

Lamorinda

OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 22 Wednesday, December 20, 2023



Lamorinda Home Sales

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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian

Botanical Brilliance: Yuletide's natural jewels

By Cynthia Brian



Photos Cynthia Brian

The red berries on a holly hedge begin to appear.

"Nature always wears the colors of the spirit." ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Everywhere we go, lights are twinkling, Christmas trees are glistening in windows and parks, and gigantic shiny balls are hanging on front yard trees. Holiday cheer permeates the air as we hum carols and children pine for the jolly white-bearded man in the red suit to land his flying reindeer on their rooftop soon.

The most miraculous part of this festive season is how the landscape lights up with lots of colorful berries, bushes, and cones that we can use to decorate naturally. For the first time in



Pyracantha berries are loved by the birds and beautiful in arrangements.

years, my Christmas cactus is blooming in December! In the past, it bloomed at very odd times. The cascading stems and beautiful blooms create cheerful table displays. The vibrant tubular flowers arrive in shades of red, pink, and white. I'm thrilled that my pink Christmas cactus is finally on schedule.

Pine, fir, redwood, spruce, and other conifers retain their needles throughout winter. I use this time of year to do my pruning so that the cut boughs may be added to my mantels, counters, and front porch as wreaths and garlands. A big bonus is that these evergreens add that nostalgic Christmas aroma throughout the

house. I also collect pinecones and magnolia cones to incorporate into my displays. The red seeds of the magnolia cones add a touch of elegance to holiday decorations. All the cones can be left natural for a rustic and sophisticated look, or they can be spray painted to match any style. Pyracantha, cotoneaster, holly, and Chinese pistache berries are then plucked from the bushes and trees to be tucked into the branches as pops of color. Pyracantha berries are orangey-red, cotoneaster berries are a brilliant red, and Chinese pistache berries boast a deep pink to crimson hue with shades of blue. Holly is a classic Christmas plant renowned for its sharp, pointed, glossy green leaves and vibrant red berries. Adorn with shimmering lights and the yuletide symphony begins!

What about mistletoe, you ask? Doesn't everyone want to kiss under the mistletoe? Mistletoe is a parasitic plant with green leaves and white berries that are poisonous to humans and some animals. Globally, there are 1,300 species spread by the sticky seed from the berry either attaching to a bird or other mammal or consumed by them. The Anglo-Saxons witnessed that mistletoe grew where birds left their droppings. In Anglo-Saxon, "mistel" means "dung" and "tan" means "twig", thus the name mistletoe means "dung-on-a-twig." Not as romantic as most of us thought! For several years baskets of mistletoe flourished on my beautiful cottonwood tree until these "witches' brooms" killed my host tree and it had to be removed. From that day forward I kissed the mistletoe goodbye!

Pomegranates and persimmons offer a departure from traditional holiday decorating, infusing a touch of nature beauty and symbolism into arrangements. The deep red color of pomegranates is associated with the merry spirit of Christmas.

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During this time of year, we can't help but think of how grateful we are for all of our clients, friends, and family.

Lamorinda, a place we call home, is so special and unique, that we love introducing it to others and welcoming them as new neighbors to our community.

We'd love to help you in the new year.
Happy Holidays!

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Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	5	\$1,500,000	\$2,700,000
MORAGA	6	\$845,000	\$2,250,000
ORINDA	5	\$1,150,000	\$2,250,000

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

944 Hawthorne Drive, \$1,500,000, 3 Bdrms, 1640 SqFt, 1942 YrBlT, 11-16-23,
Previous Sale: \$1,285,000, 07-20-18
1022 Hoedel Court, \$2,355,000, 3 Bdrms, 2107 SqFt, 1952 YrBlT, 11-09-23,
Previous Sale: \$910,000, 04-04-11
1180 Monticello Road, \$2,700,000, 4 Bdrms, 2675 SqFt, 1962 YrBlT, 11-15-23,
Previous Sale: \$2,725,000, 05-03-21
401 Read Drive, \$1,988,000, 5 Bdrms, 3076 SqFt, 1957 YrBlT, 11-06-23
1997 Reliez Valley Road, \$1,600,000, 3 Bdrms, 2315 SqFt,
1953 YrBlT, 11-15-23, Previous Sale: \$1,400,000, 05-06-21
3963 Woodside Court, \$1,820,000, 4 Bdrms, 2181 SqFt, 1964 YrBlT, 11-01-23,
Previous Sale: \$1,550,000, 10-25-22

MORAGA

516 Butterfield Place, \$1,440,000, 2 Bdrms, 1703 SqFt, 1966 YrBlT, 11-08-23,
Previous Sale: \$615,000, 03-01-11
1428 Camino Peral, \$850,000, 2 Bdrms, 1116 SqFt, 1971 YrBlT, 11-09-23,
Previous Sale: \$450,000, 02-19-10
687 Carroll Drive, \$1,300,000, 3 Bdrms, 1394 SqFt, 1958 YrBlT, 11-15-23
112 Donald Drive, \$1,546,000, 6 Bdrms, 1921 SqFt, 1958 YrBlT, 11-09-23,
Previous Sale: \$1,260,000, 03-22-23

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Wishing You All the Best in 2024!

