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## GOING UP: Grande Oaks Preserve, Sarasota

*Big oaks are preserved, indeed, at new condominium development*

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CORRESPONDENT

Of the 30 acres with which he had to work in his first full-fledged residential development, Don Bevins opted to develop only 12, preserving the remainder as a natural amenity. That leaves ample opportunity for homeowners, mostly retirees, semi-retirees and seasonal residents, to enjoy the outdoors.

"We've preserved the rest as it was hundreds of years ago," said Bevins. "We've gone to extreme lengths to save the great oaks there. There are interconnecting walking paths throughout the community (and the opportunity to bike everywhere, especially because we're in a rural area."

Residences in the gated community of 125 condominiums, called Grande Oaks Preserve, come in four floor plans. They range from 1,862 to 2,687 square feet of interior space, and have either two bedrooms and bathrooms or three bedrooms and three bathrooms. Pricing for these residences ranges from the mid-\$500,000s to the high-\$800,000s.

An array of appointments are available: lake and preserve views, high-volume ceilings, eight-foot solid wood doors, crown molding, granite counter tops, spa tubs and pre-wiring for advanced telecommunications needs. The condos also have 135-square-foot lanais.

Two models are open; a third should open within a few months. The Majestic model, a corner-unit plan, offers three en-suite bedrooms in 2,392 square feet of interior space. The master bedroom, with a walk-in closet, leads to the 295-square-foot lanai. There is a dedicated den and a laundry room, and the kitchen features a breakfast nook.

Penthouses are also available. The two-bedroom/two-bath penthouse has 1,997 square feet under air, and the three-bedroom/three-bath offers 2,687 square feet. Their entry ways feature nine-foot, arched-glass doors bordered by French columns that lead to 12-foot vaulted ceilings.

Exterior screened walls with sliding-glass panels mean the penthouses offer vast views of the nature preserves.

Grand Oaks Preserve's amenities will include a fully equipped fitness center; lighted, Har-Tru tennis courts; resort-style swimming pool; and two eight-person spas. The already-completed clubhouse features a great room for entertaining, a full kitchen, flat-panel entertainment center and a library with high-speed Internet access.

Construction on the community is half finished and is expected for completion in spring 2009. Several units are available for immediate occupancy.



COURTESY PHOTO

A bedroom in a model home at Grande Oaks Preserve.

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Builders and developers: To have your project considered for this feature, send an email with details to [NicholeLReber@verizon.net](mailto:NicholeLReber@verizon.net).