

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 08 Issue 2 Wednesday, March 26, 2014



Gardening Guide

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Award-Winning 'Wine Cave' Goes Beyond a Refrigerator

By Chris Lavin

Wine is important to many Lamorinda families – some even have dedicated specialized refrigerators to store the good stuff. But if you have a winery, why not dig a cave? Yes, a real cave.

“We wanted someplace with temperature and humidity control,” said David Rey, who with his wife Dianne and two more generations owns the Reliez Valley Vineyards in Lafayette. They have grapes, they have machinery. They needed space.

To get a cave, one must dig. To find out how and where, Rey called the Orinda architect who designed his home and outbuildings back in the early 1990s, Rick Kattenburg.

“I originally designed the home on the 2-and-a-half acre property in 1991,” Kattenburg said. He added a pool cabana, an outdoor kitchen, and a garage with a game room on top almost 10 years later. Then they started on “the cave.”

The Reys' grape vines were already in the ground, and doing well. But the resulting wine needed space to age.

Spelunkers have known the secret for years – crawl down into an existing cave some 20 or 30 or more feet, and you get into the special thermal realm of 50 to 55 degrees, a perfect temperature for storing wine. It can be 100 degrees outside, or even below freezing, and still 55 down in the caves. So Rey called Kattenburg, and Kattenburg called in the bulldozers. The equipment started



It might look like a barn, but this seasonal storage shed is equipped with a winch on steroids to lift heavy equipment back and forth.

Photo provided

humming in 2012.

Architect Kattenburg has been in business for 35 years in Orinda, and specializes in residential projects. Rey's home was a big project, complicated, he said, but it helped that the homeowner was so involved.

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Lamorinda Home Sales recorded

City	Last reported:	LOWEST AMOUNT:	HIGHEST AMOUNT:
LAFAYETTE	8	\$735,000	\$1,950,000
MORAGA	6	\$500,000	\$1,300,000
ORINDA	11	\$700,000	\$1,525,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, 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

- 3305 Ameno Drive, \$1,231,000, 3 Bdrms, 2055 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 2-19-14
 1130 Glen Road, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 2099 SqFt, 1948 YrBlt, 2-18-14
 110 Haslemere Court #4, \$735,000, 3 Bdrms, 2025 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 2-26-14
 860 Hope Lane, \$1,000,000, 4 Bdrms, 1689 SqFt, 1953 YrBlt, 2-25-14;
 Previous Sale: \$450,000, 04-29-99
 3858 Quail Ridge Road, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2883 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 2-19-14;
 Previous Sale: \$1,300,000, 07-07-05
 25 Richelle Court, \$1,325,000, 3 Bdrms, 2284 SqFt, 1966 YrBlt, 2-26-14;
 Previous Sale: \$951,000, 10-29-09
 3351 Springhill Road, \$1,950,000, 3 Bdrms, 1396 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 2-25-14
 3142 Sweetbrier Circle, \$885,000, 4 Bdrms, 1624 SqFt, 1962 YrBlt, 2-21-14;
 Previous Sale: \$76,000, 08-18-76

MORAGA

- 116 Corliss Drive, \$1,300,000, 4 Bdrms, 2288 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 2-26-14;
 Previous Sale: \$995,000, 02-23-11
 107 Fairfield Place, \$650,000, 3 Bdrms, 1760 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 2-21-14
 120 Merion Terrace, \$985,000, 3 Bdrms, 2725 SqFt, 1988 YrBlt, 2-21-14;
 Previous Sale: \$375,000, 02-25-88
 533 Moraga Road #230, \$756,000, 2706 SqFt, 2008 YrBlt, 2-20-14
 454 Rheem Boulevard, \$500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1322 SqFt, 1974 YrBlt, 2-21-14
 42 Sea Pines Street, \$985,000, 3 Bdrms, 2828 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 2-18-14;
 Previous Sale: \$745,000, 08-17-01

ORINDA

- 31 Charles Hill Road, \$975,000, 3 Bdrms, 1911 SqFt, 1940 YrBlt, 2-14-14;
 Previous Sale: \$142,000, 10-17-78
 25 Dias Dorados, \$810,000, 4 Bdrms, 1966 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 2-19-14;
 Previous Sale: \$950,000, 03-21-05
 16 East Altarinda Drive, \$1,525,000, 3 Bdrms, 2577 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 2-19-14;
 Previous Sale: \$1,450,000, 06-19-13
 10 Ellen Court, \$850,000, 3 Bdrms, 1523 SqFt, 1957 YrBlt, 2-19-14;
 Previous Sale: \$347,000, 11-17-93
 1 Estates Court, \$1,075,000, 3 Bdrms, 2184 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 2-14-14;
 Previous Sale: \$310,000, 07-29-96
 1 Estates Drive, \$700,000, 1 Bdrms, 1138 SqFt, 1961 YrBlt, 2-19-14;
 Previous Sale: \$36,000, 05-28-71
 3 Fleetwood Court, \$1,155,000, 4 Bdrms, 2241 SqFt, 1960 YrBlt, 2-19-14
 29 Las Piedras, \$749,000, 2 Bdrms, 1017 SqFt, 1951 YrBlt, 2-20-14;
 Previous Sale: \$480,000, 03-11-11
 103 Oak Road, \$950,000, 4 Bdrms, 1795 SqFt, 2006 YrBlt, 2-14-14;
 Previous Sale: \$790,000, 01-16-09
 31 Vista Del Orinda, \$750,000, 3 Bdrms, 1238 SqFt, 1952 YrBlt, 2-25-14
 535 the Glade, \$1,000,000, 2 Bdrms, 2175 SqFt, 1985 YrBlt, 2-25-14



