

LIVING on the LAKE

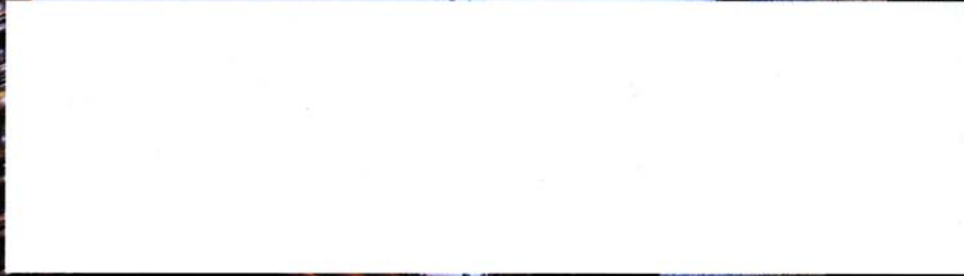
For the Luxurious Lake Country Lifestyle™

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La Dolce Vita

Vespera's Mediterranean flavor sweetens the idea of downsizing

\$4.95 U.S.





What's in a name?

Silver Lake in the Town of Summit is now home to Vespera at Porticello, a condominium development like no other. In the early 20th century, Silver Lake's so-called Million Dollar Beach drew crowds to its sandy shore. Today, the 222-acre lake goes

mostly unnoticed, nestled between I-94 and Valley Road. Amy Peterson takes you there in her article, "La Dolce Vita," on page 18.

Vespera's name has Latin roots. *Vesper* means "evening," that peaceful time when the sun casts its final rays

above the horizon. Porticello's namesake is a seaside Sicilian town filled with Old World charm.

The development aims to capture these sentiments. Besides the stucco exterior, terra cotta roof and wrought iron details that are quintessentially Mediterranean, each villa has an outdoor courtyard and fireplace for relaxing or entertaining.

All of the finishes are top-notch, from the hand-applied Venetian plaster walls that feel like suede to the built-in European coffee maker that churns out a perfect cup of joe. Residents also enjoy that once-famous recreational area, now home to a private stretch of shoreline and Club Porticello, one of Lake Country's newest restaurants.

Million Dollar Beach. Vespera. Porticello. It all sounds so luxurious. Which brings us to ... Hayopolis.

Yep, that was the original name of Delafield. Bill Nelson uncovered this and other trivia visiting local museums. His story, on page 36, takes you through the Oconomowoc and Lake Country Museum, Hawks Inn Museum in Delafield and the Clark House Museum in Pewaukee. I know you'll enjoy this look back at our area's past – hay and all. 🌿



MIKE SCHIRMER

Silver Lake, a 1930s hotbed of lakefront fun, is now home to Vespera, a high-end condominium development with Old World charm.

La Dolce Vita



Vespera's Mediterranean flavor and tasteful luxury sweeten the idea of downsizing

by Amy L. Peterson
photography by Scott Ash

When people talk about the Lake Country lifestyle, they often refer to it as being on vacation.

Vespera at Porticello, one of Oconomowoc's newest condo developments, takes the vacation idea to a new level. Nestled on the north shore of Silver Lake, the Vespera community is small — approximately 30 units are planned — but amenities and details are lavish.



**Vespera villas blend Old World style and
craftsmanship with modern European amenities.**

EXTERIOR PHOTO BY ROBERT BORKOWSKI



In the beginning ...

The model, on St. Andrews Drive on the north shore of Silver Lake, had its grand opening in mid-July. Laurie Flatt and Cindy Taubner of Casa La Bella styled the home for the event.

"It's a wonderful space, but what really stands out are the quality of construction and the details," says Flatt. "In the bathrooms, it's easy to let the surfaces and fixtures speak for themselves."

"With a blend of warm and cool colors, we're setting up a show," says Taubner, "and the house is the show. By combining various elements, we

give people an opportunity to emotionally connect to the home."

With its earth-toned exterior and tile roof, the home is reminiscent of the Mediterranean region. "When a home has a specific architectural style, it's important to show the versatility of the interior," says Flatt. "You shouldn't feel that your furnishings won't work because they're not Italian."

