

Ritz-Carlton to begin trio of openings in Marana



Randy Metcalf/The Explorer, Ritz-Carlton, Dove Mountain, which is expected to open in 2009, will feature 226 rooms, two ballrooms of 9,000 and 4,800 square feet, and a 17,000-square-foot spa and fitness center.

By [Nick Smith](#), **The Explorer** Published: Wednesday, June 18, 2008 2:12 AM CDT

One of the most ambitious resort projects in the Northwest will begin the first of three grand openings in the coming months.

The Ritz-Carlton Dove Mountain, the largest of the chain's continental U.S. properties, consists of a hotel resort and spa, a golf club and set of designer houses.

It's the homes that will be the first to open, namely the model homes that have already been constructed. They're due to open sometime in August.

A total of 107 houses, with five different floor plans, are planned in the first phase of residential development, and will be available for between \$1.5 million and \$4 million.

The next opening will occur next Jan. 15, when the Ritz-Carlton Golf Club will see its first visitors.

The resort's greatest asset is 27 holes of Jack Nicklaus Signature-designed golf, with another nine holes on the way.

"It means Jack himself comes out more than a dozen times and reviews and signs off at every hole," said Karen Jernigan, vice president of sales and marketing for the Residences at Dove Mountain.

Eighteen holes of golf will host the 2009 World Golf Championships - Accenture Match Play Tournament, a 64-golfer invitational that boasts one of the largest purses in the golf world. The 2010 tournament is also locked into the north Marana facilities.

The 250-room hotel resort and spa is under construction, and should have its roof installed sometime in July and be ready for an opening in fall 2009. The resort and spa will join the 70 other Ritz-Carlton hotels worldwide and 30 more under development.