that all important camera battery (which we forgot!) Breakfast was always a multiple course feast with the most amazing fruit platter and freshly squeezed orange juice. Honestly you didn't even have to leave the villa to have everything you would ever want! But it was an easy walk to the beach and horseback riding on the beach was a few minutes away - awesome golf course,, a great choice of homemade cigars also a few minutes away as well. There is a "dolphin world" for entertainment for kids and adults as well. The weather was great and we found special little restaurants both on the beach and off - lots of European amazing chefs and the staff made it easy to find any restaurant from Austrian, German to Italian which homemade pasta. We want to thank Cindy and Lenore for the lovely time and special things the staff did you to make everything special. We certainly will be back next year - but this time with the entire family - parents and kids - this vacation is an adventure for any age - relaxing affordable elegance!! Thanks again to Cindy and her family, Julio and Macy for an amazing time!

Happy New York Group

Pampered at Your Villa

Feb 12, 2010

Hello, we rented your house in February of 2010, and I wanted to send you a long overdue quick note letting you know what a great time we had (Bunn/Brous/Burress crew). Your staff was amazing. They stayed late on days they knew we were sightseeing, and we were definitely pampered, with laundry taken care of, drinks poured, food made, etc. We were a bit unclear about how to be sure that they had enough food to eat, but they assured us they were eating. Thank you for sharing your comfortable home with us, and your lovely staff, which became

like family to us! Sorry it took so long to write. I guess I was daydreaming of pina coladas (and it doesn't hurt that my four-year-old keeps asking when we can go back to the Dominican Republic every week or so!) Melissa

Anonymous

Great Family Vacation

Feb 12, 2010

Hi Cindy... Just a note to tell you what a great family vacation we had at the Villa. It was everything we hoped for. Julio and the staff were marvelous. They were friendly (and downright loveable), efficient, and most helpful. The food was good too. Everyone (including the kids) loved the pina coladas. The villa itself is so lovely and well cared for. The kids loved the pool and spent as much time as they could in it-along with the fabulous water balloons. And thank you for your guidance and non-stop willingness to answer our questions. Fondly,
Lynda & Jill

Anonymous

15 Happy Vacationers

Dec 14, 2009

In our group we had 15 people 7 of which were under the age of 8. We weren't sure if the house was going to be big enough to handle 4 families and also have enough space for breathing room. Del Mar delivered!!! We spent an additional 4 days at the beginning of the trip at an all-inclusive resort, however it felt like our real holiday started once we got to the house. The house and patios are broken up to give big groups unique space for alone time, or to cater to big gatherings. The bedrooms are spacious very clean and have A/C. The kids (dormitory) room is a fantastic setup, it became Head Quarters for all of the skull duggery that went on. Trust me the photos on the website don't accurately capture the space and beauty. The staff at the house delivers first class service and take pride in not letting you lift a finger. There was never a moment we felt house-bound with the kids opting to be in the pool more than the beach. The days were spent playing with the kids, drinking pina coladas, Presidente Cerveza, smoking good cigars, swimming, playing cards and eating amazing food. The nights were spent playing with the kids, drinking pina coladas, Presidente Cerveza, smoking good cigars, swimming, playing cards and eating amazing food.... Thank you, Julio, Nelsida and Mercy. We will never forget you and your warm hospitality. All the families on our vacation are very well traveled so trust me when I say you can't ask for a better coordinator than Cindy! She was prompt in every correspondence; the process in getting the house ready for our group was flawless. We were never unsure of how things would work out. So from our whole group thank you so much for making our holiday one we will never forget. Take Care, Travis

Arlington Vacationers

Wonderful Time

Dec 4, 2009

Hi, Cindy-- Nice to hear from you. We had a wonderful time at your house and in the Dominican Republic. The staff could not have been more gracious or helpful (to say nothing of their cooking and drink-mixing skills). In fact, we were so comfortable that we ended up spending almost all of our time at the house -- relaxing in the pool, sitting on the back porch, using the hammock, etc. And Julio was a fantastic resource -- very attentive and accommodating, and able to help us with anything we asked. The only complaint we have is very minor, and doesn't have anything to do with the house. One day we had Julio get us a cab to take us to the cable car at Mount Isabel de Torres in Puerto Plata. In addition to a driver, the cab came with a tour guide who shepherded us through the entire process. We hadn't requested a tour guide and didn't need his services, but he stayed with us the whole time and kept trying to get us to see other attractions throughout Puerto Plata. He was pretty aggressive about it, but we refused. This is probably just the way business works in the Dominican Republic, but as visitors from the United States we found it somewhat offputting, so I thought I'd pass that along to you. But really, that was a minor little bump. We couldn't have had a better time. Thanks again. And Happy New Year! Best, Chris

Ruthy Erez

Great Time

Nov 20, 2009

Hi Cindy! We had a great time. The staff was great- just like everyone said on your guest comments. The Villa was perfectly equipped. We had very good time and will definitely recommend it to friends!

Anonymous

Second Time- Just as Good

Oct 20, 2009

Dear Cindy, I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoyed my stay in your beautiful home—again, my second visit. I don't know where to start. Everything about both trips (August, 2008 with 8 friends and October 2009 with just my boyfriend) was perfect. I loved relaxing poolside with the gorgeous views. The staff is always so friendly and helpful-- It was nice to be greeted at the airport by Julio, and then have him do all the food shopping. He even got us langostinos one night from the fresh fish market. And every meal that Nelsida prepared for us was absolutely delicious... Her signature pina coladas continue to be great! Your house is so clean and comfortable and I felt right at home. By the way, the new additions on the terrace; (the new sun lounge/bed, expanded terrace and bathroom) are great. I can't wait to see the new master bath and outdoor kitchen on my next trip. Your villa makes me feel like it's my own home away from home. Although I would have been content to just stay at the villa all the time, I also enjoyed the beautiful beaches in Cofresi and Costamber, going to the casino at Ocean World and eating at many fantastic restaurants. Your location has so much to offer! We had an exciting time on our day trip to go white water rafting and really loved exploring the reefs on our snorkel trip. I have never come home from a vacation feeling so relaxed, and I

really look forward to visiting again. Thank you so much for sharing your vacation home with me. Sincerely, Lindsey

Brian & Jean

Best Vacation

Sep 4, 2009

Thank you for letting us use your beautiful Dominican Villa in September. I don't know which I miss more: the icy cold President beer, or the fact that I could totally relax and not have to think about anything for a whole week. Your staff was great. Nelsida was always smiling and bringing food & beverages and Julio was so helpful with all the food shopping and errands; the langostinos from Maimon were great and the Dominican cigars much enjoyed on the terrace. I appreciate all your help getting this vacation organized for us. Having never traveled to the Dominican Republic having your input made everything run alot more smoothly. With my limited Spanish I don't know how I would have found the villa or even Playa Cofresi, what I would have ordered for meals and where I would have gone for restaurant dining. Your Villa Guide book was also a huge help once we got to the villa. Your home is great (better than the pictures show) the location is beautiful (it was so relaxing to gaze at the ocean & the mountain & the stars at night.) Your home stood on it's own and was not crowded by other houses, which is what we noticed about the other villas. The staff was friendly & attentive without getting in the way. Like other reviewers I was tempted to put Nelsida in my suitcase when it was time to leave. A vacation doesn't get any better than this.

Jeanine P.

