

Ambassador Gardens to include 140 upscale townhomes and flats

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PASADENA >> City Ventures recently unveiled the first model home of its upscale Ambassador Gardens community and the first few homes are already available for purchase.

The project, situated on the campus of the former Ambassador College, will eventually include 140 townhomes and flats. The recent grand-opening celebration was punctuated by champagne, hors d'oeuvres and a duo, string quartet and harpist from the Pasadena Symphony and Pops. Guests made their way up to Merritt Mansion, which serves as

the project's sales office, and then were shuttled over get a look at the model home.

"This is our first Insignia community, which offers a broad array of options and finishes," said Ben Besley, vice president of development for City Ventures. "This is very exciting because we're opening up a new segment of the market for City Ventures."

Insignia by City Ventures serves as a personal design studio, allowing for individual expression in design, color, furnishings and other options.

The rolling hills and steps leading up to the mansion are lined with bushes and Mediterranean cypress trees as part of the estate gardens that date back to the early 1990s. More than 60 percent of the Ambassador Gardens site has been reserved as open space.

The Bungalows is the first phase of The Ambassador Gardens, featuring 10 townhomes and flats with architecture inspired by historic Pasadena designs in Craftsman and English Arts and Craft styles. Designed by William Hezmalhalch Architects, the homes range from 1,884 square feet to 3,352 square feet and will be priced from the low-to-mid \$1 million range.

The 3,091-square-foot model home featured richly colored wood floors, spacious bathrooms and a huge walk-in closet in the master bedroom.

Phase II, called The Grove, is scheduled to begin next year.

Coldwell Banker Realtor Lu Gordon said Ambassador Gardens will be a welcome addition to the community.

"I think it's beautiful," she said. "It will be great for people in their 60s who want to downsize, or for younger up-and-coming people who want to live near all the things that Pasadena has. There's nothing else like it."

Sales of The Bungalows kicked off several days ago, attracting more than 1,000 people, according to City Ventures. Move-ins are expected to begin by the end of the year, company officials said. The project is located along South Orange Grove Boulevard, a block from Old Pasadena.

For more information, visit www.AmbassadorGardens.com. To reach a sales manager directly during normal business hours, call 626-583-4730 or email info@AmbassadorGardens.com.

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