

UP IN THE AIR

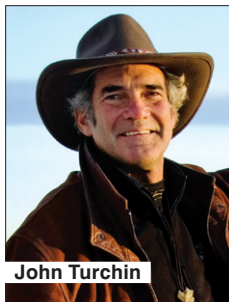
Miamians flock to the Blue Ridge Mountains for second homes in North Carolina.

By Amy Miller Gross

Eagles Nest is located in the heart of the Blue Ridge mountains.

All Eagles Nest homes are custom-designed to emphasize their breathtaking views.

Ocean Drive sat down with Miami Beach resident John Turchin—the mastermind behind the private North Carolina community The Lodges at Eagles Nest—to hear his vision for an all-encompassing camping community and to find out why so many Gold Coasters enjoy the contrast of life at a higher altitude.



John Turchin

summer and there's an average of 120 inches of snow each winter.

Tell us about Eagles Nest.

It's a gated community and resort in the town of Banner Elk, which sits in the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. There are currently 17 homes built, of which 15 have been sold. Eagles Nest is a lifestyle

place—you can live there year-round, or treat it as your second home. It's refreshing to Miamians because it's the total opposite of South Beach. We have more than 1,500 acres of land, 100 of which we're using to grow an organic farm and vineyard. It's a place to be forever young.

What are some of the amenities that come with owning a home at Eagles Nest?

We have everything—a giant sports field, amphitheater, library, spa, equestrian center, shooting range, motocross track, barbecue pavilion, beach-volleyball court, tennis, hiking



and biking trails and an art studio. There's a five-star teepee village where you can sleep under the stars, and we're building a small recording studio. We have everything except a golf course. But Wayne Huizenga built a course next door called Diamond Creek, so if anyone needs to play golf, we send them over there.

Could you describe the properties now available at Eagles Nest?

We have houses from \$500,000 to \$5 million. Larry Pearson—one of the best architects in the country—designed several homes with me, as did Miami-based Cesar Molina. They're all magnificent, small homes that suit the clientele of today's market. We're not compromising anything.

Which boldfaced Miami names have homes in the area?

Wayne Huizenga, former Dolphin and current sportscaster Bob Griese and Michele Pommier, to name a few. These people have been coming to North Carolina forever. **00**



The top of the mountain at Eagles Nest offers 100-mile views.