

# Megaworld unveils The Venice



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PROPERTY giant Megaworld Corporation recently unveiled its most beautiful and romantic project to date—The Venice Luxury Residences in McKinley Hill, Fort Bonifacio.

As the branding suggests, the project was inspired by the architecture, waterways and romanticism of the legendary Italian city of Venice. "We have carefully designed and planned a Venetian-style luxury residential condominium with avant garde amenities that bring back Old World romanticism to be experienced in these modern times," stated Megaworld International Managing Director, Marivic Acosta

The project will feature seven residential towers, the first of which is Allesandro. As seen from the sky, each building resembles a ferro—the gondola's uniquely shaped iron head. Tones of chrome yellow and bright orange perfectly distinguish The Venice's towers in the 50-hectare McKinley Hill township development.

To make sure that The Venice remains true to its origins and inspiration, Megaworld

consulted the Italian architectural firm Paolo Marioni Architetto.

More than 20 different amenities are planned so that residents will love living in this project daily. Young and old alike will surely enjoy taking a lap at the expansive swimming pool bordered by Italian sculptures of the mythological gods, including Venus. Those with green thumbs and an affinity for nature will take daily walks to the palm court, meditation garden, garden court and rock garden.

Active bodies will take warm-up sessions at the adult fitness station before using up their reserved slots at the badminton court and tennis court. After an exhilarating game, a visit to the sauna or spa is in order to relax the muscles.

Since The Venice's seven towers are perfectly integrated with the McKinley Hill Town Center's Venetian Mall, residents have more choices to play and while away the time.

They can take a romantic gondola ride along the Grand Canal and exchange hugs and kisses once they pass the Rialto Bridge—a perfect replica of Venice's famous landmark. Climb the St. Mark's Tower—another well-known Venetian icon—to imbibe the beautiful scenery even more.

Shop to their hearts' delight at the promenade and then have some pictures taken with

the lovely Clock Tower at the background. And be amazed at the talent of the stand-up acts and singers at the Piazza Grande.

"Truly, The Venice boasts of a leisurely, romantic way of living not found anywhere else in the metro," Acosta asserted.

For more information on the residential units at The Venice—whether for investment or actual use of your family—contact Authorized US sales representatives are Dina Bough cell no: (001)916-955-7653; Angie Contreras cell no: (001) 323-336-7658 and Eduardo Bondoc cell no.; (1) 650-834-6030. Manila office: Geeevee Ventanilla of Megaworld International at 12F Petron MegaPlaza Building, 358 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City, Philippines, call (632) 889-9114 or (632) 889-9115, fax (632) 889-7393, email [global@megaworldcorp.com](mailto:global@megaworldcorp.com) or visit [www.megaworldinternational.com](http://www.megaworldinternational.com).

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## GETTING TO KNOW FASO

by CYNTHIA DE CASTRO  
AJPress

### ART OCDAMIA Playing the Cello

One of the core members of the Filipino American Symphony Orchestra (FASO) is cello player, Arthur Ocdamia. Better known as Art by his friends, he has over thirty years experience as a cello player and has been a member of five different orchestras in LA: the Cypress Pops Orchestra (since 1992), Bell Flower Symphony Orchestra (since 1993), La Mirada Symphony Orchestra (from 2000 to 2005), the South East Symphony Orchestra (since 2005) and the Filipino American Symphony Orchestra (FASO).

Art shares how he got started in this career as a cello player. "My father, Gelacio, became totally blind when he was 13 years old but he could play the piano, *ouido lang*. So, I guess there's some musical genes in our family. My mother, Angelita Lagonera, had a good voice and sang in church. When I was in high school, I told my parents I wanted to learn how to play the cello. We had a neighbor who was a good cello player, Amador Tamayo. I practically begged him to teach me. He did but after just a month, he left for Germany. He referred me to Herminia Ilano who was a cellist with the Philippine Philharmonics. I studied under her and she helped me get a scholarship in UP Diliman. After two years in UP, the department head of the Strings section, Sergio Esmilla, asked me if I wanted to join the Manila Symphony Orchestra. There, I was with Bob Shroder and Bochok Molina, who also played with me at the Philippine Youth Orchestra in UP Diliman. That was in 1980 and now, almost 30 years later, the three of us are together again, this time in LA and forming FASO. Unbelievable!" relates Ocdamia.

After working five years with the Manila Symphony Orchestra, Art went to work for the Shangri-la Hotel in Singapore before he joined Holland American Lines. "I was one of the musicians on board. It was hard work, since we played three times a day, everyday, as the cruise ship went around the world. But that's where I met my first wife, Kathy, an American who was one of the passengers in 1988. We decided to get married in Las Vegas soon after that and lived in Anaheim," recalled Art.

Admitting that he could not support a family by just playing the cello, Art worked in a medical company for almost twenty years, the Pentax Medical Instruments. When the company closed down in 2007, Art studied medical back office work. He is also studying how to make a violin.

In 2001, his wife Kathy died of complications from diabetes. He has re-married; this time to a Bicolana, Margie Benitez.

Some years ago, Art saw a flyer of a Joey Albert concert, featuring his friend Bob Shroder as the conductor. He attended the concert and was happy to re-unite with Bob and also, Bochok Molina, who was likewise playing in the concert. Since then, they have been in touch.

"When Bob and Bochok told me about FASO, I was proud to join them. Even if the weekly rehearsals are done in LA which is quite far from OC where I live, I really make it a point to be here, coming as early as 5pm (for the 6:30pm practice). I don't mind waiting for quite a while for the practice to begin rather than be caught in traffic. It is an honor to be a part of FASO and I expect that the orchestra will be big someday," said Art. "I believe music is very important to life that's why I give it importance and value," he added. ■

