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Sunday, May 23, 2004 • Editor: Renee Blackstone • www.theprovince.com c

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Wayne Leidenfrost — The Province

The living room of the display suite at Olive, a development nestled on the West Side at 16th Ave. and Cambie.

Olive's finishing touch

 Swishy detailing, great location and a choice of 38 floor plans **Page D3**
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COVER STORY

There's good additional entertaining space in Olive's den, left, and the dining room, centre. The bedroom and office are separated by a glass wall.

Spunky area with lots of style

Olive celebrates the busy urbanite with form, function

By Jeani Read
Staff Reporter

Olive is all about all kinds of food, not just that little green thing in the martini. These are homes for serious or seriously wannabe gourmets with friends who love to come over and nosh.

Take-out junkies or habitual restaurant- and bar-hoppers need not apply unless they have big home-cooking aspirations.

Pizza? At Olive, make your own. Otherwise, what a waste of the grand gas stovetop, the big recessed bottom-mounted counter-depth fridge, the built-in microwave and convection oven, those broad granite counters with an eating bar that actually has leg room and all that brilliantly-designed kitchen storage space.

The food theme carries over (or rather, down) to the retail level of Olive, too, which will house the fourth Capers organic market in the Lower Mainland, a match made in culinary heaven. Yes, this is another concept development, cheeky in that it gives an extra edge to our already-phenomenal housing market by catering to a special-interest group.

Cressey has taken the truism that company always ends up in the kitchen and created a kitchen with a living area around it — something they call a “deluxe entertainment kitchen.”

Of course, nobody wants to be enslaved to the stove no matter how keen a chef. From Olive, it's easy and fun to escape into the surrounding central west-side neighbourhood of South Cambie, which has a small-town, main-street feel while still being close



The kitchen has brilliantly designed storage space.

Quick facts

WHAT: Olive is 103 condominiums and six two-level cityhomes in Vancouver.

WHERE: Southwest corner of 16th Avenue and Cambie.

DEVELOPED BY: Cressey.

SIZES: One- and two-bedroom homes, many with flex rooms, 522 sq.ft. - 1,268 sq.ft.

PRICES: Condos \$259,900 - \$539,900; cityhomes \$359,900 - \$599,900

OPEN: Noon to 6 p.m. daily except Fridays, 483 West 16th, 604-874-6060.

to pretty well everything and is graced with Queen Elizabeth Park at the upper end.

With developments such as this, cool restaurants, neat shops and services such as City Square's galleria, Raspberry Retreat, Light the Store, the Park Theatre and the inevitable Starbucks, this spot is no longer a disappointment on the far side of Shaughnessy but a really spunky area with lots of style.

As well, it's a short trip to the fabulous shopping of South Granville and Granville Island, the renewed neighbourhood of South Main, the big Oakridge mall and the downtown core.

But let's go back home for a minute, to our display suite, where there's not only a kitchen but good additional entertaining space as well, complete with electric fireplace with cool concrete surround. Living well is clearly the best revenge here.

Off the entry is a big storage closet where residents with active lifestyles can easily store all kinds of gear; the bathroom, with soaker tub, is roomier than expected, also with great cabinetry; the compact bedroom features a fab walk-in closet.

All these details are thought out so that busy urbanites will not feel oppressed by stuff and can organize it all away. The best cabinetry is the wall of cupboards surrounding the fridge, microwave and oven, but with an extra built-in or two these homes should be enormously liveable.

Floor-to-ceiling windows keep the ambience bright and glass



Wayne Leidenfrost photos — The Province

The appliances include built-ins and a bottom-mount fridge.

walls between bedroom and study maximize that impression. But not to worry. If this floor plan

isn't perfect, surely one of the other 37 (!) will fit just fine. Occupancy is January 2006.