

Olivewood Private Estate is much more than just an estate



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Once in a while, a new residential estate comes along which more than lives up to its promise.

Strategically situated just 40km from East London's city centre and the airport, Olivewood Private Estate & Golf Club spans over 1 000ha within the scenic Chintsa Valley in a magical setting typical of the very best the Eastern Cape region has to offer – rolling hills, soothing meadows and deep, forest gullies - with tranquil ocean and river views to boot.

Sean Coetzee, Pam Golding Properties area principal in East London, marketer of the residential units in phase one of the development, says: "While today, many residential golf estates may offer a number of add-on facilities, this is one development which ticks all the boxes and more. However, what really sets it apart is the idyllic location in spectacular surrounds which immediately transports you into the heart of nature, where you can unwind and relax with a sense of freedom but in a secure environment. With both river and beach access, it's within an easy commute of the city with a selection of great schools and amenities on site or close by. Even the long white beaches of the Wild Coast are within walking distance of the estate.

"The first premium lifestyle estate in East London, Olivewood is all about living in harmony with nature, with more than 40% of the land to remain undeveloped, providing habitats for local flora and fauna and for agricultural purposes such as orchards. Residents can enjoy direct access to the Chintsa River which winds through the estate, a safe swimming beach, fishing dams, running and cycling paths, wildlife including blesbok, nyala, impala, water buck and warthog which roam freely through the estate which also boasts an indigenous nursery and on-site landscaping service."

Located in the unspoilt Chintsa countryside, eco-conscious Olivewood will appeal to lovers of nature who have a vested interest in preserving the surrounding land and conserving energy and water. Olivewood's selection of design concepts elegantly incorporates solar energy, rainwater harvesting and water retention capabilities, whilst the golf course is irrigated with water from the estate's own dams and boreholes and, as development gains momentum, grey water from properties will be used to irrigate the grounds.

Says Coetzee: "The property designs promote the use of renewable energy with solar panels incorporated into all of Olivewood's homes. In addition to supplying homeowners with renewable energy, it is envisaged that in due course the unused solar power will be fed back into the Eskom power grid, thereby helping to supply surrounding areas.

"There are three residential offerings in phase one – sectional title terraced apartments and simplexes and full title erven. Already under construction, the two bedroom terraced apartments are 250sqm in size and priced from R4 million, depending on finishes, while the three and four bedroom units are 325sqm and priced from R5 million. There are also 96 freehold erven, 22 of which are already sold, priced from R500 000 upwards and catering for buyers who wish to design their own bespoke, dream homes which will be built by Olivewood's professional construction team."

During construction, a huge amount of care is taken to preserve indigenous flora. While alien vegetation is removed, local plants are carefully transplanted and moved to another location on the estate for use in gardens or on the golf course. The use of hardy local vegetation has numerous benefits, from reducing water consumption to minimising the risk of fires.

In total, the estate will incorporate 550 erven, with well positioned hilltop homes drawing inspiration from the wild beauty of the Eastern Cape and designed to allow in nature and light, enabling residents to appreciate their surroundings while enjoying complete privacy. Design elements include natural stonework plinths, pool and ponds, clerestory glazing and timber shutters. The entire estate is electric-fenced with gated access and 24-hour security services, including foot patrols and CCTV.

Adds Coetzee: "While aimed at the more affluent buyer, the estate still offers good value as a 250sqm, three bedroom home with high-end finishes can be acquired for R3.5 million, which we believe will have appeal for both local and national buyers. We have already sold one of these homes off plan and have interest from other potential buyers, including those from outside the Eastern Cape. Levies are expected to peak at around R2 500 per month, which is extremely reasonable given that there are sectional title apartment blocks here in East London which command levies of R1 750 per month but offer none of the security or amenities of Olivewood."

With the 18-hole golf course, clubhouse, wine bar and three homes already completed, construction on a golf practice area and children's playground is nearing completion with other planned amenities for the estate to include tennis and squash courts, a gymnasium and lap pool, a bowling green, restaurant, coffee shop and deli, cycling and running tracks, a business centre, mature living estate and boat and/or boardwalk access to the safe swimming beach at Chintsa East.

Easily accessible by a five-minute drive away is the Crossways Centre which has a good selection of shops and restaurants as well as medical facilities including a local doctor and pharmacy. The Life Beacon Bay Hospital, numerous eateries as well as a wide range of primary and high schools all lie within a 40km radius of the estate.

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