

## Westgate Resorts builds OPL for villas neighboring Disney

KISSIMMEE, Fla. – Westgate Resorts, one of the largest timeshare companies in the world, recently completed construction of a new 12,000-square-foot laundry facility at its Westgate Vacation Villas property near Disney World.

The laundry features sling-loaded conventional washers and dryers, deep-chest ironing, automated folding and automated clean-linen transport, as well as high-efficiency mechanical equipment.

This plant is a G.A. Braun “signature mid-sized production laundry,” says David Chadsey, Braun’s regional sales manager

for the project. It uses Braun’s Top Side Load (TSL) washers in a sling-loaded configuration. These machines provide the ergonomics of gravity-assisted loading and unloading without the cost of open pockets, Chadsey says.

The plant was designed to process up to 2,300 pounds of linen per hour. Conventional washer-extractors were selected in place of a tunnel washer or automated open-pocket system based on the

results of a cost-benefit evaluation.

“The TSLs gave the plant operational redundancy with similar operational costs for less money,” Chadsey says. “It just made sense with the production volume that was required.”

In addition to the TSL washer-extractors, the new laundry utilizes Braun 123H 400-pound-capacity dryers, two UniMac UW60 washer-extractors, two UniMac 120 dryers, a Braun Alpha 1200 feeder, two

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Braun two-roll, 48-inch-diameter deep-chest ironers, Braun Omega folders, Braun Sigma towel folders, Speed Check rail and material-handling equipment, a thermal fluid heater from Fulton, a Thermal Engineering of Arizona (TEA) instantaneous water heating system, and an Ingersoll Rand air system.

Available dock access and ceiling height drove the layout of the plant, according to Chadsey. The building containing the laundry is also used for the resort's maintenance needs as well as a large cafeteria, and the resort needed about a third of the second-story space above the plant, he explains.

"We worked around their other needs while also providing overhead soiled- and clean-linen storage where the ceiling height was available," he says. "The solution included a clean takeaway belt that delivers all of the finished linen to a central location."

Members of the project team

were Jim Bauer and Jeff Dougherty of Westgate Resorts, Ron Ellis and Mike Holmes of JK2 Construction, Ed Rae of Speed Check, Jeff Kosek of TEA and Chadsey, Pete Bonanno and Martin Leison of G.A. Braun.

Guests at Westgate Vacation Villas enjoy the finest in luxury accommodations, just one mile from the main entrance to Disney World off U.S. 192 in Kissimmee. It offers more than 1,200 luxury villas, ranging in size from efficiency to four bedrooms. It opened in 1982 with just 16 villas.

Resort features include a weight room, on-site grocery store, activity center/arcade, numerous swimming pools, basketball courts, tennis courts and volleyball courts. Villa amenities can include fully equipped kitchens, a separate master bedroom, marble whirlpool tub in the master bath, a large-screen television, leather furniture and a screened-in porch or patio.

There are 5,425 timeshare resorts



worldwide, according to the American Resort Development Assn. (ARDA), with 1,590 of those found in the United States. Florida has the most timeshare resorts – 366 – in this country, followed by California (125) and South Carolina (119).

Worldwide timeshare sales volume in 2002 was \$9.4 billion, with \$5.5 billion recorded from the United States. ALN

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