

Couple toasts champagne

BY JOSH SKAPIN, CALGARY HERALD JUNE 22, 2012



Ken and Maria George have bought a unit in the Champagne condo complex in Quarry Park, a community just off Glenmore Trail and 18th Street S.E. (click on the photo for our 11-picture tour).

Photograph by: Stuart Gradon, Calgary Herald

For Ken and Maria George, their new condo was love at first sight.

They're toasting Champagne, a new project by Remington Development Corp. in southeast Calgary.

The Georges will take possession of their two-bedroom, two-bathroom unit — which is in the first phase of the condo complex — in early 2013.

A project that includes 177 units in five buildings, Champagne is located in Quarry Park, a 15-hectare site just off Glenmore Trail and 18th Street S.E.

Shopping for their new home took awhile, but after only one visit to the Champagne sales centre, the couple saw what they were looking for.

For the Georges, one of Champagne's most appealing traits is its building material — precast concrete.

“Once we were told it was concrete, we thought: ‘What a relief,’” says Ken.

The Georges say the safety aspect of living in a concrete building was one of the draws of the development.

From there, the show suites at the sales centre made a further impression. “They are so beautiful,” says Maria, adding “the attention to detail is perfect.”

Like many buyers at Champagne, the Georges are down-sizing from a single-family home — in their case, a two-storey house with a three-car, front-attached garage.

“For the two of us, this is a really nice size,” says Maria about the couple’s new suite.

Champagne sets itself apart in a number of ways — one of them being the floor plans, says Glen Deibert, director of residential development at Remington Development Corp.

“They’re so spacious and open,” he says.

The development’s standard finishings are “penthouse level,” with 10-millimetre glass and granite throughout the units, along with hardwood options, soaring eight-foot, five-inch ceilings and nine-foot coffered ceilings.

The actual penthouse suites have 11-foot ceilings.

“In our show homes, it’s ‘what you see is what you get’ — and they’re taken aback by that” level of quality, says Deibert.

Residential sales manager Julie Seidel agrees, calling the residences “very upscale” with a “French country flair.”

Champagne recently opened sales on its second phase, a 37-unit building that includes five penthouse suites.

The second phase has one-bedroom suites starting at more than 900 square feet, while its two-bedroom suites are 1,400 square feet.

Its penthouses are more than 1,500 square feet.

Deibert says Champagne is a low-density development crafted for buyers who want a smaller space but don’t want to compromise lifestyle.

“They don’t feel the downsizing means they have to give up a high level of living,” he says.

In addition to downsizers — or as Deibert says, “right-sizers” — Champagne has seen interest from professionals who work at one of the many offices in Quarry Park.

“For them, it isn’t to down-size, it’s to simplify their lifestyle,” he says.

Many people from this range of buyers like the idea of being able to walk to work. “They’re active and they don’t want to spend their time on maintenance,” says Deibert.

That low-maintenance lifestyle works for the Georges, who can now go on holidays without needing friends to take care of household duties.

“If we went in the winter, we had to get someone to shovel the snow and nobody likes shovelling snow,” says Ken.

“All of that will be gone. We will lock, close the door, go to the airport and go wherever we want.”

Living in Quarry Park is one of the biggest attractions for buyers at Champagne, says Seidel.

“People are so impressed by what it has turned into,” she says, calling it a community where people can live, work and play.

It features commercial development — including restaurants and shops — a high standard for architecture, and proximity to the Bow River.

The Georges’ apartment will look over the river, along with green space that includes pathways.

Ken says he and Maria look forward to enjoying the view from their balcony and making use of the nearby outdoor amenities.

THE BUYERS

Ken and Maria George.

Background: Ken met Maria while on business in her native country of Columbia.

At the time, the couple both worked in the oil and gas industry. Maria has since retired, but Ken continues to work as a consultant.

The couple had discussed down-sizing for about two years, says Ken.

They own a two-storey home with a three-car, front-attached garage and found a better fit with a condo unit at Champagne.

The Georges look forward to the lock-and-leave-it convenience of condo living where they can go on vacation without worrying about rounding up friends to look after upkeep of their home.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Project: Champagne is a five-building condo project in Quarry Park.

Builder/developer: Remington Development Corp.

Area: Quarry Park is a 156-hectare site just off Glenmore Trail and 18th Street S.E.

Prices: Suites in Champagne start in the mid-\$300,000s.

Directions: The Champagne sales centre is located at 350 Quarry Park Blvd. S.E. To get there, take Glenmore Trail to 18 Street East, then turn right on Quarry Park Blvd.

Hours: The sales centre is open 2-8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and noon to 5 p.m. weekends.

Information: Visit remingtoncorp.com or phone 403-255-7003.

BUYERS DIG QUARRY

Quarry Park is a southeast community by Remington Development Corp.

It sits on 156 hectares of land, including 37 hectares of green space. The neighbourhood borders Carburn Park to the north and Fish Creek to the south. Quarry Park features a mix of housing types, including single-family, townhouses and condo apartments.

Builders in the community include Cardel Homes, Birchwood and Remington.

It features a commercial development called the Quarry Park market that includes shops and restaurants.

For more information, visit quarrypark.ca

PROJECTS DOT CITY

Remington Development Corp. is a residential and commercial land company that launched with its first project in 1994.

Since then, Remington has developed more than 100 projects — including office, warehouse, manufacturing and retail facilities, as well as commercial and industrial land developments — in Calgary and Edmonton.

Remington's developments include the Deerfoot Distribution Centre, Glendeer Circle, Westwinds Business Park and South Central Business Park.

For more information, visit remingtoncorp.com

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