

# real life

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Caribbean Real Estate & Luxury Living

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an architectural beauty



## Wymara

an architectural beauty

Sleek and sexy. Graceful lines. Perfect symmetry. Utterly hip. An exotic one-word name. No, it's not the supermodel you just saw on television or the sports car sitting in your driveway – it's Wymara, the new luxury development located on the west end of Grace Bay Beach in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands. A beautiful sight to behold, you'll certainly want to leave your home and run into her irresistible embrace.

Blending contemporary design elements reminiscent of Miami's South Beach with the classic Caribbean style of the West Indies, Wymara will appeal to anyone who appreciates great architecture. Although the development stands out for its modernity, it effortlessly merges with its Grace Bay Beach surroundings by utilising a combination of glass, wood and natural materials (including many eco-friendly features) to create a streamlined yet relaxed ambiance. The four-acre resort's refined elegance is noticeable as soon as you enter the porte cochere, leading into the reception area,

followed by a stroll into the central terrace courtyard, which is the heart and soul of the resort.

Here you get your first glimpse of the turquoise ocean the Turks and Caicos Islands are famous for; the two five-story buildings and their cedar-shingled peaked rooftops house the 52 suites of the resort that stand proud above the courtyard facing the white sandy beach. A sense of balance and proportion creates a harmonious aesthetic, enhanced by an 80- by 80-foot infinity-edged rectangular pool that contains gently sloping beach entries and floating, palm tree-lined

'leisure islands.' You can easily imagine ordering a cool cocktail from the chic beach bar just a few steps away and sinking into a comfy lounge chair while you worship the sun (or read in the shade), all the while allowing the soothing trade winds to brush-up against your skin. By day, the surrounding deck allows for seating in the pool and whether you waded in the water or walk along the deck, a clear view of the azure north shoreline is always in plain view, beckoning you toward it.

As you walk past the lushly landscaped pathway between the buildings, you will notice how wide the gently sloping beach is, compared to other areas of the north shore. Spanning 400 feet in length and with 12 miles of unobstructed beachfront, the ocean acts as the perfect backdrop to your picture-perfect scene. Plunk yourself onto a lounge chair next to one of the Tiki tables the resort provides and when you are ready for some adventure, partake in one of the many water sports activities arranged by the management staff – sailing, windsurfing, kite-boarding and diving, to name a few. In fact, just 800 yards away is one of the most spectacular snorkelling sites in Providenciales. The beach also overlooks Steller Cut, which is the island's main boat access point through the barrier reef. Whether you are enjoying your lunch on your balcony, soaking up the sun at the pool or on the beach, you will delight in watching everything from tiny fishing schooners to lavish yachts sail along the dazzling green-blue sea.

The luxury resort also contains an air-conditioned gourmet restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as an

outdoor garden terrace should you prefer to eat outside. As the sun goes down, you can enjoy your meal at the dining tables located on the leisure islands for an intimate and romantic setting. A spa and state-of-the-art fitness centre off the central courtyard includes four spa suites, including outdoor showers and a yoga pavilion that opens out to a garden retreat, allowing for either an indoor or outdoor experience depending on your fancy. As you slip into a state of blissful awareness, the soothing sounds, sights and smells will surround you at every turn; the trickling sound of the waterfalls and fountains; the gently rolling ocean waves; the swish of the palm trees in the wind; the chirps ▶





of the native birds; and the fresh scent of the salty sea air will all elevate you into a deeper repose making for the ultimate pampering experience.

The suites themselves embody a refined simplicity with a splash of tradition. Their sleek contemporary design incorporates mosaic-tiled walls, large showers with beautiful glass enclosures, recessed baseboards, rich wood cabinetry and floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors to enhance the spectacular views of the ocean. With one, two, and three-bedroom floor plans, each suite offers generous terraces, ocean views and luxurious living spaces. Two- and three-bedroom suites offer lookouts (all with ocean views), which will give owners flexibility in renting their units to maximise their rental income. "It was no easy feat in providing a design that allowed all lockouts to have ocean views, says Rob Ayer, Managing Director of Apollo Developments Ltd, the developers of Wymara. "Typically, most developments have lockouts that overlook the pool or gardens but with Wymara we wanted to create something better. Now all owners or guests have a view of the ocean from every bedroom, and in most cases, from every bathroom. This is something very special and unique. We believe its one of the reasons why people come here – to see and experience our beautiful water!" For example, the penthouse offers over 100 linear feet of ocean frontage and when you walk into the unit, you are awestruck by the view. With a private plunge pool on the terrace, a gourmet kitchen, three luxurious bedrooms (all with views) and room service, you'll never want to leave.

