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SPLENDIDO SENIOR COMMUNITY HAS RESORT-LIKE FEEL

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When you enter the main lobby of Splendido at Rancho Vistoso, the first thing that hits you is the spectacular mountain view, greeting you through the vast window on the opposite wall.

Next, it's the building's luxurious interior – with its vaulted ceilings, grand architecture, elegant furniture and framed works of art. At that moment, you have to remind yourself where you are. Though it may look like a fine resort, it's actu-

ally home-sweet-home to many active Oro Valley seniors.

A designated continuing care retirement community, Splendido officially opened its doors in October, and about 250 people now call the place home.

And it's quite a home, indeed.

Offering luxury living with resort-style amenities, the \$70 million retirement community boasts a full on-site fitness center, billiards room, spa and four dining

facilities, offering residents a variety of food from buffet-style lunches to elegant dinners.

That's in addition to the property's library, movie theater, wine room, banking facility, 18-hole putting golf course and indoor and outdoor swimming pools, located just a stone's throw away from residents' front doors.

"We think of ourselves as the queen of Oro Valley," says Kay Warren, Splendido's executive director.

But the main draw for many of the



community's residents is the continuing care options planned. Splendido's health center, which will open in early 2008, will offer assisted living care, memory support and nursing and rehabilitation services.

For Jack and Jane Johnson, the continuing medical care option was the main reason they moved to Splendido from their Sun City Vistoso home.

The couple was the first on the list to move into Splendido, at 13500 North Rancho Vistoso Boulevard.

"The primary attraction for us was that it's a continuing care community, which means that, should we have any serious health matters as we go forward, we're assured of quality care right here," says Jack Johnson, 82, president of the community's resident advisory council.

Others were drawn to the active lifestyle afforded by Splendido, where residents can participate in a variety of clubs and group classes in fitness, art, music and more.

Lucy Cohen, 72, participates in yoga, tai chi, water aerobics, a walking club and a weights class in addition to volunteering at the fitness center.

"It's for my own good," Cohen says. "It has definitely made me

more agile. I feel better, and people tell me I look better."

Cohen also likes that Splendido offers residents transportation to various events and activities in the area, so she and her husband don't have to worry about driving at night.

Splendido residents must be at least 55 years old, and most are between their late 60s and late 80s, Warren says.

Available apartment homes range

from one-bedroom to three-bedroom options. Once full, the community will house 440 residents.

Splendido is a collaborative effort between Mather LifeWays, an Illinois-based not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing seniors' quality of life, and The Plaza Companies, a senior community development firm. 

Those interested can visit Splendido's website at www.splendidotucson.com or call 878-2612.

