## José Antonio "Niño" Vera García, Paradigm of Revolutionary Tourism

Category: Tourism

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He was 86 years old and part of his life was dedicated to the development of a healthy and different tourism in the symbolic Viñales Valley, world renowned for its natural and landscape values.

When he was only 16 years old, this Pinar del Río entrepreneurial, decided to replace the work of cultivating the land to devote himself to gastronomy, taking advantage of the fame acquired by the mogotes of the Valley through the painting of the painter Domingo Ramos, in his exhibition in New York in 1939.

With the consent of his father, on May 20, 1947, he inaugurated a restaurant in the Mirador de Los Jazmines that provided this service to the growing number of visitors attracted by the beauty of the site. His lifelong companion María Aurora "Neco" Hernández joined this business.

On August 28, 1959, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, accompanied by Celia Sánchez and Antonio Núñez Jiménez, initiated a tourism reform in the region, so the Niño Vera business became a brand new Los Jazmines hotel, the first built by the nascent Revolution, founded on May 20, 1960. To the proposal of the Commander to assume the administration he responded with the modesty and simplicity that always characterized him, that he only wanted to be a storekeeper, a task that he fulfilled with responsibility and professionalism until his retirement.

For its recognized trajectory, El Niño Vera received several recognitions by the Ministry of Tourism, among them the students and workers of the Training Center of the Mintur Delegation that granted it the status of Paradigm of Revolutionary Tourism for its example and teachings.