

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 16 Wednesday, October 8, 2014



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian ...read on page D13

The Art of Wine and Beer Making ... In the Garage

By Diane Claytor



*No room for a car in Bill Rose's Lafayette garage, filled with winemaking supplies.
Photo Diane Claytor*

For most of us, the garage is where we store our car, old furniture and last year's holiday decorations. But a growing number of Lamorindans have found a much more pleasurable use for their garages: producing adult libations. There's even a word for this fun activity: "garagista."

Vehicles belonging to longtime Lafayette resident Bill Rose haven't seen the inside of his garage for many years. That space is taken up by his wine-making equipment. Several miles away, Lafayette residents Troy Feddersen and Milt Bruzzone use their garages to house everything they need for brewing beer. And in both cases, friends and neighbors reap the benefits.

Rose became interested in wine while living in France following his college graduation. Once he moved to Lafayette, he learned that his dentist was a home winemaker and looking for a helper. Rose quickly volunteered to become a "cellar rat" and learned about making wine. "It was pretty rudimentary. We used a six foot diameter redwood hot tub," Rose said. "When it leaked, we used dental wax to stop the leaks. We actually made some pretty decent wine." After several years, Rose and his wife, Beverly, decided they wanted to start making wine on their own. But they also realized they had much more to learn. They took classes in chemistry and winemaking techniques; they learned about grapes, where to get them and how to grow them. And then the fun began.

Rose, a retired sales executive, makes both white and red wines and describes himself as a "laissez-faire" winemaker. "I try not to get in the way of the normal process." He's made some excellent wines and admits to having some that weren't very good. "When wine isn't good, it's part of the mystery of winemaking. As someone once advised me, calm down and let the wine do its thing. Have a glass and relax," Rose stated.

He makes 75 to 100 cases of wine a year and does this for his own personal pleasure. "It's a great hobby," Rose proclaimed. "When I was younger, I had a Walter Mitty-type dream of being the next Robert Mondavi. I even looked to see if I could find five acres in Sonoma for a small vineyard. And then I studied the economics of it and realized that it just didn't make sense for me. So I decided not to ruin my hobby by putting dollar signs in front of it.

... continued on page D4

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	12	\$529,000	\$2,587,000
MORAGA	7	\$290,000	\$1,264,000
ORINDA	9	\$385,000	\$1,850,000

Home sales are compiled by CalREsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.



LAFAYETTE

- 3232 Elvia Street, \$830,000, 3 Bdrms, 2270 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 9-5-14
- 3838 Happy Valley Road, \$2,587,000, 4 Bdrms, 3065 SqFt, 1998 YrBlt, 9-10-14;
Previous Sale: \$250,000, 11-14-96
- 3316 Las Huertas Road, \$1,749,000, 4 Bdrms, 3566 SqFt, 1977 YrBlt, 9-9-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,052,000, 12-04-02
- 3166 Linda Vista Lane, \$801,000, 3 Bdrms, 2474 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 9-5-14;
Previous Sale: \$65,500, 04-15-03
- 3963 Los Arabis Drive, \$1,650,000, 3 Bdrms, 2185 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 8-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$83,000, 09-11-72
- 771 Los Palos Drive, \$2,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 3146 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 9-8-14
- 3482 Moraga Boulevard, \$889,000, 2 Bdrms, 1258 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 8-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$335,000, 10-09-98
- 529 Morecroft Road, \$1,415,000, 5 Bdrms, 3769 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 8-29-14
- 3 Oliveira Lane, \$2,200,000, 5 Bdrms, 3130 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 8-29-14
- 3354 Reliez Highland Road, \$529,000, 3 Bdrms, 2607 SqFt, 1941 YrBlt, 9-15-14;
Previous Sale: \$990,000, 07-13-07
- 3330 Ridge Road, \$675,000, 3 Bdrms, 1188 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 9-12-14;
Previous Sale: \$275,000, 11-09-99
- 3040 Rohrer Drive, \$1,150,000, 4 Bdrms, 1728 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 9-11-14;
Previous Sale: \$827,500, 04-03-12

