

HomesFriday

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Clover ranch popular at The Reserve in St. Charles

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An open-concept layout accented by soaring ceilings and expansive windows in the main living areas gives the Clover ranch at The Reserve in St. Charles an unprecedented sense of spaciousness and elegance, making it a favorite among homebuyers of all ages from all across the Northwest suburbs.

Two of those buyers were Jim and Judy DiVerde from South Elgin who instantly knew “this was it” when they entered the Clover model from Meritus Homes.

“We felt comfortable the minute we walked in,” Judy said.

The Clover is one of five designs available at The Reserve in St. Charles, where Meritus Homes is building 88 semicustom single-family homes. Ranch and two-story plans feature 2,491 to 3,716 square feet of living space, three or four bedrooms, two to 3½ baths, and two- or three-car garages. Base prices range from \$545,900 to \$602,900.

Roughly 75% of the builder’s homes having been sold and although only a limited number of homesites remain, they include prime locations with several backing to open space. Meritus Homes even has a home, the Dunberry, under construction and ready for delivery this summer. This quick move-in home has a three-car, split-bay garage; deep-pour basement; 10-foot, first-floor ceilings; dual zone heating and A/C; and a tray ceiling in the owner’s bedroom. Not only is it filled with

luxury appointments, there is still time for buyers to make their interior selections to personalize the plan to their tastes.

For the DiVerdes, the Clover plan had all the features they had been searching for, so they promptly decided to build one from the ground up. The couple had toured countless new-home models and visited open houses on and off for a few years and finding a ranch was particularly challenging in the resale market.

“We had been seriously looking at houses for about six months, knowing at some point we wanted to leave behind our two-story in favor of the convenience of single-level living,” Judy said.

With 2,491 square feet of living space on one floor, the Clover ranch has three bedrooms and 2½ baths. The center of attention in this home is the living room, which flows into the designer kitchen and adjoining dining area. A center island, pantry and pocket office — perfect for planning meals or crafts — make the kitchen functional, while a covered porch in back is ideal for outdoor dining or simply relaxing. The owner’s suite has a walk-in closet and private luxury bath. The second bedroom has its own bath and walk-in closet, too. The third bedroom can be upgraded to an optional den.

One of the DiVerdes favorite features in their new home is the open-concept layout, “which is what everyone wants nowadays,” Judy said. The couple loves the tall



COURTESY OF MERITUS HOMES

Single-level living and an open-concept layout are popular design features in the Clover model at The Reserve in St. Charles.

windows and high ceilings in the main living areas, which make the already good-size rooms live even larger.

“We spend a lot of time sitting at our extended island in the kitchen, eating, watching TV,” Jim said. “It’s definitely a focal point of the home and we can’t wait to welcome guests over again.”

Jim also likes the deep pour basement, even though the couple have no plans to finish the lower level. “It feels lighter, taller, more comfortable — not dark and damp,” he explained. “And it’s huge.”

Upgrades Jim and Judy made to their Clover included bumping out the dining area

with a bay window, adding a fireplace in the living room, increasing the garage to three stalls from the standard two, and converting the front bedroom into an office with double French doors.

While the couple was excited to finish their home to their tastes, Judy noted that “Meritus Homes already includes so many wonderful features as standard.”

No stranger to new construction, Jim and Judy had built their prior home in South Elgin about 25 years ago. This time around, they looked forward to picking out their finishes and adding their stamp to the Clover plan.

“The building process was actually quite fun, not stressful at all,” Judy said. “Everyone at Meritus Homes, from the sales consultant to the construction manager, was knowledgeable, friendly and so easy to work with. They offered us excellent advice and construction went smoothly.”

Because of its ranch designs, The Reserve in St. Charles has been popular with retired couples as well as those attracted to the convenience of single-level living. The neighborhood also is home to many families with children thanks to its location in highly rated St. Charles Unit School District 303 and

its large homesites — many of which span up to one-third of an acre — that provide big backyards.

“A main reason we chose The Reserve in St. Charles was because we wanted to be surrounded by openness,” Judy said. “Our homesite looks out over an open area plus our yard is quite large, so we have a great deal of privacy. One of the problems we kept running into with resales was smaller lots and houses being too close together.”

The Reserve in St. Charles also boasts natural and recreational amenities such as ponds, paths and a park. Jim is an avid biker and appreciates having trails right within his own neighborhood where he can ride or stroll with Judy.

“Staying in the Fox Valley and being near the river was important to us when moving,” said Judy. “Now we enjoy living close to downtown St. Charles. And more shopping, restaurants and everyday conveniences can be found along the Randall Road corridor, too.”

The Reserve in St. Charles is on the west side of Route 31 between Red Gate and Silver Glen roads. To visit, take Route 31 and turn west onto Reserve Drive and proceed to the model and sales office at 775 Reserve Drive.

A decorated model is available to tour. Sales hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday (closed Thursday and Friday).

For more information, call (224) 634-4054 or visit www.MeritusHomebuilders.com.

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