

## A TREASURE AT THE FLORIDA COAST THE WINDSOR LEGACY

Windsor is thoroughly seductive. Its enviable position on a lush barrier island between the Atlantic Ocean and the Indian River in Vero Beach, Florida, promises and delivers views that are visually stunning.

But the beauty of the natural Florida landscape is only part of the allure. From the magnificent tree-lined allée to the cascading walls of magenta bougainvillea to the architectural masterpieces, this modern seaside village knows what it's about. In contrast to the glitz and glamour 90 minutes south in Palm Beach, Windsor exhibits a fresh, understated elegance, a gracious affluent lifestyle with all the comforts, services and amenities you could wish for.

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**These pages: the Atlantic coast at Windsor, Florida. Here, the natural dunes and old mangroves were left intact and the architecture created to blend in with the natural environment.**







“Of all the myriad developments I have written about over the years, none has ever captivated me quite the way Windsor has. Perhaps it’s the sheer beauty of perfectly manicured homes and courtyards that are evocative of charming historical cities such as Charleston, St. Augustine and Savannah. Perhaps it’s the unblemished stretch of beach where foamy waves curl gently over my bare feet. Or perhaps it is, at least in part, the story Windsor has to tell.”

From the beginning Windsor was envisioned as so much more than a luxury development. Canadian retailing mogels Hilary and Galen Weston imagined an exclusive residential sporting community where they could relax and rejuvenate surrounded by family and friends.

Leisure and lifestyle would be important, the Westons decided. But so would design and urban planning. The Westons collaborated with Miami architects and town planners Andrés Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk, who were known for smart, sustainable development. Together they coaxed, massaged and gently shaped the 425-acre property from a patch of unruly grapefruit trees and a patchwork of dirt roads into a forward-thinking, eco-friendly community designed to encourage neighbor interaction. Throughout these 28 years, the Westons have never wavered from their initial vision.

This resort village was designed to function as a complete community with a Village Centre that houses a general store, post of-

fice, guest apartments, office space and an amphitheater. A mix of home styles – cottages, estate homes, rowhouses – are built in Windsor’s signature Anglo-Caribbean style, albeit with a fresh and contemporary sensibility. As each phase develops under the watchful eye of Creative Director Hilary Weston, the strict building codes (with specific height restrictions) ensure that Windsor never loses its village-like feel. Each residence goes through a rigorous approval process so that, in the end, the exteriors – though distinct – create a pleasing cohesive streetscape. Renowned architects such as Hugh Newell Jacobsen, Clemens Bruns Schaub and Scott Merrill are fastidious in their designing of award-winning homes that are expansively proportioned with soaring ceilings, generous outdoor living spaces and exquisite detailing.

The homes are sited to incorporate, gracefully and respectfully, the natural environment while offering sweeping views of the Atlantic shoreline, the Indian River, fairways, lakes and more. Wild rabbits can be seen dashing among the bushes. Sea turtles nest protected on the Windsor shore. Although the exteriors must conform to Windsor’s signature style, anything goes once you step inside the door of a Windsor home. Inside, owners are able to engage in fanciful flights of self-expression with whimsical art collections, sleek, modern furnishings, bold fabrics and the accumulated fruit of their travels.

I spent my first morning at Windsor sipping a cappuccino outside the Village Store where residents enjoy casual alfresco

**Top left: an overview of Windsor with the Town Hall in the center.**

**Below that: the Equestrian Center. The most-anticipated equestrian event is the Windsor Charity Polo Cup, which never fails to attract the fashionable set. The media, celebrities and the well-heeled flock to this biennial event that brings in top polo players from around the world.**

**Below: the golf course and the Clubhouse on the right.**

**Next pages: the golf course, designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., at sunset. The 18-hole links-style course is a masterpiece of traditional golf course design.**









**These pages: the pool at the Beach Club.**  
**Top left: a drone shot of the Beach Club with the boardwalk leading to the ocean at the top.**

meals. I am staying at one of the lovely accommodations at the Village Suites but guests are also welcome at the elegant Weston Guest House. I am visiting in May, one of the quieter, more tranquil months at Windsor. But Windsor is gregarious in nature and is at its liveliest during its high season when residents return to mix and mingle at casual and lavish events, from multicourse wine tastings to playful concerts.

Special events are frequently planned at the Clubhouse, a chic dining spot overlooking the golf course, as well as at Windsor's warm and engaging Beach Club adjacent to Windsor's pool. On the schedule are sumptuous wine dinners, informative speaker luncheons and even an entertaining film series that brings in an eclectic mix of filmmakers, editors, producers and others in the industry.