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- Oversized great room
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7808 Stoneleaf Road, San Ramon • \$719,000

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PENDING

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- Spacious kitchen
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52 Miner Road, Orinda • \$919,000

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PENDING

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- Two living spaces
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63 Bates Blvd., Orinda • \$999,000

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Wine Cave

...continued from page D1



Architect Rick Kattenburg in his Orinda office.

Photo Chris Lavin

Kattenburg says he loves working with Rey, who was involved at every step of the project.

They both watched as the 20-foot hole became a magnificent 1,000-square-foot barrel storage area, with a huge dining table in the center for entertaining, tasting and mixing. Now it's not only a center for tasting, but for socializing.

"It's incredible," Kattenburg says.

But the road to fruition was long. The first step was, where to put a cave? Kattenburg gets out a piece of paper.

"We built the house originally with a fire truck turnout above the house," he said, his pencil outlining a driveway in his architect's hand. "We didn't want guests having to look down on cars." Face it, would you want to gaze out into the valley with a glass of wine in your hand, or onto a parking lot?

They decided to dig the cave under the turnout – again thinking of unobstructed views, should equipment be in use. But at about 10 feet, the soil turned to rock. Heavier equipment like jackhammers were ordered. The hole got deeper.

...continued on page D6



Owner David Rey and architect Rick Kattenburg decided on adding an entertainment area to the "wine cave," so tastings and dinners could be had right alongside barrels of aging wine. The chandelier in the center is made from a wine barrel.

Photos courtesy Rick Kattenburg



Reliez Valley Vineyards has more than one area for tasting and mixing, including this subterranean room that also serves as a tasting area for micro-brewed beer.

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CalBRE#01868839



*Per tax records

Wine Cave

...continued from page D4

In the digging of the cave, Kattenburg and Rey discovered veins of shells that signified the edge of an ocean. Lamorinda Weekly covered that discovery of 6-million-year-old clam fossils (see story at <https://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue0610/Beachfront-Vineyard-in-Lafayette-Cave-Dig-Unearths-6-10-Million-Year-Old-Fossils.html>). The geology caused Kattenburg to modify the access to the



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cave, and a bent tunnel was built underground on a downward slope to tie in with the wine cave. Rey knew that the lime-rich history of the soil would be good for his grapes.

The project ended up, after completion, winning the 2014 Houzz Design Award, a coveted architectural prize awarded by the 16 million users of the Houzz site. "We are so honored," Kattenburg said. "It's a big deal."

Rey's relatively small 2-plus acres have cabernet sauvignon, zinfandel, syrah and other grapes lining the property. He also has a micro-brewery in the family, with the wine cave at its center. "It's a working wine cave," he said. "It's beautiful."

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Cynthia Brian's Gardening Guide for April

"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything." – William Shakespeare

By Cynthia Brian

Beginning at age 8 when we were taught to drive, it was the responsibility of my siblings and me to water our crops one plant at a time starting in April and continuing throughout the warm months. My parents were "dry farmers," meaning that we had no source of irrigation for our fields. My dad built a stainless steel tank on the back of his World War II Willy Jeep, and every day my sisters and I would pump water from the creek or well into the tank, then drive through the fields stopping at each vine or tree to offer a drink. The work was tedious and arduous yet necessary for the survival of our family farm. Although not always pretty, the fruit from our dry farming techniques was super sweet, delicious, and perpetually in high demand. In another act of water management, my dad snaked the washing machine hose to the asparagus patch where after a long day on the tractor, we'd smother our aches in the warm mud. H2O was precious and never a drop was wasted. April is the month for youthful romping and creative conservation. Get busy digging in the dirt as spring has sprung.

