

Escapes

The New York Times

FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2006

BREAKING GROUND

Castello di Casole

WHAT Luxury resort and residential development surrounding a restored castle.

WHERE Tuscany.

AMENITIES Infinity pools, a full-service spa and personal chefs, among others.

PRICES \$5 million to \$6 million for full ownership of properties; a 10th fractional share for \$550,000.

STATUS Seven of the 17 properties have been built; the rest will be finished by 2008. The hotel should be completed in summer 2008.

DEVELOPERS Timbers Company and SV Capital.

CONTACT (866) 963-5005 or www.castellodicasole.com.

DETAILS This development near Siena, Italy, is on a 5,500-acre estate with a 12th-century castle, which is being converted into a 40-suite hotel. Farmhouse villas are also being modernized and sold in both full-ownership



Pat Sudmeier

and fractional shares; fractional owners are guaranteed four weeks a year, and may book more time depending on availability. The architect and designer Alessandro Mendini is involved in the project, which also includes new hotel suite buildings. The 4,000-to-7,000-square-foot residences will have infinity pools, guesthouses and personal chefs, and there will be a full-service spa and three restaurants in the hotel. The estate features a vineyard and olive groves, and available activities include bocce ball, bicycling and riding at a nearby equestrian center.