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REAL ESTATE

A Pickleball Court: The Hot New Amenity in Real Estate Developments Today

Pickleball has replaced golf as the most coveted sports amenity in luxury residential developments.

A Pickleball court (or three) can now claim to being the hottest sports amenity in high-end real estate developments today. So forget golf – go for the pickle!

A decade ago, golf was a key amenity driving residential sales, especially when it came to vacation homes, but, recently, buyers are more attracted to pickleball—a combination of tennis, ping-pong, and badminton. In fact, it's been called America's fastest-growing sport and in 2019 it saw a 21.3% increase in participation, according to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association's 2021 Topline Participation Report.



The luxury real estate brand Discovery Land Company is at the forefront of the trend and features pickleball courts in every one of its 26 properties. These include Troubadour Golf and Field Club in Nashville and El Dorado Golf and Beach Club in Cabo San Lucas. The game has been so popular that Discovery is currently doubling the number of courts in many of its locations, but the additions still won't be enough to satisfy homeowners' demand, according to the company's founder Mike Meldman. "The great thing about the game is that it attracts people of all ages, and it doesn't require skill or athleticism," he says. "It's easy to play but has a steep learning curve, making it still challenging as skills improve. It's also an excellent workout."

Other examples of pickleball in developments abound around the United States, the Caribbean, and Mexico.



One of the pickleball courts at The Abaco Club. The Abaco Club

The Abaco Club, on Great Abaco Island, in the Bahamas, is a luxury residential community where pickleball is the starring sport. With morning games, afternoon tournaments, and the ability to schedule private lessons, the club gives members access to all things pickleball.



The Residences at Rancho La Puerta, in Tecate, Mexico, are part of a 4,000-acre development that's nestled beside a vineyard with views of Mt. Kuchumaa. Homeowners can enjoy a diversity of activities including pickleball on six courts. The property also hosts pickleball specialty weeks throughout the year with guest pickleball instructors.



And here's an option with a quirky twist: The Standard Residences in Miami have a pickleball court that's designed by the acclaimed architecture firm Urban Robot. But the court also serves as a dance floor complete with a disco ball and disco lights, too.



The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Pompano Beach, featuring interiors by the world-renowned designer Pierre Lissoni, is another example in South Florida. The pickleball courts are located on the waterfront set Sunset Deck of the Marina Tower, which also has a bocce court, a putting green, and golf and sports simulator. (The Marina Tower itself boasts a private marina with 14 boat slips and a yacht club.)



The final development on our list, Tumble Creek at Suncadia, in Cle Elum, Washington, about 80 miles from Seattle, is set on the sunny side of the Cascade Mountains. The 6,400-acre resort has a clubhouse with a bowling alley and game room as well as an aquatic center. But the highlight for residents these days are the new pickleball courts at the three-acre Weekley Park. “Tumble Creek owners love the courts and wait in line to use them,” says Corey Atherton, a managing broker with the property. “They’ve become the social center for the development and where everyone wants to be.”