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Clear, bright blue water

Centerpiece of Corkscrew Shores is its spectacular lake

By Andrea Stetson
Special to The News-Press

The 240-acre lake glistens a brilliant turquoise under the sparkling sun. The water is clear almost like the Caribbean. This lake is nothing like most man-made watering holes in Southwest Florida.

The lake, which is the showcase of the new development Corkscrew Shores, was created when the site was a quarry for the excavation of limestone that was used for buildings, roads, bridges and more. Excavators dug 70 feet below the surface, making this body of water extremely deep.

Clear, clean water naturally has a pale blue color, often seen in swimming pools or ice flows. It is a combination of depth and limestone that scatters the sunlight, absorbs the red end of the visible spectrum and makes the water appear more blue.

Corkscrew Shores just opened for sales in June and its showcase lake is already attracting lots of buyers.

"First of all the lake is a huge draw," said Brian Sheehan, who has purchased property in Corkscrew Shores. "It is an incredible view. It has that beautiful blue."

Yet the lake is just part of the package that attracted Sheehan to the community.

"In Florida the new area is Estero," Sheehan continued. "It is red hot. The location is unbeatable. It is just an amazing location."



The lake at Corkscrew Shores is a brilliant blue due to its depth and the limestone. PHOTOS COURTESY OF PULTE HOMES.

Sheehan likes the amenities that will include everything from the traditional clubhouse, resort pool and tennis, to pickleball and bocce. There will be kayak and canoe launches and a fishing pier too.

Pulte Homes just finished construction of five new models and a sales center in the community, which is a joint venture with Cameratta Companies real estate developers. When complete there will be 648 homes on 722 acres. The two- to five-bedroom homes range in size from 1,289 square feet to 4,283 square feet and in price from the mid \$200,000s to \$1 million. The community also has no Community Development District (CDD) fee that many developers impose on a neighborhood to finance the

cost of amenities.

Josh Graeves, general sales manager, walks among the model homes that overlook the lake, pointing out the architecture, style and most of all the water.

"This lake is such a huge asset," Graeves began. "The lake looks like this emerald water from the Bahamas; it is really sharp. And the location; the Corkscrew corridor is one of the hottest in Southwest Florida."

The homes are a combination of craftsman, coastal and low country style.

"It's a unique fresh departure from the overused Mediterranean," Graeves explained, adding that Mediterranean is still an option for buyers.

Before designing the model

homes, Pulte conducted customer surveys with thousands of people who walked through a cardboard replica of a home to rate things they wanted to see in a house. The outcome is features such as a homework area near the kitchen, a cubby to hang backpacks and purses near the garage entry door, a supersized laundry room and a dishwasher that doesn't require as much bending to access. The one-story homes also have a loft option that gives extra space without a lot of extra cost. The lofts are more than just a game room, but include a bedroom, bathroom and seating area.

"You get a lot more house," Sheehan said. "It is a good value and a good location."