MORAGA

- 103 Ascot Court #A, \$290,000, 2 Bdrms, 1106 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 8-29-14
- 18 Fieldbrook Place, \$850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2262 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-29-14;
Previous Sale: \$670,000, 06-13-14
- 1125 Larch Avenue, \$1,255,000, 4 Bdrms, 2367 SqFt, 1963 YrBlt, 9-11-14;
Previous Sale: \$435,000, 09-15-99
- 1295 Larch Avenue, \$1,075,000, 4 Bdrms, 2438 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 8-29-14

... continued on page D8





KURT PIPER GROUP

Our Lamorinda and Walnut Creek Sales

PENDING



624 Augusta Dr.

SOLD



3742 Sundale Rd.

SOLD



3838 Happy Valley Rd.

SOLD



3539 Wilkinson Lane*

PENDING



3023 Rohrer Dr.

SOLD



467 Florence Dr.

SOLD



15 Blackberry Ct.

SOLD



1011 Winton Dr.*

SOLD



614 Lancaster Dr.*

SOLD



750 Los Palos Dr.

SOLD



52 Miner Rd.

SOLD



529 Morecroft Dr.

SOLD



523 Miner Rd.*

SOLD



100 Underhill Rd.*

SOLD



1082 Juanita Dr.

SOLD



63 Bates Blvd.

SOLD



39 Greentree Ct.*

SOLD



3230 Burton Ct.*

SOLD



990 Stow Lane*

SOLD



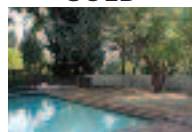
326 Lowell Lane East

SOLD



7808 Stoneleaf Rd.

SOLD



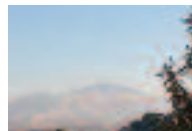
3911 Leroy Way*

SOLD



2905 Hillsdale Dr.*

SOLD



2400 Pine Knoll Dr.*

SOLD



3380 Reliez Highland Rd.

SOLD



959 4th St.

SOLD



7239 Valley Trails*

SOLD



1106 Upper Happy Valley*

SOLD



52 Lancaster Ct.*

SOLD



3390 Orchard Valley Lane

SOLD



304 Castle Glen Rd.*

SOLD



3374 Moraga Blvd.*

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* Represented the Buyer



The Art of Wine and Beer Making ... In the Garage

... continued from page D1



Bill Rose (left) and his wine making helper getting ready to bottle his homemade wine. Photo Diane Claytor

My Super Bowl is when I give my friends a bottle and they tell me it's one of the best wines they've ever had," he noted.

Rose is a member of the Contra Costa Wine Group, a 35-year-old organization of "home winemakers dedicated to making and drinking good wine." The group conducts a very professional and popular wine competition every year – last year there were 110 entries – and judges include sommeliers, winery owners, wine retailers and restaurateurs. Rose has won four blue ribbons over the last eight years, an accomplishment of which he's very proud.

Although Lafayette's Feddersen grew up in Napa, worked in wineries, took winemaking classes and enjoys a good glass of wine, he finds it much more satisfying to make beer. "It's amazing how many people around here make their own beer,"

Feddersen said. "I've learned that several neighbors and even one of the Lafayette City Council members are home brewers." Bruzzone had long been interested in learning how to make beer. When he met Feddersen at a Lafayette Rotary gathering and tasted Feddersen's home brew, Bruzzone knew he had found his teacher. The two have been brewing together for just over a year. Bruzzone says Feddersen, who has been making beer since his college days, is an excellent teacher.

Unlike wine, which, depending on the grape and style, can take anywhere from six months to three years before you have a drinkable product, it can take as little as three weeks from start to finish to get an excellent bottle of beer, Feddersen explained.

... continued on page D6



Rose, and his wife, Beverly, getting ready to crush grapes.

