

CALGARY HERALD

BREAKING NEWS AT CALGARYHERALD.COM

PROUDLY CALGARY SINCE 1883

• SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2011

PAGE H11

RECREATION & INVESTMENT PROPERTIES



Courtesy, Toscana Country Club

The warm desert climate of the Coachella Valley in California means owners get to enjoy plenty of outdoor living at the Toscana Country Club in Indian Wells.

California, here we come

Calgary snowbirds heading south to
enjoy Toscana Country Club

MARTY HOPE
CALGARY HERALD

Not all of Calgary's snowbirds are winging it to Arizona. California - and, in particular, the Coachella Valley with its nine population centres - attracts more than a few.

In the valley, Indian Wells, which is just outside Palm Springs, has the smallest population at about 5,000 residents.

It is also home to Toscana Country Club, an upscale, private equity residential country club that has strong,

traditional Italian -that's right, Italian and not southwestern - influences in its architecture and design.

It also has more than a little Calgary flavour as well, says Bill Bone, founder and CEO of Sunrise Co., which opened its sales centre, show homes and one golf course in 2004.

"The Canadian market is our second largest market, so it is extremely important to our continued success," he says.

SEE CLUB, PAGE H12

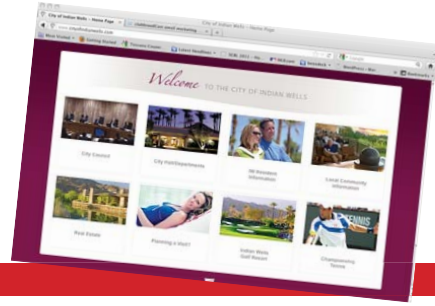
Indian Wells is a city in Riverside County, Calif., in the Coachella Valley in the Palm Springs area between Palm Desert and La Quinta.

As of last year, the city's population was 4,958. Located on the western slopes of the Coachella Valley, Indian Wells lies sheltered by the San Bernardino Mountains to the north, the Santa Rosa Mountains to the west and the Little San Bernardino Mountains to the east.

The surrounding geography gives Indian Wells its hot, dry climate, with 354 days of sunshine and less than 150 millimeters of rain annually.

Winter temperatures average in the low 20s C with nights about 7 C, but the dry desert heat of summer pushes daytime temperatures well above 37 C, with overnight temperatures in the mid-to-upper 20s.

Visit www.cityofindianwells.com. -Marty Hope



“We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of Canadian members and homeowners here at Toscana - 27 Canadians and 13 specifically from Calgary.

BILL BONE, SUNRISE CO.



Courtesy, Toscana Country Club

The view from the Club Villa that overlooks holes 9 and 18 on the Jack Nicklaus Signature South Course

From Page H11

CLUB: Golf Courses

“We are fortunate to have a wonderful group of Canadian members and homeowners here at Toscana - 27 Canadians and 13 specifically from Calgary. They are extremely influential in their social and professional circles and continue to refer their friends, family and associates to buy here.”

Toscana Country Club has a pair of Jack Nicklaus Signature, 18-hole golf courses that are surrounded by 652 homes and estate lots - and a 90,000-square-

foot Club Villa complex that includes dining facilities, a boutique, a spa and a sports club.

In terms of residences, there is a diverse collection measuring from 2,400 to 5,400 square feet- all with golf course views -with 18 floor plans and architectural elevations to choose from, including Early California, Italianate and Tuscan.

Private residences range in price from \$995,000 to \$7 million US and estate lots start at \$825,000, says

an information sheet from the developer.

There are nine fully-decorated show homes to visit, as well as an expansive home design centre on site - with the services of a designer to assist purchasers.

To date, Toscana boasts 324 sales. Final build-out of 652 residences is likely another 10 years or so away, says Bone.

Referring to the struggling U.S. real estate market, Bone says that there has been a “renewed

interest” in building new homes, and currently there are nine under construction with several more scheduled in the near future.

In addition to the Canadian contingent on the property, Bone says there are many buyers from the Newport Beach/Los Angeles area and the Pacific Northwest.

“The majority of our buyers are between ages 55 and 60 who are looking for a close-knit club and community that offers them a strong social net-

work with fun and interesting activities - along with a luxury home that meets their needs for entertaining friends and family,” he says.

“We are very pleased with our sales results this year- so far in 2011 , there have been 29 homes sold at Toscana - and we have had more than 1,300 guests through our sales centre and show homes.”

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

PROJECT: Toscana Country Club. In addition to 652 home sites (324 homes have been sold to date), the country club has two 18-hole golf courses, spa and gym, dining and shopping facilities.

DEVELOPER: Sunrise Co.

LOCATION: Indian Wells, Calif.

PRICES: Home prices range from \$995,000 to \$7 million. Estate lots start at \$825,000

INFORMATION: Call 760.772.7000 or visit www.toscanaclub.com.

IN SHORT Both resident and invitational (nonresident) equity golf memberships are available at Toscana Country Club.

A \$150,000 US initiation fee, plus monthly dues of \$1,595, provide access to all club facilities, two Jack Nicklaus Signature golf courses, and practice areas.

A sports club and spa membership is also available for \$40,000 plus monthly dues of \$520, including access to all of Toscana Club facilities except golf. These include Il Forno Trattoria, which offers indoor and outdoor dining, as well as a wine cellar available for private dinners and tastings. Spa Bella Vita and the adjoining Sports Club is a 28,000-square foot spa and fitness centre offering five luxury treatment suites and two grand treatment suites, a full-service salon, ladies and gentlemen's relaxation rooms and a spa boutique.

