

BACK TO NATURE

Homes overlooking any hole of a golf course once offered the ultimate bragging rights. These days, however, developers and architects are creating luxury properties that ditch water-guzzling grass in favor of less-manicured natural settings—native vegetation, restored habitats and even agriculture. Take a peek at these Orange County spots that pair back-to-the-earth benefits with state-of-the-art amenities.

By Alexandria Abramian



Dip in the Ocean

Sea Summit in San Clemente is a new community where topography is just as important as the trophy homes. Developers dedicated almost half of the 200 oceanfront acres to restored natural habitat.

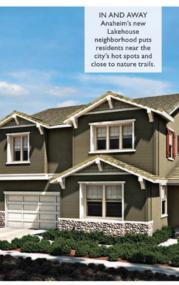
THE BUZZ

A total of 309 two-story Spanish-style homes designed by Irvine-based Robert Hidey Architects will be built along the jaw-dropping coastline. The abodes highlight developer Taylor Morrison's vision to create a place where luxury homes and natural habitat live in harmony. Four miles of public trails meander through parks and preserves. And, under the guidance of a team of biologists, native plants were reintroduced to the habitat—which is monitored by the Center for Natural Lands Management—and that's luring wildlife back to the area.

MORE DETAILS

These Mediterranean manses run from \$1 million to the mid-\$2 millions.

seasummitlife.com



Walk Along the Trails

Lakehouse in Anaheim is a new 3.6-acre community that, once completed early next year, will feature 20 single-family detached dwellings ranging from 2,144 to 2,750 square feet.

THE BUZZ

Located within Anaheim Coves, a nature preserve along the Santa Ana River, the development will offer homes in four architectural styles, including ranch hacienda and Craftsman. All will have easy access to a wide variety of nature trails as well as the Anaheim Packing District, and many will feature dramatic river views.

MORE DETAILS

Properties will start in the low \$700,000s. lakehouseanaheim.com



Get in the Grove

Taking a cue from typical Italian agricultural areas, **La Vita at Orchard Hills** in Irvine is a collection of luxury farmhouse-inspired estates surrounded by working avocado groves.

THE BUZZ

Given its orchard setting, it's no surprise that La Vita homes take foodie-focused amenities to new heights. Many abodes come with two kitchens: There's one that's tucked away from view for all that messy preparation work, and another that's integrated into the great room, making it a central piazza designed for communal gatherings and stunning indoor/outdoor dining rooms. (Sounds like an entertainer's dream, no?) Located on an elevated parcel of land, the two-story pads overlook rolling hills ripe with fruit trees.

MORE DETAILS

A small number of homes—priced from the high \$1 millions—are still available. brookfieldsocal.com