

Horton opens Desert Ridge models

Development begins to reawaken after economic slowdown

by **Michael Clancy** - Aug. 27, 2008 12:00 AM

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D.R. Horton Co. has opened three model homes in northeast Phoenix's Desert Ridge neighborhood, the first models to open in the area since Pulte/Del Webb's Fireside at Desert Ridge first went on sale more than a year ago.

The Horton development, Cielo at Desert Ridge, will eventually have more than 500 single-family homes on 189 acres at the southwestern corner of Pinnacle Peak Road and Tatum Boulevard.

The opening begins another chapter in the development of Desert Ridge, which centers on the Desert Ridge Marketplace at Tatum and Loop 101. The area has been slow to develop, a pace that has not been helped by the recent economic slowdown.

Horton held its property for more than four years before building and opening models. Other large parcels have been vacant for more than three years.

Now under construction are CityNorth, Toscana of Desert Ridge and Bella Monte, all featuring condominiums along Deer Valley Road and 56th Street, and the Fireside development, south of Deer Valley at 40th Street.

At Cielo at Desert Ridge, models of the Manhattan, the Prato and the Torino have opened.

The Manhattan, with two double garages, is the largest of the three, at 3,554 square feet. Its top price is \$541,700, including a casita and a fifth bedroom.

The Prato is the smallest, with three bedrooms, a library and 2,230 square feet. It is the only single-story home among the models. Its top price is \$441,200.

The Torino, at 3,207 square feet, has five bedrooms plus a loft and a game room. It runs close to \$475,000.

From the upper floors at either two-story model, a visitor can look out over the property, which runs between 40th and Tatum on the southern side of Pinnacle Peak. Piestewa Peak marks the horizon.

Tom Davis at D.R. Horton, the developer, said the Desert Ridge site "is spectacular."

Cielo, when complete, will have more than 500 single-family homes ranging as high as \$1 million. It will be built in phases.

Four desert washes run through the property, providing open space, and homes along those washes will cost extra.

The development is bordered by existing housing on the south and west.

The desert to the north is vacant, as is the southeastern corner of Pinnacle Peak and Tatum. It is situated a mile north of Desert Ridge Marketplace and less than a mile from area schools.

A version of this story may have appeared in your community Republic.