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Sun Seekers

Mirabel makes the most of living in
this desert oasis golf destination

Top Properties

With spring in full swing we seek out fine homes and homes away from home. These are my picks for amazing properties that bear a closer look.

BY TRACEY ELLIS



Oak Bay Beach Hotel

I am very happy to hear that David Butterfield has joined the Oak Bay Beach Hotel development in Victoria as development manager. Owner Kevin Walker filled me in on what was to come last spring, but I didn't see David Butterfield's involvement coming, developer of such renowned sustainable developments as Shoal Point in Victoria and The Villages of Loreto Bay in Mexico. The rebuilt Oak Bay Beach Hotel will be Victoria's first luxury hotel and private residence with a 120-suite hotel and 20 hotel residences. Oak Bay Beach Hotel is exclusively offered by Sotheby's International Realty Canada. For further information please visit www.sothebysrealty.ca.

CityCenter Las Vegas

Viva Las Vegas. Who isn't a fan? But I'm especially intrigued by the CityCenter development, a \$7.8 billion urban metropolis by MGM Mirage with a 61-storey, 4,000 room hotel/casino, two 400-room non-gaming hotels and 2,650 luxury residences available for purchase ranging from \$500,000 to \$21 million US. Eight internationally acclaimed architects collaborated on CityCenter's grand design situated on 76 acres between the Bellagio and Monte Carlo resorts. www.citycenter.com



Sharpes Bay

Just slightly north of my hometown of Powell River is a new development destined to become the Sunshine Coast's most prestigious vacation-home address. Located at the gateway to the world-renowned outdoor playground of Desolation Sound is Sharpes Bay, where 23 estate-sized oceanfront and oceanview lots on 102 acres are waiting to house your dream house. I can personally guarantee stunning views, plenty of wildlife viewing and friendly locals. Dock your yacht at the 1,500-foot private marina complete with a 40-foot moorage space. www.sharpesbay.com



Bishops Walk

Island bound, I discovered Bishops Walk, a collection of 29 near acre lots on the very desirable location of Salt Spring Island. This could very well be the last chance to build your dream on Salt Spring Island with amazing harbour, ocean and mountain views. Pre-construction prices are on now for those who seek to customize their dream home. www.bishopswalksaltspringisland.com



Cortes Island

I can also recommend Cortes Island. Situated between Campbell River and Desolation Sound, Cortes boasts all the amenities of community living combined with the remoteness equating to true privacy. An oceanfront estate listed by Lynn Johnson of MacDonald Realty offers a five-year-old log and timberframe home with four bedrooms and a state-of-the-art kitchen in 4,817 square feet of living space located in a 32-acre setting that can't be equaled anywhere. Celebrate the great outdoors with an amazing beach just steps away, expansive lawns, formal gardens, flower garden and acres of wooded trails. Moorage on a 60-foot deep-water dock for your yacht or fly in by float plane or take the ferry from Campbell River. www.lynnjohnson.ca

Nicola Valley Ranchland Estates

Those in the know are looking at Merritt as the next hot vacation property spot and Nicola Valley Ranchland Estates will fit the bill for anyone looking to enjoy the great outdoors and an equestrian lifestyle. This unique 900-acre equestrian community is only three hours from downtown Vancouver and offers wide-open spaces and a dry, sunny climate. The 87 acreage homesites present stunning 360-degree views of the Nicola Valley and is surrounded by green space for the ultimate in resident privacy. The Chutter family are the developers and will maintain their ranching business alongside the estates preserving that great ranching legacy on the land. www.ranchlandlots.com

TOP PROPERTIES



Infinity Bay

With a late spring snow falling outside at presstime, I was delighted to be presented with Infinity Bay Spa and Beach Resort on Roatan Island just offshore of Honduras, a two-and-a-half hour flight from Houston, Texas. This is the hottest new Caribbean vacation hotspot and it hasn't gone unnoticed by upscale resort developers. Infinity Bay boasts 145 luxury villas located in the heart of West Bay Beach. Phase one offers ownership opportunities for 55 studio, one, two and three-bedroom suites along with a beachfront restaurant, pool with three waterfalls and a private dock. The area is considered to be the best spot for scuba diving, snorkeling and fishing in the world and the barrier reef, second only to Australia's has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, setting the scene for the green initiative in Infinity Bay's development. www.letsghonduras.com

Chelsea

Victoria is home to Chelsea, a charming, tree-lined community of Fairfield where vintage homes line the street, now joined by a condominium development that gives a nod to that heritage with a warm brick and stone exterior balanced by the modern comforts of floor-to-ceiling windows, decks and terraces. With only 36 homes available in this low-rise development, those looking to recapture their childhood dream lifestyle will want to express their interest early. www.chelseavictoria.com



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