Coming Back Soon

Aug 21, 2009

Just a quick note to tell you we all had a perfect vacation in Cofresi. Your villa was fabulous! Everything was comfortable, clean and made for tropical vacation life. You were right about the sun terrace being big..between all the chaises and rockers and sunbed and hammock all 14 of us could spread out without the little ones fighting. We just had to learn to take turns on the hammock. Nelsida, Mercey and Julio were the best! It really was sad when it was time to leave. I have never felt so pampered in all my life and as promised I did not lift a finger except to drink my pina colada (while floating in the pool, which you told me to do). Every single meal was better than the one before and I don't have to tell you that Nelsida knows how to make a great Pina Colada! She had everyone's drink orders memorized after the first day. I should have brought stretchy pants to wear on the plane home. I have already told my friends and coworkers about your place and you can bet I'll be calling back to book another vacation

Anonymous

Can not wait to return

Aug 7, 2009

We stayed here last year Aug of 09. I could have not asked for a better vacation, We take 2 vacations a year and I tell you by far this was the most pampered I have been in a long time.

The food , the home, the hospitality, the service all A+++++. You have to experience for yourself you will not be disappointed. It is truly a home away from home, where you do not have to lift a finger. Julio, Mercy and Nelsida are a class act. The whole process was a pleasure from the booking to the actual stay. The house is spacious and well kept, nicely furnished with all the comforts of home, The pool was kept pristine, and the food just kept coming.... You are truly SPOILED..I just can go on and on.... Looking forward to our return

Happy Philadelphia Group

Villa Dreams Come True

Jul 31, 2009

Dear Cindy, Our stay at your beautiful villa was beyond our wildest dreams! Even though the website was so inviting, we were absolutely overwhelmed with the "real thing"!!!! Following flights from Philadelphia via San Juan we were warmly greeted by Julio and Gabino, our luggage quickly claimed and we are on our way. The ride through Puerto Plata gave us our first impressions of the Dominican Republic...very lush, warm and yes poor, as we travelled to the Villa. There we were warmly welcomed by Nelsida and Mercy and overwhelmed with the beauty of the villa as well as the friendliness of the staff...we knew we were "home"! As we walked out onto the veranda we were stunned by the breathtaking beauty of the pool and the surrounding views of the ocean, Mount Isabella, the other villas near but not too near, this was the villa of our dreams! After a quick tour of the house we changed into bathing suits and head to the pool. Almost instantly Mercy appeared with a tray of Pina Coladas and cold beer.....we were in heaven. Our stay at Villa Vista Del Mar had begun! Every day was like a dream filled with long, lazy hours in and around the pool interrupted only by the delicious meals and beverages graciously served by Nelsida and Mercy. To say that the food was fantastic is an understatement...our every wish was met with a warm smile! The staff truly became like family. During the week we ventured off to enjoy a day of sailing and snorkeling on a catamaran and a second adventure which took us out into the glorious countryside through small villages where we were greeted by the smiles and laughter of the beautiful children culminating in a trek through the jungle and swimming in cool, emerald pools at the base of several waterfalls. As the week came to an end we all agreed that it would be nearly impossible to find more of a more luxurious way to spend a holiday. It is unanimous that we hope to find ourselves back at the villa very soon! Thanks again Cindy, Julio, Nelsida, Mercy and Gabino!

Margaret & Frankie

Jul 31, 2009

Our stay at your beautiful villa was beyond our wildest dreams! Even though the website was so inviting, we were absolutely overwhelmed with the "real thing"!!!! Following flights from Philadelphia via San Juan we were warmly greeted by Julio and Gabino, our luggage quickly claimed and we are on our way. The ride through Puerto Plata gave us our first impressions of the Dominican Republic...very lush, warm and yes poor, as we travelled to the Villa. There we were warmly welcomed by Nelsida and Mercy and overwhelmed with the beauty of the villa as

well as the friendliness of the staff...we knew we were "home"! As we walked out onto the veranda we were stunned by the breathtaking beauty of the pool and the surrounding views of the ocean, Mount Isabella, the other villas near but not too near, this was the villa of our dreams! After a quick tour of the house we changed into bathing suits and head to the pool. Almost instantly Mercy appeared with a tray of Pina Coladas and cold beer.....we were in heaven. Our stay at Villa Vista Del Mar had begun! Every day was like a dream filled with long, lazy hours in and around the pool interrupted only by the delicious meals and beverages graciously served by Nelsida and Mercy. To say that the food was fantastic is an understatement...our every wish was met with a warm smile! The staff truly became like family. During the week we ventured off to enjoy a day of sailing and snorkeling on a catamaran and a second adventure which took us out into the glorious countryside through small villages where we were greeted by the smiles and laughter of the beautiful children culminating in a trek through the jungle and swimming in cool, emerald pools at the base of several waterfalls. As the week came to an end we all agreed that it would nearly impossible to find more a more luxurious way to spend a holiday. It is unanimous that we hope to find ourselves back at the villa very soon!

Neal B.

Week in Paradise

Jul 24, 2009

2nd day at Cofresi: You lied to us. You said this is paradise. This isn't paradise, it's heaven. Julio, Nelsida and Mercy couldn't be nicer or better at what they do. We love it here. Went on the jeep safari today and all I can say is OMG. We are already planning a trip back next year with at least 8 people & you'll have at least 2 more billings after we get home. I'll write more when we get home. PS - the art work in the house is beautiful. Buenos dias. Post Vacation: Thank you for one of the most enjoyable, relaxing, beautiful vacations I can remember. Our stay was a week we'll never forget. We arrived at the airport and Julio was waiting for us as promised. En route to the villa, he stopped at a market so we could buy some last minute items. He is so easygoing and friendly, we fell in love with him instantly. When we arrived at our vacation home, we found the front door open and the aroma of something wonderful cooking. Two very friendly, smiling faces, Nelsida and Mercy could not have been cuter. They acted as if we were family they haven't seen for years. Julio insisted he carry our suitcases upstairs and immediately we were served cold drinks & snacks. I would come down stairs in the morning and my coffee was being poured as I walked into the kitchen. If I tried to pick it up, I got a stern "no" from Nelsida. I was not to carry my coffee. With a sly smile, she gladly carried it out to the poolside table for me to enjoy. The whole week was the same. The maids would not let anyone do anything but relax, all while they smiled and worked away. They truly are amazing. You were right, we all wanted to bring them home with us. At the airport, I teased Julio that my suitcase was heavy because I had Mercy and Nelsida in it. He laughed and said, "No, my Mercy stays here with me". We have their e-mail address and will stay in touch with our Dominican, extended family. I can't accurately convey how fond we grew of them. My

son learned a tremendous amount of Spanish from the staff and they were impressed at how fast he caught on. The house itself is beyond description. It looks as if it was built yesterday. It is in perfect condition in all respects. Julio keeps the pool sparkling and it was amazing how clear the water stayed all week. We are already planning our trip back next year with more people. We can't wait to see Julio, Nelsida, Mercy, the villa and all the wonderful, beautiful Dominicans we met, again. Thanks for an unforgettable experience!!!

