

By Valerie Sweeten

CORRESPONDENT

# Luxury condo living

*Houston highlights its best bets for amenities*

**L**uxury condominium living can deliver a one-of-a-kind experience with amenities designed to enhance a convenient lock-and-leave lifestyle.

In Houston, over-the-top amenities are mostly the norm these days, where every aspect of life is covered, from fitness, to views, to pools, to pets and outdoor spaces. The goal is to provide residents the ultimate experience without ever having to leave home.

A recent *New York Times* article, *Pet Spa? Private Elevator? The Amenities Race Heats Up*, stated that items such as private elevators, concierge laundry service, valet, and on-site spas are a few top resident requests.

The gated community of The Sophie at Bayou Bend, 6017 Memorial Drive, provides some exclusive features for residents. Luxury abounds, and homes can boast a 400-square-foot terrace

with a summer kitchen, grill, and fireplace. Residents can also take advantage of concierge and porter services, a dog-walking area and services ranging from housekeeping to dry cleaning, car maintenance, personal trainers, and in-home chefs.

According to Nadim Zabaneh, vice president of Houston-based Tema Development Inc., The Parklane Condo Tower at 1701 Hermann Drive has a variety of amenities such as a state-of-the-art fitness center, swimming pool with cabanas, tennis court, outdoor grills, outdoor fitness



Courtesy of Pelican Builders

The Hawthorne's residents enjoy many amenities, including a luxury pool.

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experience, dog park, 24-hour concierge and valet service, private storage per residence, reserved parking, and electric vehicle-charging stations.

In addition, residents can enjoy 360-degree views of Houston's

skyline and Hermann Park as well as a luxury shuttle bus to the Texas Medical Center and Metrorail.

"The Parklane ... offers state-of-the-art amenities to designer interior finishes," said Zabaneh.

At The Hawthorne, at 5656 San Felipe near Tanglewood, the location, combined with top

amenities, offer residents a luxury lock-and-leave lifestyle, said Pelican Builders president Derek Darnell.

Amenities to take notice of include an "amenity oasis" on the fifth floor of The Hawthorne. Included are climate-controlled workouts in the state-of-the-art fitness center, custom-built multiple cards and game tables, and a 67-foot chilled lap pool joined by cabanas and alcoves that allow for social distancing.

"There's also two guest suites..., a dog run and pet-washing station, and the availability of both pet pads and grills to terraces. These speak to the convenience of not only single-level living in efficiently planned spaces, but also to the ultimate convenience of residents not really ever having to leave their home despite living in a high-rise," said Darnell. ■