

Chalets with Cachet

Mammoths' newest residence club puts you at the center of the action BY SAMANTHA BROOKS

"Mammoth is no longer made up of just the A-frame shaped cabins with the avocado-colored shag carpeting that have plagued the community since the 1970s," says Sean Combs, cofounder of Meridian Development, whose latest project is 8050 Mammoth, a private residence club located next to the popular ski mountain. "It's changed to a high-end ski area that is going to rival Aspen within the next five to six years."

Purchased by the Starwood Capital Group in October 2005, Mammoth Mountain is slated for a slew of changes, including commercial airline service to and from Los Angeles—turning the once long and winding eight-hour drive into a 45-minute flight. While Starwood owns the bulk of Mammoth's ski and resort areas, there are still pockets of property in the town to be had—one of which is 8050 Mammoth.

"Our company's background is in building \$7 million to \$10 million custom homes, so we basically went at this as if we were creating our dream ski lodge," says Combs. "We're hoping it becomes a winter version of



the Hamptons for Angelenos." 8050 Mammoth, named for the site's elevation, is located next to Mammoth Village's main gondola and comes with a private ski bridge, which is linked to the chairlift (essentially allowing owners to cut in line). The project also includes a 25-meter rooftop lap pool, fitness center, child and teen entertainment center, business center, valet and concierge services.

Full build-out will happen in two phases. The first 25 villa-style units are set for completion by late spring, while the second phase of 24 units will follow within a year. Sizes range from about 1,200 square feet for a one-bedroom space up to 3,000 square feet for a three-bedroom residence. One-eighth interests range from \$349,000 to \$725,000.

Exteriors are designed to look as though they originated in the area and combine contemporary decor with rustic mountain elements. For the interiors, Los Angeles designer Kirk Nix of KNA Interior Design used dark woods, leather, stone, soft fabrics and warm-textured window treatments. And any trees that were cut down during the building have been recycled as dining room tables or stools. Modern touches include LED flat-screen televisions in all bedrooms, along with surround sound in the main living areas.

"To keep the villas personal, once a homeowner leaves, housekeeping takes a video recording of the unit as a record of where everything is kept, from family photos to food in the refrigerator," explains Combs. "When homeowners return, everything will be in place as if they never left."

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Interiors at 8050 Mammoth are inspired by modern-feeling California Mountain aesthetics. Units feature dark woods, rich leather and textured window treatments.