Happy Illinois Family

Marvelous Vacation

Jul 17, 2009

Cindy, We had the most marvelous time at your villa! I cannot say enough about your staff. You are correct; I wanted to take Nelsida and Mercy home with me. They are wonderful cooks and superbly wonderful people! My husband and I would've eaten more adventurously if the kids weren't around, but we still got a great sampling of their wonderful recipes. The yucca and crackers and cheese snack when we got there was so appreciated. Chris and Mady's was really good, but we were so exhausted by the time we got there we could barely keep our heads up. For the sheer value, deliciousness and down-home fantastic cooking I'd eat at the house every day. We loved the endless supply of pina coladas, mojitos, banana milkshakes, flan and guacamole. Not to mention the wonderful fruits we had every day. Ahora Beachhouse was great for the kids to get burgers and fries even though you are correct it is quite expensive. The deep fried milky ways were quite wonderful though! Julio was so helpful and even got us a tray full of langostinos for dinner - so awesome. He also helped a member of our group who wanted to rent a car with logistics and so forth. He and Gabino doing the airport transfers was so wonderful so we didn't have to think about it. Jose was such a sweet night watchman. He spoke to me like I knew what he was saying and somehow I managed to understand most of it. He was so genuine and he told us to come back Pronto! All your staff made us feel right at home and even though the kids (and me) were a little weirded out at first at having "maids" around, by the end of the week they felt more like family. Your home is wonderfully kept up and the pool was pristine. We spent a lot of time in that pool! We didn't need air conditioning until the last night when we felt it got really, really hot. It was either our imagination or it was because we all fried on the catamaran ride that last day or it was indeed really, really hot. Some places let their maintenance slide cuz they figure there is nothing you can do since you are there, but your place was top-notch all the way. Excellent furnishings and excellent upkeep! Thanks for all your help and thanks for a truly memorable vacation! We are hoping that someday we can make it back there! If you can reiterate to your staff how wonderful they were and how much we appreciated them I'd truly appreciate that as well...

Lorain

Carol and Doug

Lovely villa with staff - best value

Jul 4, 2009

Our stay in Villa Vista del Mar was the most relaxing vacation I have ever had. It was by far the best value for the money. This large home comfortably accommodated our extended family of ten people, including four teenagers. Although we were there in the middle of the summer, the many fans, air conditioned bedrooms, and private pool kept us very comfortable. The staff was an added bonus, which made this vacation a dream. They were extremely gracious, took care of all cooking and cleaning, and helped us in many ways, large and small. Any parent will appreciate how wonderful it was to be free of the chores of everyday life. Play Cofresi is a small community, with a beach, shops, and restaurants within a five-minute walk - and we felt safe day and night. There are also many excursions available through the local tour guide. We took advantage of a few activities, but even the teens were content to spend most of their time hanging out at the pool. The detailed information provided by the owner before our arrival and the notebooks on site helped us to understand what to expect and take full advantage of our visit to this delightful country.

Anonymous

Another Day in Paradise

Jun 27, 2009

When we decided we wanted to go to the Dominican Republic, we started looking at areas we wanted to check out. And the top one on that list was the Northern Caribbean coast of DR. Randomly, I came across an Advertisement for HomeAway.com while reviewing Politico.com (who knew??) and when I clicked on DR and Puerto Plata, Vista del Mar was the listing that came up first. And I can't emphasize how glad we are that it did. Cindy helped get everything arranged for seven of us to fly into POP, be whisked to the Villa and enjoy seven full days of luxury and relaxation. She took care of everything up front (including food) so we had very little to do but relax by the pool and have Pinas each and every day. The staff was amazing and so helpful and sweet. Cindy had mentioned that we'd really like them and I think that ended up being an understatement. They were so great and nice and just a joy to be around. The Villa is huge and allowed us all to spread out and just relax. Each bedroom has air conditioning, which is needed for the hot and humid nights. There are great little restaurants nearby and the beach is just about a block away. Needless to say, we can't wait to come back to Vista del Mar. When we are on the plane back to Chicago, we kept talking about how lucky we were to find this place and what an amazing week it had been. A great place, with amazing people. Thanks to Cindy and all the staff at the Villa for making for such a great vacation! Thomas

Renee27

Hello Cindy, My friend...

Jun 8, 2009

Hello Cindy, My friends and I have had the pleasure of staying at your villa unexpectedly. We originally booked through the Lifestyle Crown Villa Resort located below your Villa. Once we arrived for check-in, we were informed that the resort had over booked villas. This is where your Villa came in, it is my understanding that the resort can rent from you if necessary...and boy we were glad they could!!! I have to say that the best part of our trip was your gorgeous

villa and wonderful staff which had nothing to do with our original purchase of a vacation at the resort. We did still have the all inclusive package including food at the resort therefore, Nelsida and Mercy only had to prepare us breakfast that the resort dropped off every morning. However, they did a wonderful time in preparing our 1 meal per day and made sure the place was spotless everyday while catering to all of our needs. Julio was just as fabulous and his superb English came in handy. We also LOVED both Jose's which guarded us during the night. I must say a nightmare of finding out the resort overbooked ended up being a blessing in disguise. We now know that if we ever decide to vacation in the DR again, it will definitely be at Vista Del Mar. Ocean World was also very nice, along with the Mexican Cantina and Ahora. We like Ahora so much that we ate there 2 times and paid money that we didn't need to because we had the all inclusive for food at the resort. Once again, thank you for the memories of a great vacation.

Gail L.

Wonderful Time

Jun 6, 2009

Cindy, I just wanted to let you know that everyone had a wonderful time at your villa. The house is so comfortable and I didn't have to worry about the kids tearing anything up! My oldest grandson was excited because he took the room with the bunk beds and had it all to himself. My granddaughter moved around from room to room. The two babies took to Nelsida and Mercy right away. I almost think they understood what they were saying because they just laughed whenever they talked to them. On Saturday I was at my wits end with them crying while Nichole (my daughter in law) was having a massage and each of them took a baby to the patio and they were asleep within minutes. The meals were great and it was so nice having them ready when we got back each day. And the pina coladas were wonderful! Everyday was an adventure. The kids did the cable car, catamaran, white water rafting, diving, dune buggies, horseback riding, water falls and fishing (with no luck). I had one morning to myself and only did the cable car, catamaran and part of the waterfalls. But I did have 3 massages while there but still need a vacation to recover from the vacation! The 2 older kids said this was their favorite vacation and could we please stay longer. We will definitely come back! Gail (June 2009)

Happy Virginia Couple

Wonderful Villa Vacation

May 31, 2009

Hi Cindy, Staying at your villa was wonderful. I was actually able to relax and enjoy the house we fell in love with the Nelsida, Julio and the house. The house was so comfortable and homey feeling we loved everything. The only thing that got us was those outdoor little biting gnats. But we still had a good time and I needed to relax because I was trying to get over having pneumonia it was indeed a good medicine. We enjoyed it so much that I will be contacting you by the beginning of the year because we want to go back the same time next year for 7 days.

Thank you for giving us your vacation home so that we could have a wonderful vacation.

Valerie June 2009

West Coast Girl

Wonderful Fabulous Vacation

May 22, 2009

Hi Cindy, I was a part of Megan's party at your wonderful house in Cofresi. We had a wonderful time, vacation was fabulous...great weather the first half. We went on the catamaran/snorkeling trip Monday, took the city tour Wed. Really enjoyed both. We were very impressed with the staff. Julio and Nelsida were fabulous. We had Nelsida with us the whole time. We weren't sure how we'd feel having someone else around, getting us drinks, etc. We're pretty low key people. She was great....learned our preferences quickly, was pleasant, helpful and not at all intrusive. And between my high school level Spanish and Google Translator, I think we did ok on the communication. Julio was very helpful too. We had the silly idea we could just grab a cab and go to some of the city places we wanted to go. As soon as he found that out he stopped us and found us a wonderful, friendly guide. We were sooo glad he did because we really didn't have a clue! The one thing we didn't do was the cable car. We missed our chance by lounging around the pool one of the sunny days. Oh well...next time. One thing you may want to warn guests about.....there are many guys from the Lifestyles Resort driving around the area in golf carts. They all want to take you to the resort for a tour. We politely declined several times, but curiosity eventually got the better of us. We were ushered into a "VIP" area and sat for an hour listening to a vacation timeshares sales pitch. We told him, that the tour was interesting but we would need to consult with parents/attorney. He turned pretty quickly. Berated us for leading him on that we were not going to hand over \$45,000 (on the spot) etc. The real kicker was when he took back the "complimentary" bottle of Rum he gave us. All in all, a horrible experience. We have attended similar sales pitches and have never been treated so poorly. When we returned to the villa, we were sooo glad to be back and have our wonderful staff!! So that was our trip...all in all, a great experience, very relaxing. No problems at all with your house or staff....in fact we kept commenting after our 'tour' how grateful we were we that we choose your villa and not some resort!! Regards, Jill