Other amenities include owner's storage lockers, pool and beachside catering, a conference room, a retail shop, 24-hour room service, daily maid services, concierge services and wireless internet throughout. There are a host of environmental

features as well, including high efficiency air conditioning systems which will reduce electrical consumption by over 30 percent low voltage lighting and an Energy Management System within each unit to help reduce energy consumption. "Many owners are concerned about the total cost of ownership so we wanted to give them the best products and tools to help reduce expenses and be environmentally friendly at the same time. Additionally, the pool will benefit from the sun due to its design – large shallow sections descend from an infinity edge down to create a natural solar heating effect," says Ayer.

Overall, the developers have invested a considerable amount of money in the amenities and features of Wymara and its owners will benefit from these in the long run. It is evident that a lot of time, effort and thought has gone into the concept of Wymara and it is paying off in spades. "We have created a wonderful residential experience and complemented it with a full menu of luxury hotel amenities," says Ayer, whose company purchased the land four and a half years ago and started construction in April 2007 after two years of preparation. He has assembled an experienced team including the highly acclaimed architecture firm Simon Wood Associates, which has designed numerous properties on island; award-winning Miami-based interior design firm D'Amico Design Associates (DADA); reputable project management company BCQS Ltd and general contractor JACA TCI Ltd to build the development. Wymara is branded by Preferred Hotels & Resorts, a collection of some of the finest independent properties throughout the world. Preferred Hotels & Resorts bring a host of benefits to the resort such as a global reservation and sales system, high levels of operating standards and a loyal customer base. Other resorts within the Preferred group include the Cloisters in Sea Island Georgia,

Peter Island Resort in the British Virgin Islands and Sandy Lane in Barbados.

According to Rory Stevens of Simon Wood Associates, Wymara's lead architect, keeping the architecture and interiors simple does not mean that it is easier to detail or build – in fact, quite the contrary. "The removal of additional trim takes away the part of design which is traditionally there to hide defects, but ultimately serves to create fuss and distraction from the bigger picture. In removing the trim, the contractor is faced with reduced tolerances and requires an additional level of accuracy from his building team as well as all the consultants to achieve a finely finished product even where traditional materials are applied," he says. Working closely with the interior designers from DADA, Stevens says they were able to produce an island- appropriate palette of cool natural tones, naturally finished timber and stone that identifies with the simple beauty of the beach and aims to complement and frame the ultimate interior finish – the views to the exterior. "The white exterior concrete walls juxtapose against the turquoise sea and the blue sky, acting like a canvas for the sun to paint moving shadows of the day while allowing the building's simplicity to set the mood by reflecting the colours of the time of day – cooler and fresher in the morning and warmer as the evening approaches." Stevens adds, "The roof weathers naturally to the silver of the native vegetation while the timber details are kept minimalist and naturally finished so that you can appreciate the timber the way you would a piece of driftwood found amongst the white limestone on a stretch of beach on the island."

Nearby attractions include 1,200 feet of protected national park land (Lower Bight Community Park) immediately to their west, which will offer owners unobstructed views of the ocean,

a place to explore Turks and Caicos Islands' native vegetation, landscaped gardens and a children's playground. Wymara's neighbour to the east is the West Bay Club, another attractive property designed by Simon Wood Associates. Since this part of Grace Bay Beach is less densely developed than the cluster of luxury resorts to the east, it is quieter and more tranquil while still being centrally located. If you drive along the Lower Bight Road that Wymara is situated on, you will see Turtle Cove marina that includes restaurants, shops and boat and diving charters. There is an IGA supermarket located off nearby Leeward highway as well as retail stores, restaurants and offices in Graceway Plaza on Grace Bay Road.

"I have travelled the world and have seen a lot of great beaches but Grace Bay Beach is one of the best. The fundamentals here are strong: easy flight access from major cities within the US, Canada and increasingly from Europe; wonderful year-around climate; a stable and secure country with the US dollar as its currency; and freehold property ownership. At the end of the day, people want to go where it's warm, safe, and if they're buying a home, a good investment," concludes Ayer.

Wymara plans on opening its doors in early 2009 and their prices are still very reasonable, starting at US\$450,000 for one-bedroom suites. With over 50 percent of the suites already sold, Wymara won't stay on the market for long. In fact, already the talk of the island, it's turning heads at every turn – a true beauty through and through. ■

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