Photo provided

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The Art of Wine and Beer Making ... In the Garage

... continued from page D4



"It's also easier to get beer to taste right, and there's a wider range of what's acceptable," he noted. "Beers have their own definite styles and you can tweak them so you can get exactly what you like." People have been known to add ginger or chocolate to their home-brewed beers. "Milt likes honey beer so we've added honey to every batch we've made," Feddersen said.

Both Rose and Feddersen say that temperature control is probably one of the most significant factors in making excellent alcoholic beverages at home. And both admit to being somewhat creative with managing this. Red wine is typically made in the fall "when the evenings can get quite cool," Rose said. So he wraps electric blankets around the vats of wine and regulates the temperature by turning the blanket temperature up or down. With white wine, he runs cold water through stainless steel coils, which he places directly into the wine. Feddersen's temperature control process is very similar; if it's too warm, he puts a towel with ice over the carboy (the container in which the beer ferments) and if it's too cool, he'll wrap the carboy in an electric blanket. "There are heating and cooling solutions you can buy," Feddersen said, "but my methods seem to work just fine."

Making wine and beer at home is done for the pure enjoyment of both the activity and the results. Feddersen and Rose say that while their hobbies may be somewhat cost-effective, by the time you consider all the equipment and supplies needed, they're not really saving money. "Home brewers are typically making a quality beer," Feddersen noted, "so the price is basically equivalent to what you'd pay in a store."

Bruzzone, Feddersen and Rose all have a real passion for their beer-brewing and wine-making hobbies and love being able to share the resulting bottles with their friends. No doubt, these friends happily accept.

Troy Feddersen (left) and Milt Bruzzone purchasing the supplies they need for brewing their next batch of beer.

Photo provided

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...continued from Page D2

MORAGA ... continued

- 112 Merion Terrace, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 3424 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 9-12-14;
Previous Sale: \$885,000, 09-12-01
53 Rick Court, \$1,264,000, 4 Bdrms, 2369 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 9-12-14;
Previous Sale: \$872,000, 06-30-03
288 Sandringham Drive #N, \$1,134,000, 3 Bdrms, 2071 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 9-11-14; Previous Sale: \$323,500, 10-15-87
817 Villa Lane #4, \$336,000, 2 Bdrms, 882 SqFt, 1968 YrBlt, 9-12-14;
Previous Sale: \$276,000, 09-27-02

ORINDA

- 155 Amber Valley Drive, \$1,330,000, 3 Bdrms, 2506 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 9-9-14; Previous Sale: \$985,000, 05-20-09
9 Broadview Terrace, \$1,850,000, 4 Bdrms, 2382 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 9-12-14;
Previous Sale: \$1,120,000, 01-29-08
43 Citron Knoll, \$385,000, 9-8-14
54 Citron Knoll, \$1,431,500, 9-16-14
623 Cross Ridge Terrace, \$1,175,000, 4 Bdrms, 2866 SqFt, 1979 YrBlt, 8-29-14
39 Hacienda Circle, \$845,000, 2 Bdrms, 1769 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 9-12-14
616 Miner Road, \$1,210,000, 2 Bdrms, 2115 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 9-9-14;
Previous Sale: \$648,000, 12-27-10
75 Muth Drive, \$915,000, 4 Bdrms, 2087 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 8-29-14
68 Persimmon Walk, \$1,262,000, 9-9-14



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Lamorinda Weekly

is an independent publication, produced by and for the residents of Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda, CA

Lamorinda Weekly, P.O. Box 6133,
Moraga, CA 94570-6133

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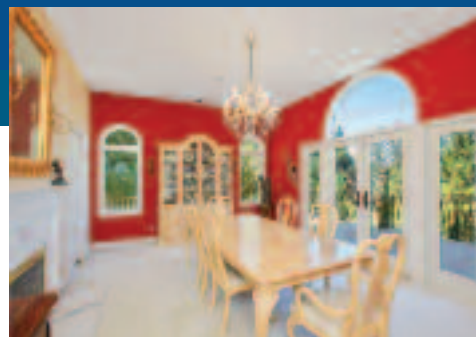
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Dining Room Feng Shui

By Michele Duffy



Autumn Mums, which symbolize health and gratitude, adorn this Lafayette home entranceway.

