

THIRST QUENCHER

THE RISE HITS THE SPOT FOR
OKANAGAN INVESTORS

■ By Stan Sauerwein ■

The huge thirst for recreational or viewpoint property in the Okanagan is being partially quenched by an innovative development of 650 resort residences sprouting on the upper benches above Vernon. The Rise by Okanagan Hills Development is setting the bar for exquisite design and an eco-friendly approach to community living.

AS RECENTLY AS JULY, REALTORS reported the average price of homes in Kelowna had climbed to \$500,000-plus. The escalated pricing condition is valley-wide and is being led in part by carefully marketed jewels like The Rise at the north end of the lake. This master planned resort community includes a winery, vineyards, village centre, tennis centre, private lakeside beach club and a new destination golf course.

The golf course that anchors this exciting development is going to set a new standard for the sport in the Okanagan. It is designed by popular PGA pro Fred Couples with Gene Bates and BMR Golf and located on a ridge that peers over the north and south arms of Okanagan Lake at 1,300-feet skyward. This par-72, 7,150-yard course is the first Fred Couples Signature Course in western Canada and will be nothing short

of absolutely spectacular.

My advance tour of the links this summer served up incredible holes that ought to inspire amateurs and put low cap players into blood-pumping tee-shot swoons. The signature hole is the sixth, a 198-yard par-3 with an elevated tee more than 100-feet above the putting surface. What makes it unforgettable is the sheer rock wall framing the right side of the green complete with a waterfall cascading into a pond. But the other holes will all have their own memory capturing power. Twelve, in fact, feature dramatic lake views guaranteed to prompt as many photo sessions as putts and they will help make this amenity-rich destination a draw for international visitors.

Pricing at The Rise reflects

the amenities value embedded in the development. Market-ready homes in the Clearview neighbourhood for instance are listed in a range from \$729,900 to \$919,900. In an exclusive “neighbourhood within the neighbourhood” called Watermark, the lots start at \$429,900. Only a few villas in a popular neighbourhood called Sagecroft Villas are still available at prices beginning at \$516,960.

It’s all because this 735-acre resort community on the south facing slopes three-and-half kilometres west of Vernon dishes up too many extraordinary views to count. You can see east past Camel Hump Mountain to the Monashees, south up Okanagan Lake and west past Terrace Mountain. It’s a canvas of visual delights with rocky knolls, forested gullies and wetland. For an “away from it all” home in nature, The Rise is a splendid candidate in all seasons too. All year long there is recreation at world-class Silver Star Mountain Resort, just 22 kilometres from the development, and in winter you can enjoy over 200-square-kilometres of groomed and



View from Sagecroft Villas



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