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Holiday resort takes shape

First two homes in ambitious £30 million development go on show

MILES DAVIS

AN ABANDONED country house and estate have been rejuvenated as part of a massive multi-million-pound holiday resort development.

The first homes in the £30 million Cornwall Hotel, Spa and Estate at Tregorrick, near St Austell, will be unveiled today.

The company behind the ambitious plan to transform a piece of Cornish countryside into a top-class destination is remaining highly optimistic despite the current economic situation.

The development will be made up of the country home, converted into a 65-bedroom hotel, a spa, two restaurants and 60 woodland holiday homes.

CMR Leisure, the Bristol-based firm behind the project, hopes the resort will bring year-round employment.

Sam Weller, the company's sales director, said: "What we are focusing on is quality. Our view is the future of tourism is to raise the bar for accommodation, local food and standards of service."

Two show homes will be available for viewing from today as part of the first phase of 22 homes being built in the Victorian parkland. The 19th-century manor house had previously been abandoned for about 40 years.

CMR Leisure plans on building 60 architect-designed homes which can be sold under a scheme entitled Stay and Let,

meaning owners could use their home for six weeks' holiday each year and lease the property for the rest of the time.

The two-bedroomed properties on the estate will start from £297,500.

Mr Weller feels this sort of development is the way forward for Cornwall, combining high-quality holiday homes with having a beneficial effect on Cornish communities.

He said: "People talk about holiday homes and second homes in villages with

some concern. In my view, the future lies in creating these purpose-built schemes so we have the economic benefit of tourism but people won't be competing with local residents for a cottage in Mevagissey, for example."

Mr Weller said the resort would be good news for people looking for jobs: "Our contractors, Sir Robert McAlpine, have recruited a huge workforce, many of whom are from the local area.

"And when we start trading in the early part of 2010, there will be a whole range of jobs in the hotel, the spa facility and in the maintenance of the homes and estate – there will be a whole raft of jobs and our goal is to be here all year round."

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