Photos Michele Duffy

For many of us autumn signals the time of year when we gather together, enjoy the fruits of our labor, and spend time sharing longer meals and celebrations.

As holidays approach, it's time to dust off the dining room table, or dare I say, clear the clutter away from the place that can all too often become the dumping ground for the family, more so than any other area of the home. Proper feng shui in general includes fantastic design and good old common sense, but there are some specific ways to incorporate dining room feng shui into your seasonal adaptations and holiday preparations.

For generations we have connected with the harvest and the natural world, so bringing the crisp fall energy into our homes lifts our mood, and can grace our dining room tables with celebratory energy. The first tenant of good dining room feng shui is to remember the intimacy that dining rooms suggest. I may be channeling my inner Jamie Oliver but I am determined to encourage strongly that people actually use their dining rooms more than twice a year! Try to avoid sitting with your family in front of a TV while you take a meal and encourage the family to sit together each night so that everyone eats consciously, get face time with all family

members, and most importantly reconnects with one another. No matter how intense our lives are when we come together in the evening we are practicing good feng shui.

Dining rooms are reserved for our most intimate gatherings with family and friends, and you can reflect the importance of that feng shui principle by including different levels of lighting to create an inviting atmos-

phere and festive ambiance. Different levels of lighting can include low lights, like candles on the table or sideboards, and a dimmer for the ceiling lighting over the dining room table. Dimmers are very inexpensive to install and allow so much flexibility for various dining experiences, whether for everyday family dining or a romantic dinner for two.

... continued on page D12



Fall dining room flora decorations at this Moraga Country Club home.

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Sold // Moraga
122 Shuey Drive

Sold // Lafayette
420 Read Drive

Sold // Walnut Creek
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Dining Room Feng Shui

... continued from page D10



Autumnal dining room table décor.

The dining room walls can be painted in a wide variety of lively colors to enhance the celebratory energy we create in our dining rooms, but use color to “activate” the Five Elements (Water, Wood, Fire, Earth and Metal) of the area of the home where the dining room is located. For example, if the dining room is in the Wealth & Abundance/Prosperity area, which is governed by Wood, a soft green on the walls would simultaneously activate that area of the Bagua (see diagram).

Good feng shui also includes the enhanced symbolism from the visuals surrounding us. Dining room art might include personal photos that make good conversation pieces, or our favorite whimsical artists’ work, or a large mirror to magnify the happy energy we feel blessed with.

For the table, many festive fall decorative options include pumpkins in all their shapes, colors and sizes, apples, gourds and yellow Mums, which symbolize health and gratitude. Apples are symbolic of relationship luck and harmonious family en-

ergy. Remember, good feng shui includes removing and changing out seasonal decorations immediately when that holiday or season is over, so let the present moment guide your choices.

Arrange the dining room décor to reflect the harvest and remind you of all of the bounty in your life. Use feng shui this autumn to make your home a sanctuary that reflects your highest hopes and dreams. Fall is the perfect time to turn our attention to making the home cozy in preparation for winter. When we consciously align ourselves and are homes with the cycles of nature we find more balance and harmony in our lives.



A well lit, appropriate dining room feng shui furniture placement in Lafayette.

Michele Duffy, BTB M.F.S. is an Orinda resident who, since 1999, enjoys creating “Space as Medicine” Feng Shui one space at a time, as well as hiking in nature, cooking, spending time with her family; Canyon Ranch Feng Shui Master, International Feng Shui Guild (IFSG) Red Ribbon Professional. For more info, visit www.mandalafengshui.com, email spaceharmony@gmail.com, or call (520) 647-4887.



Digging Deep with Cynthia Brian Gourds, Ghouls, and Glorious Garlic

By Cynthia Brian

"Garlick maketh a man wynke, drynke, and stynke." –
Thomas Nash, 16th Century Poet



Peppercorns, sage, shallots, and garlic make a zesty, spicy herbal broth.