In 2016 New York's legendary Le Cirque showcased its cuisine here during a four-course pop-up dinner hosted by the restaurant's co-owner and founder's son, Mauro Maccioni. Another venue, Windsor's Town Hall, is an architectural masterpiece. Designed by the acclaimed architect Léon Krier, the Town Hall is where residents celebrate family weddings, enjoy a concert and debate community issues.

One of the most buzzed-about aspects of Windsor is its world-class art exhibits. Through the years, the Gallery at Windsor has shown works by internationally recognized artists including Alex Katz, Jasper Johns, Peter Doig, Christopher Le Brun, Beatriz Milhazes and Gert & Uwe Tobias. Oftentimes special events are planned in conjunction with the exhibitions and the community opens its gates for scheduled private tours.

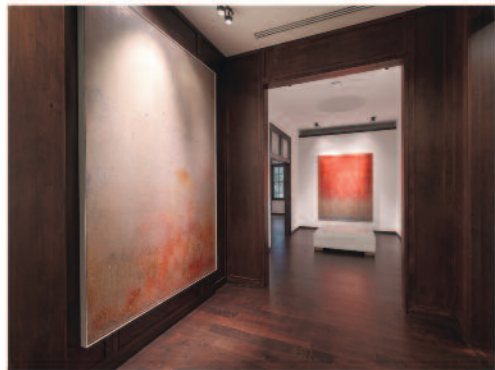
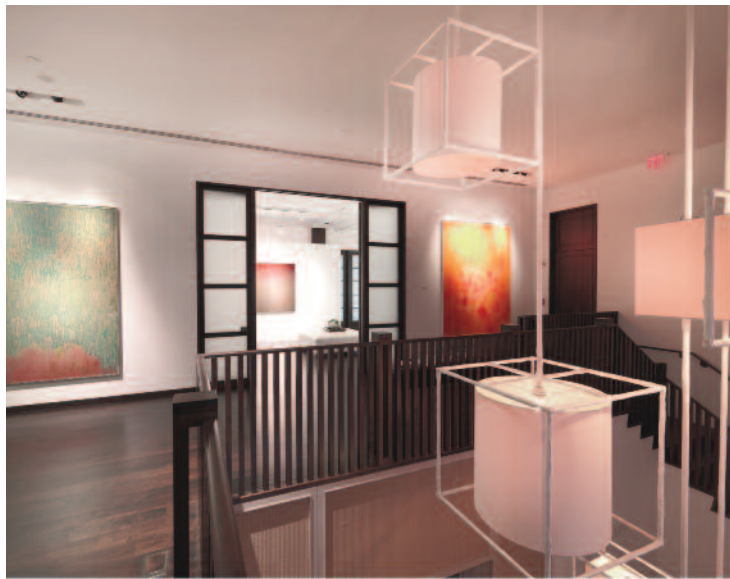




Left-hand page: the central boulevard at Windsor is lined with tall palm trees. Here, the view from the golf course to the Village Centre with its Village Store, Post Office, Exedra, Concierge offices and guest accommodations.

Above: Windsor's Town Hall is an architectural masterpiece. Designed by the acclaimed architect Léon Krier, the Town Hall is where residents celebrate family weddings, enjoy a concert and debate community issues. Opposite: the Post Office.





**Top: the Gallery at Windsor. It has shown works by internationally recognized artists. Below that: Windsor's Clubhouse restaurant overlooking the golf course. It was designed by Yabu Pushelberg from New York - Toronto. Right: the entrance to the Clubhouse and Art Gallery.**

