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# Where to Retire

The Authority on Retirement Relocation

July/August 2019

## 5 THE SHORT LIST

50 Best  
Master-Planned  
Communities  
in the U.S.



# The Short List: 50 Best Master-Planned Communities in the United States

> **BY BRENT STOLLER** WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY ANNETTE FULLER

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## NEW NEIGHBOR WAS UNPACKING

a moving van near Katrina and Chuck Hans in the Arlington Ridge active-adult community in Leesburg, FL. “He needed to use a dolly, and I was like, ‘We have one,’” Katrina says. “Then he needed a ladder and another

neighbor said, ‘I have one.’ We look after each other. It’s like another family.”

The Hanses are two of the 92 people you are about to meet who have relocated to one of our 50 best master-planned communities across America. Their kind spirit is representative of the folks we interviewed. They clearly speak the same retirement relocation language.

Every other year in the July-August issue, *Where to Retire* provides a comprehensive look at the best of the best in master-planned living. Our office staff has been working on this issue for more than six months. This is our 11th listing; our first such feature was in 1999. We evaluated hundreds of communities, but chose only established neighborhoods with enough acreage to build at least a year’s supply of homes.

The developments are in 17 states, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in towns beautified by beaches, mountains, clear skies, lakes, rivers, rolling hills and other earthly assets. (See the Letter From the Editor on page 10 for more detailed data on the compilation.)

Some of our 50 are active-adult neighborhoods; others are all-ages. And some are a mix of the two, meaning an enclave of active-adult housing within a larger all-ages development.

A few logistics: The communities are listed alphabetically, by state and then by development name. This is not a ranking, so they are not numbered. Each has a short description, including interviews with residents. A databox shows home prices, websites and more. (Note that costs fluctuate; we provide here the latest figures available at press time.) The chart on pages 78 and 79 lists all 50 as well as a rundown of amenities, making comparisons easy.

When senior writer Brent Stoller interviewed the residents for this story, two people — one in North Carolina and another in Colorado — mentioned the same phenomenon, with no prompting from him. Both recounted how the development they were considering somehow resonated with them on a deeper level.

“*It just spoke to me* when we drove through the entrance,” says Michelle Schuller, of the first time she and husband Charles drove onto the grounds of Compass Pointe in Leland, NC. “It met all our needs.”

The same thing happened to Scott and Diann Edwards when they were introduced to Toll Brothers at Inspiration in Aurora, CO.

“We came out to Inspiration one day and toured, talked to people and looked at the home sites and the models, and *it really kind of spoke to us*,” Scott says.

We hope our research and our story speak to you, too.





## THE ISLES OF COLLIER PRESERVE

### NAPLES, FLORIDA

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**THE LURE** Swaying palm trees, pristine lakes and unspoiled preserves create an environment worth exploring in this all-ages community. Folks enjoy hiking greenway trails and paddleboarding the Cypress Waterway, and when they want the finest in shopping and dining, they head 5 miles northwest to Naples' renowned Fifth Avenue. The clubhouse features a pool, fitness center and sports courts, while a new waterfront restaurant serves dishes as tempting as the views. Thanks to the development's partnership with the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships, players can improve their skills through group and private instruction.

**WHAT RESIDENTS SAY** "We like that everyone else is just as fitness-minded," says Elesa Johnson, 57, who moved here from Denville, NJ, with husband William in 2015. "We ride our bikes to the gym every day. We run into people taking walks, playing bocce ball, playing pickleball." William, 69, a retired maxillofacial prosthodontist, volunteers every Thursday at a Naples health center that serves low-income seniors. "I'm

his dental assistant and we work on the patients," Elesa says. "They pay on a sliding fee scale, so it's really helping a community that's kind of forgotten." When the Johnsons aren't kayaking, walking their dog or socializing with neighbors, they enjoy bicycling to the beach. "It's an easy ride from The Isles," William says. "We'll bring a bottle of wine and watch the sunset."

**DEVELOPER** Minto Communities – USA

**PRICES** \$370,000s to \$1.5 million for villas, single-family homes and coach homes

**MONTHLY HOMEOWNER FEE** \$330 for villas, \$308 to \$325 for single-family homes and \$487 for coach homes

**STATUS** 629 homes built of 1,600 planned on 2,400 acres

**AGE-RESTRICTED** No

**INFORMATION** The Isles of Collier Preserve, 5445 Caribe Ave., Naples, FL 34113, [MintoUSA.com](http://MintoUSA.com)

# Where to Retire

The Authority on Retirement Relocation

June 4, 2019

Mr. Mike Belmont, Minto President  
The Isles of Collier Preserve  
4042 Park Oak Boulevard, Suite 450  
Tampa, Florida 33610

Dear Mr. Belmont:

I am pleased to inform you that Where to Retire magazine has named The Isles of Collier Preserve as one of the 50 Best Master-Planned Communities in the United States. Congratulations!

During a nine-month selection process, our editors reviewed several hundred candidates across the country. Your community is among an elite group of developments that offer today's retirees a well-rounded, active lifestyle.

Where to Retire applauds the positive impact that each of our 50 Best is making on the economic health of the towns and cities in which they are located. All of the communities are leaders in providing a high quality of life to those who are embarking on new adventures in retirement.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to you, your employees and your residents, and we wish you continued success.

Sincerely,



Lindsay E. Lindquist  
Associate Publisher, Where to Retire