

The Communities of Malibu, California

From the website of "ChrisCortazzo.com"

Serra Retreat - *A Private, Wooded Luxury Home Retreat*

Serra Retreat is a small, secluded community nestled in the hills of lower Malibu Canyon. This exclusive enclave, comprised of only 100 lots, is home to some of Malibu's most distinctive residences. When you combine Serra Retreat's rich history with its scenic winding roads, mature sycamore trees and fragrant eucalyptus groves, it's easy to see why this area attracts so many luxury home-seekers.

History of Serra Retreat Homes

Serra Retreat is a Catholic retreat and conference facility located in Malibu Canyon. Originally planned as the home of Malibu's Rindge family, Serra Retreat was sold to the Franciscans in 1942. Today, the Franciscan Friars continue to welcome groups and individuals seeking a tranquil spot for serenity and reflection.

The Serra Retreat gated community is located near the grounds of the original Rindge estate and lands. Known as Malibu's historic ranch center, this elite neighborhood is accessed by two guarded drives: one on Cross Creek Road and the other off Pacific Coast Highway. Serra Retreat real estate owners belong to the Serra Canyon Property Owners Association, which is charged with safeguarding and maintaining Malibu Canyon's pristine community.

Serra Retreat Real Estate Today

While the majority of Serra Retreat home lots are less than one acre, some are in excess of four. The real estate in Serra Retreat ranges from diminutive dwellings to sweeping estates and vast equestrian properties. This sylvan neighborhood is known for its diverse and magnificent architecture as well as the jaw-dropping views of the Pacific that can be savored from Sweetwater Mesa Road.

What's so unique about Serra Retreat real estate aside from its treasured rural flavor? This very private community is within walking and biking distance to downtown Malibu, where residents can enjoy world-class restaurants, beachgoing, shopping and other amenities. Serra Retreat property owners enjoy the best of both worlds: secluded luxury living just steps away from Malibu's spectacular sights.

Malibu Road - *Luxury Beachfront Living in a Prime Location*

Revered for its gorgeous beach homes and recreational delights, Malibu Road is a two-lane, 2.5-mile stretch of idyllic country road running parallel to the Pacific Ocean. This small and vibrant oceanside neighborhood is perfect for active home-seekers who want easy access in and out of downtown Malibu.

Highlights of Malibu Road Homes

Located just outside of the Malibu Colony gates, Malibu Road was once part of the original Pacific Coast Highway before it was relocated inland in 1948. Today, 250 Malibu Road homes make up a thriving coastline community. While some Malibu Road luxury homes sit on its land side, the majority of them are situated on the ocean side with spectacular views of the Pacific.

The sandy beaches along Malibu Road are a sight to behold, ideal for relaxing or a long, leisurely stroll.

Malibu Road homes embody contemporary luxury, featuring generous square footage, spacious rooms, expansive decks for entertaining, and private stairways to the beach. Most of the residences on the ocean side of Malibu Road are two-story structures on compact lots. While they lack the jaw-dropping ocean vistas of their across-the-way neighbors, land side residents enjoy large lots ranging from one to four acres. Also worth noting is that Malibu Road home owners are spared the PCH highway noise that tends to affect other beach communities in Malibu.

Malibu Road: Things to Do

In addition to its sublime beach real estate, the Malibu Road community offers residents an abundance of wide-open spaces. Within walking distance is scenic Bluffs Park, which is located on the palisades above Malibu Road. Bluffs Park features two baseball diamonds, a jogging path, winding hiking trails, picnic areas with ocean views, and even a whale-watching station. The family-friendly park, which hosts a variety of classes and sports leagues for children and adults, is also home to the Michael Landon Community Center.

With its close proximity to PCH, Malibu Road real estate owners have it all: luxury beachfront living as well as easy access to downtown Malibu's world-class entertainment, shopping and dining destinations.

Point Dume - *The Quintessential Private Beach Experience*

Point Dume is the largest emerging hotspot in Malibu, offering easy living in a retro beachfront setting. While Point Dume's spectacular, unspoiled beaches are one of its highlights, this community also features suburban-style neighborhoods with winding, tree-lined streets. Celebrities such as Pink, Bob Dylan, Barbra Streisand and the Red Hot Chili Peppers have all discovered Point Dume's trendy allure.

