

RECREATION & INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

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Michelle Hofer/For the Calgary Herald

Wendy and Nilton Moita at their home in Calgary with a photo on a smart phone of their condo in Mexico. They purchased a unit at La Bella Vita Resort and Spa.

‘Good life’ found in Mexican resort

Calgary couple among Canadians
at La Bella Vita Resort and Spa

JOSH SKAPIN
CALGARY HERALD

When Nilton Moita and his wife Wendy plan their Mexican escape, they never forget to log on to Facebook.

The Calgary couple belongs to a group on the social media site shared by other Canadians who own property at La Bella Vita Resort and Spa — a project being developed by Calgary resident Sam Sidhom.

La Bella Vita — Italian for “the

good life” — is part of a larger project called Playa La Jolla in Puerto Penasco, Mexico.

Before one of the members heads to the sun-soaked resort, they post a note on the wall of the Facebook group, so if anyone else is there at the same time, they can connect.

“We met there and have stayed in touch ever since,” says Nilton of the Canadian contingent, which includes residents of B.C. and Ontario.

SEE GOOD, PAGE III

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INSIDE:



How do you plan to use your second or vacation home? Have you figured out how long will you be staying each year? And how will you insure it? Such considerations should be ironed out before you sign on the dotted line. See page III.

NEXT WEEK:



When it comes to the laid-back mountain lifestyle close to everything from skiing to hiking, plus the best in luxury homes, few places can beat Canmore. We take a look at a project a short drive from Calgary. Read about it next Saturday.

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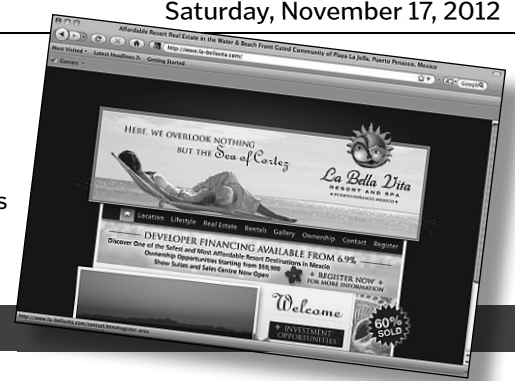


CALGARY HERALD

GETTING WARMER

The Sea of Cortez is a 177,000-square-kilometre arm of the Pacific Ocean that separates the Mexican mainland and the Baja California Peninsula. It is known for consistently warm temperatures, ranging from 16 C in the winter and 24 C in the summer. The Sea of

Cortez contains 37 islands. These waters are home to sea life such as mantra rays, leatherback sea turtles, killer whales, California grey whales and humpback whales. Visit la-bellavita.com



“The beaches are just wonderful. It’s like bath water down there. You don’t have to worry about the cold water.”

NILTON MOITA



Photos, La Bella Vita

A seaside swimming pool at La Bella Vita resort in Mexico. The project offers fractional ownership opportunities in a variety of homes.

FROM PAGE I10

GOOD: Getaway

“We throw out dates when we plan to go down there and do our best to hook up.”

La Bella Vita offers both full and fractional ownership opportunities in single-family homes, villas and bungalow apartments decked out in Mediterranean-influenced architecture.

The Moitas were in the market for an investment property and picked up their piece of the Mexican getaway through a fractional partnership on a three-bedroom villa unit.

“I thought it would be nice to have a place in Mexico to kick back and relax every once in a while,” says Nilton.

While fractional ownership worked well for the Moitas, their appreciation for the area led them to something more. Two years ago, the couple bought a two-bedroom bungalow apartment, allowing them to now “go down whenever we want,” says Nilton.

The bungalows are offered in a choice of two interior finish packages, the contemporary Ur-

ban Oasis and the eclectic Rustic Sands.

Bungalow apartment features include hand laid ceramic tile flooring, a central air conditioning and heating system, energy efficient stacked washer and dryer, granite kitchen countertops, solid wood cabinets, white kitchen appliance package, nine-foot ceilings and a slate-style tiled balcony.

There’s also a shared rooftop deck, when owners can retreat to and relax in the cabanas or fire up a barbecue, says Nilton.

The luxury three-storey villas include three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a flex space, garage and rooftop terrace.

The Moitas leave the hustle and bustle of Calgary traffic and winter chill for their place at La Bella Vita at least twice a year and spend chunks of ten days to two weeks at their apartment. Typically, one of their visits is sometime between June and October, which are months that see the highest temperatures for the area.

The Moitas spend their days doing a variety of things both at the resort and while exploring the area. But what captured their hearts was the stretch of sandy beaches lining the stunning deep blue Sea of Cortez.

Nilton describes them as “probably the best beaches that I have ever seen.”

“The beaches are just wonder-



A Canadian flag flies from the exterior of villas within the project.

ful. It’s like bath water down there. You don’t have to worry about the cold water.”

At the property, amenities include a private outdoor whirlpool, a year-round outdoor swimming pool, a tennis court, a clubhouse, owners’ lounge and fitness studio.

Off the property, the resort is a quick 15 minute drive from shopping and dining in downtown

Puerto Penasco.

It’s also within close proximity to the Morua Estuary, which boasts a scenic desert mountainscape. The estuary also offers fishing and snorkelling opportunities.

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THE BUYERS

Nilton and Wendy Moita. **BACKGROUND:** Nilton, a general contractor, and his wife, Wendy, are originally from Vancouver and now live in Calgary. They were in the market for an investment property when they learned about La Bella Vita Resort and Spa. Originally, the couple entered as fractional owners of a villa at the Mexican getaway. But with hopes of more frequent visits, the Moitas bought a two-bedroom bungalow apartment.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

PROJECT: La Bella Vita Resort and Spa. **DEVELOPER:** LBV Holdings Ltd. **AREA:** Puerto Penasco, Mexico. **PRICE:** Full ownership of apartment bungalows starts at \$159,900, while townhouse villas start at \$249,900 and single-family custom homes start from \$300,000 including lot. **INFORMATION:** Visit la-bella-vita.com

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