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Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez and Realtor Monica Venegas discuss the recent uptick in real estate sales throughout the county. Moderated by Omar Sommereyns

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The latest iterations of classic luxury vehicles adapt their brands’ legendary design traits to the modern age.
early two decades after becoming a brand name with his renovation of the Delano South Beach, developer Ian Schrager is back in Miami working his magic. His latest baby is The Residences at The Miami Beach Edition, resurrecting the former Seville Hotel on 29th Street and Collins Avenue as an über-luxurious two-tower condo and urban resort.

The Residences’ 26 units will sit atop the hotel, which will retain the original 1950s facade, and will range in size from one to four bedrooms. Most units feature outdoor hanging gardens, pools, and pergolas. Among the interior features are floor-to-ceiling windows and bleached teak wood flooring throughout.

Residents will enjoy the perks of resort living, like housekeeping and room service. “When you put all those details together, it’s just not like anything else available in Miami Beach,” Schrager says. Half of the units sold in less than four weeks, including the combined sale of two penthouses for $34 million at a record-breaking $3,800 per square foot. Construction is set to be complete by early next year. 2901 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, 305-571-3101; miamibeacheditionresidences.com

URBAN OASIS Palau seems like the perfect beach condo. Despite its contemporary design, this 50-unit, five-story building in Sunset Harbour exudes a relaxed ambience that matches the neighborhood’s low-key vibe. The project is the brainchild of SMG Management LLC.

With units fetching from $500,000 to $2 million, the building features a gym, lobbies, and media room/library designed by Kobi Karp and Orit Srebernik; amenities include a rooftop pool and sundeck. But chief among its selling points, says Meir Srebernik of SMG, is location. “Stepping from your home to enjoy your immediate neighborhood, walking to Lincoln Road or the New World Symphony, or just biking over the Venetian Causeway or directly to the beach, this is what a perfect location is all about,” he says. Construction is scheduled for completion by 2014. Douglas

HAUTE ENCLAVE Bellini Williams Island, a 24-story, 70-unit luxury condo in Aventura, is getting ready to welcome new residents; the elliptical-shaped condo is slated to be complete next month. Bellini developer Martin Z. Margulies says he’s pleased with the rate of pre-sales so far, with buyers from Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, and Canada leading the charge. He believes Bellini holds an edge on other developments because it will be the only high-luxury project to be delivered by summer of this year.

“The community of Williams Island is currently undergoing a $5 million renovation. Buyers are purchasing a certain lifestyle, which Williams Island provides to them,” he says. Unit sizes range from 2,200 square feet up to 5,000 square feet for penthouses, with prices between $1.2 and $4.1 million. One Sotheby’s International Realty, 4100 Williams Island Blvd., Aventura, 305-466-6808; belliniwilliamsisland.com
south beach wine & food festival

Countless gastronomes, restaurateurs, wine lovers, and sundry food freaks swarmed Miami for SBWFF revelry. Among the highlights: a star-studded chefs fête for gourmandizing notables, an homage to both a Japanese cuisine master and a Champagne chief, and a decadent shorefront bash for voracious burger junkies.