Happy in Paradise

Best Vacation Ever

Apr 29, 2009

Coming to the Dominica Republic and staying at the Villa Vista Del was the best vacation I've ever taken. I didn't have to do a thing the entire week, no cooking, no cleaning, no laundry. Everything was taken care of by Nelsida and Mercey. We enjoyed meals on the outside veranda. The quality of cooking was phenomenal, we enjoyed fresh local fruits, cheeses and meats. Drinks were even served to us pool side. The refreshing ocean breeze made it very pleasant, we didn't even need to use the air conditioning but the option is available in each bedroom. It was nice because we didn't have to go far to get to anything. Numerous restaurants, a casino, a night club and the beach are all within easy walking distance. We spent

most of our time reading in the pool, lounging in the hammock or sitting at Cofresi beach. It was a very relaxing trip. We did venture out on an excursion; we did the Jeep Safari tour and it was amazing! Along the ride we were able to see local stones being carved into magnificent figures, coffee being made directly from the beans, and cigars being rolled. We enjoying an authentic Dominican meal and then headed to the waterfalls. It was an exhilarating experience, we climbed up 7 waterfalls! After reaching the 7th waterfall we were than able to slide or jump out way back down. It was absolutely amazing! The staff at this villa really made our trip; I was worried because the extent of my Spanish speaking abilities is hola, and por favor. But communication was no problem and Julio can answer any of your questions, he was very helpful to us. Your villa "guide books" tells you absolutely everything you need to know from what plants/ produce customs will confiscate... to how to book a tour with the tour director, Gus. The books described in great detail all of the available activities as well as the meals Nelsida and Mercey can prepare. I loved this vacation; I can't wait until next year when we will be returning to Villa Vista Del Mar with even more friends and family! Christina April 2009

Very Happy Villa Vacationer

Playa Cofresi Paradise

Apr 17, 2009

Dear Cindy, Thank you for such a wonderful vacation in your lovely Playa Cofresi Villa. The house was absolutely amazing and all the staff was superb. Everything was great from the beginning when Julio greeted us at the airport to the end, when we sadly had to return to reality. Julio was a tremendous help in helping with our shopping, his English is much better than my Spanish so we did not have to worry about communicating. He took excellent care of the pool and the tremendous poolside terrace, everything was spotless and perfect. The outside shaded dining area and open sun terrace are amazing... a HUGE area to spread out. We could all spread out and be in the sun or shade, but still be close enough for conversation. And we had to fight over who got to use the sun bed. The large yards surrounding the villa really gave us a sense of privacy. Nelsida and Mercey were just great, so attentive and courteous and excellent cooks! The food was delicious and your Food Guide Book was a great help. We may try to make some of those dishes at home. The ladies could not have done a better job pampering us non-stop with snacks, drinks and delicious meals. I would love to kidnap them and bring them home with me. Your Villa Guide and the Tours & Activities book were extremely helpful for us to make arrangements for local activities from a manicure, pedicure, massage, to exciting side trips. I could not believe a manicure and pedicure for \$15! We felt very safe with having Gus make the arrangements for the side trips and they even came to the house to pick us up. We tried the Safari trip which included the trek up 7 levels of a waterfall and swim in the pools. It was definitely something you must do at least once in your life. When I got back to work I had to share your website with my co-workers so that they could see the lovely pictures. Everyone was so impressed but I told them that the real thing was even better. I put your website as a favorite on my computer so that I can gaze and

remember our lovely vacation. You can definitely count on us for a return vacation next year.
Best regards, Cathy

Totally relaxed guy

Perfect Escape

Apr 14, 2009

My vacation at visit Villa Vista del Mar in April 2009 was total rest and relaxation. I live in Florida where the weather is warm and sunny all year long, and I can honestly say that after a little over a week in Cofresi I have never been so relaxed in all of my life. For starters, the weather is ideal. The villa is a quick walk from the beach so ocean breezes cool you off as you lie in the hammock or take a nap in the pool. The sun warms up the pool water so it is perfect for lounging in all day and night. The house is definitely built for relaxation as the pool is encircled by a wide patio with plenty of comfortable cushioned chaises that are great for afternoon siestas. Our bedroom had a beautiful huge balcony; complete with a hammock that overlooks the hillside from which you can see the water gently lapping at the shore and also had a breathtaking view of a mountain that was a wonderful backdrop. In terms of natural beauty, the view and the sounds of the shore at night really cannot be beat. The food was expertly prepared by two fantastic staff, and delicious and very fresh. Every day we enjoyed fresh fruit, Dominican coffee, local beef, fall-off-the-bone pork and more. ALL of our meals were out of this world. Eating outside with views of the beautiful surroundings in Cofresi, and being served by Nelsida and Mercey—two of the nicest, friendliest, and most accommodating people you could ask for made each meal fantastic. Since they attended to all of our needs, including making the beds, cleaning, cooking, and of course serving refreshments and ice cold beers non stop, there was never a need to think of responsibility or any care in the real world. There were plenty of excursions to choose from and the Complete Guide Book provided helpful information about the Dom Rep. including all the tours & activities. But it was pleasant to just lounge at the house all day and soak up the weather and good vibes. The beach is only a short walk away and definitely worth the trip, and also a great place for a morning run. Without a doubt this vacation was the perfect escape that allowed me to recharge my batteries and come back feeling refreshed and relaxed, and Villa Vista del Mar was the main reason for that. I would definitely recommend to anyone considering a vacation to stay at your beautiful villa and take full advantage of all it has to offer. Thanks for all your help booking this! Josh

Catherine D.

Beautiful Villa Vacation

Apr 3, 2009

Hi Cindy, I wanted to tell you how much my family enjoyed our vacation in your Villa...it was more beautiful than I could have imagined... very comforting and welcoming without being pretentious. Everything was as exactly as described on the website, but more beautiful in person. The views from the bedrooms were breathtaking. The paintings throughout the villa were amazing (I can't believe your mother painted many of these!) Every detail of the house

was perfect The pool, open sundeck and covered terrace were just perfect; I could stay in the shade and still be close to my family that was sunbathing. We spent so much time that when I got home I really missed that. The extended grounds around of the house made us feel secluded and private. No one was right next door to catch us skinny dipping! The staff was impeccable. Best of all were Nelsida and Mercey, waiting on us hand and foot. The food was delicious and the drinks were excellent, especially the Pina Coladas. Julio was so helpful; he drove us back and forth to the airport, went on many errands, and even helped me learn to speak Spanish! Gus was great with the tours and even picked us up right at the house. We went on the Jeep Safari and really enjoyed it. This was an excellent trip but be advised-- it is not for the faint of heart, and wear an old pair of sneakers or rent the water shoes! We really felt totally at home and comfortable with all of the staff. We went out for d a few times and the places you recommend nearby were great, good food, great atmosphere and economical. Chris and Madys was especially nice, wonderful atmosphere overlooking the ocean. Thanks for recommending Susi, the hairdresser. She did a great job and some folks have said I now look like Clint Eastwood. We enjoyed the fantastic scenery on our daily exercise walks. The beach was so close and well protected. There were so many activities nearby we did not even need to rent a car. Too bad the casino got some of my money; at least I got drinks for free. Thanks for all your help putting this trip together... we are already making plans now for our next trip!

