

WEEKENDER COMPILED BY VICKI COLLINS EDWARDS

Destination Mexico

A wave of excitement is rolling onto the shores of Mexico this year as more Arizonans discover greater assurance of a secured real estate purchase at this nearby destination getaway.

Puerto Peñasco

Long revered as a spring break getaway, this once casual locale of sandy beaches filled with beachcombers and trolling local merchants is evolving into a luxurious, yet affordable destination offering upscale resorts and residential options. One resort community, Las Palomas, is now offering

direct shuttle service to the resort via a 10-person luxury van from Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, or from a Valley home for groups of eight or more.

Las Palomas is a 350-acre golf community with a luxury destination resort designed by Swaback Partners. Located on Sandy Beach, 2,000 individually owned residences, priced from \$340,000 to

Las Palomas





\$1.9 million (US), surround a par72, 18-hole championship semi-private golf course. Designed by Forrest Richardson & Associates, this authentic links course has been ranked No. 1 by *Golf Inc.* magazine for International Development.

Condo-hotel units offering one- to five-bedroom fully equipped accommodations with private ocean view terraces can be rented from \$175 to \$875 per night complete with wireless Internet, satellite television and a gourmet kitchen. A three-acre infinity-edge pool, lazy river, water slide, whirlpool and fitness center appeal to the whole family. A full-service spa is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Executive Chef Patrick Elie Rene Louis, one of Mexico's finest, offers Mexican and world fusion cuisine at La Maria Bistro & Fine Cuisine. For reservations visit laspalomasresort.net; for real estate inquiries call 611.52.638.108.1090.

La Perla del Mar is also under way in Puerto Peñasco. Clifton Meridian, the firm focused on developing this luxe property, was founded in 2003 by Patrick Clifton, who was named "Entrepreneurial Fellow" of the Karl Eller Center at the University of Arizona in 2002. Plans call for 421 luxury condominiums and single-family homes at this \$170 million in-town resort community. The developer has partnered with RE/MAX Legacy to manage sales. All of their real estate agents are members of AMPI, the Mexican Association of Realty Professionals, a partner of the National Association of Realtors in the U.S.

A 15-story tower will offer breathtaking views of the Sea of Cortez from floor to ceiling glass walls

in every studio to three-bedroom unit. Concierge service, an oceanfront negative-edge pool, open air 12th-floor pool, fitness center, 24-hour security, members club, underground parking and an on-site restaurant await residents. Condominium units range from \$230,000 to \$690,000.

Two casitas offering three bedrooms and one 10,190-square foot beachfront penthouse with four bedrooms are planned. The casitas are expected to begin at \$750,000. Fractional and whole-ownership with individual bank trusts, along with no-qualifying developer financing and traditional style U.S. mortgages are available. For more information visit laperladelmarinfo.com.

Puerto Vallarta – Whales & Dolphins Experience

If you have never observed whales and dolphins off the coast of Mexico, now is the time to book your excursion for mid-December through next March. The Presidente InterContinental Puerto Vallarta Resort on the golden shores of the Bahía Banderas offers a three-night Insider Package which allows guests to get up close with these magnificent creatures. A half-day tour with a biologist is limited to 10 participants per voyage. Accommodations in an Oceanfront Suite with private balcony include daily breakfast and an Acqua Esencia "Peace of Mind" in-room experience for the senses. Prices start at \$208 per room per night or from \$531 per night including a personalized "Peace of Mind" experience. Go to intercontinental.com to book your getaway. **•SM**



clockwise from upper left:
The Presidente InterContinental Puerto Vallarta Resort
La Perla del Mar
Las Palomas