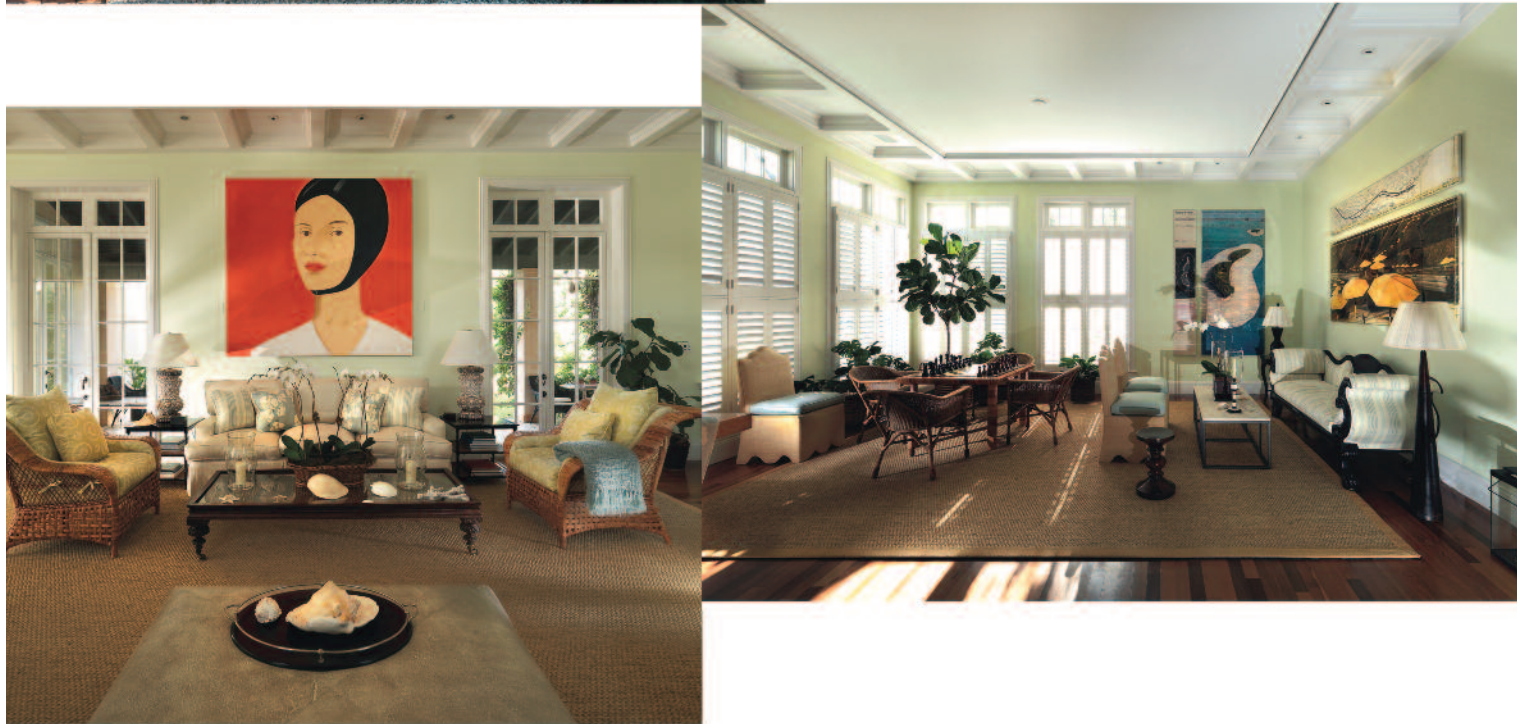
In 2015, the Weston's home was perfectly staged for a dinner that launched the exhibit by Danish artist Per Kirkeby. To set the tone, the Westons hired Danish chef Mads Refslund to create a Nordic dinner in homage to the artist's roots. Although Windsor carefully cultivates its lively arts and culture scene, it never loses its focus as a residential sporting club. Windsor residents can stay in shape at the well-equipped Fitness Centre or on one of the eight tennis courts designed by Wimbledon champion and fashion sneaker icon Stan Smith. They can also walk, cycle or ride horseback along the 10.5 miles of scenic trails throughout the community.

Windsor boasts a full-scale Equestrian Centre with a polo field. Equestrian-related events such as the authentic Argentine asado always ratchet up the fun as attendees polish off hearty slabs of meat and sip robust red wines. The most-anticipated equestrian event is the Windsor Charity Polo Cup, which never fails to attract the fashionable set. The media, celebrities and the well-heeled flock to this biennial event that brings in top polo players from around the world.

At Windsor's challenging golf course, there are no tee times. Designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr., the 18-hole links-style course is a masterpiece of traditional golf course design with undulating fairways bordered by lush native trees. Golfers also have access to the onsite 400-yard driving range and 6,000-square-foot putting green.







**These pages: the Weston Guest House where seven well-appointed guest rooms surround a lushly landscaped pool courtyard. Artworks by ?????? and Christo and Jeanne-Claude.**

Also in vogue at Windsor is the sport of shooting. Each season former Austrian Olympian Nikolaus Szapary offers instruction for all skill levels at Windsor's offsite Gun Club. Members try their hand at European clay shooting games and, in the off season, travel abroad with Szapary.

Windsor is intoxicating. The vivacious social scene with its wide-ranging, thought-provoking and entertaining events can rival what's found in larger cities. But equally inspirational is the peace and tranquility I found by quietly sitting here and there just taking in the sights, sounds and smells.

Windsor's landscaping is bountiful without being overdone. Brilliantly colored butterflies – monarchs, atalas, zebra longwings – dance and flit and luxuriate in the new Windsor garden planted specifically to please them. I close my eyes. The scent of jasmine is in the air. I listen to the waves washing gently ashore. And I smile.

The Westons have succeeded at conceiving a community that is richly personal and yet equally satisfying for those who choose to live inside its gates. It's a fait accompli.







**The glorious Beach Club pool at night. In the center, the entrance to the beach and the Atlantic Ocean.**