Machos Gracious, Jim

Fun College Group
Best Spring Break
Mar 22, 2009

Cindy, Thank you so much for allowing us to use your beautiful home! All 15 of us had such and amazing time! Nelsida, Mercey, Julio, and Jose all did a wonderful job of making us feel right at home! The weather the first few days was a little off, but we still managed to have so much fun. The rest of the trip was absolutely gorgeous and it really was the best spring break any of us have had. The outdoor bed was great, very comfortable. A perfect place to smoke a cigar and drink a pina colada as the sun set! The whole trip went so smoothly, in fact, me and one other guy got to stay an extra day! Our flight was oversold, so we were put up at the Playa Dorada Resort for free one night, so that's why my response to you was delayed. Thanks again, we had such a wonderful time. Best, rad

Very Happy Vacationers
Great Tropical Vacation
Jan 22, 2009

Dear Cindy Michael and I had an amazing time at your villa - the pictures don't do it justice! What a beautiful, serene, relaxing vacation. We would like to thank you and your attentive staff for everything - we certainly were not lacking anything. Julio was wonderful - running into town for shopping and errands. He even found a wonderful manicurist and masseuse that came right to the villa. The massage on the balcony with the breeze and sun shine was one of my personal highlights. The staff was so welcoming and friendly that despite the fact I do not

Speak a word of Spanish, I felt right at home and was able to communicate with no problem at all. Nelsida was so accommodating and made everything available at a moment's notice. The elegance of the villa combined with comfortable and refreshing furnishings made us feel right at home. It was the ultimate vacation with everything at our fingertips. You provided tons of information on everything in all the Info Booklets. One of our other favorite experiences was riding horses through the little villages and on the beach - an afternoon which was unforgettable! The guide came right to the villa, picked us up and took us to the ranch. There were so many activities available - but at the same time so much relaxing to do. It was a perfect combination: an eventful but relaxing vacation. It was so refreshing to be able to walk right out of our room for a swim in the pool. The pool was sparkling; fresh towels always available and abundant refreshing beverages. It was a delight to not have to go out to dinner every evening. The staff prepared our requested dinners and the food was absolutely delicious! The meal planning guide made it so easy. It was fun to experience the native dishes as well as the commonly known meals (Mike's favorite - shepherd's pie) You and your staff have made this a wonderful experience and the ultimate vacation! Thank you for sharing a little piece of your paradise with us! Denise and Michael January 2009

Happy Couple in Paradise

Blissful Vacation

Dec 5, 2008

Cindy, Words cannot describe how wonderful our stay was at your villa. Truly, Jane and I agree, we have never had a more relaxing, blissful - just heavenly week in our entire lives. That is no exaggeration. The villa itself is wonderful, of course, with its spacious, airy, beautifully decorated rooms that feel at once homey and luxurious (which is pretty amazing, since we don't live in luxury at home), its meticulously kept pool, its many amenities. The location, up on that hillside overlooking the beaches, the ocean, the mountain...is stunning. The people of the island - be they expatriates from the mainland or natives - are as warm and kind as any we've met anywhere. And there are far more places to see and enjoy than we could find the time to explore in our eight days. I could go on and on about our stay, as you can probably tell! But I have to say, what made it extra special and memorable was your staff. Julio and Nelsida are wonderful! They waited on our every need like pros but treated us like family. Neither of us speak Spanish beyond por favor and gracias yet Julio's pretty-good English and Nelsida's infinite patience made it so we never missed a beat. By the time we were due to pack our bags to go, we knew we would not only miss the paradise that is the island and your villa, we would miss Julio and Nelsida even more. So thank you, Cindy, for that home away from home. It's like an alternate universe, where our stresses and troubles are nowhere to be found, but a sense of comfort and well-being - not to mention joy and plain fun - is as pervasive as the air we breathed. God, we miss it! Tom and Jane December 2008

the girls vacation

Our FABULOUS Cofresi Vacation

Nov 11, 2008

Hi Cindy- I keep wanting to send you a proper THANK YOU card in the mail but alas have not done so yet so I hope this email will suffice:) We had an amazing time at your house which is lovely, as were everyone who worked there and all of their friends. I can honestly think of nothing that needs to be changed. The food was fantastic and the best part of it was we did not have to make any of it!! I read many books, we watched DVDs, went out to dinner and one of my friends was smart enough to bring her portable iPod player so we had music by the pool for our massages. Remembering all of this makes me want to go back ASAP! I am sure you have had so many wonderful family and friends vacations there, you are very lucky to have such a getaway. And we are lucky you shared it with us Many, many thanks! Aubrey

Happy Villa Vacationer

Lovely Villa Vacation

Sep 28, 2008

Cindy, Our vacation went extremely well. The villa was just as advertised and was lovely. The staff was gracious and very accommodating. We appreciated the recommendation for Chris and Mady's and enjoyed a good meal the night of our arrival. The best part of the villa was the pool and surrounding outside area. The food was great and the piña coladas even better! I would recommend the villa to anyone! Thanks to your staff for a restful and relaxing week. When visiting the Dominican Republic again, we will definitely check to see if your villa is available. Thanks again for everything! Regards, Kathy

Shelley & Martin...

Guestbook Comment

Aug 31, 2008

In a fit of nostalgia, we looked up your villa to see if it was still being rented. We stayed there in 2001 and 2002 and couldn't imagine a place closer to paradise. Although we are experienced travelers and visited many spectacular places in the world, our stays at your villa remain among our fondest travel memories. The location is beautiful (what amazing sunrises viewed from the balcony!) and so wonderfully relaxing and amusing (the chickens running through the back yard and the horses wandering loose along the front drive were always good for a chuckle), but more impressive were the people -- both staff and other locals -- who quickly made us feel like part of their family. In fact, we had the pleasure of having a pleasant afternoon sipping drinks and talking by the pool with Lenore and Don on our first trip because we began our stay in Playa Cofresi at a neighboring villa before moving into "the big house." We were saddened to read that Don is no longer with you, but clearly remember how proudly he spoke of his daughter Cindy. How wonderful that you are continuing his dream! As for the villa, we can't recommend it highly enough. If we hadn't spent the last 6 years rapidly expanding our family, we would have definitely continued to return. Once our children are a bit older and better equipped to endure air travel, we'll be looking up you and your villa again! Warmest regards to Lenore.

Barbara & Tom

Guestbook Comment

Aug 31, 2008

Cindy - Just wanted to let you know that we had a wonderful time at Villa Del Mar. Your Villa is beautiful and Nelsida, Julio and Merci could not have taken better care of us. It was truly the most relaxing vacations we have ever taken - despite Tropical Storm Fay arriving late in the week. We hunkered down in the game room and played scrabble and cards. We most certainly enjoyed being able to watch the Red Sox games while we were there as well. My birthday occurred while we were there and Nelsida and Merci baked a chocolate cake for the occasion. That was greatly appreciated. Thank you so much for all of your help, advice and assistance. We had a ball. The McTigues P.S. Please feel free to use our comments for the web site and as a reference in the event that any future clients request one. You can tell it was a restful vacation.....went back to the office today and I still have my vacation glow.

