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PROPERTIES



POOLSIDE GAZEBO / EL BANCO

MEXICO'S PACIFIC COAST

Mexican real estate continues to appreciate as exciting new luxury developments arrive on the scene. The following properties will give you an enviable foothold in Mexico, all set in a Pacific paradise.

BY AVITAL BINSHTOCK

EL BANCO, PUERTO VALLARTA

Developer | Tim Koogle (Yahoo's founding CEO)

Description | This luxury community between Puerto Vallarta and Punta Mita includes air-conditioned beach villas ranging from 6,500 to 11,000 square feet. Amenities vary with each villa, but can include a home theater, wine cellar, gourmet kitchen, spa-like bathroom, bath garden, lap pool, Jacuzzi, cantera fireplace, travertine flooring, private office and views of the ocean.

Key selling points | One of the lowest density luxury developments on the peninsula, El Banco boasts a long, sandy beach with hiking and biking trails, tennis courts, a three-acre lake and one of the bay's best surf breaks. The development will also include Las Banderas del Banco, a luxury boutique hotel.

Who lives here | Tim Koogle and other Silicon Valley execs

Price range | \$6.25 to \$7.5 million

Contact | Realtor Marc Sinanian at La Punta Realty, Phone: 52-329-291-6420;

Email: msinanian@puntarealty.com.mx;

Website: www.elbancomexico.com

ICON VALLARTA, PUERTO VALLARTA

Developer | Related International

Description | ICON Vallarta's Grand Tower, designed by Philippe Starck, will encompass 75 ultra-luxurious three- and four-bedroom condominiums and penthouses ranging from 2,900 to 4,300 square feet. Each unit features floor-to-ceiling windows, spacious teak-floored terraces, and kitchens with wine refrigerators.

Key selling points | The services of a personal chauffeur, a fleet of SUVs, a beach butler and a private chef are all available. Residents also have access to a state-of-the-art oceanfront gym and a full spa with sauna and steam rooms, a 20-seat theater, an on-site fine dining restaurant, golf course privileges and an infinity-edge pool.

Who lives here | Mexican personalities who prefer to remain anonymous

Price range | \$775,000 to \$1.4 million

Contact | Sales Director Michelle Minagorri, Phone: (305) 351-1000 ext. 359;

Fax: 52-322-226-2160;

Email: mminagorri@fortune-network.com;

Website: www.iconvallarta.com

QUIVIRA LOS CABOS, LOS CABOS

Developer | Ernesto Coppel

Description | This upscale 1,850-acre development on the Baja peninsula's tip broke ground last spring, and the completion of its golf course is slated for 2009. It will incorporate beachfront Ritz-Carlton residences that measure up to 6,400 square feet, Mexican hacienda-style decor, unobstructed ocean views, as many as five bedrooms, gourmet kitchen, satellite TV, a two-car garage and a golf cart garage.

Key selling points | Communal areas and activities will include a private beach club, 20 miles of walking and hiking trails, three miles of private beach frontage, spa and fitness facilities, tennis courts and world-class golf (construction on the two Jack Nicklaus Signature Courses should be finished in 2009).

Who lives here | North American families and elite golf enthusiasts

Price range | \$4.85 to \$11 million plus

Contact | Director of Sales Johni Orr, Phone: 52-624-163-7450; Fax: 52-624-173-6201;

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