

Green dream amid arid desert

Andrew Scott

Al Barari has launched The Nest, a development of villas in Dubai.

Ranging from Dh7.7million to Dh12m, the 99 villas will be part of a verdant ecosystem situated off the Mohammed bin Zayed Road.

The development is hidden by tall trees and thick green bushes on the opposite side of MBZ to Global Village. One can quite easily miss this housing estate because of the nature that has been planted and the height of the sand dunes that surround it. Al Barari literally means "wilderness".

The drive in brings you through deep foliage and a green vista one does not usually associate with Dubai or the desert. The landscape is a natural reserve and contains the region's largest privately owned plant nursery, producing 700 varieties.

The Nest started building in mid-March but has no set completion date as yet. The development plan shows each villa with a built-up area of 6,300 to 7,000 square feet with plot sizes ranging from 9,000 sq ft to 15,000 sq ft. In all the 99-villa community



The Nest is covered by tall trees and thick green bushes. Al Barari

will span 2.41 million sq ft. All the villas will face the skyline of Dubai with excellent views of Burj Khalifa.

The Nest villas feature a private pool, outdoor shower, outdoor entertaining area, barbecue area, landscaped gardens with a lawn and parking for two cars. Floor-to-ceiling windows will allow unfettered views of the lush surroundings.

All the villas will have solar panels on the roof.

Al Barari already has two developments, The Reserve and The Residences, fully occupied with infrastructure catering for leisure and entertainment.

The Nest's residents will have access to the ultra-modern facilities of the wider Al Barari development including Body Language health club, a fully equipped gym, an outdoor temperature-controlled pool, tennis courts and a full schedule of group exercise classes. It also offers a restaurant, The Farm, and Heart & Soul, Al Barari's signature destination spa.

The future development includes a retail village, dining venues, a vanity area, floating market, lakes and water features and themed gardens.

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Top five wilderness areas

- 1 Amazonia
- 2 The Congo Forests of Central Africa
- 3 New Guinea
- 4 The Chaco
- 5 The Caatinga

Source: Conservation International's Wilderness: Earth's Last Wild Places

q&a putting down sturdy roots

Martyn Crook, business development director at Al Barari, gives details about the project.

The villas went on sale on Sunday, how many have you sold?

We have sold 92 out of the 99 so far, which is an incredible response in a week. We thought the market was ready because we had an amazing response to our apartments that were sold in February, Seventh Heaven, which are low-rise, nine floors and 11-floor apartments.

When will The Nest be delivered?

We have a schedule that says 24 months, but I think we can easily deliver them in under 18 months; we want to over-deliver and under-promise.

How many villas will be on

Al Barari when The Nest is completed?

There will be 319 villas sitting in 19 million square feet of land, but Al Barari will be a destination with hotels, villas, offices and serviced apartments in the future. I don't want to say when that will be a reality, but the plans are there and the vision is sustainable.

How big is the nursery on Al Barari?

It is 1.6 million sq ft and we grow all our plants there so that we are able to keep the beauty and exclusivity of the development to a maximum. We are looking at opening the nursery up to the public so that they can see the incredible plants we grow there. They can come now and buy plants, but it has the potential to be a destination on its own.

Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man

Stewart Udall, US politician