College guy

Best Summer Vacation

Aug 1, 2008

Hi Cindy, Sorry it has taken me so long to respond, but I got caught up in school and studying. I just wanted you to know what a great time my friends and I had at your beautiful vacation home! (August 2-8, 2008) All of the staff... Nelsida, Mercey and Julio could not have made our vacation any more comfortable. It is difficult to say "no" when they come out every half hour to ask if we want another pina colada or Presidente. We were on vacation, so why not? The house was very comfortable, the furnishings were great, nicely decorated. We all felt like we could relax instead of worrying about putting something out of place in a "showcase" home. Having Julio do all the food shopping was a major win because we definitely didn't have enough time to spend in Cofresi...although we did manage to squeeze in a white water rafting trip, jeep safari, golf, visits to the casino, massages on the terrace and many restaurants. I hope we can return soon, but just wanted to let you know how much we appreciated your help organizing the vacation. Everything went smoothly. We loved Playa Cofresi and your house was perfect! Sincerely Devin

Helene B.

Guestbook Comment

Jun 30, 2008

Cindy – You have such a special place – it was the best vacation we have ever had. Julio and Nelsida are like family who take care of you and love you no matter what dumb things you do. Food was great, we also loved Los Dos, we had fish, loved the beach (and decided Cofresi is the best of all beaches on the north coast). We loved Hector (the massuesse) – thank your mom especially for him. He fixed up my leg after I slipped doing something pretty stupid, and he is the absolute best massage I've had (and I have been to a lot of spas). I wrote some in the guest book (at the villa), but cannot write enough or express our thanks to you and the wonderful people who took care of us. _____ Helene

Cynthia G.

Guestbook Comment

Dec 31, 2007

Cindy, Thank you so much for the use of the Villa. We had a wonderful time. I knew that having a cook and maid would be a bonus, but I didn't realize just how much I would come to appreciate it. It truly made this a vacation like one I've never had before. It was like going out to a restaurant every morning, afternoon and evening but never having to choose where to go, never having to primp to go out, or having to be drill sergeant to get everyone moving and out the door. Nelsida and Mercy worked so hard to make this relaxing for us. While I enjoyed the white water rafting, beaching, and horseback riding, the service from Nelsida and Mercy is considered my favorite thing. We are deeply grateful to them. And Julio is most knowledgeable, dependable and personable. They are all great people and we all truly enjoyed them. You are fortunate to have such a dedicated, hardworking staff. But then I am sure you take care of them well and that is why they are such. The villa is beautiful! And it fit our family and our lifestyle perfectly. The outside patio and pool were our favorite spots. We also found the Dominican people to be very lively and happy. They always made us feel comfortable. It is very obvious how much they appreciate tourists. Thank you again for such a wonderful stay! We hope we may be back again soon. Or at the least, may have some referrals to give you for some friends. Take care! It's back to reality for us now!

Anonymous said...

Guestbook Comment

Oct 31, 2007

Cindy I just wanted to let you know what a great time we had in the DR. Your home is beautiful, and Julio, Nelsida, Mercy and Gabino couldn't have been more gracious and attentive. Both my sister-in-law and I agreed that it is the most relaxing vacation that we have ever been on! I would like to rent the villa next year again for Thanksgiving week 2008 (Sat Nov 22 through Sat Nov 29th, 2008.) Can you let me know if it is available, and what the rental fee for 8 guests would be? Thanks...please feel free to use my as a reference for your villa, especially for any families that are wondering or concerned about bringing kids. Our kids had a blast and I felt incredibly comfortable at all times with them in all the places that we went. Thanks.. looking forward to your reply regarding next year. Laura NOV 2007

Ginny

5 star

Oct 31, 2007

Cindy, I will send you a longer email in a few days. We loved our vacation in your beautiful home, and your staff was everything you had promised! Our week together was everything we hoped for - hanging out, enjoying the pool, evening card games, enjoying the pool, reading multiple books, the beach close by, time with the grandchildren, and the good food from Nelsida and Mercey. Your Villa is five stars; it made our vacation, Ginny

Kempton W.

Guestbook Comment

Sep 30, 2007

I will like to let it be known that this was the best vacation i've been on. The staff was so good to me and my friends that we all agreed that it would be nice to take them home with us. I would recomend this trip to anyone who is looking to relax and enjoy very good cooking.

oysterbay

Guestbook Comment

Aug 31, 2007

Dear Cindy, I will say that the pictures don't do justice to the home. I realize that when letting a house be used by so many strangers, one must leave this rather child-proof, but your home delivers just enough warmth to feel comfortable yet an astute sensitivity to ruffians that relieved me of a vigilant eye on the kids for fear of them damaging things. I especially appreciated much of the art that adorned the walls. Obviously, someone in your family has a discerning eye and some good local contacts. By the way I love your Villa Orientation Books As for Julio's absence (due to illness) I'm not really sure what he would have done that wasn't attended to. I'm assuming that the handsome young man who cleaned the pool was his son. Admittedly, I was a bit concerned about your property on the night of the storm. (Hurricane Dean) Oddly, I was kind of hoping that we might get hit with the hurricane just for the excitement and experience. I didn't know if I should make some effort to bring in furniture. But as it turned out, the winds were not too disruptive and your property was fine, except for some rain coming in the north side windows, which Nelsida promptly tidied up anyway. At 53, I do look at many of the places we travel to as possible second homes to spend some quality time, and obviously the DR is certainly one of them, although I think I might still be a bit partial to Panama or Costa Rica and they don't seem to have much hurricane issues at all. John went shopping with Nelsida a few times and I fear he may have given her a bit too much instruction. It seemed to me that the few times she was left to her own devises, things were much more to my liking. I suppose that was one shortcoming of bringing a native chauvinistic Dominican along for the ride. Something tells me I may have enjoyed her fried-yucca delectables a bit too much, and needed to have them taken away from me before I needed an extra airplane seat for the trip home. Both of the women (Nelsida and Mercy) were so lovely and attentive, and ever so professional and discreet. Even though I well understand the roles of domestic help, I found myself embarrassed watching the children quickly adapting to being waited on like spoiled brats. And I must admit that having someone clamoring to fill my coffee cup was even a tad unsettling for me. Clearly, they know what a great position they have with you. Cindy, to be sure, they both serve you well. Like the words that are constantly repeated in your letters of appreciation, I too, wished I could have stowed Nelsida, Mercy and Julio Jr. into my luggage. One of my favorite moments was upon arrival, when Gabino greeted us with his tried-and-true line "Welcome Home"; what a wonderful touch. Clearly, my saddest moment was departing. Thanks again for the use of your home. Of course, I am happy to be an indisputably positive reference if you should ever choose. Ralph Potente 8/27/2007

Dawn B.