What's in a name?

Everything about Vespera was well-conceived, including the name. "We chose the name 'Vespera' because it's a Roman term for the



The spacious gourmet kitchen includes built-in appliances, an island breakfast bar and a separate sitting area (not shown).



A luxurious free-standing tub in the master bath offers a serene spot to relax.

hours between 4 and 6 p.m., a quiet time at the end of the day, when the light shifts and brings out the colors of the buildings and roofs," says Gloe. "It's not a Disney-does-Tuscany kind of thing, but utilizes the Italian architecture to positively affect people's mood. People see homes like this when they're on vacation and remember them fondly."

The choice of an Italian theme came about in part because of the Italian restaurant, Porticello, which is adjacent to Vespera on Silver Lake. "The restaurant helps set a community tone," says Gloe. "Vespera is a very walkable area. It's very much in keeping with the casual Lake Country lifestyle of loving beaches, boats and food."

European Quality

"The whole concept of Vespera is that each villa is unique," says Gloe. "The exteriors are coordinated to enhance the feeling of community, but no two interiors are intended to be alike."

The entryway of the model home leads to a central hall, flanked by a soaring two-story great room and a formal living room with a fireplace and lake view. The floors are wide-plank hardwood and stone tile. The walls are Venetian plaster, glowing with subtle color.

Past the great room, steps lead to the sheltered courtyard, with a second fireplace. "The courtyard is a nod

to the popularity of outdoor entertaining," says Gloe. "The fireplace makes it easier to extend that entertaining season and also adds to the feeling of being on vacation," she explains. Windows overlooking the courtyard also have lake views.

The eat-in kitchen is dominated by a granite-topped island and has quality European appliances and fixtures. "I studied in Europe and love the function and style of European design," says Gloe. "When people emigrated to America, European style was, to some extent, left behind. Then, after World War II, mass production took over, and quantity took priority over quality. That's really changed now. The current ideal is to



Three-dimensional stone and accent tiles create a stunning backsplash for double sinks in the master bathroom.

be different, unique, but also classic.” Flatt also likes the design of the kitchen. “There are so many special, useful details. The sleek, functional cabinets, the wonderful accent lighting, the butler’s pantry that transitions into the great room, it’s just a great kitchen,” she says.

A hardwood staircase with wrought-iron banister uprights leads to the second floor, which features two bedrooms and the utility room.

The master suite has a lake view, with balconies off both the bedroom and bath. Rich, plush carpeting and a brick accent wall set off the dark woodwork in the bedroom.

The bathroom is the essence of luxury, with a walk-in, oversized shower, freestanding bathtub with Dornbracht fixtures, double sinks by Duravit Living, and a flood of natural light on the stone and tile surfaces.

The guest suite is impeccable, with its own bath adorned by an imported tile backsplash.





A brick accent wall and wrought iron balcony add architectural interest to the master bedroom.

Vespera residents will be able to enjoy 660 feet of beach on the crystal clear waters of Silver Lake with 12 boat slips available. "The condo association tends to the dock, slips and beach and all maintenance," says Shorewest listing real-estate agent Rebecca Sprague.

Luxurious Downsizing

Downsizing doesn't mean sacrificing style or quality. "That's why we offer Snaidero cabinetry or the Fisher & Paykel appliance packages. They are beautiful, but both functional and eco-sensitive," Gloe says.

Sprague stresses the benefits of the condo lifestyle at Vespera. "Vespera is designed for freedom from chores – to focus instead on travel, hobbies, and personal interests. It



gives a feeling of being far away from the Midwest, yet it's close to the city, shopping, the airport and the medical community," she says.

Vespera offers one- or two-story units, condos and free-standing villas. "It's really all about your personal taste and choices," adds Sprague. Because Vespera is in its opening stages, you can customize any one of six different plans to build your dream home.

Perhaps your next home will be one that makes you feel as if you've taken a holiday and discovered a little slice of "the good life" on the shore of Silver Lake.

For more information about Vespera condominiums, visit the web site, www.vesperavillas.com. 🏡