The livin’ is easy at sunny Sunserra resort

Regardless of what the weather-person might say, the Sunserra at Crescent Bar Resort sales team wants homebuyers to know that the sun is out — so let the fun begin. The resort community in eastern Washington has 300 days of sunshine each year.

"Sunserra at Crescent Bar is less than three hours away from Seattle, but as soon as you clear the pass on I-90, you hit the sun. It's a welcome surprise for first-time visitors. I'm convinced that people who love the sun are happy people — the homeowners who buy here are overjoyed," says Dora Carelli, Sunnerra’s marketing and sales director. Carelli should know. She owns a second home at Sunserra. "In addition to it being a wonderful recreation home for my family, it's also a great investment. This year, it's been rented out for the entire summer," she says.

Priced from $364,000 to $549,000, only a few homes remain for sale — all complete and ready for summer fun. The developer is offering pre-summer promotions and incentives. Homebuyers who tour the homes will receive a gift certificate for The Sunfire Grill, as well as a guest pass for a round of golf on Sunnerra’s nine-hole executive golf course or a day by one of the resort’s five swimming pools.

“It’s a great way to experience the relaxed lifestyle offered here. You can enjoy a wonderful meal at The Sunfire Grill, then lounge by the pool or enjoy an afternoon on the links. It’s a mini-vacation close to home," says Carelli.

Sunnerra is east of Wenatchee on the Columbia River, surrounded by the striking landscape of the Columbia Basin. “What makes Crescent Bar so unique is its dramatic scenery. It’s a remarkable juxtaposition of desert landscape and 600-foot basalt cliffs,” says Robert Hadley, one of the community’s developers.

The resort’s topography encourages a community spirit. “There are a lot of places you can buy a vacation home but not too many with a sense of community like this. It’s magical. Because it’s geographically contained, people all know each other and they walk everywhere or drive their golf carts. I’ve been coming to this area with my family since 1981, and it has a nice sense of belonging that often gets lost today,” says Hadley.

Sunnerra’s amenities include the Reven Fontenot-designed golf course, pools, hot tubs, a tennis court, basketball court, softball field, fitness center and clubhouse. On the second floor of the clubhouse, the newly opened Sunfire Grill offers seafood, steak, pasta and a local wine selection. “We have an unusual amount of amenities in a community of this size. There are only 231 homes in total. We wanted to bring people together,” explains Hadley. It appears to be working. The Sunfire Grill hosted a Mother’s Day brunch this month and more than 150 people attended.

For a limited time, buyers can choose one of five special offers in the Buyer’s Choice Program launching this weekend: a free ski boat, two Jet Skis, a garage, no home payments until 2009 or seller financing.

“If you finance your home through Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, the seller will pay your house payments until January of 2009, up to 6 percent of your loan," notes Cyndee Bassi, loan specialist with Wells Fargo. "So you can live over there this summer, play in the river and go to concerts at the Gorge without an extra mortgage payment to worry about.”

Buyers can also opt to finance their home through the seller. "For just a $10,000 down payment, you’ll have no loan, appraisal or mortgage insurance fees and a five-year loan payoff with no prepayment penalty. The loan is amortized over 30 years with a low, stepped interest rate," says Hadley.

The clubhouse at Sunnerra has a restaurant on the second floor.

Buyers can choose from a number of home designs including two-bedroom bungalows and two- and three-bedroom two-story villas. There is also a Sundance Resort Villa floor plan, which allows for a rental or family-sharing option with a main floor with two bedrooms and a complete lockout one-bedroom lower floor. “These homes feature all the upscale finishes you’d expect in a resort community but at a more affordable price. Our average home price is only $399,000,” notes Carelli. In addition, many homes offer river and cliff views.

While summer is a resort favorite, the area is popular every season.”I’m actually a shoulder-season guy. My family loves coming here in the spring and fall, and in the winter there’s great skiing and snowboarding just 30 minutes away. There are community events like the Apple Blossom Festival, winery tours, rock climbing — and that’s not even touching upon everything available within the resort. This is your headquarters for year-round fun,” says Hadley.