Photo Cynthia Brian

Allium sativum, also known as garlic has been revered in medicine, myth, and magic throughout time. Sanskrit records registered the medicinal properties of garlic 5,000 years ago. The Greeks and Babylonians used it for healing purposes, and the Chinese have prescribed garlic treatments for over 3,000 years. The Egyptians reverently buried their Pharaohs with consecrated cloves ensuring sweet dreams, and fed the slaves garlic to increase strength and endurance while building the pyramids. Roman soldiers believed that garlic bestowed bravery and courage. Hippocrates recommended garlic as a medical remedy for infections, digestive disorders, wounds, and even leprosy. In 1858, Louis Pasteur noted garlic's antibacterial qualities. Considered an aphrodisiac, it may be one reason that Tibetan monks weren't allowed to consume garlic before entering a monastery!

Legend has it that garlic repels vampires and wards off the evil eye. Popularized by Bram Stoker's "Dracula," garlic not only is effective against the blood-sucking princes of the night, but also fends off the undead, including witches, warlocks, and werewolves. The Salerno Regimen of Health of the 12th century stated, "Garlic hath powers to save from death, though it makes unsavory breath." Ah yes, we all know the aroma of garlic breath, most certainly not a temptress of amour!

As All Hallowed Eve approaches, we may not be inclined to rub down our chimneys, keyholes, and clothing, or wear allium necklaces as protective gear, but since this month is the perfect time to plant the vigorous vampire repellent, let's dig in.

... continued on page D14

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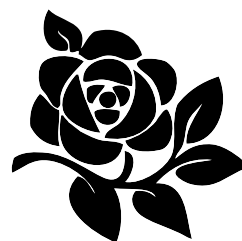
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Gourds, Ghouls, and Glorious Garlic

... continued from page D13

How to Plant and Harvest Vampire Repellent Garlic

A relative of onions, chives, and shallots, garlic is easy to grow. Garlic is best planted when the soil is still warm, nights are cool, and frost is six to eight weeks away. Garlic needs a head start on sprouting before winter arrives. Buy seed garlic at your garden center or order from nursery catalogues or online. Recommended suppliers include Rene's Garden, Burpee, Territorial Seed, Dominion Seed House, Harris Seeds, or Botanical Interests. Gardener's Supply offers unique garlic grow bags. When in a pinch, I have even planted cloves from the grocery store and they thrive.

1. Choose a sunny spot.
2. Prepare the soil. Garlic prefers well-drained soil mixed with rich, organic matter.
3. Separate the garlic bulb into cloves.
4. Plant each clove about 1 ½ inches deep, 6 inches apart with the root pointing down (that's the round part) and the tip reaching for the sun.
5. Cover with soil. Add a thick layer of straw for warmth and protection.
6. Maintain a level of 3 inches of mulch covering throughout the winter.
7. Harvesting begins in late spring when the leaves dry and flop over.
8. Gently tug until the bulb comes out. Garlic is ready if it is round and plump.
9. After you've shaken the dirt off your bulbs, place the plants on a flat or lay on top of the soil in the garden to dry for at least a week.
10. Once the bulbs are dry and the skins are papery, you can weave garlands to hang to dry. Or cut off the tops, trim the roots, and single layer the bulbs on a sheet to dry for several more weeks. To reduce the potential for rot, make sure there is plenty of air circulation.
11. Store in a cool, dry place. "Garlic Keepers" which are bags or pots (ceramic, terra cotta, or metal) with holes for circulation work well. When stored properly, garlic bulbs will remain fresh and pungent for seven months.

With my Italian heritage, I can't imagine a meal without garlic. In our household, it turns ordinary dishes into culinary masterpieces. We also use it for a plethora of medicinal purposes from putting cloves in our pets' food to deter ticks and worms, to using it with warm olive oil to soothe an earache or calm a cough. Mosquitoes and insects avoid me when I devour cloves of raw garlic. (Of course, humans and unseen devils keep their distance as well!)

