

Image is indicative only.



Many apartments overlook beautiful Homebush Bay and, from upper levels, gain views of the CBD, the North Sydney skyline and leafy Millennium Parklands. **Below** Natural light floods through the apartment kitchen. **Opposite page** There is a variety of accommodation available at The Waterfront to suit most people and budgets.

MEDITERRANEAN LIFESTYLE

Rome? Florence? Milan? No, it's in the heart of Sydney

Words by Barry Hyland

Sydney's newest suburb, Wentworth Point, has embraced the Mediterranean lifestyle, and whether you are strolling on its cobblestone streets, along the boardwalk, or dining in The Piazza, you'll be impressed by efforts to replicate La Dolce Vita.

At the pet-friendly suburb you can browse for European delicacies, be pampered at the day spa and hairdressing salon, wander through the colourful and fragrant gardens, or simply

people-gaze as you sip a silky cappuccino.

Currently around 3000 people live at Wentworth Point, which is on the western shore of Homebush Bay, just 13km from the CBD, bordering Sydney Olympic Park and the 480-hectare Millennium Parklands. Capitalising on the area's natural beauty is The Waterfront, an environmentally sustainable residential showcase developed jointly by local company Payce and Sekisui House, Japan's largest home builder. Sekisui House is renowned for its strategic thinking, meticulous planning, integration with the natural surroundings

and sustainable design technology.

The Japanese have a term for preserving the environment while encouraging human interaction with nature for mutual benefit: Satoyama. Sekisui House is at the forefront of this movement, and exhibits the initiative at The Waterfront. The parks, gardens and open spaces at The Waterfront enhance the relationship between its residents and nature and provide a native habitat in their own right. Indigenous trees and native shrubs have been planted to attract fauna, thus fostering a natural ecosystem.

At the heart of The Waterfront is The Piazza, which has become a fashionable milieu for social events, and offers an authentic Italian experience. The Waterfront's jetty, walkways, dry-stack feature walls, sandstone planter boxes, and hundreds of mature palm trees have residents feeling they are in a holiday resort, further enhanced by the scene-setting

names of the 17 completed apartment buildings, which include Capri, Corfu, Bellagio, Valencia, Positano and Sorrento. Mediterranean in architectural inspiration and European in style, these buildings have rendered or bagged masonry façades in a palette of pastel shades, often highlighted with colourful canvas awnings.

The Waterfront's two latest apartment buildings, Corsica and Catania, were rushed by purchasers when released off the plan. Construction of Corsica is well underway, and Catania is expected to start around October, 2010.

The feverish sales underline the demand for affordable accommodation in Sydney, where the chronic undersupply is predicted to reach 35,000 dwellings by the end of this year, further forcing up rents and prices.

The next stage of The Waterfront will be launched shortly. Messina comprises two separate buildings with an aesthetically coordinated look and consistency of character.



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Interiors are spacious and give residents the flexibility to add their own touches through feature colours, artworks and detailing. **Below** At the heart of most buildings is a central courtyard with decking, grassed areas, integrated lighting and water features, creating the distinctive feel of a relaxed Mediterranean resort.

Architects Roberts + Marks are using pergolas, sunhoods, balustrades and external shutters in powder-coated aluminium, set off against façades combining face bricks with rendered and painted masonry, to add refinement and visual interest. The façades and forms are articulated with setbacks, voids and penetrations to create contrasts of light and shade.

The eight-level northern building and the six-storey southern building open onto a beach-pool surrounded by glistening white sand, palm trees, tropical landscaping, a pavilion, change rooms, function room, timber decking and sun-bathing areas. This “inland” beach is a first for a Sydney development.

The apartments in Messina offer a range of floorplans, with one-bedroom apartments starting below \$400,000, and two-bedroom apartments starting from \$530,000. With the state government waiving stamp duty for off-the-plan apartments under \$600,000 which haven't commenced construction, Messina is sure to prove popular.

“Demand for accommodation at Wentworth Point will continue to be strong, particularly as the adjoining Sydney Olympic Park is earmarked to become a major commercial centre catering for approximately 48,000



Most buildings at The Waterfront have their own private swimming pool and recreational amenities to complement the resort's more expansive communal sporting facilities. **Below** This is what The Waterfront lifestyle is all about.

employees,” said the managing director of CBRE Residential Projects, David Milton. “Wentworth Point is so close that residents could walk or ride their pushbikes to and from work.”

The Waterfront has its own library and own integrated communication system called Homelinx, which combines an intelligent cabling system and an array of enhanced digital services.

A recreational club called Pulse contains such resort-style facilities as an indoor heated 25-metre pool, a fully staffed gymnasium, two tennis courts and a function centre with a commercial kitchen.

The Waterfront has access to the Sydney Olympic Park Ferry Wharf, which provides services to the city and Parramatta. Trains at the nearby Olympic Park station and Strathfield

station are part of the Sydney network and run frequently, as do Sydney bus services.

“When you compare the lifestyle on offer at Wentworth Point to other exclusive points around town — Potts Point, Cremorne Point, Milsons Point, Birkenhead Point, Darling Point and so on — the value here is outstanding,” said The Waterfront marketing manager, Moonmoon Sahu. “People of all ages, cultures and interests love living here and are our true ambassadors. Almost universally you’ll hear first-timers exclaim: ‘Wow — how long has this been here?’ ... and then lament that they wished they had known about The Waterfront sooner.”

With concepts such as Satoyama, smart building design, technology innovations and sustainable living, The Waterfront is way ahead of its time. ■



THE WATERFRONT 21 Bennelong Parkway, Wentworth Point NSW 2127 | Tel 1800 333 818 | Website www.thewaterfront.com.au | Open daily 10am to 4pm