

## Al Maeen unveils The Malkai

By A Staff Reporter  
OMAN TRIBUNE

MUSCAT Al Maeen Real Estate Services Company on Monday announced the launch of The Malkai, a new luxury residential and hotel development in Barka.

The \$ 250 million project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2010.

The Malkai development will comprise 101 four-bedroom villas for sale, 92 two-bedroom suites, as well as a boutique hotel offering 41 luxury suites. Master plan and lead design has been carried out by AW2 from Paris.

Internationally acclaimed designers Jaya and Associates will be responsible for the interior design of all the villas and suites, Pankaj Khimji, owner of The Malkai said while addressing the media here on Monday.

Designed to be an exclusive community, The Malkai will comprise a Country Club and Residences that will compare to some of the finest around the world, he said. Each property also features large swimming pools. In addition, the exclusive advantages to owners and guests will be the attraction of an executive 9-hole golf course, which will be the first Gary Player designed



His Highness Sayyid Haitham Bin Tariq Al Said, Minister of Culture and Heritage, HE Maqbool Bin Ali Bin Sultan, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Her Excellency Rajha Bint Abdulmir Bin Ali, Minister of Tourism and other dignitaries at the unveiling of The Malkai on Monday.

golf course in Oman and a fully serviced spa enclosed in a walled water garden. Additional facilities will include the main clubhouse, two restaurants, a boutique, a junior club and tennis courts. The price for two bedroom suites starts at \$1.3 million, while villas are priced at \$4.4 million.

The 100 per cent freehold properties can be purchased by Omani nationals, GCC citizens and expatriates.

And there is no restriction on foreign ownership, he said.

Gary Player said that tourism plays an important role in this part of the world. And Golf was a



Sree Kumar/Oman Tribune

Pankaj Khimji, owner of The Malkai, signing the Golf design contract with Gary Player on Monday.

great catalyst for people to travel, he said.

The project, while clearly contemporary, remains rooted in the essence of Omani architecture and tradition. General Hotel

Management, the retained management company of legendary hotelier Adrian Zecha will be setting up a new standard of style and service at the luxury property development.

## Vishu marked with fervour

By A Staff Reporter  
OMAN TRIBUNE

MUSCAT A large number of Keralites residing in the Sultanate celebrated Vishu, the summer harvest festival with traditional fervour and gaiety on Monday.

Vishu, the festival of prosperity, which generally coincides with the first day

of the month of Medam (April-May) is also referred to as the Malayalam New Year.

People wear new clothes (Puthukodi) on the occasion and the elders of the family distribute cash gifts to children and other family members as part of a custom called Vishukkaineetam. People carry on this custom

believing that in this way, their children will be blessed with prosperity in the future. A sumptuous feast with a variety of dishes made of vegetables and fruits are also part of the celebrations.

Retail stores and shopping centres in Muscat were abuzz with festival shoppers since the weekend.

## Al Salmi leaves for Qatar

MUSCAT Maj-Gen. Said Bin Nasir Al Salmi, Commander of the Royal Army of Oman (RAO) left for Qatar as the head of a military delegation to attend the eighth meeting of the GCC land forces commanders which began on Monday and lasts for three-days.

Oman News Agency



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Abdul Amir bin Ali and other officials attending the concluding session of the OEF yesterday. Right, a section of the audience. — ONA

address global chal-  
the country's econo-  
increase in oil prices,  
the decrease in growth  
world economies.  
ke increasing oil pro-  
main income generat-  
involving local and  
sectors in financing  
ng new projects were  
e focusing on the eco-  
financial policies being  
ed by Oman.  
used to be here to wit-  
Oman's ongoing  
of its ambitious  
ogramme that aims at

diversifying its economic base,  
expanding and modernising the  
physical and social infrastructure and  
opening up to the global economy  
and to foreign investment through  
the creation of a welcoming invest-  
ment environment," said Raouf Abou  
Zaki, general manager of the Al  
Iktissad Wal-Amal Group, in a state-  
ment. Debates on investment oppor-  
tunities in sectors like Real Estate  
and Tourism, Oil and Gas and Power  
and Water, and the Omani Capital  
Markets funding growth, were led by  
experts like Yahya bin Said Al Jabri,  
executive president of the Capital  
Market Authority, Dr Rajiha bint

Abdul Amir bin Ali, minister of  
tourism, and Dr Zayed bin Khamis  
Al Siyabi, general manager,  
Production and Exploration,  
Ministry of Oil and Gas.

