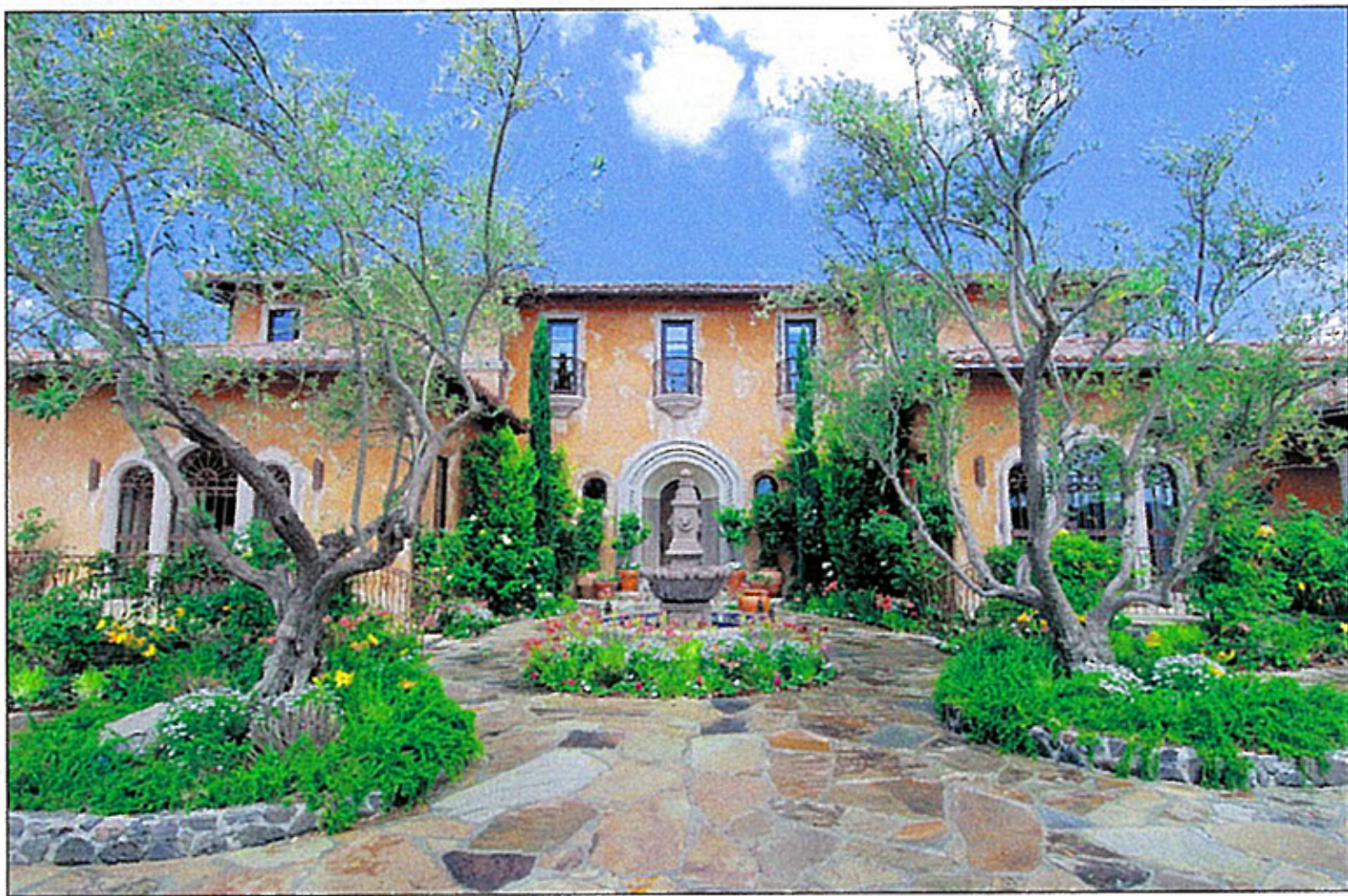


starhomes

'The Bachelor' Pad (and 'The Bachelorette')



Photos courtesy of Barcode Properties

The front of Villa de la Vina in Agoura Hills is a familiar setting to viewers of "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette," having frequently been used as a backdrop for doling out roses and limousines departing with broken hearted men and women who did not receive them.

