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BREAKING GROUND

The Villas at Amangiri and Palmetto Bay Resort

By NICK KAYE

The Villas at Amangiri

WHAT Luxury residences adjacent to a desert resort.

WHERE In southern [Utah](#) near Page, Ariz.

AMENITIES A [spa](#) and activities like [fishing](#) and boating, among others.

PRICES Villas start at \$7 million.

STATUS The resort is scheduled to open in early 2009. Villas will be built as buyers select sites.

DEVELOPER Canyon Group.

CONTACT (435) 675-3222 or www.villasatamangiri.com.

DETAILS The vast moonscape of southern Utah might seem like an unlikely spot for an Aman resort, the luxury brand that began in Thailand in the late '80s. But the area's scenery, with canyons and huge limestone formations stretched out across the horizon, appears naturally suited to serve as a backdrop for Aman's signature free-flowing, open-air design. On 600 acres near the Utah-[Arizona](#) line, the project will comprise 31 full-ownership, four-bedroom villas, eight of which are now on sale, and a resort with 34 guest suites. The villas, on 1.3- to 10-acre sites, will be 5,100 square feet indoors, with another 9,000 square feet of outdoor living spaces that will include fire pits. Swimming pools will be at the center of the villa complexes, surrounded by pavilions with two bedrooms each and one for the living room, dining room and kitchen. Layouts of the villas are customizable, and some will be on sites large enough to accommodate a fifth bedroom or spaces like wine cellars or exercise rooms. There will be multiple restaurants at the resort, and the 12,000-square-foot spa will offer treatments and yoga classes outdoors. For activities, other than boating and fishing on nearby Lake Powell, where the resort will have private houseboats and other watercraft for guests and owners to use, a staff naturalist will help arrange whitewater [rafting](#) trips on the Colorado River, tours of the Grand Canyon, fossil-hunting expeditions, hikes and horseback rides. The Page Municipal Airport has daily flights from Phoenix.

Palmetto Bay Resort

WHAT Beachfront residential development.

WHERE Southern [Belize](#).

AMENITIES An infinity pool, a restaurant and a fitness center, among others.

PRICES Condominiums start at just under \$300,000.

STATUS Construction of the first phase of residences is under way and is expected to be completed in 2011.

DEVELOPER Ravenspur Investments.

CONTACT www.palmettobayresort.com.

DETAILS In the western Caribbean at about the midpoint of Belize's long, narrow — and fairly undeveloped — Placencia Peninsula, this gated project has plans for around 120 full-ownership condominiums. There are 36 one- to three-bedroom units, in two six-story buildings, in the initial phase. The units, from about 1,100 to 4,500 square feet, will be sold furnished, and they will all have water views and patios or balconies with grills; a rental program will be offered. Interiors and common areas are designed by Julieanne Dobson, who previously worked on [Francis Ford Coppola's](#) Turtle Inn resort on the peninsula's southern end. The infinity pool will front the project's 400-foot private beach. There will also be a beach boardwalk and a private dock. The development plans to collect rainwater underground and use geothermal and [solar power](#) for heating and cooling as part of an overall effort toward sustainability and energy efficiency. A small airport on the peninsula, about a 10-minute drive south of the project's site, has flights from Belize City; otherwise, the Belize City airport is about three hours away by car.

Breaking Ground is a weekly look at projects, planned or under construction, that include weekend or vacation homes.

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