## Signature Parterre Gardens Unveiled in Mediterra



## 01/17/06

Mention some of the world's greatest gardens and several come to mind: the Chateau de Fontainebleau, the various castle gardens of English nobility, and of course, Versailles. Borrowing from the rich tradition of some of the most celebrated formal gardens in the world, Mediterra's new lakefront Parterre Gardens interject a revolving palette of annual blooms into the clipped symmetry of low hollyhedges, a stately reflecting pool, meandering

walkways and benches. It's a setting that's perfectly suited for the Mediterranean landscape of the 1,697-acre master-planned community in Naples.

Located in Mediterra's newest phase, the Parterre Gardens was designed by landscape architect Joe Gordon, of Design Studio Boca, to recall the charm and heraldry of these world-famous gardens. The recent installation of the signature gardens' plantings - colorful blooms in whites, pinks and reds that will bow to a changing seasonal palette - mark the completion of the gardens, found on a peninsula surrounded by a large lake.

"We wanted something special that would enhance the community's Mediterranean theme," said John Gleeson, regional vice president of The Bonita Bay Group, which is developing Mediterra. "Dennis Church, our director of community development, came up with the idea of something formal, a parterre garden connected by walkways that would serve as a focal point from the moment you pass through the gates."

The oval Parterre Garden is introduced from the elevated entry gate, itself a colorful infusion of bougainvillea-wrapped pergolas. A circular roundabout spirals off to various streets and offers a large fountain crowned by Mediterra's trademark obelisk and sporting more than a dozen bubblers and water jets. A walkway and blooms of yellow and orange encircle the fountain, encouraging interaction.

The entrance to the gardens is framed by obelisks and pavers creating a walkway that radiates on the sides to areas with decorative urns, flowerpots and benches overlooking the lake. Ahead, a raised rectangular reflecting pool rises from the gardens, low clipped hedges that create spirals and linear elements are outlined by the whites, pinks and reds of blossoming flowers. Nine stone frogs on each side playfully cast water in a dance across the pool, carrying the eye out to a narrow landscaped walkway that is framed by pillars and leads across the water.

"Parterre Gardens feature elegant and sophisticated designs that are visually appealing because of the intricate patterns created by clipped hedging," said Gordon, explaining that the gardens will also boast blues, yellows and magentas depending on the season. "They're pleasant and pleasing to look at and walk through. Mediterra's Parterre Gardens is like walking through a park. It provides a view for a number of single-family homes and also offers a very restive place for relaxation. Because it's seasonal, visitors can expect a different look at different times of the year."

The Bonita Bay Group is developing Mediterra with the same commitment to meticulous planning, environmental stewardship, integrity and attention to detail that is evident at its flagship community, Bonita Bay. Bonita Bay received the development industry's highest international honor when it was named the Outstanding Large-Scale Community of the Year by the Urban Land Institute.

Mediterra recently has been named Community of the Year by the Collier Building Industry
Association for the fourth consecutive year, and received the Award of Excellence for Open Spaces
from the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The community is being
created with the intimacy, charm and classical style of the Mediterranean region of Europe. The
overall master plan for the 1,697-acre community may include up to 950 residences and more than
1,000 acres of open space. Residents are eligible for membership in The Club at Mediterra, which
offers two Tom Fazio-designed championship golf courses, a 25,000-square-foot clubhouse, named
best clubhouse in 2004 by the CBIA, and a tennis, swim and fitness center. The private Mediterra
Beach Club on the Gulf of Mexico features an elevated swimming pool, expansive sundeck, and indoor
and al fresco dining overlooking 200 feet of shoreline. All residents enjoy miles of bicycle paths and
nature trails leading to a series of themed neighborhood parks. Parque Celestial, featuring an array
of astrological references, was awarded the American Society of Landscape Architects' Florida
Chapter Award of Excellence. The community's second park, Calusa Play Park, offers children and
adults an opportunity to learn more about the Calusa Indians, the earliest inhabitants of Southwest
Florida.

The Club at Mediterra has been honored with the 2002 Environmental Leaders in Golf Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and Golf Digest magazine in the private course category, and it is the first-ever 36-hole course to earn Audubon International's Silver Signature Sanctuary status.

Mediterra Realty is now offering villas from more than \$1 million, single-family homesites from \$400,000 and custom homes from \$1.6 million to more than \$7 million. Residential offerings currently include single-family neighborhoods, some with oversized homesites and luxury villa neighborhoods. Mediterra is a private, gated community. For information or to tour the homes and homesites with a sales agent, visit the Mediterra Sales and Information Center, located just inside the entrance to the community on Livingston Road two miles north of Immokalee Road in North Naples. For additional information call toll free (800) 775-3560, or visit the Web site at <a href="www.mediterranaples.com">www.mediterranaples.com</a>.