

GRANDE SHOW



Photos by NICK TOMECEK | Daily News

Fireworks entertained guests Thursday night at the grand opening party at Emerald Grande at HarborWalk Village. "It doesn't get any better than this, worldwide," said Peter Bos, the project's developer.

'The stone in the crown'

Peter Bos pulls out all the stops to wow crowd at Emerald Grande's opening

By ANDREW GANT

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DESTIN — Cheryl White probably made the understatement of the evening.

"Yeah, I'd stay here," she said, mingling near a lavish outdoor poolside bar at the Emerald Grande at HarborWalk Village in Destin.

White joined about 500 wide-eyed guests celebrating the grand opening of the condominium built on what local developer Peter Bos has called his "goose bump site" on Destin Harbor.

Bos, the CEO and president of Legendary Inc., said the event was designed to make a permanent impression.

"It doesn't get any better than this, worldwide," Bos said after shaking hands with an entertainer parading around the pool deck on stilts.

"The goal here is to make something beautiful that's also



Lucian Fuller of Galaxy Productions juggles Thursday evening for guests at Emerald Grande's grand opening party in Destin. About 500 people attended the event.

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significant," said Bos, this time standing underneath an elevated platform with a dancer on it.

"It sets a standard and it's my way of giving back."

Thursday's guests seemed to appreciate Bos' gesture, enjoying swordfish, veal medallions and free massages during tours of the resort.

The tours led groups of thunderstruck visitors through suites with giant decks and private exercise spa rooms.

Meanwhile, a costumed employee inside a giant hamster ball rolled

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himself across the surface of the outdoor pool.

Bos, whose company has become one of the largest employers in Okaloosa County, said he sees his lavish condominium as a lure to reel people back to the harbor area, but concedes it's "not everyone's vision."

Some locals have said the building is too big and expensive to benefit locals.

But Destin resident Brad Scott said he's been watching Emerald Grande take shape since Bos broke ground in 2005, and the final product represents progress.

"(Destin) is not the tiny fishing village of yesterday," Scott said. "And this is the stone in the crown of the

Emerald Coast."

"Some people love it, some don't," Scott said. "But if you're going to live in Destin, you need to know what to expect."

The 13-story, two-tower property contains 281 units ranging in size from 1,075 to 2,200 square feet.

Fractional and whole ownership options range in price from the \$200,000s to the millions of dollars.

"Seeing this place from the road, you get one look," Scott said.

"People will come from far and wide."

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— Peter Bos
CEO and president of Legendary Inc.