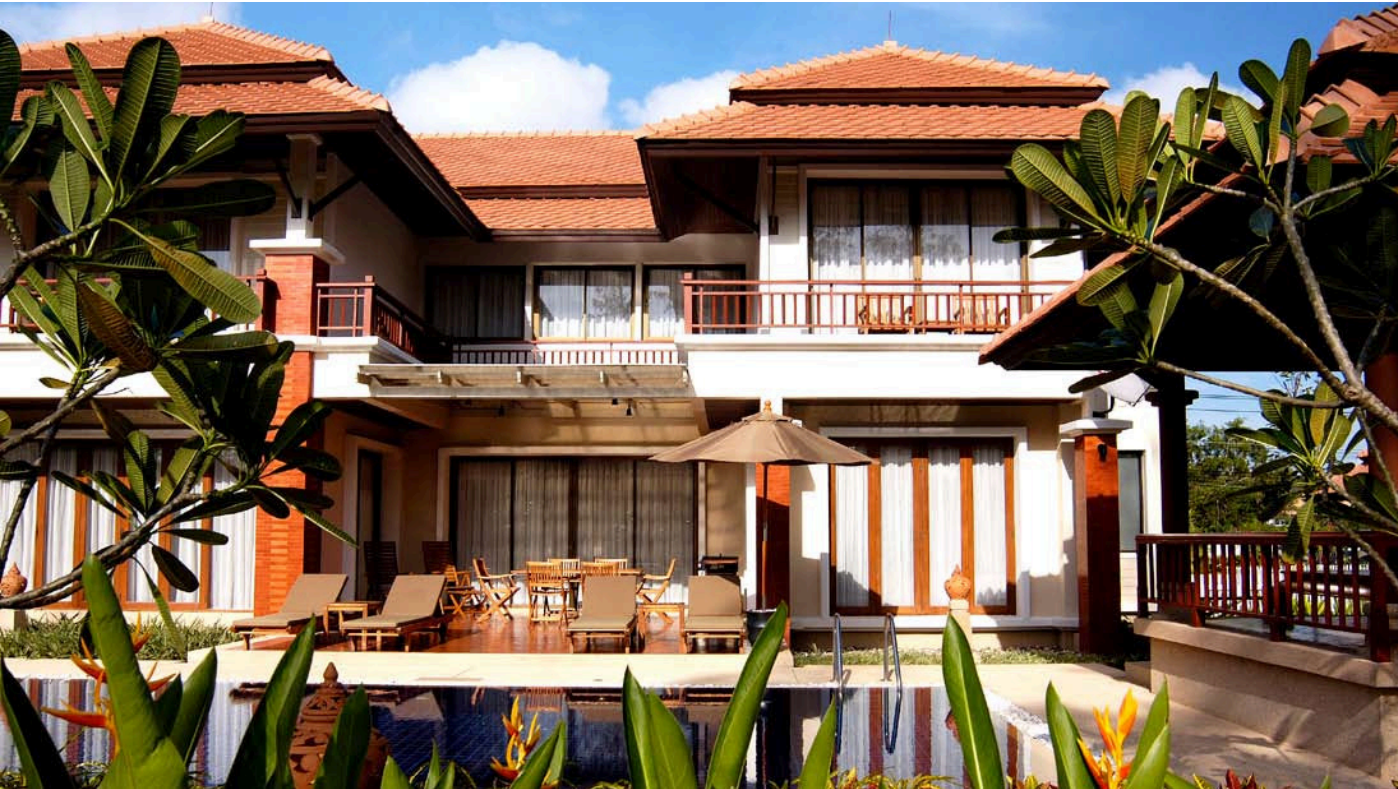


A Slice of Sunshine



The Donalds at their Residence: Golf and swimming every day keeps them cheerful

Deciding where to live takes care and a love of adventure, as one couple has found.

THE CHOICE was between Scotland and a sala in the sun. Ever cautious, Anne and Jimmy Donald decided to do their research first.

Having realised that Thailand had a lot to offer, the couple spent a week in Hua Hin and similar time in Krabi, Khao Lak and Cape Panwa.

It was a no-contest, really. After roaming the region, they chose to buy a Townhome at Laguna Phuket.

The Donalds had stayed at the Allamanda Laguna Phuket for one big family Christmas, then used the resort as a base to see neighbouring Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Japan and the Philippines.

Six years on, they still have the same preference for Asia . . . and especially for Laguna Phuket. Just about the only change has been their move recently from their Laguna Townhome to a larger four-bedroom Laguna Residence.

At the Residence, they can entertain gatherings of family and friends and indulge their twin passions: swimming and golf.

Scotland may have been the birthplace of golf, but there are often times

when even the game's most ardent fans wouldn't venture out. On Phuket, days like that are extremely rare.

With their own large swimming pool and a white picket fence as the sole barriers between the living room and the Laguna Phuket fairways, the Donalds have unlimited access to their daily delights.

Judging by the breeze through the open front door and the ready smiles that come when the Donalds greet guests, six years in sunny Laguna Phuket have been exceedingly good for them.

From the shade of the sala, they can even wave to passing caddies. Anne sums up in a couple of sentences the reason why they eventually decided to settle in Phuket.

"We bought here because we thought we could trust Laguna," she says. "It turned out to be true."

Her endorsement is based on plenty of experience. Jimmy, 73, and Anne, 68, believe they were the first Laguna Townhome buyers.

"We haven't been all over the world but we've been to a lot of places," Jimmy says. "And it's very good here."

The couple look extremely fit, tanned and cheerful and they enjoy getting to know neighbours who usually share their

love of the island, no matter where they come from.

Last summer the Donalds, who usually spend at least six months each year on Phuket, holidayed in Norway with a couple they met here. And they are constantly making new friends.

They love the vitality of the place. In Phuket, a shopping expedition is always an adventure. Every Monday afternoon, they gather in Karon with people from eight countries to play bridge.

Having been director of His Majesty's Theatre in Aberdeen and overseen the family's entertainment venues, Jimmy also has a showman's sense of humour.

He loves to tell the story of the golf official he met who looked a little dazed and confused after surveying the course.

Apparently the official had discovered two young women, sunbathing naked in a sand trap, having mistaken the bunker for the beach.

Now that's unlikely to happen in Scotland.

For further information on properties for sale at Laguna Phuket visit Laguna Property Sales Centre in Canal Village. Tel: 076 324366 www.lagunaproperty.com



Laguna Residence living area