History of Point Dume

In the mid 1920s, Point Dume was a desolate peninsula that lacked trees, roads or homes. Real estate in Point Dume was understandably inexpensive at the time, attracting mostly equestrian enthusiasts who could buy cheap acreage on which to house their horses. The area was built up in the 1960s-mostly ranch-style homes with key access to one of Point Dume's three private, gated beaches.

In 1984, TV host and comedian Johnny Carson purchased a bluff-top estate in Point Dume for \$9 million-a record home price for the time. The following year, Madonna married Sean Penn in Point Dume. These high-profile events plucked the community out of its longstanding obscurity, and Point Dume quickly gained popularity as a luxury real estate destination.

Point Dume home owners are said to enjoy the best private beach experience in all of Malibu. Residents here enjoy serene oceanfront living without the intrusion of road noise from Pacific Coast Highway. At night, it's not unusual to see bonfires sparking on the shoreline as friends gather for fun and relaxation.

Point Dume: Things to Do

Although most of the horses and equestrian trails of Point Dume's earlier days are gone, this Malibu community retains much of its rural flavor. Families can enjoy safe and scenic biking as well as Headlands Park, which offers magnificent vistas of the Palos Verdes Peninsula and Santa Catalina Island. Point Dume's active home owners flock to its State Preserve, noted for superb surfing, fishing, boating, snorkeling, whale watching and scuba diving. Point Dume is also home to a state-certified, A-rated elementary school with a unique marine science focus.

Dubbed the "Malibu Riviera" for its dazzling ocean vistas, private beaches with pristine tide pools, and sweeping oceanfront estates, Point Dume is the only large neighborhood on the beach side of PCH. Its convenient location and star-studded exclusivity makes Point Dume a truly extraordinary real estate destination.

Broad Beach - *Incredible Values in a Remote Seaside Oasis*

If you're seeking a quiet refuge from the noise and chaos of the city, Broad Beach may be the right real estate destination for you. Broad Beach is one of Malibu's best-kept secrets-a remote coastline oasis made up of beachfront and bluff-top homes. Rich with raw natural beauty, this exclusive community is home to some of the most extraordinary residences in the region.

Highlights of Broad Beach Real Estate

The Broad Beach area includes one mile of pristine Malibu coastline, on which sit 108 residences. Most of these homes are located on Broad Beach Road, which belonged to the original Pacific Coast Highway before it was relocated to the bluff above. Broad Beach is adjacent to Victoria Point on the west side and Zuma Beach on the east. It continues to Victoria Point at its western end.

Broad Beach maintains an unspoiled charm that's rare in this region. When you arrive, you're immediately enveloped in a feeling of tranquility. Jagged rock outcroppings blend into pale sandy beaches and rolling dunes cloaked in sea grass. For Broad Beach home owners, it's not unusual to spot whales and dolphins right from their deck on any given day. The gentle rhythm of the surf is the musical backdrop for daily life.

Ravaged by a major storm many years ago, Broad Beach is in a state of revitalization-which makes now the ideal time to invest in Broad Beach real estate. Property here is less expensive than other areas of Malibu, enabling luxury home-seekers to get more value for their dollar.

Luxury Homes in Broad Beach

Broad Beach is renowned for its ample beach homes, some with just 20 feet of sand to the ocean. Most of the luxury homes in Broad Beach are set on deep lots, with many located behind small sand dunes. This community features a diverse mosaic of classic homes, new builds, and untouched property. A gorgeous residence by John Lautner, modern architect extraordinaire, sits on Victoria Point.

Broad Beach is home to a variety of entertainers and movie moguls, including Steven Spielberg, Danny DeVito, Goldie Hawn and Dustin Hoffman. Despite its remote feel, this coveted community is ideally located right off PCH-and close to a small upscale shopping center at the

corner of Trancas Canyon Road and the highway. It is also conveniently close to Malibu Junior High and High School.