Guestbook Comment

Jun 30, 2007

Cindy I wanted to send you an email to tell you how much we LOVED your home. I cannot tell you enough how wonderful your extended family is at the house. Julio, Mercy and Nelsida are just the most wonderful people and it was sad to leave them yesterday, it felt like they were a part of our family. They were so good to us and the food that they cooked was the most wonderful in the world. I have a request for a couple of the recipes if you don't mind. The fried yucca, how they made the beans so tasty and the paella. I also wanted you to know that Gus was awesome! He set us up on a horseback trip, jeep safari so we could see Dominica life and climb the waterfall and we also went snorkeling and to Ocean World. He was terrific and most pleasant with all of us. I can tell how you Daddy fell in love with the place, this will definitely be somewhere we come back to again and again. If anyone ever needs a reference for your home, please feel free to contact me as I will give you a reference. We are all trying to figure out how to come back next year. I also would like for you to know that we thought the paintings in the house were stunning, the ones done by your Mother are beautiful. We had asked Julio where we might go to buy one and he told us that it was your Mom :-). Thank you again for sharing your home with us and allowing us to be a part of the Dominican life and meet Julio, Nelsida and Mercy. If you are talking to them, please, please tell them again that we appreciated everything that they did for us and made us feel at home in their country. Best Wishes, Dawn

Keith E

wishicould be back

May 31, 2007

Hi Cindy, I have been meaning to send you an e-mail about our trip. We had a fabulous time! I wish I could be back there right now. Thanks so much for everything on your end. Julio, Nelsida and Mercey took such great care of us--they're truly wonderful people. Having been to the house before, I cannot really think of anything that didn't meet our expectations. Here are a few random thoughts I had meant to share with you... --Good call on the new air conditioning! Our week was pretty hot--and we used them. And we were happy with the improvements to the house! --Did I mention that Nelsida, Julio and Mercey are FABULOUS. And Gabino came by to check up on things, he is so nice. -As for the food shopping situation, I am not sure how most of your guests work it, but we really had Julio do almost all the shopping. We did do one stop by the market almost for fun (and bought junk food!) but I think that's the way to go. We paid him for each trip and had everything we needed. --We went to dinner and played a few rounds of blackjack at the casino. Nice place! --We did the tour of the Gri Gri Lagoon, and we didn't like it. We LOVED the Playa Grande part--it was so beautiful--but the van ride was really uncomfortable (very hot and slow) and the lagoon and boat ride was nothing great. --We went horseback riding, per your recommendation in the mountains, and it was a blast! Cindy, thanks a million! Your house has now hosted two of our best vacations

ever. Feel free to use me as a reference--I just LOVE the house, and I think it's a fabulous vacation. I am telling MY friends and family-- Thanks for everything, Keith

Darla Knoll

Jan 8, 2007

Guestbook Comment

Dec 31, 2006

Hi Cindy, Villa Vista del Mar was everything I expected - and more. Julio, Nelsida, Macy and Jose are fantastic. My one daughter adopted Jose and checked with us everyday to make sure he ate and had something to drink. She understands and speaks more Spanish than I do so they got on very well. Everyone spoke a little so it was fun trying it out. I usually ended up by resorting to sign language. The villa was lovely and the art work beautiful. The terraces and pool made it delightful to just sit and take in the scenery. All of the activities went well. Iguana Mama turned out to be a very good choice for cascading. The five grandchildren that went (ages 22-28) had a marvelous time. I had to take Adrienne to Medico because she jumped off a 35 ft. cliff into the water and tore a membrane in her ear causing it to bleed. The experience with Medico was a good one and after a shot to dry up the fluid, and some ear drops, she was as good as new in a couple of hours. When we arrived it was pouring rain but that was a good thing. The guides said normally there wouldn't be water at all 27 falls and they had only taken a couple of tours all the way. They said it was an awesome experience. Swimming with the dolphins was great fun as was the horseback riding and catamaran trip. The mountain was cloudy everyday except for the day they decided to take the tram up to the top and then it was crystal clear until they came back down. Leaving was difficult. I can see why your family love the Dominicans as they are truly gentle people. We brought back a lot of very special memories and hope to return sometime soon. You were very helpful in the planning of our vacation and I thank you so very much. Please give my best to your mother and tell her that her love for Cofresi is now shared by 10 more people. Another thing we came back with was a taste for Nelsia's yucca. Justin is going to try to recreate it since they have a Caribbean market near by; however we're pretty sure it won't be recognized as anything close to Nelsia's. We all truly loved your staff. You have every right to be extremely proud of your Dominican family. Not only are they hardworking but their honesty and friendliness is superior. Regards, Darla

Adriana Moret

Guestbook Comment

Nov 30, 2006

Dear Cindy, Lenore and Family, Our vacation was beyond amazing! Thank you so much for sharing your beautiful and comfortable home with our family. Cofresi villa is beautiful on so many levels. Not just because its a beautiful home but the energy and spirit in that house is one of love and peace and togetherness! Your staff treated us like family, leaving us with the desire to go back to the DR, not only to vacation, but to see them again. Our family will never forget this vacation. My parents loved the country and the people, just as I thought they

would. My niece had the best birthday party she could dream of. We were fortunate enough to be able to share her day with some of Gabino's and Nelsida and Julio's children who were so thankful to be invited to share her birthday -- they even bought my niece a gift!!! Amazing people. Cindy, EVERYTHING, was perfect. The birthday cake was HUGE and beautiful, with tons of Pony's on it. The piñata was a hit, the horses they brought, WOW. The band became friends with my Father who had them over on another night to play again. The baptism was really beautiful too. Everyone in the church treated us like family. The genuinely showed joy for my niece and nephew to be baptised. Julio, Gabino, Nelsida, Mercy, Jose and everyone who was there, was kind, generous, loving and very, very courteous. My Mom, as I predicted, enjoyed getting in the kitchen with Nelsida and Mercy to talk to them and help. She took it upon herself to take care of Jose. Everynight, she would serve his dinner and would give him water and fruit. Nelsida's scooter was missing a light and my Mom had the pleasure of giving her money to fix it. These are the little things that truly added joy to our trip. I went there with 2 suitcases and returned with one little one. It was my pleasure to give some of my clothes to Nelsida and Mercy and her kids. What a trip! Ocean World was a blast, we were there early and were the last to leave. We spent countless hours in your lovely pool and enjoyed every day, every moment. Once again, thank you for your willingness to share the love of your home and your staff! We cant wait to come back. Adriana Moret

Debra Dullinger

Guestbook Comment

Oct 31, 2006

Two girlfriends and I just returned from a week long stay in your beautiful Villa Vista Del Mar. It was the best vacation I had. I absolutely hated to leave. Your staff at the house is priceless... Julio and Nelsida are the best in the world!!!! They made all the difference in the world. Nelsida is a wonderful cook and kept that house spotless. Julio and Gabino were also very attentive. Please thank everyone for the hard work and hospitality, please include a heartfelt thanks to Jose for watching the home at night. Naina, the young woman who came to do massage was super!!! I had such a great relaxing vacation. We will return....Lenore and Cindy, please let your staff know how much we were impressed with their care and service and how appreciative we all were. Sincerely, Debra Dullinger (house rental 10/27/06-11/03/06, member of the Selena Running party)

Jazmin Jourdain

Guestbook Comment

Oct 31, 2006

I haven't had a chance to say Thank you to you and your daughter for the absolutely great time that we had at Villa Vista Del Mar in late August. My group rented your villa from the 26th through the 30th & we had a real blast!! Your staff was absolutely wonderful to us and Gustavo the event planner was great about organizing our horse back riding and ATV excursions. Julio went out of his way and left church to help us when the lights went out one

night. They all went above and beyond to make the experience a wonderful one. We've recommended your home to everyone we know. Thanx again. Jazmin Jourdain

Debbie Wenham

Guestbook Comment

Sep 30, 2006

Hello Lenore and Cindy, I just wanted to drop you a quick line to let you know what a fantastic time we had at your villa. Nelsida, Mercey and Julio were a great joy to have around and did their utmost to ensure our comfort and enjoyment throughout our stay. Indeed some days we had to force Nelsida and Mercey to leave they were so keen... our thanks once again to them for their sterling work. The pictures on the internet could not do the terrace and pool area justice - they were an absolute delight - we are missing it so much now we are back to the harsh reality of life - work, supermarket shopping, driving in the rush hour etc. Oh for the quiet of the pool once again! So, all that it remains for me to say is thank you so much for creating such a beautiful villa in the most gorgeous of surroundings - we had a fabulous time and hope to return one day. Again, With kindest regards, Debbie

