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# Equity Estates Boasts Growth Despite Economy



Written by [Eric Schaefer](#) 02/18/2009 [Share](#)

As **destination clubs** scramble for new members and grapple with depreciating home values, the boutique **Equity Estates** club announced significant growth in the last quarter of 2008. Membership interests in the club—which are available only to accredited investors (read: \$1 million in assets or \$200,000 in yearly income)—grew by \$2.5 million in December, according to a press release yesterday.



Equity Estates is a **true equity-based destination club**, in which members buy shares of a real estate mutual fund, with the hope of property appreciation. While non-equity based clubs have seen a recent upheaval and rash of bankruptcies, the more conservative debt-free clubs like Equity Estates and **Abercrombie & Kent Residence Club** appear well-positioned to ride out a recession.

Equity Estates has an estimated 60 members that own a stake in eight properties, worth \$1 million to \$6 million. The most recent club acquisition, confirmed this month, is a 5-bedroom oceanfront residence in **Hilton Head, S.C.** Full shares in the club cost \$325,000 [update: \$350,000], which gets members 30 nights of use each year at the club's homes.

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