

# REALESTATE

## Perfecting Paradise *A Different Look in Cape Coral*

By Andrea Stetson

Far past the strip malls, way beyond the typical neighborhoods packed with houses and few trees, is another part of Cape Coral with entirely different scenery. It's a long ride past fields of trees and scrub brush to the northwestern part of Cape Coral where some houses sit on larger pieces of land, mature trees abound and canals are quite wide. That's where Amy and Steve Wessels found their perfect piece of land.

"We moved down here four years ago from Downstate, Illinois," Amy Wessels described. "We came from the country, so we had acreage and privacy there. We bought a small house, but it was not our forever home. I was keeping my eye out for property and this came available and so did two more lots across the street, so we have .8 of an acre, so we have privacy."

The lot faces a canal with mangroves on the other side, so no one can ever build across there, leaving them with a permanent view of water and trees.



Continued to page 2E This home in Northwest Cape Coral sits at the end of a cul-de-sac. PHOTOS FROM TUNDRA HOMES

## Time is Treated as a Luxury at The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Estero Bay

Time is valuable and should be treated as such. At The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Estero Bay, an onsite team trained to the brand's renowned service standard, takes care of the details—so each day can be reclaimed. What once filled a to-do list becomes seamless: morning coffee waiting in the lobby; dinner reservations at Acqua Bistecca handled before even asking; early morning tee times booked at Saltleaf Golf Preserve.

The Experience Studio works in the background, personalizing each day based on how residents choose to live. Whether a coordinated airport pick-up, beach loungers arranged in advance, or a last-minute escape from Saltleaf Marina across the bay, the goal is simple: more time.

Located just a few floors away from home, the onsite spa and salon are always within reach. Massages, facials, haircuts, and manicures can be arranged to fit residents' schedules, so self-care becomes effortless—not a trip across town.

Care extends to everyone in the household. Children and teens have spaces designed for them to play, create, and explore under professional guidance. Four-legged family members receive thoughtful attention as well—from daily park outings to grooming that keeps them feeling pampered.

Return home, toss the keys to the valet, and wander up to the Sunset Lounge as



**The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Estero Bay introduces a lifestyle defined by abundant amenities and services thoughtfully designed to give residents back time.**

the sky softens to gold. Enjoy cocktails with neighbors, or slip away for a lagoon-side nightcap, just as it was ordered the night before.

What is gained living at The Ritz-Carlton Residences is the luxury of time—time to connect, to breathe, to live in the moment. Don't let the opportunity pass by.

With total sales now exceeding \$700 million, Tower 1 is approaching sellout and preparing to welcome its first residents early next year. Meanwhile, Tower 2 is officially underway, with its foundational pour complete and progress rising steadily toward a mid-2027 delivery.

Priced from the \$3 millions, the remaining residences in the second tower range from 2,628 to 3,885 square feet and are offered in two-, three-, and four-bedroom plans, each with a den. The final penthouse also remains, though it is sure not to last.

Whether stopping in spontaneously or scheduling an appointment, the Sales Gallery offers a glimpse of what life here can feel like—unhurried, thoughtful, and deeply connected to its surroundings on Estero Bay.

The 5,000-square-foot gallery includes a 3D scale model of the five-acre property, along

with a full-size residence kitchen, wet bar with wine storage, master bathroom, and custom millwork closet. There is also a technology-driven presentation room, floor plan displays, and an on-site selection studio to help bring the vision into focus.

Soon, furnished model residences will open for preview by appointment only, providing a firsthand glimpse inside this architectural landmark as its spaces come to life.

Visit the Sales Gallery at 5000 Coconut Road, Bonita Springs, open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., or call 239-449-2000. Learn more at [www.TheResidencesEsteroBay.com](http://www.TheResidencesEsteroBay.com).

**Self-care with ease, with an onsite salon where haircuts, styling, manicures, and pedicures are arranged to fit residents' schedules.**



**Upon arrival in the lobby, residents are welcomed by The Experience Studio, a dedicated team redefining concierge service.**



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The double island kitchen is one of the things the homeowners enjoy. PHOTOS FROM TUNDRA HOMES



The homeowners love that their three car garage is so oversized that it could fit four vehicles. PHOTOS FROM TUNDRA HOMES



This couch in the great room is more than 16 feet long. PHOTOS BY ANDREA STETSON



Picture screens on the lanai give wide unobstructed views of the canal. PHOTO FROM TUNDRA HOMES.

# PARADISE

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Once the land was secured, they searched for the right builder to create their dream home. Tundra Homes recently completed their new four bedroom, four full and one half bathroom house that spans 3,244 square feet under air and a total of 5,710 square feet including garage and lanai.

“I didn’t do a traditional Florida look,” Amy Wessels explained. “This is more of a farmhouse look. I love the farmhouse style. I love the earthy tones. I absolutely love the rustic look; the distressed look. We are more casual. We like comfort.”

The comfort includes a very deep couch that spans more than 16 feet long, wrapping around in the great room in an L-shape. But that is just one of a long list of the couple’s favorite things.

“I love my kitchen,” Amy Wessels exclaimed as she opened the door to a hidden pantry and butlers kitchen. “I love the two islands and all the extra storage.”

The Wessels took the plans from a Tundra model home and tweaked it

to meet their desires. They added the fourth bedroom, made the garage bigger and changed the direction of the garage entry.

“My favorite thing is the garage and the outdoor area,” Steve Wessel added. “The garage is oversized and there is all this extra space for storing things. And then obviously, I love the outdoor space with the bar out there.”

Beyond the lanai, outdoor kitchen, outdoor bar, pool and spa, is a long boardwalk, a boat dock and a platform over the water with a chickee hut with a sitting area. That is one of Steve Wessel’s favorite places.

“Especially in the morning before the sun comes up, I like sitting there,” Steve Wessel described. “I like to hear the morning. I will hear fish jumping. Sometimes I will hear a manatee breathing. Sometimes, I sit at the bar and sometimes I sit at the tiki. I just bring a cup of coffee and sit out there.”

Amy Wessel also loves the outdoor living in her new home.

“The sunsets are absolutely gorgeous,” she gushed. “Sometimes I just have to pinch myself. It is all just amazing.”



The owner of the home bought the adjacent lot so they would have extra green space. PHOTO FROM TUNDRA HOMES.

With the lanai facing west, the Wessels were worried about too much sun and glare in the home in the evening. But shades that come down on a portion of the lanai keep the bright sun away.

“We put the shades down and it makes it all very cozy,” Steve Wessel said.

Luke Beverly, project coordinator for Tundra Homes, says the Wessel house is very special. He said most lots in Cape

Coral are about 80 feet wide by 125 feet deep. The Wessels space spans 155 feet by 140 feet. The extra space allowed Tundra Homes to create more living space.

“There are only a handful of lots like this in Cape Coral, and then they bought the extra property. To be able to have this depth is just unique,” Beverly said. “They just ended up with a gorgeous house.”



The owners love the more rustic farmhouse design. PHOTOS BY ANDREA STETSON