Kara_HAC66516

Guestbook Comment

Sep 30, 2006

Cindy, I just wanted to thank you again for offering your fantastic house to us for the past week. We had such an amazing time...I don't even have the words to express how much we loved it. Everyone was so lovely and helpful...Nilsida, Julio, Gabino, Jose, Gus....the list could go on! It was so hard to leave and come back to reality. We can't wait to visit again, possibly in the spring. Thanks again. Kara Dove

Emilys Pena

Guestbook Comment

Sep 30, 2006

We had a wonderful time at your Villa! What a beautiful location. What a gem you found in Julio, he was the perfect host, not to mention his wife and sister. They made the vacation so enjoyable. My only regret was that I didn't book for two weeks...by the time I was starting to feel relaxed it was time to leave. I would love to keep in touch with you and to hopefully vacation at your villa again. It was wonderful. Sincerely, Emilys Peña

Susan_HAC66508

Oct 16, 2006

Guestbook Comment

Sep 30, 2006

Hi Lenore, We often reminisce about our wonderful vacation in the DR and your home and of

the wonderful staff. They are lovely people and you are doing wonderful things for them and their families. Please say hello to all of them for us. Susan

Marilyn Vargas

Guestbook Comment

Jun 30, 2006

Hello! i Lenore! I am so happy to communicate to you that our stay at your home in Playa Cofresi has been the most relaxing vacation ever! Your staff is not only polite, courteous and very friendly, but they go above and beyond their call of duty. The scenery was spectacular. The short walk to the wonderful and beautiful beach of Cofresi and it's surroundings was less than 2 minutes. Your home is very inviting and comfortable. Everything was immaculately clean and the pool area was wonderful. I'm absolutely positive that we will stay in your home many more times. We have told all of our friends and family and I know we will be speaking soon. Thank you again. Marilyn Vargas and the entire Vargas family! (July 2006) -

Patti Conway

Guestbook Comment

Jun 30, 2006

Hello Lenore, I wanted to let you know that we enjoyed our time in the DR. Words simply cannot describe the week that we spent. Maisey, Julio, and Nersida were absolute delights, we thoroughly enjoyed their help and smiles. Gus was a blast and the tours that he recommended were great; catamaran, safari, and the horseback riding. Chris and Maddie's was a nice place to eat and drink while watching the locals and taking in the beach and ocean. Thank you for allowing us to spend this wonderful week in your home. Among the 8 of us there is not one that would not wish to go back. I'm sure we'll be in touch again in the future. Take care and enjoy the rest of the summer. Sincerely, Patti Conway P.S. Please feel free to use this letter on your website for a testimonial.

HAC51147

Guestbook Comment

Apr 30, 2006

i went to this villa with my whole family and i loved it more than anything i loved tanning by the pool and having people serve me pina coladas and the wonderful food that they served us i would give anything to go back again

Alisa Moen

Guestbook Comment

Dec 31, 2005

This has been one of the best vacations ever. The staff is superb and the house is beautifully comfortable. Highly recommended!!!!

Smileloot

Guestbook Comment

Oct 31, 2005

The best 6 nights & seven days of my life housekeeper is the best, I wish I had her here in New York. I miss it all, did not want to leave.

ROSS FRAZIER

Guestbook Comment

Jul 31, 2005

Very nice. Housekeepers as good as one can have. Could not have had a more relaxing vacation. Would recommend to anyone.

FROM HAND WRITTEN NOTES: PRE Web Site

(Christmas holidays 2005)

Dear Lenore.

Just to let you know that all the Lewis' had an absolutely marvelous time in your house at Cofresi. We all felt very comfortable and happy right from the minute we stepped in the door- and after the week flew by we were quite reluctant to leave. Everything was very attractive and just right. How do you manage that with so many people traipsing through all the time? Nelsida and her crew looked after us very well. Our favorite dishes were her Paella and Sanscocho. We even asked her to make Bacalhao the Dominican way one morning- The weather couldn't have been nicer- with sun every day except the day we left. We appreciated the dirt track road with wandering roosters and horses, the empty land around. It was a very successful tropical holiday for us. Thank you- and Happy New Year-

Kirsten Lewis

(New Year's week 2005)

Hi Lenore.

Thank you for sharing your lovely home with us. The villa is fabulous- so elegant yet relaxed. We had a wonderful time (although it could have rained a little less). We would be honored to have our pictures and comments on your website. We often

reminisce about our wonderful vacation in the DR and your home and of the wonderful staff. They are lovely people and you are doing wonderful things for them and their family. They must be the best on the island- Please say hello to them all for us and tell Julio that Shai is so big he wouldn't recognize him - He'll be 3 in August (2005) and the girls are: Amanda, 7 next month, Ruby, 5 in June and Sydney 3. I look forward to future updates from you.

Susan Schor

(July 2005)

Hello Lenore and Don.

We thought we would just drop you a line to let you know how much we enjoyed our stay at Villa Vista del Mar. Your maid is a very good cook, and she works hard. While she doesn't speak much English, we had no problems communicating and my Spanish vocabulary (albeit limited) really got expanded. Julio was very helpful and also worked very hard around the pool. Jose is a sweetie. You have good staff working for you. Lou was very helpful and knowledgeable; he has a good team working with him.

The villa was extremely comfortable, the pool was lovely to swim in, and the gardens extremely pretty. The location of the villa is superb, with gorgeous views and being situated to catch the trade-winds. I never tired of the view from the master bedroom balcony. I could have sat there all day. Your decor and display of artwork is just perfect- you both have a very lovely home. We had a very relaxing time, except for fighting over whose turn it was in the hammock---- Thank you. We hope to return again sometime.

Simon and Judy Watt

July 2004

Lenore and Don.

We have stayed in numerous villas in Italy, Spain, Portugal and France and have always vowed to never return to the same place twice. But we enjoyed your villa so much this year (2003) that we just can't stop thinking about it. So we have decided to break with tradition. If there is availability next summer then we would like to return. Please let us know what dates you have available for next summer. We are looking for

10 days, anytime from early June through to early July.

Simon and Judy Watt

(July 2004)

Hello Mr. and Mrs. Smith,

I am writing to you to thank you for such a wonderful vacation. You have a beautiful home in Playa Cofresi. My friend and I enjoyed ourselves tremendously. Julio helped us with "everything" so we did not have any worries. Nelsida cooked very tasteful meals and made strong pina coladas. Everyone was very courteous and pleasant. It was truly a postcard moment to walk out on the balcony and look at that ocean view. I've shown others the pictures of my vacation and they are already planning to come on my next trip. I've given several people your email address so maybe you will have some requests in the near future. Once again, thank you for that pleasurable experience.

Nicole Perry

September, 2004

Hello Lenore,

Walter and I want to thank you for allowing us to rent your beautiful villa for the last three and a half weeks. Our family had a WONDERFUL time. We cannot say enough how wonderful Nelsida and Julio were during our stay. So helpful, responsible and kind.

We met a few times with Lou, who even stopped by to make sure we were okay for Hurricane Francis (one day of rain, then the sun came shining through as usual). Gus and Gabino helped us with everything from tours to questions about property we saw in the area. You have a great team in place. We hope to be "return guests" next year to the DR and hope you'll allow us to rent your lovely home once again. Again, many thanks, and we wish you all the best. Best regards,

Joy and Walter Taylor (and Brent and Emery, too!)

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