

# Kitchen tour

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A large island in this Happy Valley home does double duty as prep space and a seating area.

Photos Sora O'Doherty

In the Happy Valley neighborhood of Lafayette, homeowners Janet and Rick Cronk worked with Lafayette interior designer Kathy Burke to transform their single-story home into a classically elegant oasis perfect for entertaining their large extended family.

The thoughtfully designed kitchen is not only stunning but also incredibly practical. Lloyd's Custom Woodwork created creamy white cabinetry that is accented by antique brass hardware. The upper cabinets feature glass panes and are lit from the inside to showcase the attractive serving pieces.

The ample cabinetry provides storage for just about everything in the Cronks' kitchen. On either side of the stove are Pilasters, or rectangular columns built into the cabinetry, that can be pulled out to reveal shelves that hold cooking essentials like spices and oils.

The countertops in the kitchen resemble marble but are made of a more durable quartzite material, and are one of homeowner Janet Cronk's favorite features of the kitchen.

"The counter is wonderful — it's indestructible," she says.

The kitchen features a large, 4-foot-by-14-foot-long island that separates the food preparation area from the pantry and beverage service and allows for good flow of guests when entertaining.

"One side works perfectly for beverages and one side for cooking so we don't get in each other's way," notes Cronk.

The center island does double duty as a prep space and a seating area, with rustic wood chairs where the Cronks' grandchildren love to sit. Under the bar area is even more cabinetry for additional storage.

These two kitchens will be featured on the tour along with four others that showcase a range of styles, including a transitional kitchen, an updated classic rancher with a mid-century twist, a California modern home and a wine country cottage-meets-coastal retreat.

Tickets for the tour are \$40 (\$35 tax deductible) with a box lunch available for \$15 and can be purchased online at [www.lafayettejuniors.org](http://www.lafayettejuniors.org) or at Premier Kitchens at 3373 Mount Diablo Blvd. in Lafayette.

Proceeds for the tour will go to the Lafayette Juniors' four beneficiaries for 2016-2017: Contra Costa Interfaith Housing, Alternative Family Services, The Taylor Family Foundation and the Trinity Center. The Lafayette Juniors selected these organizations for the exceptional support they provide to women, families and individuals in need throughout the East Bay.