Carbon Beach - Upscale Living on Malibu's Wealthiest Shore

Dubbed "Billionaire's Beach" due to its wealth and high celebrity quotient, Carbon Beach is a crescent-shaped coast stretching from Carbon Canyon Road on the east to the region just east of the Malibu Pier. Carbon Beach is considered the finest beach in all of California, with premier luxury real estate that fetches tens of millions from people unconcerned with cost. With just 70 lots, the Carbon Beach community is easily Malibu's most exclusive and prestigious address.

What Makes Carbon Beach Unique?

Since the land is crescent-shaped, the best Carbon Beach real estate lies at its center. These unusually broad lots, made up of perfectly dry sand, have driven property prices steadily skyward. Carbon Beach homes are built right on the sand, with no seawall to compromise residents' breathtaking view of the beach. Because there are only two public access paths to the shore, homeowners here enjoy a high level of privacy. Although Carbon Beach's rich and famous population is its key selling point, the beach itself runs a close second.

For Carbon Beach real estate seekers, money is no object. Some have purchased luxury homes, demolished them, and rebuilt much larger and more opulent structures. Billionaire entrepreneur, Eli Broad, paid \$2.5 million for one Carbon Beach lot and the adjoining property for \$2.6 million. The homes were destroyed, and in 2001, Broad hired master architect Richard Meier to design a monstrous masterpiece made of glass and white aluminum.

While most Carbon Beach homes reflect contemporary, Spanish Revival, and other traditional styles, some residents have raised the bar when it comes to cutting-edge home design. For example, in the 1960s, famed architect John Lautner designed the Stevens House—a trend-setting structure of towering, curved concrete.

Carbon Beach, Ideally Located

The beauty of Carbon Beach is that it's centrally located within Malibu, just off Pacific Coast Highway. Residents here enjoy a breezy commute into the city as well as close proximity to legendary Beverly Hills. It's simply the best of all worlds.

And when it comes to star power, Carbon Beach does not disappoint. The community is rich with famous faces, including music moguls Lou Adler and David Geffen, software billionaire Larry Ellison, and the aforementioned billionaire businessman, Eli Broad.

Malibu Colony - Luxury Homes in a Star-Studded Community

Known as "the original Malibu," Malibu Colony is an enclave of luxury oceanside homes dating back to the Golden Age of Hollywood. This stunning gated community lies on a stretch of pristine coastline that has enticed people to the region for decades. Featuring some of Malibu's most prestigious properties, Malibu Colony has long been recognized as a beach retreat for the rich and famous.

History of Malibu Colony Homes

In 1892, Frederick Hastings Rindge and his wife, May Knight Rindge, purchased the 13,330-acre Rancho Malibu tract for a mere \$10 per acre. They later expanded their working cattle and grain ranch to 17,000 acres.

The Rindges built a large home in Malibu Canyon, but it was ravaged by a brush fire in 1903. When her husband died just two years later, May Rindge assumed management of their Malibu real estate. She leased beachfront lots to some of the most prominent film stars of the day, including Clara Bow, Bing Crosby, Gloria Swanson, and Gary Cooper. Quaint seaside cottages were erected for the residents, and the area was quickly dubbed the "Malibu Beach Motion Picture Colony."

Once the Malibu Colony real estate leases expired, many of its glamorous residents opted to buy their homes. The structures were then expanded in glorious celebrity style, featuring more square footage, pools, tennis courts and more.

Malibu Colony Today

Today, Malibu Colony remains a major draw for film, TV and music personalities as well as wealthy executives from the entertainment and business realms. With its mix of longstanding homes and new luxury dwellings, this coveted community blends the glamour of early Hollywood with modern architectural splendor.

Malibu Colony is located south of Malibu Road off the Pacific Coast Highway, and lies within walking distance of world-class shopping, dining and nightlife. It affords residents a magnificent ocean vista extending from Santa Monica to Rancho Palos Verdes to the south and the bluffs of Point Dume to the north.

From classic bungalows to spacious mansions, luxury real estate seekers will find a diversity of homes in Malibu Colony, all featuring sublime craftsmanship as well as uncompromised views of the Pacific. Malibu Colony features 24-hour guard-gated security to ensure privacy for its residents, which include the likes of Jeff Bridges, Bette Midler, Kevin Kline and Tom Hanks.