COURTHONES Lamorinda Weekly Volume 05 Issue 4 Wednesday, April 27, 2011

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Lafayette Kitchen Tour Features Kitchens with Distinctive Styles

By Rosylyn Aragones Stenzel

ffering a wide variety of kitchens to suit just about every design taste, the 12th Annual Lafayette Juniors Kitchen Tour is Saturday, May 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This year's tour features six brand new and remodeled kitchens with an interesting variety; ranging from California Arts and Crafts style to East Coast Traditional. Also showcased are two homes with outdoor kitchens, and not to be missed, a Happy Valley home with a wine cellar built underneath.

Walking into Lance and Kari Grosz's kitchen, it's easy to feel relaxed and at home. It's an open, light-filled kitchen with a soothing color scheme of sage green and soft cream. As the owners of Lamorinda Construction, the Grosz's worked as both designer and contractor for their home. Kari chose sage green polished granite countertops with cream-colored cabinets for the main kitchen work area, and for the large island, designed the opposite; with sage cabinets and a cream marble countertop.

What she likes best about her kitchen is that it has great flow; with a prep sink and main sink, two dishwashers and plenty of counter space, there is lots of room where people can be working. Kari describes their style as, "California comfortable; kid-friendly, and a place where you can kick back and put your feet up," resulting in a kitchen that was built with a family and entertaining lifestyle in mind.

The eat-in table, which is part of the large island, is where the family of four has their meals and also serves as a place for the kids to do homework. A built-in desk nearby is a great place for Kari to work while multi-tasking and making dinner. Keeping in the family-friendly theme, the spoke-shaved, distressed maple floors are stylish and classic, yet easy to fix, if dinged.

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Lance and Kari Grosz's kitchen functions perfectly for family living and entertaining

Photo Kelly Wood