

The view of the private marina from the Spa at Seasons.

seasons at sandpoint

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EVEN THE SUN TOOK ITS TIME AS IT peeked over North Idaho's rugged Cabinet mountain range. Its light tip-toed across the waters of Lake Pend Oreille and lazily greeted the lush landscape of the Seasons at Sandpoint residential resort. After taking some timely photos of the sunrise, serenity won over slumber and I took advantage of the calm that escorted me into the already warm summer day. I was tucked carefully away from the bustle of the city; it was hard to believe that I was only a mere 90 minutes from Spokane. I reclined on the patio chaise, sipped strong, hot coffee and marveled at the peace that accompanied my early morning scenic rendezvous.

Regardless of the season, the

captivating view and exquisite residences would charm even the most worldly of souls. Seasons' 154 one, two, and three bedroom condominium homes average 1,547 square feet and its eight townhomes average 3,900 square feet. Prices for the luxurious residences range from \$400,000 to over \$2 million. Architects and designers, Chancey Design Partnership, were careful to compliment the natural surroundings of Northern Idaho in everything from the alder wood tones to regional décor. According to Carla Atkinson, the design concept was coined Northwest modern, and is "elegant, yet comfortable, warm and inviting, with finishes particular to this area."

My sister, Valerie, and I stayed in a spatial, impeccably decorated two-bedroom residence—a remarkable repre-

sentation of the Seasons experience. The kitchen, complete with GE Profile appliances and granite countertops, practically begged me to create something savory for a crowd of friends. Yes, I thought, this could easily be my home.

Aside from the obvious benefit of the quaint Sandpoint community, I learned that Seasons at Sandpoint resort amenities extend beyond the picturesque and include private marina and boat slips, resort shuttle to Schweitzer Mountain Resort, state-of-the-art fitness center, day spa (The Spa at Seasons), swimming pools, hot tubs, fire pits, al fresco dining areas, full service concierge, activities director and children's programs. Seasons is

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also within short walking distance to downtown Sandpoint's own collection of incredible restaurants and local shopping.

Later, Valerie and I enjoyed a light breakfast and gourmet coffee at the clubhouse, aptly named The Retreat. Seasons' team members hustled quietly about the grounds below in preparation for the Annual 4th of July Celebration and grand re-dedication of The Spa at Seasons. White canvas tents, tables, and billowing beachside canopy loungers with overstuffed pillows set the stage for the day's festivities. Concierge team members appeared seemingly out of nowhere, anticipating residents' needs and attending to the signature details of Seasons living.

According to Harry Tishler, VP of Sales and Marketing for BVG Incorporated (Seasons at Sandpoint developer), during training, the motivated staff created a credo to remind them that they are personally accountable for the comfort and happiness of Seasons residents. The credo states, "The warmth of Sea-

Wonderful staff at the Spa at Seasons.



sons begins with me," and it's evident in every service.

Valerie and I chatted briefly with a few residents over coffee and meandered upstairs to The Spa at Seasons. We were warmly greeted by the spa's manager, Sarah Ciotti, who gave us the grand tour and made us feel relaxed and welcome. The spa's most treasured addition is



the Vichy Shower, an exclusive service which allows for therapists to administer a facial-like experience to the entire body, complete with a full body wash, exfoliating body polish, and hydrating massage. We both opted for a luxurious hot-stone massage with therapists Keisch Exner and Rose Morningstar. My massage was followed by an incredible pedicure with lead nail technician, Tracy Minor. I observed Seasons residents coming in and out for various treatments and noticed immediately that they acted as if the spa was just an extension of their own residences and the staff were treasured family members.

tremely positive. The spa is an amenity to the owners, but inclusive to the Sandpoint community."

Reluctantly leaving the tranquility of the spa, but anxious to check out the rest of the facility, we wandered downstairs and were amazed at the attention given to this annual celebration. John Kelley performed an eclectic mix of blues, jazz and reggae – perfect for the heat of the day and the swanky nature of the celebration. The barbecue was catered by Skye's the Limit, a residence favorite for gourmet fare. After sampling the lobster kabobs and mouthwatering stuffed hamburgers, it was apparent why this local catering duo was asked to return. Pend d'Oreille Winery was on location and poured some of its finest wine to accompany the gourmet barbecue, while other guests walked out to the Marina Pavilion on the boat docks for refreshing huckleberry mojitos.

Seasons at Sandpoint's family friendly atmosphere and 1,800 feet of waterfront also appealed to the smallest residents and guests. As the Seasons team prepped the fire pits, children of all ages gathered to roast marshmallows and enjoy Sandpoint's spectacular fireworks extravaganza. Content to watch the fiery display from the comfort of my balcony, I listened to residents laughing with friends, family, and Seasons staff and understood immediately why the lure of Seasons extended beyond the lavish facilities and upscale condominiums.

The Spa at Seasons has already served some extremely elite clientele, including several celebrities, in the recent months following its purchase by Boutique Resorts. They pride themselves in offering genuine, upscale hospitality in an atmosphere "uniquely designed for North Idaho," said Sarah. She added, "The response from spa guests is ex-

BVG Incorporated is currently selling for all three phases of the development, anticipating full project completion by 2010. For information on purchasing or renting a Seasons residence, contact the sales center in Sandpoint at 208.265.4420 or visit www.seasonsatsandpoint.com.