Thank you for your continued support and referrals. I'm so grateful to my wonderful clients and community.



MICHELLE HOLCENBERG
REALTOR

925-324-0405
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CalDRE #01373412



www.holcenberg.com

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2+ bedrooms | 2 bathrooms | 1572 sqft | .37 acre | \$1,575,000
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Another Great Listing By:

Molly Smith, Shannon Conner & Amy Rose Smith

For More Information Contact Molly Smith

415.309.1085 | molly@mollyslist.com

67LaCuesta.com



villageassociates.com | [@villageassociates](https://www.instagram.com/villageassociates) | 925.254.0505 | It's Village. Of Course.

All information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed.





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– David Chol, Chief Operating Officer, Vanguard Properties

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SOLD!

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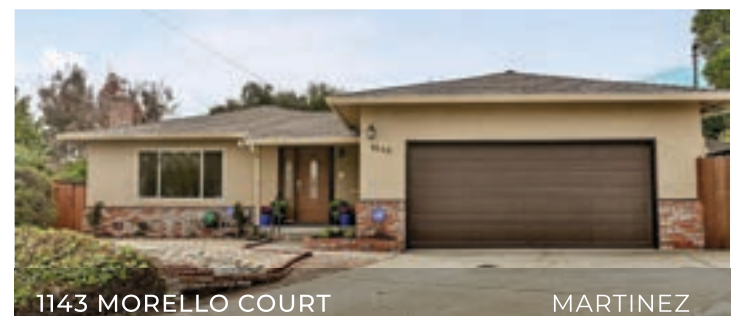


2237 STILLCREEK COURT

MARTINEZ

2 BED | 2.5 BATH | 1,182 SQ. FT.
KELLY CRAWFORD
BEV ARNOLD

\$659,000
925.998.5599
925.788.8516



1143 MORELLO COURT

MARTINEZ

4 BED | 2 BATH | 1,449 SQ. FT.
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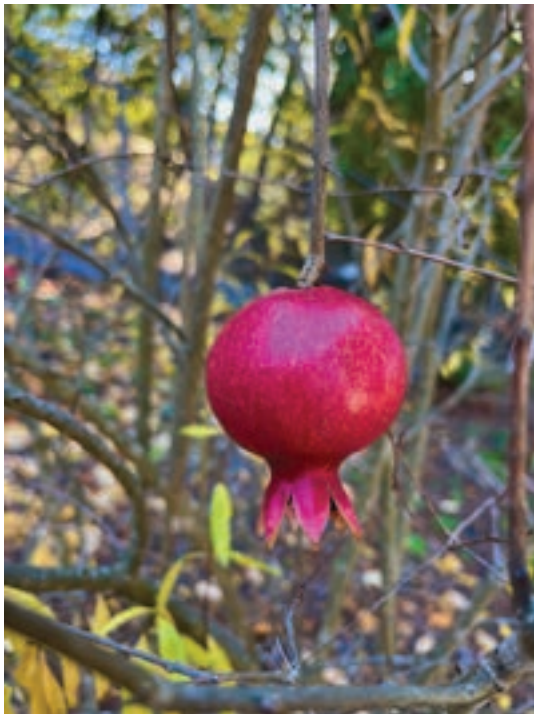


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Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian **Botanical Brilliance: Yuletide's natural jewels**

Photos Cynthia Brian

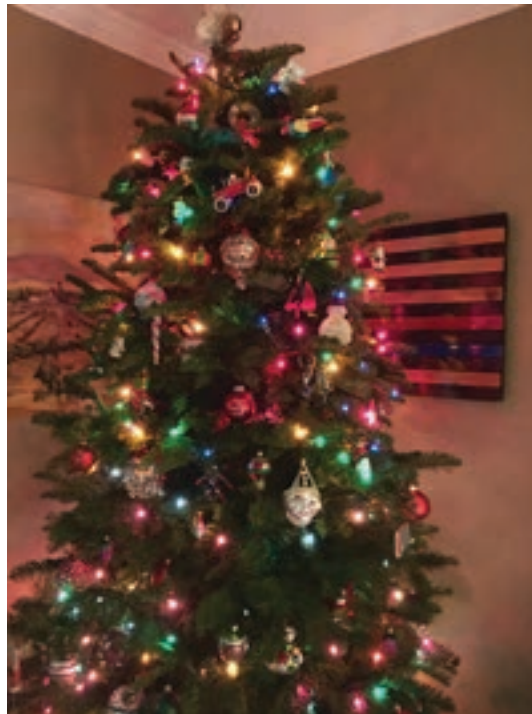


Pomegranate perfection...a glorious natural ornament.

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In many cultures, pomegranates symbolize prosperity, fertility, and abundance. The distinctive round shape and shiny crown resemble a fancy ornament, and their jewel-like seeds are delicious and nutritious as edible décor. The warm orange tones of persimmons may seem more appropriate for Thanksgiving, yet the sweet, chewy texture of Hachiya varieties is the perfect ingredient in a Christmas pudding while the crunchy, apple-like quality of a Fuyu is fabulous in a festive salad. A bowl of persimmons is elegant as a table centerpiece with its symbolism of good luck and joy.

