

Baker's Bay, The Bahamas

Developer Mike Meldman's Discovery Land Company has created some of the most exclusive and private golf and residential communities in North America. One of the inherent characteristics at each of the developments is



a natural setting, whether it is the deserts of Scottsdale (Estancia Club and Mirabel Golf Club), the Glacier National Park in Montana (Iron Horse Golf Club) or the Pacific Ocean (Kukio Golf and Beach Club on the Big Island of Hawaii).

Yet Meldman, chairman and CEO of the San Francisco-based company, strongly believes his latest project, Baker's Bay Golf and Ocean Club on the Abaco Islands of the Bahamas, is the best of the bunch when it comes

to sheer beauty. "We look at properties all over the world in order to build our communities," Meldman says. "If we commissioned God to deliver us a property, this would be it."

Indeed, the Baker's Bay setting is quite spectacular. How else can you describe over seven miles of sparkling, white-sand beachfront, rare elevation changes of 16 to 60 feet and one of the world's largest barrier reefs a couple hundred yards offshore that doubles as built-in hurricane protection?

Also worth noting is that Baker's Bay, which consumes much of Great Guana Cay, has a distinctive deep-water channel—inherited from the previous owners of the property—that can accommodate large vessels of up to 200 feet in length, making it one of the few ports that can do this in what many consider the boating capital of the Bahamas. Ashore, Baker's Bay is a 585-acre community comprised of approximately 350 residential lots and units, including an estimated 175 custom homesites ranging from one-third of an acre to more than one acre, and

an assortment of well-appointed island cottages and bungalows. Prices will range from \$1 million to \$12 million.

Among the amenities planned for the private club are a golf course designed by Tom Fazio, a 180-slip, full-service marina, 24-hour security, a beach and golf clubhouse with spa and fitness facilities, a members' shopping boutique, clay tennis courts and eating options ranging from casual spa fare to more formal dining. Additionally, Baker's Bay will have Discovery Land's Outdoor Pursuits program, a concierge service staffed by local experts that will tend to any recreational or personal needs.

Located just 140 miles east of the Florida coast, Meldman is bullish on the Bahamas market. "There's nothing like the natural beauty combined with the level of service and amenities that we'll have here," he says. "No resort or hotel can compete."

SCOTT KAUFFMAN

Baker's Bay Golf and Ocean Club

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Above: Baker's Bay will include a Tom Fazio-designed golf course and a 180-slip marina.

Right: Temporary luxury tents have been built to provide accommodations for prospective buyers.