- **CUT** back all plants, vines, trees, and bushes damaged by winter frosts.
- **PRUNE** shrubs scheduled to bloom in summer before their growth spurt. Lilacs, forsythia, and tulip trees can be pruned after they finish their spring bloom.
- **GROW** hardy, low maintenance cordylines, also known as festival grasses, in large containers or use in your landscape to provide splashes of vertical color.
- **CELEBRATE** Earth Day by honoring our planet, the supplier of life to over seven billion humans.
- **SUFFERING** from arthritis? Seed tape is a quick and easy way to sow seeds when mobility is compromised. Burpee, Park Seed, and Territorial Seed are among the suppliers available at your favorite retailer.
- **WATCH** your water usage. Be responsible with irrigation by watering in the morning or evening, using gray water whenever possible.
- **TAKE** pictures of your spring garden to share with others and to use as a guideline for harvesting times.
- **APPLY** two to three inches of compost around perennials, trees, and shrubs.
- **SKIP** tilling your soil unless you are starting a new bed. Tilling has been found to be harmful to the beneficial microbes, fungi, worms, and insects that help your garden grow.
- **CONTINUE** planting root crops of turnips, carrots, beets, radishes, and potatoes. Succession sowing keeps your harvest hearty.
- **PULL** or cut weeds as soon as they sprout to conserve water and nutrients for the plantings you want to showcase.
- **ATTRACT** beneficial bugs, bees, butterflies, and birds to your landscape by eliminating all pesticides and insecticides while providing a natural habitat for abundant food, shelter, water, and protection from prey.
- **PROPOGATE** drought resistant sexy succulents from cuttings.
- **PLANT** onions, chives, blueberries, lilies, dusty miller, alyssum, dianthus, and oregano.
- **PICK** fragrant lilacs and wisteria to decorate your interiors.
- **SET** out plants that you started indoors in February.
- **APPRECIATE** the shrill calls of the red-tailed hawks as they rid your garden of moles, voles, gophers, mice, and rats. These hunters can detect a mouse from 360 feet.
- **LOOKING** for the perfect rose that isn't in your local nursery or garden center? Check out Edmunds' Roses at www.edmundsroses.com for a huge selection in every color including hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas, groundcover roses, climbing roses, antiques, and tree roses.
- **CHOOSE** bird feeders that are appropriate for the birds that visit your yard. Make sure to keep all feeders away from windows to avoid bird strikes and injuries.
- **TRELLIS** a dwarf fruit tree for easier harvesting. Apple, peach, pear, plum, and apricot can be trained to grow vertically or horizontally. You may need two trees as pollinators.



A parade of spring color with delphiniums, tulips, and pansies.

Photo Cynthia Brian

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Anne Knight presents



5 Corte Bombero, Orinda

Located on a sunny court just minutes from downtown Orinda, 5 Corte Bombero is a dream home on a .65 acre lot. Traditional in style and thoughtfully updated, this home has it all.

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This fabulous home offers a flexible floor plan including 3 bedrooms, two full baths and a family room. From the white picket fence surrounding the level, professionally landscaped front yard, to thoughtful details such as crown molding, Bamboo floors, recently installed bay windows, and several access points to the backyard, this home combines traditional character with modern comforts and seamless indoor outdoor living. Ideally located just steps away from Burton Valley Elementary School, Merriewood Children's Center and Ranchos

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- **FILL** Easter baskets for the garden lovers on your list with essential garden tools including a pair of sturdy gloves, hand forged trowel, packets of seeds, a water wise nozzle, and a pot of Dutch tulips.
- **PROVIDE** privacy with pathway plantings of tall, upright grasses. Screening grasses which may grow to seven feet tall or more include feather reed grass, switch grass, and maiden grass.
- **SCATTER** seeds of self-sowers such as cosmos, California poppy, blanket flower, nasturtium, sunflower, and pot marigold for annual fireworks of color.
- **STOCK** up on cacti, succulents, and other drought tolerant plants at the Spring Opening Plant Sale on Saturday, April 12 at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek (<http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/>).
- **DELIGHT** in the pop of multihued tulips, delphiniums, aquilegia, muscari, hyacinths, and freesia parading in your landscape.

Swing into spring and feel like a kid again. Our gardens are abloom. This earth is yours.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.

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Cynthia is available as a speaker and consultant.



Grasses can be privacy screens. This Australian grass tree also sports fascinating spires that resemble horns at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek. Photos Cynthia Brian



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Mulching is important for trees and also shrubs. Besides being attractive, mulch can be used to conserve soil moisture, to buffer soil temperature extremes, to control weeds and competing vegetation and to replenish organic matter and nutrients in the soil.

The majority of landscape trees evolved in a woodland environment with natural mulch around them. Often the practice is to rake up or blow away any natural mulch in a home landscapes.

In a natural environment, trees generally do not grow in lawns or meadows and their root systems do not compete well against lawn grasses. A mulched area around a tree should be provided for the benefit of the tree. The size of the mulched areas around a tree depends on the size of the tree.

So don't wait until it's too late have a complete inspection by a Certified Arborist at Advance Tree Service and Landscaping.

