The New York Times

BREAKING GROUND

The Ritz-Carlton, Paradise Valley

WHAT Luxury residential resort.

WHERE Paradise Valley, Ariz.

AMENITIES Swimming pools and a spa, among others.

PRICES Residences start at about $2 million.

STATUS Construction is planned to begin around the end of this month, and the opening is scheduled for fall 2010.

DEVELOPER Five Star Development.

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DETAILS Last month, the Ritz-Carlton, Paradise Valley, cleared a major hurdle, as voters approved a ballot referendum allowing the project to go ahead. Construction was to begin last summer, but opposition from a local group, reportedly focused on the density of the development's residences, delayed its start. Work is now about to begin, and according to the developer, interest from buyers has been high. On 105 acres at the base of Camelback Mountain about 14 miles northeast of downtown Phoenix, the project is to include a 225-room resort and 161 residences. Most of the residences — and the first available for purchase — will be two- to three-bedroom Spanish Colonial Revival-style villas of at least 2,300 square feet. The free-standing villas, for which buyers can choose finishing details, will include terraces and gas fireplaces. Also planned are larger houses, from 4,000 square feet, and one-acre homesites on which buyers can build homes independently or with the help of the developer. As for amenities, there will be the spa, nine swimming pools, a restaurant and private, in-home chef service. A concierge service will help residents book activities like golf at nearby courses, where they will be offered preferential tee times. Adjoining the site, on the other side of the city line in Scottsdale, is an 18-acre project by the same developer that includes plans for a shopping center filled with upscale restaurants and boutiques like Hermès, as well as one of the first Edition hotels, a new brand by Ian Schrager and Marriott.

PETERSON ARCHITECTURE