When it comes to Christmas cherished memories, live trees offer the biggest bang of tradition and aesthetics. While artificial trees are practical and cost-effective, the joyous experience of choosing a living tree creates a connection to nature and environmental sustainability. Purchasing a live tree supports agricultural endeavors as



A living Christmas tree shines brightly decorated with favorite family ornaments,

Christmas tree farms replant and replace trees that are harvested. These farms contribute to increased green space. Live trees are biodegradable and can be recycled into mulch and compost. Be on the lookout for the days that your tree can be placed curbside for recycling. With a live tree, there is the opportunity to select a tree that fits your preferences of type and fragrance including fir, spruce, pine, cedar, or cypress. You can also purchase a container conifer which can be moved to a patio or balcony after the holidays and redecorated the following year. If you have room in your yard, it can be planted and decorated annually in celebration of Christmas.

Walk around your landscape to discover the yuletide jewels in your garden. Nature always wears the colors of the season and the spirit.

May Santa Claus fill your stockings with peace, health, and prosperity. Wishing you a magical Christmas.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



Perfect persimmons shimmer on the tree.



Profuse clusters of pink pistache berries are elegant additions to wreaths.



Cynthia's Christmas cactus is in full bloom for the holidays.

Garden "To-do" advice before the end of December:

1. Fertilize trees, shrubs, and ground cover plants.
2. Apply snail bait around plants susceptible to snail and slug damage.
3. Lower the soil pH for better color and overall appearance on acid-loving plants by applying soil sulfur.
4. Shut off irrigation systems.
5. Monitor watering needs during extended dry periods.
6. Start to rest and relax. Winter is sleepy time..



Cynthia Brian wishes you a very merry, healthy Christmas.

For more gardening advice for all seasons, check out Growing with the Goddess Gardener at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/books>. Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at www.StarStyleRadio.com. Her newest children's picture book, Family Forever, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available now at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com>

Lamorinda home sales recorded

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MORAGA .. continued

1259 Larch Avenue, \$2,250,000, 4 Bdrms, 2102 SqFt, 1967 YrBlt, 11-13-23
 193 Miramonte Drive, \$905,000, 2 Bdrms, 1514 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 11-09-23
 258 Paseo Bernal, \$1,030,000, 3 Bdrms, 2044 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 11-07-23,
 Previous Sale: \$210,000, 04-01-88
 532 Woodminster Drive, \$845,000, 2 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt,
 1974 YrBlt, 11-09-23, Previous Sale: \$745,000, 07-23-19

ORINDA

19 El Pulgar, \$1,363,500, 5 Bdrms, 1978 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 11-13-23,
 Previous Sale: \$1,425,000, 11-09-21
 16 El Verano, \$2,250,000, 5 Bdrms, 2882 SqFt, 1938 YrBlt, 11-09-23,
 Previous Sale: \$1,725,000, 09-06-16
 157 Ravenhill Road, \$1,350,000, 3 Bdrms, 2245 SqFt, 1982 YrBlt, 11-15-23,
 Previous Sale: \$728,000, 09-04-12
 429 Ridge Gate Road, \$2,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 2684 SqFt, 1980 YrBlt, 11-14-23,
 Previous Sale: \$2,200,000, 07-20-21
 3 Whitehall Drive, \$1,150,000, 3 Bdrms, 1620 SqFt, 1959 YrBlt, 11-15-23

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\$2,995,000

ORINDA



8 Hidden Lane

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\$1,980,000

ORINDA



67 La Cuesta Road

An Orinda Sanctuary w/ Views, Privacy & Proximity to Town! This architectural gem boasts walls of glass bringing the outdoors in, creating a peaceful & private setting, w/ views of the Orinda Country Club & surrounding hills.

\$1,575,000

MORAGA



211 Corliss Drive

Fabulous family home nestled on prime private .42 acre in sought after Rheem Valley Orchards neighborhood!

\$1,729,000

MORAGA

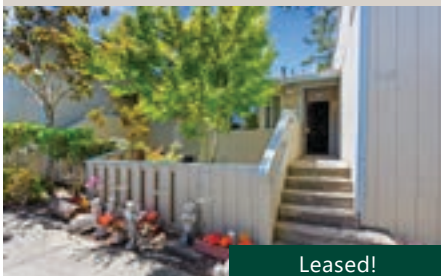


1379 Camino Peral, Unit B Spacious 3 bd/ 2.5 ba townhouse features updated kitchen, private patio & convenient access to shopping, restaurants & more!

Pending!

\$800,000

MORAGA



Leased!

1944 Ascot Drive

Amazing 2 bd/ 1.5 ba 1234 sqft Moraga townhome w/ views of the hills from the upper & lower decks!

\$2,900/mo.

PLEASANT HILL



Sold!

550 Odin Drive

Single level 4 bd/ 2 ba rancher has a great floor plan w/ wonderful indoor/outdoor flow!

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300 Camaritas Way

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