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# Where to Retire

The Authority on Retirement Relocation

July/August 2019

## 50 THE SHORT LIST

50 Best  
Master-Planned  
Communities  
in the U.S.



# The Short List: 50 Best Master-Planned Communities in the United States

> **BY BRENT STOLLER** WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY ANNETTE FULLER

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## NEW NEIGHBOR WAS UNPACKING

a moving van near Katrina and Chuck Hans in the Arlington Ridge active-adult community in Leesburg, FL. “He needed to use a dolly, and I was like, ‘We have one,’” Katrina says. “Then he needed a ladder and another

neighbor said, ‘I have one.’ We look after each other. It’s like another family.”

The Hanses are two of the 92 people you are about to meet who have relocated to one of our 50 best master-planned communities across America. Their kind spirit is representative of the folks we interviewed. They clearly speak the same retirement relocation language.

Every other year in the July-August issue, *Where to Retire* provides a comprehensive look at the best of the best in master-planned living. Our office staff has been working on this issue for more than six months. This is our 11th listing; our first such feature was in 1999. We evaluated hundreds of communities, but chose only established neighborhoods with enough acreage to build at least a year’s supply of homes.

The developments are in 17 states, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in towns beautified by beaches, mountains, clear skies, lakes, rivers, rolling hills and other earthly assets. (See the Letter From the Editor on page 10 for more detailed data on the compilation.)

Some of our 50 are active-adult neighborhoods; others are all-ages. And some are a mix of the two, meaning an enclave of active-adult housing within a larger all-ages development.

A few logistics: The communities are listed alphabetically, by state and then by development name. This is not a ranking, so they are not numbered. Each has a short description, including interviews with residents. A databox shows home prices, websites and more. (Note that costs fluctuate; we provide here the latest figures available at press time.) The chart on pages 78 and 79 lists all 50 as well as a rundown of amenities, making comparisons easy.

When senior writer Brent Stoller interviewed the residents for this story, two people — one in North Carolina and another in Colorado — mentioned the same phenomenon, with no prompting from him. Both recounted how the development they were considering somehow resonated with them on a deeper level.

“*It just spoke to me* when we drove through the entrance,” says Michelle Schuller, of the first time she and husband Charles drove onto the grounds of Compass Pointe in Leland, NC. “It met all our needs.”

The same thing happened to Scott and Diann Edwards when they were introduced to Toll Brothers at Inspiration in Aurora, CO.

“We came out to Inspiration one day and toured, talked to people and looked at the home sites and the models, and *it really kind of spoke to us*,” Scott says.

We hope our research and our story speak to you, too.





## BRIO

WASHINGTON, UTAH

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**THE LURE** Though Zion National Park and other outdoor attractions are within 40 miles, this community offers plenty of adventure on its 194 acres. A 14,500-square-foot amenities complex features a gym, technology center, meeting rooms and lounge spaces for socializing. The outdoor pool takes advantage of the summer sun, while the indoor pool is available for year-round use. Residents stay active playing tennis and pickleball, and get their heart rate going on walking trails that showcase the beauty of southwestern Utah. When they're ready to tee off, golfers drive their carts to Green Spring Golf Course, which is next door to the development.

**WHAT RESIDENTS SAY** "Everyone wants to get to know the area and get to know their neighbors," says Dianna Ritchie, 57. "That makes it really fun." A resident since 2017, Dianna enjoys the community's organized

celebrations and she is thrilled with the design of her home. "You open the front door and you just see windows," she says. "It's beautiful." Dianna was drawn to Brio because of its setting, which is as scenic as it is convenient. "I'm five minutes from shopping, the theater and Costco," she says. "Everything is right here just over a little hill."

**DEVELOPER** Cole West Home

**PRICES** \$290,000s to \$470,000s for single-family homes

**MONTHLY HOMEOWNER FEE** \$100

**STATUS** 176 homes built of 651 planned on 194 acres

**AGE-RESTRICTED** No, but the development is targeted toward retirees

**INFORMATION** Brio, 279 Sunstone Way, Washington, UT 84780, LifeAtBrio.com

# Where to Retire

The Authority on Retirement Relocation

June 4, 2019

Mr. Dave Nielsen, Division President  
Brio  
2250 N. Coral Canyon Blvd., Suite 200  
Washington, Utah 84780

Dear Mr. Nielsen:

I am pleased to inform you that Where to Retire magazine has named Brio as one of the 50 Best Master-Planned Communities in the United States. Congratulations!

During a nine-month selection process, our editors reviewed several hundred candidates across the country. Your community is among an elite group of developments that offer today's retirees a well-rounded, active lifestyle.

Where to Retire applauds the positive impact that each of our 50 Best is making on the economic health of the towns and cities in which they are located. All of the communities are leaders in providing a high quality of life to those who are embarking on new adventures in retirement.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to you, your employees and your residents, and we wish you continued success.

Sincerely,



Lindsay E. Lindquist  
Associate Publisher, Where to Retire