Herbalists recommend garlic to combat illnesses including high cholesterol, colds, flu, coughs, bronchitis, fever, ringworm, and digestive issues. There is mounting scientific evidence that garlic could prevent heart disease, lower cholesterol, and protect against some cancers. I agree with Louis Diat's words about this curative bulb, "Without garlic I simply would not care to live."

Plant enough cloves and you'll have plenty of the stinking rose for eating, healing, and keeping ghouls, ghosts, and gremlins at bay!

Happy Halloween, Happy Gardening, Happy Growing, Happy Garlic Breath! Booooo!



Hang garlic garlands to dry as well as ward off the warlocks, witches, vampires, and evil eye. Garlic chives in bloom.



A basket of pumpkins, gourds, and squash decorates a front porch.

Cynthia Brian's Mid-Month Reminders



Pick the last of your bell peppers before the rains begin.

1. Boost your levels of vitamin C before flu and cold season begins by brewing a homegrown rose hip, sage, and peppercorn tea. Pick ripe red rose hips from your rose bushes and red peppercorns from your pepper tree. Smash or grind and add to tea pot with shaved ginger, lemon rind, lemon juice, sage leaves, and honey. Peppery and delicious, hot or iced. Substitute garlic for the honey for a zesty herbal broth yummy with steamed vegetables.
2. Pick your remaining peppers, tomatoes, tomatillos, and eggplant before the rains start.
3. Enjoy the fiery red foliage of pistache trees in a container or cut a few branches for indoor displays.
4. Fertilize and aerate lawns this month.
5. Refrigerate tulips, hyacinths, and crocus for four weeks before planting.
6. Thanks to all the fans of the Lamorinda Weekly who stopped by the *Be the Star You Are!*® booth at the Pear and Wine Festival to pick up seeds, potpourri, and participate in our community writing story. If you are interested in knowing how the story evolved, here's the link: http://www.btsya.com/uploads/2014_Once_upon_a_time_REVISED.pdf

Cynthia Brian

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62 Van Tassel Charm abounds in this 4bd/3.5ba, 3422sf traditional on .68ac in Sleepy Hollow. Formal LR & DR; eat-in kitchen/ family combo; master retreat with large separate office; and den/study room. **\$1,295,000**

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81 Mossbridge Lane Beautiful Orinda Downs home. 6+ bedrooms, 5 & a half baths on a tranquil & peaceful .5ac lot with level lawns & approved plans for a pool. This is a wonderful place to call home! Come see!! **\$2,495,000**

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61 Miramonte Drive Highly desirable Miramonte Gardens opportunity. Wonderful 3bd/2ba townhome w/lots of natural light, dual paned windows & more. Excellent commute location & close to schools. **\$519,000**

MORAGA



267 Paseo Bernal Spacious & sophisticated 3bd/2.5ba end-unit near shopping & restaurants. Bright & airy with vaulted ceilings & windows on three sides. Lovely private patio & lots of storage. **\$725,000**

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15 Idlewood Court HUGE \$110,000 price reduction on great one story 4 bedroom, 2 bath, 2250 sq ft home with hardwoods, duals, separate exterior structure. Walk to Miramonte High, close to shopping. **\$1,065,000**

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863 Camino Ricardo Corliss area home, hardwood floors throughout, new kitchen, updated baths, newer furnace and A/C, private backyard and patio. Move-in ready. **\$1,250,000**

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3921 Happy Valley Road Stunning 4600+sf custom 4bd/3.5ba gated estate on 1 acre in heart of H.V. Pool, pano views. Hwd flrs, cherry kit. w/island open to FR, library, elevator. Close to top rated schools, commute. **\$2,795,000**

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1142 Glen Road Stunning NEW single level 5bd/4.5ba 4510 sq. ft. traditional on flat .79 acre lot in popular Happy Valley Glen. Exquisite millwork, chef's kitchen. Walk to downtown Lafayette & BART. Top schools. **\$3,495,000**

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