

# Chicago Tribune

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## **WISCONSIN DELLS CONDOMINIUM SALES SOAR**

Among sales at Glacier Canyon Lodge, a development of 224 upscale condominiums in Wisconsin Dells, Wisc., a whopping 70 percent are spoken-for by Chicago-area residents.

The condos are part of the Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort's \$150 million expansion. Phase I, the first 104 units, are scheduled for completion July 1. Phase II sales recently began.

Chicagoans and suburbanites already own 55 percent of the resort's 270 other whole-ownership units, which include vacation villas, cabins and other condos.

"The response, particularly from the Chicago area, has been extremely positive," said Tom Lucke, co-owner of the Wilderness. "What's most surprising is Illinois buyers do not all come from the border counties, as you might expect."

In fact, Illinois owners in bordering Lake, McHenry and Winnebago Counties combined compose 17 percent of Chicagoland owners – less than Cook (26 percent), DuPage (21 percent) or even Will (18 percent) Counties each claim individually. Kendall and Kane counties combined comprise 10 percent of Illinois owners; the remaining 7 percent are in western and central Illinois.

Whole-ownership units in the Dells were introduced in the late 1980s when Lucke developed the Caribbean Club. In 1995, when he opened Wilderness Hotel & Golf Resort, he continued the concept.

"We're offering both the luxury setting buyers seek and long-term value," said Lucke. "It's a pretty irresistible combination."

The original vacation villas, which sold for \$199,000 in 1997, today are selling for more than \$425,000.

Glacier Canyon Lodge offers luxurious two- and three-key fully-furnished, rustic-themed units ranging from 1,300 square feet to 1,600 square feet, currently priced from \$359,900. Floor plans include a spacious center room with kitchen, dining room, great room, bathrooms and master suite, and one or two adjoining lock-out rooms. Units have either woods-views or pool-views; pool-views overlook a new 3.2 acre outdoor waterpark, the Lost World Adventure River.

Wilderness offers an optional rental program; the resort will rent participating units when not in use by the owners.

Glacier Canyon Lodge also will include a 25,000 square-foot banquet space with indoor seating for 500 and an additional 200-person outdoor capacity.

Owners of Glacier Canyon Lodge condos and other Wilderness whole-ownership properties enjoy the amenities of one of the Dells area's most luxurious resorts. The Wilderness has three indoor waterparks, including the Wild WaterDome opening April 1; three outdoor waterparks, including the new Lost World Adventure River; and a host of other recreational activity areas for all members of the family.

The Wild WaterDome is the Midwest's first indoor waterpark with a UV-transparent roof system. Built with a product called Foiltec, developed and manufactured in Germany, it will offer ideal conditions for year-round tanning and plant growth while maintaining an indoor temperature of 88 degrees, regardless of outside weather. It

also is acoustically transparent, allowing sound to escape much like an outdoor environment.

“We’re very excited to open the Wild WaterDome and bring this new technology to the Midwest for the first time,” said Lucke. “We opened the first indoor waterpark in the Dells area, so it’s kind of a tradition around here to offer the newest, most exciting attractions and amenities.”

Enclosing The Great Wave, the Wild WaterDome transforms a previously outdoor attraction from summer to year-round use without giving up its outdoor sun and sound qualities, and making it the Midwest’s largest indoor wavepool. The Wild WaterDome also will feature the Dueling Mammoths, a pair of mirror image, enclosed tube slides covering more than 22,000 square feet, that allow guests to race each other to the finish.

Other indoor waterparks at Wilderness include Klondike Kavern, featuring the Hurricane, the Dell’s tallest family raft ride, along with a 500-foot lazy river, two 500-foot tube rides with five-story drops, a 45-foot-tall kids’ activity area with 60 hands-on play-and-spray features, and Sulfur Springs pool and hot spa with indoor-to-outdoor access; and Wild West, featuring the Cannonball, where guests descend through a 45-foot tunnel into a huge bowl where they spin around before heading into a corkscrew center and dropping to a landing pool. The Wild West also offers the Midwest’s only hands-on interactive wave pool, a five-person raft ride and a four-story interactive play feature – the largest in the United States – with body slides, cannons, turrets and water blasters. It also has four speed slides and indoor-to-outdoor hot spas.

Other outdoor waterparks include the New Frontier and Lake Wilderness, together offering a 400-foot tunnel slide that launches off a 40-foot high tower, a 600-foot lazy river, a 300-foot tube slide, a 220-foot body slide and two 100-foot speed slides, in addition to a 13,000 square-foot swimming pool for those who wish to lounge or swim.

“Dry” indoor amenities include the Northern Lights Arcade; a four-story, 30,000 square-foot indoor playland called the Timberland Playhouse; and the OK Corral Laser Tag Arena. Wilderness also has a reciprocal agreement with adjacent Sundara Spa.

Also part of the current expansion are the Ice Age Express, winter snow tube and toboggan runs, opening fall 2006; and a new 18-hole, 7,400-yard championship golf course designed by Hurdzan & Fry scheduled to open in 2007.

For more information about Glacier Canyon Lodge condominiums visit [wildernessresort.com](http://wildernessresort.com) or call 1-800-867-WILD (9453).