

# The Dallas Morning News

International Travel

## New ultra-luxe resort in the DR will turn you into an ‘Aman Junkie’

A Pilates session followed by an in-room massage, perhaps? A nature walk into the rain forest with a spirited guide (who doubles as a martial arts champion)? A private lesson with a PGA pro on Amanera’s newly minted 18-hole golf course (which features 10 holes perched 100 feet above the ocean)?

“Whatever the guests want, we are here to make it happen,” said Laura Freafel, Amanera’s guest relations manager. That includes lagoon tours in the nearby town of Rio San Juan, private boat excursions to secret swimming holes, and casual lunches of grilled parrot fish and just-caught lobsters sold from shady palapas at Playa Grande Beach, at the far end of Amanera’s crescent beach.

The resort’s two restaurants feature an exceptional menu that includes locally sourced produce and fresh fish, plus a wide range of beach-friendly foods like pizzas and tacos. A popular guest request is to eat dinner beside the ocean at a table lighted by candles and tiki torches. How to follow that? With hand-rolled Dominican cigars selected from the resort’s cigar shop.

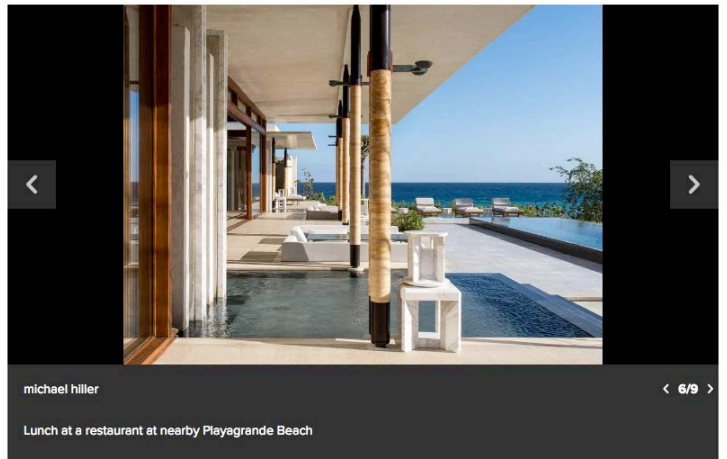
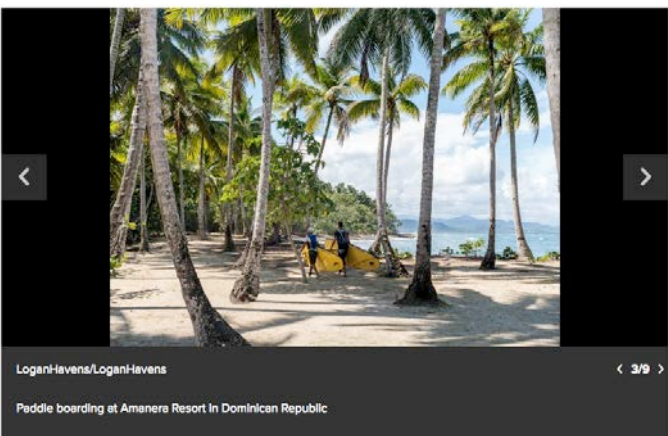
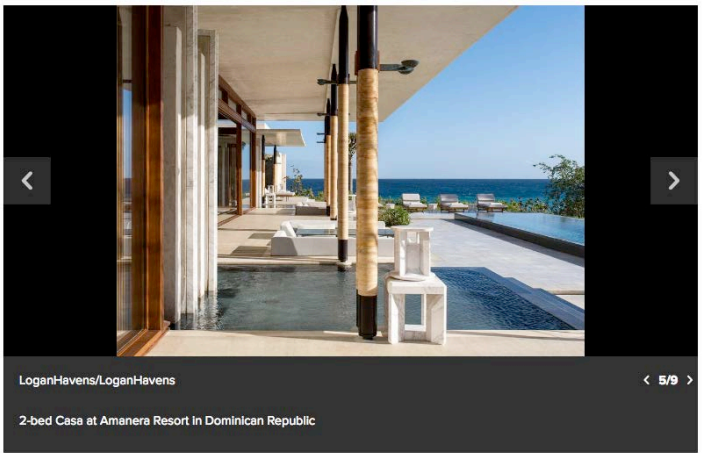
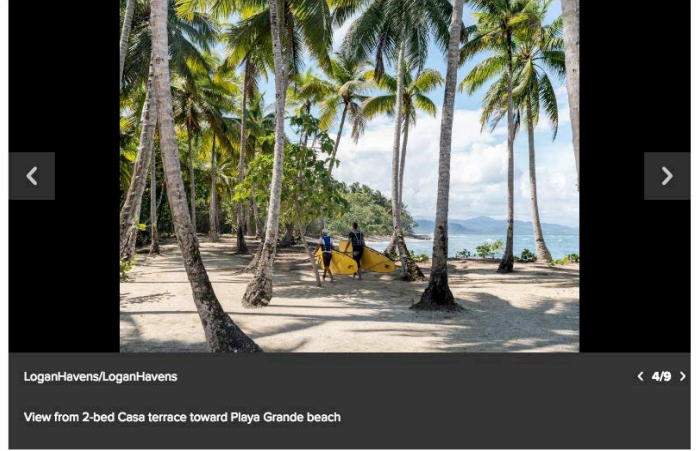
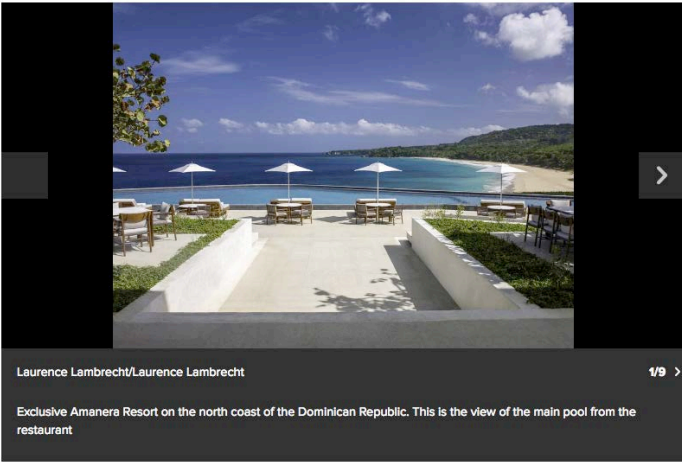
Aman’s arrival in the Dominican Republic signals to the luxury crowd that the island has evolved beyond its immensely popular all-inclusive-resort reputation.

