



by Susan M Boyce

It's hip, it's trendy, and the very name spells quality with a capital Q. Following proudly in the footsteps of its namesake, the world-famous Singapore hotel where royalty and celebrities discovered a private refuge for luxuriating and rejuvenation, Raffles at the intersection of Robson and Cambie is poised to become a downtown Vancouver landmark.

THE JUNCTION OF ROBSON AND YALETOWN

"Raffles is all about style, quality, and individuality," says sales representative Salina Kai. "Every item you see in these homes is the result of extra thought and careful planning."

She's not exaggerating. Wide-plank black teak engineered flooring throughout, lavish windows to maximize views of False Creek and the lights of the Cambie Street Bridge, plus a kitchen that begs the question: what's for dinner tonight? There's a Miele cooktop, microwave built-in below the counter where it's most convenient, plus fridge with lower freezer that's neatly hidden behind the rich oak Shaker-style cabinetry.

Even the presentation centre's display bathroom is a showstopper. A marble countertop and bath surround set off the crisp white subway wall tiling and top-of-the-line Maax Villa soaker tub with elegant, offset faucet. The shower, resplendent in contemporary frameless glass, features a Cascade rain shower and plenty of space even for people who like to make extravagant gestures as they mimic Pavarotti during their daily get clean ritual. The sink is square, seductively sloped to the back, and quite unlike anything I've ever seen.

"These homes are designed to blend a fashion-forward, contemporary ambiance with a warm, welcoming look," Salina says. "We believe they are going to retain their ability to move with time so people will always be proud to own and happy to live here."

EVEN BETTER

And there's more. Raffles owners will enjoy a private fitness centre, multimedia theatre, whirlpool, lounge, and spacious patio with barbeque area. Always a big hit in my books, a concierge will be at the front lobby ready to handle all life's little details – like the courier who always seems to arrive precisely three minutes after I leave for a ten-minute walk.

Mind you, with so much going on in the neighbourhood, I'll likely be spending plenty of time exploring. Restaurants, pubs and clubs, boutiques, art galleries, parks, the main branch of the Vancouver Public Library, and my favourites, the Queen Elizabeth Theatre, Orpheum, and Vancouver Centre for the Performing Arts are all just steps away.

Astonishingly, as high-end and stylish as Raffles is, Salina notes over half of the suites will be priced under \$400,000. A remarkable achievement for downtown living anywhere, it's almost unbelievable when you combine the location with Raffles' quality. Truly, this is the best of Yaletown and Robson.

Raffles offers a total of 150 designer residences in a variety of 1-bedroom, 1-bedroom and den, or 2-bedroom and den floor plans. Prices start at just \$319,000 for a 1-bedroom, \$335,000 for a 1-bedroom and den, and \$464,000 for a spacious 2-bedroom. The Raffles presentation centre is now open for early previews at 883 Hamilton Street (at Smithe) in Vancouver. Be one of the first to preview downtown living at its finest. For more information and to make an appointment, call 604-689-8058, or you can visit on the web anytime at www.rafflesonrobson.com. Sales begin late September.

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