

Baby Boomers and Empty Nesters Take Their Wealthy Inner Children on Vacation

With age 50 dubbed the new 35, hard-working second and third home owners are leveraging their assets to travel more and for longer periods: it's a whole new generation

HOBOKEN, NJ – May 16 (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) – America's suburban families are growing up – and out. As baby boomers say good-bye to their adult children, this career-driven segment of society is rediscovering leisure time. The trend of swapping their city apartments (originally purchased as relief from killer commutes) with like-minded travel-bugs worldwide, has been on the rise, according to a recent member survey conducted by the website www.digsville.com. Helen Bergstein, founder of the Digsville Home Exchange Club says, “secondary/vacation home listings have been increasing every year and now comprise over 20% of the Digsville database.”

A Long Island couple, who bought their NYC apartment when they were still working, say they “get an exchange request almost every day.” In fact, they didn't even purchase their city digs with vacation home exchange in mind, but because “hotels are far too expensive, and restrictive (ie., can't sign in before 4 pm–must sign out by 11am). We have our place for 24 hours a day.”

Joyce, of Buck's County, PA, says she and her husband spend a good bit of time in their NYC apartment, and appreciate its “doorman, 24-hour access to local restaurants, transportation, and a parking lot.” Because their city home “is filled almost constantly with friends”, they often swap their primary home or another in Spain, advocating the lifestyle because “it's more interesting and we get to meet great people and see environments that are ‘real’, not plasticized like in hotels.”

“The second home market is booming,” says Bergstein. “Expecting to double by 2009, which means a full two-thirds of residential real estate purchases will be vacation homes or investment properties. Second homes are viewed both a solid investment and lifestyle enhancement. They make even more financial sense when used in vacation swaps with substantial savings on hotel bills, car rentals and by taking advantage of destination-specific or other airfare specials.”

Founded in 1999, Digsville provides an alternate travel lifestyle, freeing travelers from hotel bills forever. The site offers a range of informative articles, tips and stories by first-time and veteran home exchangers.

More information: www.digsville.com

News issued by: The Digsville Home Exchange Club

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Original Story ID: (1647) :: 2006-05-0516-005

Original Keywords: The Digsville Home Exchange Club, New Jersey, secondary/vacation home listings, Helen Bergstein, alternate travel lifestyle, freeing travelers from hotel bills, Second homes, real estate The Digsville Home Exchange Club