De la Vina, made famous by TV shows, was built with the environment in mind.

By Cheryl Ellis
Special Sections writer

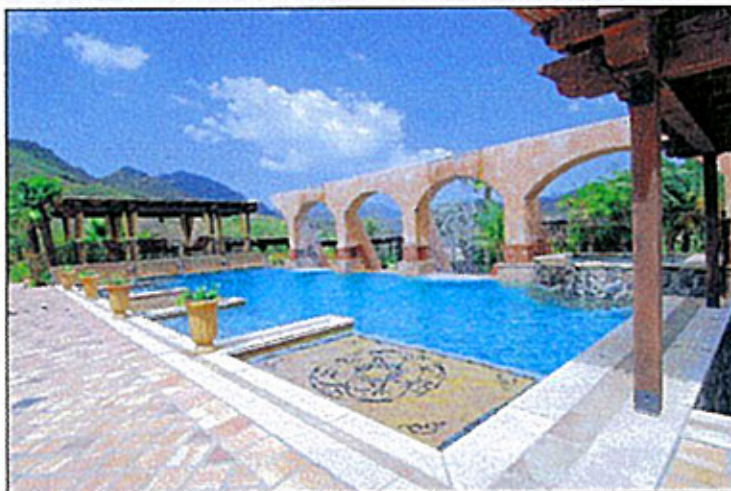
A green building is often equated with modern design; clean lines, sharp edges, cool tones. Tucked into the canyons of Agoura Hills a property can be found which defies that stereotype.

De La Vina became famous when it was used in television series like "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette" and other productions for film.

The house was built with the environment in mind and to model a traditional Mexican-style hacienda.

With special attention paid to both the authenticity of the entire property and the environmental impact of the building process, this estate is a masterpiece of design and a genuine eco-friendly work of art.

Marshall Haraden, owner and operator of The Marshall Group, is renowned for designing many of the restaurants around Los Angeles including many at Universal City Walk. "The only time I build homes is



The three wading areas with mosaics in the saltwater pool were inspired by the Wynn and Bellagio hotels in Las Vegas.

for myself," he said while touring the residence he designed and owns in Agoura Hills.

He began gathering items from around the world to use in this house nearly two years prior to construction. From plant life to fixtures to furnishings, the estate is a compilation of rescued, reclaimed and reused material, each with its own story to tell.

And with the hacienda theme that is fabulously recreated here, the home is the antithesis to modern, green design. It is warm, inviting and comprised of a history told through

the use of sexy lines and sensual tones.

Approaching the property is to drive onto a living television set. A long circular drive made from stone pavers extracted from the ground on which the property sits ushers in the initial impression of Mexican opulence the entire property embodies.

Winding toward the entrance of the home, the drive passes a genuine compound gate from China that lends access to the backyard.

The front of the house is a familiar setting to viewers of "The Bachelor"

and "The Bachelorette," having frequently been used as a backdrop for doling out roses and limousines departing with broken hearted men and women who did not receive them.

This grand entry is lush with roses reclaimed by the Marshall Group on projects it has worked on in recent years. In fact there are 300 rose plants that have been recycled from many demolition projects to the grounds of De la Vina.

"We do a lot of demo in my industry and plants often suffer the consequences. But we recycle it," Haraden said.

The entry is anchored by a statuesque fountain that sits in its center. A romantic garden scene, this entry also has been used for wedding photos often taken beneath the cavernous doorway which is tiled with a mosaic of handpainted Mexican tiles.

Pass through this remarkable Moroccan-inspired doorway and enjoy a fabulous display of culture and art from around the world interspersed between the amenities which have become expectations for an estate of this magnitude.

In the entry an eclectic skylight has two vents that open to the

PAD

Continued from H1

outside. Haraden says that when they are open it ventilates the whole house. The skylight also features intricate latticework from India with a chandelier to cover.

The walls throughout the entire first floor have triple-truck base clay tiles that line the floors sweeping up to create a baseboard. Along the walls above this find a band of handpainted tiles sandwiched between the baseboard and a stone molding.

The living room boasts an enormous bar, rescued from India that also features a walk-in wine cellar designed with stone cradles to hold each bottle. Also in this room find a handcarved fireplace mantel imported from India as well.

