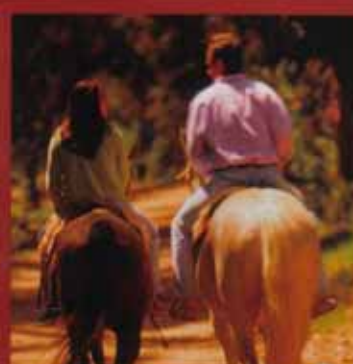
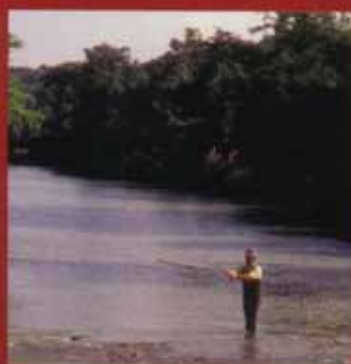
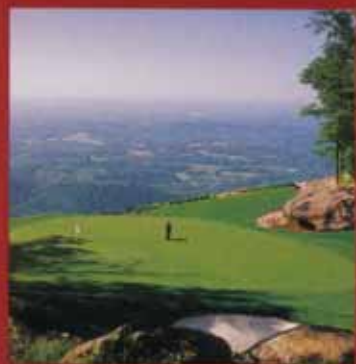


LUXURY LIVING

PRIVATE PLAYGROUNDS

THE ULTIMATE PLACES
TO LIVE AND PLAY





PRIVATE PLAYGROUNDS

GATED COMMUNITIES THAT ARE THE ULTIMATE PLACES TO LIVE AND PLAY

BY BECKI BRYANT

Years ago if affluent homeowners wanted to explore nature trails, cast their flies in a gin-clear stream or catch a glimpse of an eagle, they did like the Joneses and drove to the nearest state or national park. They may have had a golf course in their backyard complete with a decent-size country club, but that was as good as it got when it came to outdoor pursuits.

How things have changed within the gates of today's upscale developments.

"Golf just doesn't cut it anymore," says Bobby Ginn, president and CEO of The Ginn Company, developer of upscale communities in Florida and South Carolina. "It's still very important, but it has to integrate with other amenities that are equally as great." Those other amenities include nearly everything imaginable, from miles of private trails to stocked ponds to unique activities planned by an on-staff naturalist.

For wealthy home buyers searching for the ultimate place to live and play, these "private playgrounds"—gated communities that offer endless outdoor fun—are ideal.



THE CLIFFS COMMUNITIES

The Carolinas



outdoor swimming pools and soccer and softball fields. Exercise classes range from hard-core spinning to sunrise Tai Chi classes on a mountaintop rock.

Since residents can use all the amenities in each community, it's almost as if they belong to six different clubs. Together, The Cliffs offers an attractive package: an equestrian center, a full-service marina on Lake Keowee, 1,000 acres of private parks, miles of on-site trails, access to 14 state parks and four national parks and five golf courses, including two Jack Nicklaus Signature courses that are currently under construction.

Golf Membership: \$75,000 initial fee; \$4,800 annual dues

Family Membership: \$15,000 initial fee; \$3,000 annual dues

Real Estate: Average sales price of homes and homesites is \$350,000

The Cliffs Communities, (800) 884-2958, www.cliffscommunities.com



If sitting in a recliner pointing a remote control at the TV is your idea of exercising, The Cliffs Communities is not for you. This collection of four communities, located along the southeastern edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains in the Carolinas, promotes a healthier, more active lifestyle.

"We not only want to extend our residents' lives, but their quality of life as well," says Sam Varner, director of The Cliffs' unique Wellness Program aimed at enriching the mind, body and spirit. Varner, the former fitness director at Pebble Beach, motivates residents to stay off the couch with unique contests such as a team triathlon of kayaking, hiking and mountain biking. Residents can train at the wellness center (each community has its own) complete with a state-of-the-art equipped gym, basketball, volleyball and tennis courts, indoor and

