

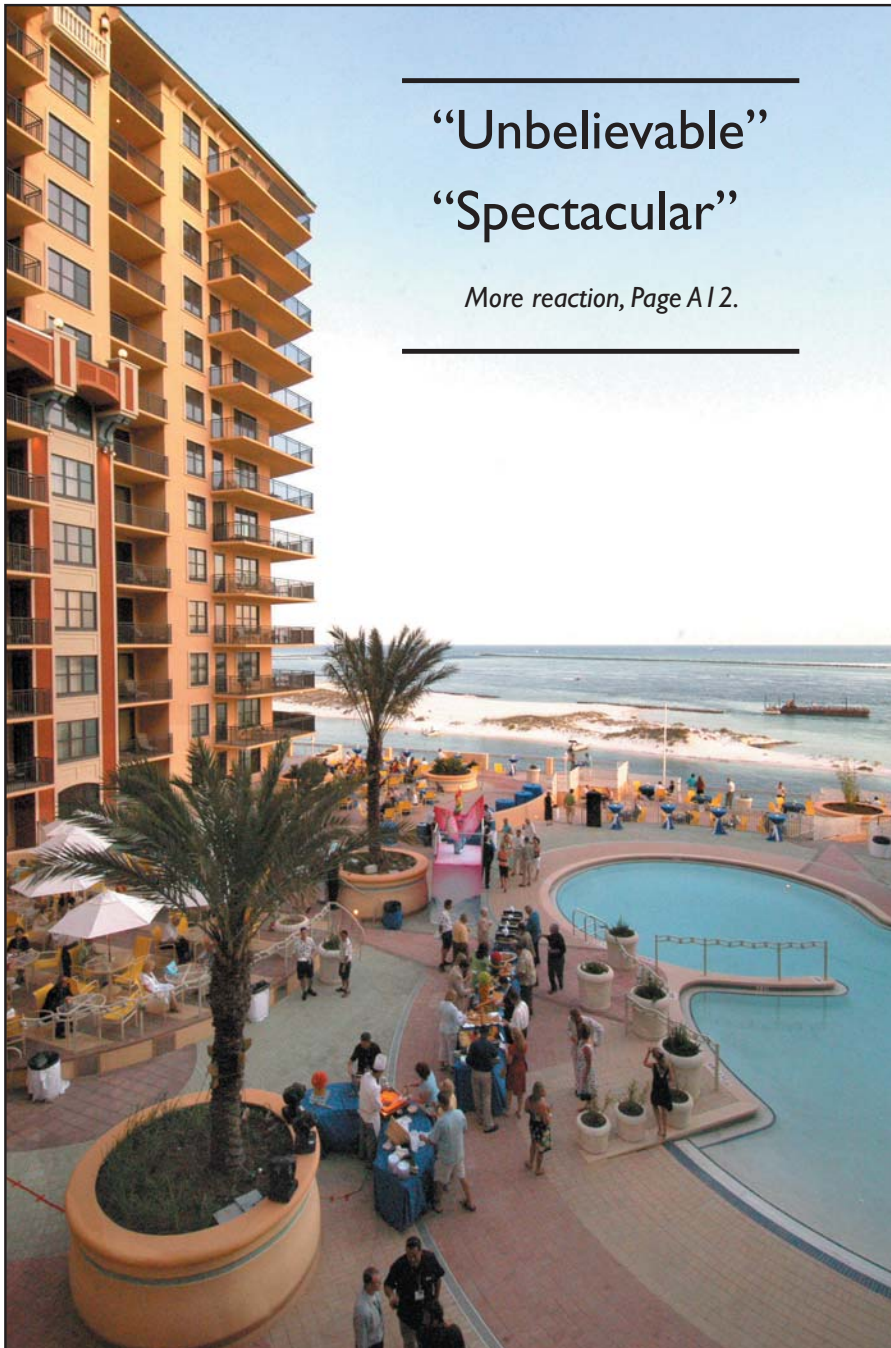
# GRAND

opening of the

# GRANDE



**MYVISION:** Peter Bos spends a few minutes describing his dream for a parcel of land overlooking Destin's harbor.



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“Unbelievable”  
“Spectacular”

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*More reaction, Page A12.*

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## It's a dream come true for Peter Bos

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**T**hirty-five years ago, Peter Bos sat on a picnic bench on the site of what is now the Emerald Grande and dreamt of the future.

Thursday night, Bos unveiled his vision.

More than 500 guests showed up in their finest “yacht club cocktail attire” to celebrate the grand opening of Emerald Grande, the twin-tower high-rise condominium at the foot of the Marler Bridge.

And no one left disappointed.

For three hours, a literal “who’s who” of the Destin area mingled and nibbled on high-end hors d’oeuvres and amuses-bouche on the building’s pool deck overlooking a panoramic view of Destin’s harbor, the East Pass, the Gulf of Mexico and Choctawhatchee Bay. Thursday night, any spot on that pool deck of the Emerald Grande was the best seat in the house.

Circus performers mingled with party guests and a jazz band played quietly at the bar just inside the revolving glass door from the pool deck.

As the sun went down and the sky lit up with red, pink and purple hues, Bos took the microphone for a sunset toast.

“This building is monumental,” he declared to the crowd. “It’s

Log photos by **KATHY HARRISON**

**AN EXTRAVAGANT PARTY:** Hundreds of invited guests turned out Thursday evening for Emerald Grande’s grand-opening party.

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Please see **DREAM** on **A12**

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# DREAM

Continued from page A1

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designed to make a statement. It's designed to bring people back to the Destin harbor. We want this building to be something the community is proud of."

The party went out with a bang — literally.

A 13-minute fireworks and laserlight show fit for a theme park seemed an appropriate

way to end an evening designed to celebrate Destin's newest and biggest high-rise.

With the excitement of the night before still present in his voice, Bos talked Friday morning about the symbolism of the party.

"Last night accomplished its objective, which was to let everyone see Emerald Grand at its finest and show them how the building and its interiors will cause people to go back to the harbor. We want to re-introduce people to the harbor," he

said. "People who saw the project in its ugly duckling phase now realize that this building shows off Destin. We really want the Emerald Grande to become a source of civic pride."

Bos heaped praise on the Legendary staff, who made the party possible.

"I was so proud of our organization and the people that work in our company for pulling it off," he said. "With all the construction and work we've had there, to be able to come in last night and see all those

new employees and see them smiling, that's what I was most proud of. I was proud of our team."

With everyone from members of the Destin City Council to Realtors to members of the Destin business community, Bos said he was happy with the cross-section of the community that turned out to celebrate the opening of Emerald Grande.

"We had community and city leaders, harbor stakeholders, fishermen — we had a great turn-out," he said. "I think

everyone had the night of their life. The party justified the building or vice versa."

Emerald Grande's two towers are both 13 stories and have 281 units, ranging in price from the \$200,000s to millions. The Emerald Grande will become a key piece in Legendary's \$300-million-plus HarborWalk village, a 14.7-acre piece of property along the harborfront that will include retail and restaurant space.

New venues there will open over the next couple of years.