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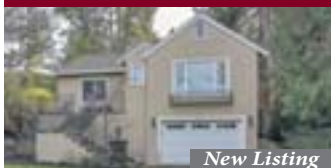
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ORINDA



New Listing

171 Camino Pablo Original 1936 custom 3bd/2ba. Great rm w/Cathedral ceilings & views of beautiful yd. Fam. rm opens to well-appointed kit. w/SS appliances, island. Master Suite retreat w/patio. Indoor/outdoor living.

\$935,000

ORINDA



Pending

5 Corte Bombero Traditional 4bd/2ba beautifully updated home w/ kitchen/ family great rm, exposed wood beam ceiling & fireplace in LR. On .65 ac fenced lot w/plenty of sunshine & outdoor living. Lvl lawns, gardens & brick patios.

\$1,050,000

ORINDA



9 Las Piedras Picturesque private 6bd/3ba home in park like setting w/panoramic views, level lawn & pool. 3745sf classic custom w/vaulted ceilings, walls of windows, hdwd flrs, den, workout rm, FR & well-appointed kitchen.

\$1,329,000

ORINDA



New Listing

52 Singingwood Lane Two story brick enhanced 5bd/2.5ba home on 1.06 ac. Formal entry, living & dining rms, spacious eat-in kit. & large family rm. Mstr retreat upstairs along w/ 3 other bdrms. Dwnstrs bdrn could make perfect ofc.

\$1,495,000

ORINDA



New Listing

14 Silverwood Court Cul-de-sac living at it's best. Enjoy privacy, views, level lawns, pool, spa, full guest house. Ideal for in/outside entertaining & comfort. Incredible luxury living, features & amenities. Great convenient location.

\$1,589,000

ORINDA



New Price

17 Tappan Lane Vistas across Orinda come alive from all rooms of this spacious 4,155 sf with 6 bd/4 ba & 2 half ba. High ceilings & light & bright. Perfect for fun in the sun with yards, decks, pool, & vineyard on 1.15 ac.

\$2,275,000

ORINDA



New Listing

81 Mossbridge Lane Beautifully updated approx. 4540 sf, 6bd/5.5ba Traditional Orinda Downs gem! Form meets function in this exquisite home perched on a private lane. This is the home you have been waiting for!

\$2,795,000

ORINDA



11 Scenic Drive Gorgeous 4bd/3.5ba, 4695 sf single-story Orinda estate on .64 ac lot w/exceptional style & quality; LR & DR; office; showplace kitchen/dining/fam rm; 1bd/1ba guest house; solar heated pool & lrg poolside patio.

\$2,998,000

ORINDA



New Listing

92 Sandhill Road Estate setting of unmatched appeal. Large spaces+ modern design allure for appealing family living or grand scale entertaining. Fab. views of valley & Briones reservoir/sunsets. Walls of windows, high ceilings.

\$4,850,000

MORAGA



Pending

1018 Del Rio Way Updated St. Mary's Garden Home. Level lot with one story five bedroom home - hardwood nearly throughout. Near to Moraga Commons and Saint Mary's College.

\$1,179,000

MORAGA



New Listing

119 Sandringham Dr. S. Light & bright executive cul-de-sac rancher w/ indr/outdr feel, gourmet granite kitchen, hdwd flrs, custom wndws, Anderson sliding drs, mstr ba w/steam shwr & heated flrs. Lvl yd, flagstone patio, views.

\$1,399,000

LAFAYETTE



971 Pleasant Hill Road Light & airy contemporary on private .50 ac Mt. Diablo view lot. 4 spacious bd & 3.5 ba incl. 2 mstr suites. Updated kit. w/brkfst bar. Large LR&DR. Huge mstr suite w/priv. deck, ofc area, 2 car attached gar.

\$995,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

567 Silverado Drive Fabulous traditional ranch on lvl lot, completely fenced, great for family living indoor & outdoor. Lovely bamboo flrs, vaulted ceilings, tons of natural light & easy access to schls, Swim Clubs & Lafayette Bike Trail.

\$1,185,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1110 Via Media Ideally located 5bd/5ba home near town & commute w/Mt. Diablo views. Amazing in-lav suite w/kitchen & laundry room. Bedroom upstairs is great office. Four bedrooms downstairs, each w/own bath.

\$1,395,000

LAFAYETTE



New Listing

1250 Laurel Lane Stylish 4bd/3.5ba family home on a picturesque .9 acres. Great layout. Fully remodeled with high end finishes and thoughtful extras. Central courtyard, level lawns, gardens and views!

\$2,300,000

BLACKHAWK



New Listing

20 Chestnut Place Extraordinary Blackhawk Country Club 4980 square foot, country French style estate with pool on sought after cul de sac. Vaulted ceilings, Master suite with fireplace and adjoining office.

\$1,999,000



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