The kitchen features 100-year-old French tiles taken from a church in Southern France for the backsplash and cabinets are faced with 90-year-old reclaimed Mesquite wood from Mexico. The doors were reworked to fit modern cabinets, but the wood is all original.

Complementing the natural and original materials are modern-day appliances by Sub-Zero, Viking and Wolf. The kitchen also features two dishwashers, granite inlaid counters with triple-tiered stone edges, two sinks (both with garbage disposals) and a warming drawer.

The layout of the kitchen was designed for the 71-inch flatscreen television in the family room which can be seen from behind the stovetop in the island.

This floor also is home to a romantic and passionately designed dining room. Everywhere in Mexico there is stone on the ceiling. Both reclaimed timbers and brick were used in the triple barrel vault ceilings installed because the single-barrel style was found not to work.

The house is setup for wi-fi and can handle T1-speeds. Surround sound and speakers also are placed throughout and each room has separate volume control. The media center for the house has an iPod dock and storage for thousands of CDs and more than 600 DVDs.

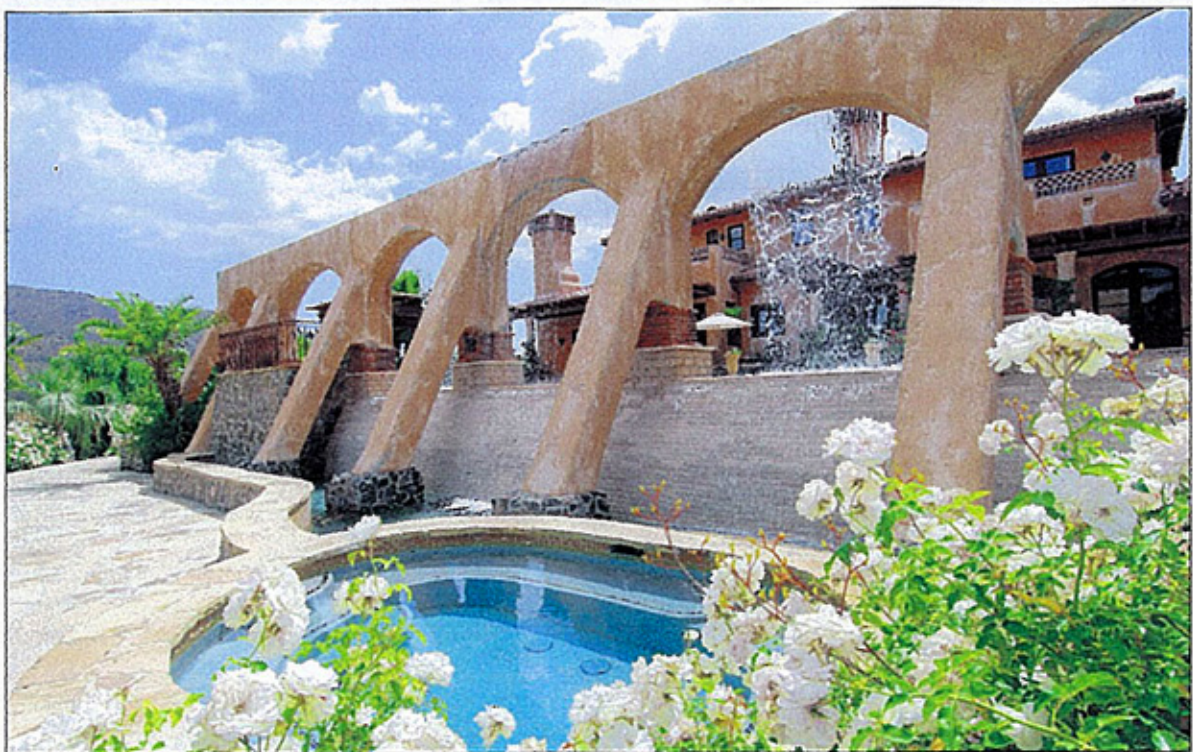
All of this took only 14 months to build, but Haraden and his wife spent more than two years accumulating the materials they used.

Ambience easily is established in every room but for a more private home-theater experience, a tiered home-theater room also is featured.

