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# Copious Courses

By CHERILYN SAJORDA

In the Carolinas, golf is as popular as ever, and buyers have their pick of golf communities in which to live.

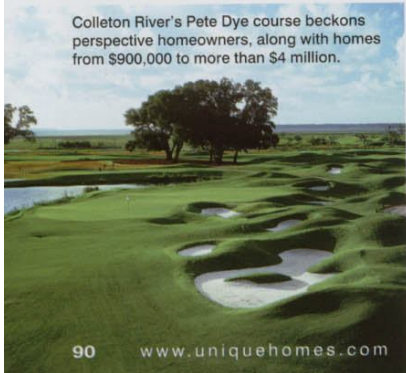
The secret element to the esteemed golf course architecture found throughout the Carolinas, Realtors say, is in the landscape. Brought to life by the likes of various famed golf course architects, including Tom Fazio and Jack Nicklaus, the Carolinas have cultivated an enviable golf lifestyle, drawing a stur-



dy influx of buyers seeking favorable course views and world-class community amenities.

Anchored by the cities of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina's Triangle area is a golfer's dream with a slew of established and newly constructed golf communities. "We're very fortu-

Colleton River's Pete Dye course beckons perspective homeowners, along with homes from \$900,000 to more than \$4 million.



nate, particularly with the Triangle area," says Raoul Rushin of Governors Club in Chapel Hill. "This has been a market that's been a 'steady Eddie' with 20-percent compounded growth for 5 years in a row."

With a reported seven new golf course communities emerging in the Triangle area, Realtors



maintain this particular region is not only consistent with the number of homes on the market, but with listing prices as well. "We just don't have price inflation here, and that's very desirable," says Elizabeth Allardice of RE/MAX Capital Realty in Raleigh. "Realistic housing is what we have to offer here."

In Southport, N.C., Debby Daigle, president and CEO of Plantation Properties, reports the area is also driven by the value buyers get for their money as well as community amenities. "Most of the buyers we deal with are primarily interested in what the community has to offer," says Daigle. "People are buying into golf communities because they want a place where their children and grandchildren will want to come together—a place where you can create memories."

Luxury golf properties throughout North Carolina's Triangle region begin at \$500,000. The area's highest priced listing is \$4.395 million in Hasentree, Raleigh's newest golf course community.



Chechessee Creek Club's traditional, private Coore/Crenshaw course opened in 2000. The club is in the South Carolina lowcountry.

South Carolina's coastal region is another focal point for homebuyers seeking the desirable golf lifestyle. With its picturesque, lowcountry environs, award-winning golf communities have become the norm in South Carolina. Recognized as one of the world's best by Golf Magazine, Golf Digest and Forbes Magazine, Colleton River Plantation in Bluffton, S.C., rests on 7.5 miles of saltwater marsh frontage, offering two state-of-the-art clubhouse facilities, 1,200 acres of nature preserve and two renowned golf courses designed by renowned architects, Jack Nicklaus and Pete Dye.

"There's a certain vacation-resort element of living here," says John Ussery, director of sales for Colleton River with Gateway Realty. "Once folks get a taste of it, they don't want to wait for retirement, they want to enjoy it with their kids and family."

But, Ussery knows that to reel buyers in, seeing is believing. "We're fortunate to have great rankings," says Ussery. "But I'd rather have people come here and see it for themselves."

For the truly serious golfer, sometimes it takes a members-only club to fulfill both their home and golfing needs. Between Beaufort and Hilton Head, S.C., the Chechessee Creek Club offers invitation-only access to its clubhouse and golf course, which in turn allows members the opportunity to purchase from a selection of lowcountry-style cottages ranging from \$1.4 to \$1.6 million. Chechessee Creek Club also offers lots beginning at \$225,000 and a collection of homes being sold in fractional shares.

"One hundred percent of the people here are passionate about golf," sums up Franklin Newell, director of golf at the Chechessee Creek Club. "It's like-minded people that love coming here [to] enjoy outstanding friends and golf." **UH**