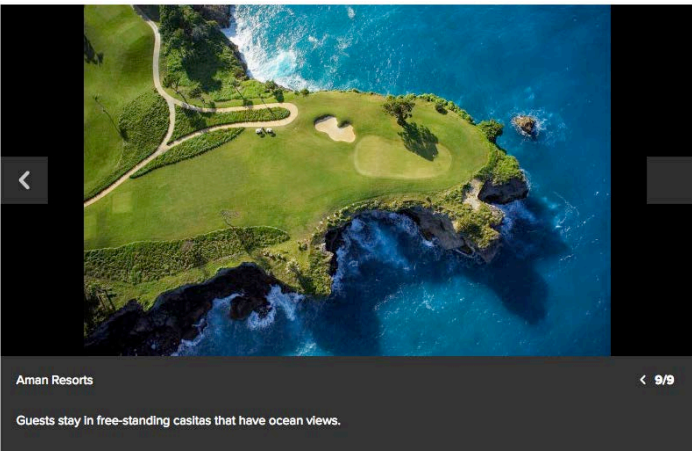
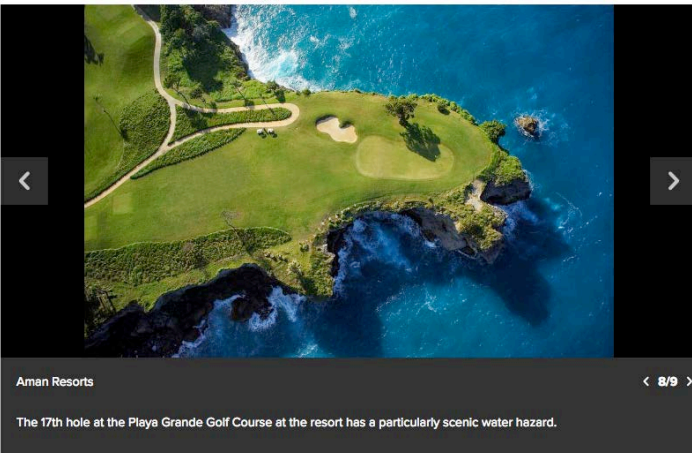
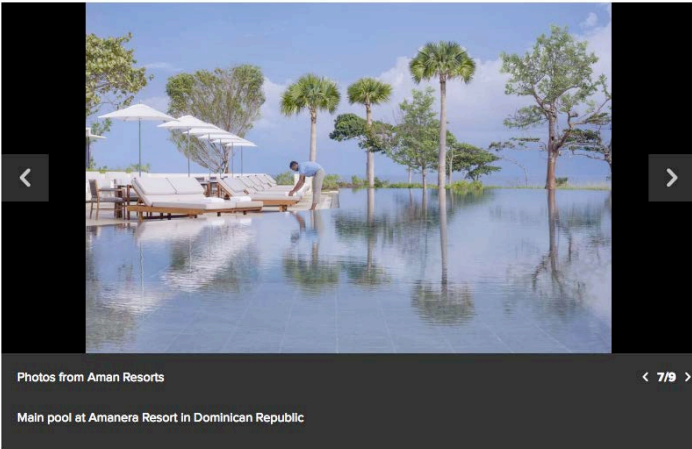
“We have a fairly simple formula” for taking care of guests, said Albert Mertz, the resort’s general manager. “It’s ‘Welcome to our home.’”

Those vacationers who travel the globe in their quest to stay at every Aman resort refer to themselves as “Aman Junkies.”

Spend a few nights at Amanera, and you’ll be hooked, too.

**If you go:** Amanera, Highway 5, Cabrera Rio San Juan 33300, Dominican Republic, [aman.com](http://aman.com).





Link: <http://www.dallasnews.com/lifestyles/travel/international/20160609-new-ultra-luxe-resort-in-the-dr-will-turn-you-into-an-aman-junkie.ece>