

Villa Montana

10500 Franz Valley Road, Calistoga

LONG VERSION

Winding your way up from the main road and driving through a breezy tree-covered lane as the light dances through the leaves, the sense that you are somewhere special begins to take hold. Passing a private pond and a 30-stall horse stable and riding area, you soon find yourself at a 16th-century iron gate that opens to an entryway garden featuring 135-year-old Spanish olive trees and a 17th-century well — and in the distance you see what it has all been leading up to, a spectacular fairytale villa that looks like it was imported from the sunny Tuscan countryside.

But it is no fairytale. This 9,700-square-foot, 3-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom home atop a rolling Calistoga hill with endless views of majestic Mt. St. Helena and surrounding Knights Valley offers a once-in-a-lifetime combination of serenity, privacy and, with grounds exceeding 500 acres, space for the discerning family to live a truly enchanted life.

Everything in the main house has been carefully considered and selected to reflect a true, well-aged Italian-style villa that has been lovingly added on to by family over the years, much like this one was, with many of the components coming directly from Italy and Paris or fashioned by European craftsmen and artisans. But like a true villa, this home is no museum piece, it is meant to be lived in and enjoyed — whether that means strolling the rose garden and immaculately maintained landscaping, playing bocce ball on the regulation-size court, swimming in the pool, working out in the professional gym, playing basketball or tennis on the dual-use court, entertaining in the outdoor kitchen, lounging in the sunny loggia gazing at Mt. St. Helena, or just enjoying the 360-degree view offered in the outdoor viewing tower.

With floor-to-ceiling windows and seamless connections to the outside area and its many patios, decks, gardens and statuary — where the weather is inviting almost all year long — the villa's endless outdoor recreation opportunities and beauty are always calling. Not to be overlooked, however, is the authentic old-world detail and charm inside. A small sampling starts with the dramatic imported iron torches in the main hall; continues with the rustic brick used in the tower, main terrace and loggia that were imported from a village just outside Venice; and is made complete by the bespoke lights and furniture thoughtfully selected from the fabled Les Puces de Clignancourt French market.

The great room is a favorite place to gather for morning conversation or intimate celebratory family dinners, or simply to enjoy curled up with a cup of coffee next to the oversize Italian artifact fireplace. Comfort and scale blend seamlessly here as welcoming morning light streams in from the adjacent loggia and dances off the two-story boxed wooden ceiling (every room in the villa has a different ceiling treatment). An indoor tower featuring beams repurposed from a 300-year-old Virginia barn is the perfect place for TV and games, while an office/den with built-in wooden shelves is ideal for getting work done. Two upstairs bedrooms offer respite with en suite baths and overlooks of the grounds. The primary suite boasts impressive views of Mt. St.

Helena that will greet you in the morning, while his-and-her walk-in closets wrap around the room and meet at a shared bath featuring a Parisian marble bathtub. This home is made for entertaining, and guests will love to tour the expansive 3,500-bottle wine cellar, sample estate-made olive oil (30 to 50 gallon yields are not uncommon) and dine at the heated outdoor patio on delectables — like pizza baked in the wood-fired oven — made in the outdoor kitchen.

The property also offers a guesthouse/art studio, a caretaker's cottage, staff residences and an office located in the professional equestrian area. And while life at Villa Montana might truly feel like an escape from the everyday world, a county airport and the town of Calistoga are minutes away as are many world-class wineries. And San Francisco is just over an hour's drive. This one-of-a-kind property truly offers a chance to live a fairytale life in an estate that feels anchored to wine country and yet a world away.

SHORT VERSION

A one-of-a-kind Italian-style country villa located on more than 500 acres in Calistoga is the perfect place for the discerning family to live a truly enchanted life. This 9,700-square-foot, 3-bedroom, 3.5-bathroom home atop a rolling Calistoga hill with views of majestic Mt. St. Helena and surrounding Knights Valley offers a rare combination of serenity and privacy. The property boasts endless recreation options including strolling the immaculately-maintained landscaping, playing bocce ball on the regulation-size court, swimming in the pool, working out in the professional gym, playing basketball or tennis on the dual-use court, entertaining in the outdoor kitchen after making a selection from the 3,500-bottle wine cellar, lounging in the sunny loggia gazing at Mt. St. Helena or just enjoying the 360-degree view offered in the outdoor viewing tower. Additionally, a private pond with sandy beach, ATV trails and a 30-stall professional equestrian center ensure you'll never run out of things to do. But the villa is the real star, sitting just beyond an entryway garden with 135-year-old Spanish olive trees and a 17th-century well, it beckons like an Italian fairytale. Almost every piece of the home was either sourced from Italy or Paris or fabricated and hand-hewed by European craftsman and artisans. This includes dramatic imported iron torches in the main hall; Italian imported rustic brick in the tower, main terrace and loggia; elegant fireplace and door surrounds; and bespoke lights and furniture thoughtfully selected from the fabled Les Puces de Clignancourt French market. But this house is no museum piece, it made to be lived in and enjoyed. And there is no better place to do that than in the two-story-tall great room, a favorite place to gather for morning conversation or intimate celebratory family dinners, or simply to enjoy curled up with a cup of coffee next to the large fireplace. This one-of-a-kind property — just short distance from wine country and San Francisco — truly offers a chance to live a fairytale life in an estate that feels anchored to wine country and yet a world away.