Fixtures throughout the house were created from pre-existing, nontraditional pieces imported from around the world. The first floor has two bedrooms with, like the rest of the hacienda, their own suites offering private bathrooms. One was done with antique cabinetry and marble counter tops while the other features a sink created from an old-fashioned laundry basin.

Imported solid pieces of stone were used wherever possible. For example, the sink in the downstairs powder room was carved from a piece of cantera stone extracted from the site. Solid slabs of stone were used to create kitchen counters and columns lining the backyard; wainscoting on the exterior of the house was made from blue rock extracted from the site to make way for the pool.

Extensive use of Mexican tile handpainted and imported from the small town of Puebla colors the house adding to its authentic feel. The risers on the staircase leading to the second floor retreat are lined with alternating styles of the tile. These colorful accents also were used as inlays in the floor, pavers in some areas of the yard and coverings for larger spaces such as wainscoting in a bedroom upstairs and walls in the powder room downstairs.



Photos courtesy of Barcode Properties

The saltwater pool boasts an enormous water feature designed by the builder consisting of four waterfalls, each activated individually to control the sound-splash noise levels in the yard. More than a dozen lights alternate in color to maintain ambience.



The layout of the kitchen, left, was designed for the 71-inch flatscreen television in the family room, above, which can be seen from behind the stovetop in the island. The kitchen also features 100-year-old French tiles taken from a church in Southern France.

The extensive detailing throughout the house is complemented well by the use of bold pieces of art. In the foyer, for example, a pair of hand painted doors with an image of the Madonna feature backlighting built into the walls, giving off a glow almost like a halo. And in the hallway upstairs overlooking the entry, columns from the L.A. County Courthouse grace the space. They were found in a thrift shop in Santa Barbara.

The true romance of this house, however, can be found outdoors. "A lot of times we had to tear things out because they were done right," Haraden said. When the stucco was

done on the outside of the house, for example, he said that it had to be done three times, because it didn't look authentic enough.

"Finally I took their tools away," he said. "They threw the stucco on by hand, and it gave the right effect."

Throughout the property, stone walkways are lined with rose bushes, palms and tropical plants brought in from around the country. Meander through an imported olive orchard with its reclaimed olive trees; the rose garden or a vineyard begun with a grapevine from Upland area reclaimed from L.A. County vineyards. The vines survived 35 years of

neglect. More than 25 of them are more than 150 years old.

"The secret to making a house look 100 years old is to have 100- to 150-year-old, mature planting," Haraden said.

The palms on the property were even rescued. Haraden tells of a giant palm he calls "Baby Huey" rescued from a remodeling project in the front of the Century Plaza Hotel. It spent two years unplanted on the side of a road and now occupies a spot in his backyard.

Of course, the saltwater pool in the backyard steals the show. It boasts an enormous water feature designed

FOR SALE
De La Vina Estate
Agoura Hills
\$7,950,000
By appointment only
Mark Miller
Barcode Properties
310-860-7595
www.delavinaestate.com

by Haraden consisting of four waterfalls, each activated individually to control the sound-splash noise levels in the yard. More than a dozen lights alternate in color to maintain ambience. The three wading areas with mosaics were inspired by the Wynn and Bellagio hotels in Las Vegas and are ideal for lounging, along with two spas and a platform for diving. It truly is a centerpiece of the property. Surrounded by romantic seating areas and two fireplaces to add to the intimacy of the area there is no lack of entertainment to be found here.

If that's not enough, the property is fully equestrian zoned, though the equestrian space currently is being used for a solar field, with panels to heat the pool.

Adding to the luxury and utility of the property, Haraden built a photography studio for his daughter using wood from a barn in the Midwest for the frame. The spacious studio has an enormous white screen for still shoots. It is often used by professional photographers now that his daughter, the photographer in the family, has gone to school.

The building in which the studio is found is large enough to house seven Ferraris if you wanted to. It also includes an upstairs office with glass walls, one overlooking the studio, the other the surrounding views — an ideal place to view a sunset.

There is much more to see and experience on this 10-acre property and residence offering approximately 8,000 square feet of living space.

Originally listed at \$11.5 million, the estate currently is being offered at \$7,950,000. This fete of green romance design is available for private showing by appointment only. To schedule a tour, call listing agent Mark Miller at Barcode Properties, 310-860-7595. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://www.delavinaestate.com>.