



Experience the Resort Life Every Day

By KRISTI ARELLANO

Brisk mornings on the tennis court, sun-drenched afternoons paring the links of a picturesque golf course followed by a swim or facial in the spa. Only on vacation? Not anymore. People are choosing to enjoy these amenities on a regular basis as full or part-time residents in resort communities.

Top left: The Homestead, an amenity at Homestead Preserve in Hot Springs, VA
 Bottom right: Shopping at Bay Creek, Cape Charles, VA
 Middle: The Club at Rarity Bay, Vonore, TN
 Top: The Waters at Horseshoe Bay, TX
 Bottom right: The Waterpark at Reunion, Orlando, FL

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National Association of Realtors

While their numbers will continue to grow, those who have made the move say it's like living a fantasy. "We come through the gate on the way home from work and realize other people are here for vacation and have to leave," said Heather Banks, who has lived in Bay Creek with her husband Scott for four years. "We get to stay." Residents at Bay Creek on Virginia's eastern shore enjoy access to boating, fishing, swimming, walking trails and golf. The waterside development features two courses—one designed by Jack Nicklaus, the other by Arnold Palmer.

"Every night my husband says how lucky we are to live here," said Karen Harding, who moved to Reunion Resort and Club, south of Orlando, FL, with her husband Don. Reunion offers residents a 6,916-yard Arnold Palmer course and a second designed by golf pro Tom Watson. A third course, Nicklaus designed, is under construction. The community also features a spa, fitness center, miles of walking trails, an equestrian center, a swim pavilion, playground and parks.





Of more than 1,600 owners at Reunion, roughly 20 have chosen to make the community their full-time home, said Sean Barrett, Reunion's vice president of real estate sales. He expects that number to grow steadily in the coming years as Baby Boomers retire.

Baby Boomers—the generation born 1946 to 1964—own 57 percent of all vacation and seasonal homes, according to the National Association of Realtors. A majority of these owners say they intend to make them full-time residences when they retire.

Many people aren't waiting until retirement to purchase. Terry Paine, general manager for Bay Creek Resort Realty, said approximately a quarter of the resort's full-time residents still work. "If there's a pattern I see, it's moving out of congested areas and being able to work for an employer through telecommuting or contracting," he said. Many resorts are making fiber-optic networks, wireless or other high-speed connections as well as business

centers part of their amenities. Even with these business-friendly features, resort life remains more about play than work.

Options for playing at The Waters at Horseshoe Bay Resort on Lake LBJ in Texas include golf, tennis, and swimming at a choice of three pools and access to a private, white-sand beach. The community, located west of Austin, offers a fitness center and full-service spa. Residents also have access to the Horseshoe Bay Resort Marina, which is one of the largest private marinas and water sports complexes in Texas.

Activities for resort residents aren't limited to golf, tennis and other outdoor activities. Many communities host a variety of unique events. Reunion owners are treated to a roster of events including a homecoming celebration and fall concert series. Events and activities at resort communities don't overlook younger people. The Peninsula on Indian River Bay in Millsboro, DE, built a teen center, and a children's center which offers planned

Left: The Peninsula on Indian River Bay in Millsboro, DE

Right: Reunion, Orlando, FL