Several new projects in the vari-  
ous economic sectors were  
announced and a comprehensive  
vision for the coming years, chalked  
out. While day one of the forum dealt  
with topics like the prevailing busi-  
ness and investment environment in  
the Sultanate, the road ahead for the  
Omani banking sector, investing in  
infrastructure and an overview of the  
petrochemicals and basic industries,  
day two dwelt on the investment

opportunities in specific sectors, and  
a comprehensive workshop on doing  
business in Oman. Aspects like get-  
ting a business started, capital and  
investment requirements, land own-  
ership regulations, taxation policies,  
dividends and remittances, labour  
law, free zones and visas were dis-  
cussed at length, and concerns  
addressed. The Oman Economic  
Forum this year was particularly sig-  
nificant, since it took place at a time  
when the Sultanate is undergoing a  
process of vigorous growth and  
transformation at all levels, and  
attracting considerable attraction  
worldwide.

## Real estate, luxury hotel project launched

By Mrudu Naik  
Times News Service

**MUSCAT** — The Malkai, a  
project representing a signifi-  
cant real estate and luxury  
hotel development in Oman,  
was launched yesterday.

Designed to be an exclu-  
sive community, The Malkai  
at Barka will comprise a  
country club, residences and  
resort that will compare to  
some of the finest around the  
world. The project is sched-  
uled to open by the end of  
year 2010.

Al Maeen Real Estate  
Services Co LLC is the devel-  
oper of the project.

Announcing the launch at  
a press conference at Hotel  
Chedi, Pankaj Khimji, owner  
of The Malkai, said:  
"Through the project we hope  
to make a statement in  
lifestyle and in architecture."

He informed the media  
that the project would be  
spread across 216 acres and  
will comprise 101 four-bed-  
room villas for sale, 92 two  
bedroom suites, as well as a  
boutique hotel offering 41  
luxury suites.

The project, estimated to  
cost \$250 million, will be a  
low-density development and  
only 10 per cent of the 216  
acres will be built up. It will  
be a freehold title and there



**DEAL:** Pankaj Khimji, right, and Gary Player signing the  
golf-designing contract yesterday. — Photo by Jun Estrada

won't be restriction on fore-  
ign ownership.

The approximate price  
currently starts at \$1.3 million  
for the two bedroom suites  
and \$4 million for the villas.

Pankaj also said that a  
world-class nine hole golf  
course — the first ever in  
Oman designed by renowned  
golf course architects, Gary  
Player Design, will be an  
added advantage for the own-  
ers and guests at the property.

Pankaj and the most suc-  
cessful international golfer  
Gary Player also signed a  
golf-designing contract at the  
launch.

Gary who was present at  
the press conference said he  
had a great affinity for the  
Middle East.

"Golf is a great catalyst for  
getting people to travel.  
Bringing golf to Oman is  
something I am going to  
enjoy. The best part of Oman  
is that there is a lot of fresh air  
and sunshine," he said.

The Malkai's master plan  
and lead design has been car-  
ried out by AW2 from Paris.  
Internationally acclaimed  
designers Jaya and Associates  
are responsible for the interior  
design of all the villas and  
suites, which will be present-  
ed fully furnished for sale.  
Each property will be fully  
landscaped and also feature  
large swimming pools. All  
villas will have direct golf  
course views. A fully serviced  
spa enclosed in a walled water  
garden will also be part of the

project.

Additional facilities will  
include the main clubhouse,  
two restaurants, a boutique,  
delicatessen, a junior club and  
tennis courts.

The Malkai will also have  
its own Beach Club within  
easy reach of the property for  
the exclusive use of residents  
and guests.

Reda Amalou, architect,  
AW2 who was at the press  
conference said the project  
while clearly contemporary  
would remain rooted in the  
essence of Omani architecture  
and tradition, giving a strong  
sense of place.

The extensive use of walls,  
screens, shadows and light  
throughout the design is a  
direct reference to this rich  
Arabian and Islamic architec-  
tural past.

The operator of the project  
is the retained management  
company; GHM (General  
Hotel Management Ltd) bears  
the unmistakable imprint of  
legendary hotelier Adrian  
Zecha and will be setting a  
standard of style and service.

International Chartered  
Surveyors and Property  
Consultants, Cluttons are  
managing the sales of the  
project. Alex of Cluttons said,  
for those who buy the prop-  
erty it will be a turnkey pur-  
chase.