

EDMONTON JOURNAL

Ex-teammate honors Oilers in 5-1 loss

Following the great migrations

SALE

REMEMBER to set your clocks back one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday

Late waights

Two officers found guilty in homeless roundup

Province will need 6,000 years to spend \$2B carbon-capture money at its current rate

INQUIRY

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SECOND HOMES

Strokes of genius: resort features golf, wine

B.C.'s Canyon Desert a five-phase project

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Special to The Journal
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If you are looking for some place special in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley that has not been inundated with resorts and condominiums, put the brakes on in Oliver and be among the first to own in the self-appointed "wine capital of Canada."

Twenty-five kilometres north from Osoyoos on Highway 97, Oliver maintains a charming small-town feel with fewer than 5,000 full-time residents and most amenities within easy access to more than 30 wineries, local golf courses and organic fruit stands at the roadside.

Bellstar Resorts and Hotels, in partnership with the Osoyoos Indian Band and Watermark Asset Management, plans to put the town on the luxury lifestyle and vacation map. As a five-phase project, this year-round vacation spot will be transformed into beachfront residences, golf-course villas and the Canyon Desert Inn.

Located on the outskirts of Oliver and tucked between the NK'MIP Canyon 18-hole golf course and picturesque Tuc-El-Nuit Lake (great for swimming and water sports), Canyon Desert Resort is set to become the town's first fully integrated destination resort. By completion, the resort is expected to offer year-round resort living with 450 golf and lakefront residences, villas and suites.

Sales started with the detached golf villas, beginning at \$299,000. Finished inside and out, they combine a Tuscan and desert esthetic for casual, yet elegant living. All will feature a private courtyard. The villas are available for immediate sale, with completion in fall of 2011.

They will be located between the eighth and ninth fairways. Among the choices are 1,050-square-foot, two-bedroom or 1,550-square-foot, three-bedroom units, all with two-car garages, with more than 1,000 square feet of outdoor living space.

The Canyon Desert Resort will also include the 125-suite Canyon Desert Inn — a full-service hotel with con-



Canyon Desert Resort in Oliver, B.C., will offer year-round resort living with 450 golf and lakefront residences, villas and suites. SUPPLIED

ference facilities, spa, restaurant and wine bar. It will also design culinary programs for residents.

Says Bellstar Hotels and Resorts' director of real estate, Curt Jansen: "An exciting feature of the resort will be the vineyard to bottle, wine-appreciation program.

"The developer's vision includes involving residents in the growing, making and bottling of the project vineyard's grapes. The wine will have its own private label. Culinary courses will also be available to teach and educate residents about local and regional cuisine."

Plans are already underway to create the Okanagan Valley's first wine cave within the hotel complex, complete with a British Columbia Wine Interpretive Centre. It's intended to be a starting point for exploring

world-class wineries nearby, such as La Stella Vineyard, Burrowing Owl, and Osoyoos Band's NK'MIP winery at Spirit Ridge in Osoyoos, located within a 15-minute drive of the property.

Bellstar's partnership with the Osoyoos Indian Band has received international acclaim though their Osoyoos-based property Spirit Ridge Vineyard Resort and Spa.

Canyon Desert Resort plans to continue this legacy with a second partnership, complemented by Watermark Asset Management, of Watermark in Osoyoos. The team's combined experience ensures this resort community will draw further attention to the south Okanagan, adding value to all investment in the region.

Another new initiative in the area

is the Spirit Ridge Residence Club, a member of Preferred Residences, a hospitality-branded membership and exchange program for luxury shared-ownership resorts.

Located in Osoyoos at the Spirit Ridge Vineyard resort, the property offers visitors an array of vacation experiences and is one of two Canadian resorts featured in the program, the first in Western Canada.

"The Preferred Residences membership and exchange program provides the right fit and product for our discerning buyers at Spirit Ridge," says Jansen.

"Owners in the Spirit Ridge Residence Club want to be sure that they can exchange the use of their luxury residences with other similarly appointed properties around the world.

FIND OUT MORE

- ▶ Getting there: Fly to Kelowna with WestJet or Air Canada; then drive 90 minutes to Oliver.
- ▶ Where to stay: Bellstar's Spirit Ridge Vineyard Resort at Osoyoos (20 minutes drive from Oliver).
- ▶ Tax issues: In general, 12-percent HST applies to recreational property. New home permanent residence purchases are eligible for partial tax rebates.
- ▶ For more information about Canyon resort, go to owncanyondesertresort.com

Both Bellstar and Spirit Ridge Residence Club benefit by connecting with a globally recognized hospitality brand, while retaining our unique identity."