





Crown JEWEL

A BELLE MEADE MANSION TAKES LUXURY TO NEW HEIGHTS.

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PHOTOS BY DAVID BOYER AND BRUCE CAIN

s the rest of the country catches up, the Nashville real estate market is booming. The evidence lies in the ultra-high-end luxury market, where sales are more competitive than ever: In Davidson County, there currently are more than 150 million-dollar homes on the market, while Williamson County boasts almost 200.

Of course, there is real estate ... and then there are real estates. Priced at \$14.9 million, this Belle Meade mansion will be one of the largest properties to exchange hands in Nashville when it sells. A true masterpiece, the home is situated on two acres and spreads out over 16,000 square feet—feeling like a fine boutique hotel. Architect Ron Farris designed the manse in a Palladian neo-classical style and builder Hugh Smalley took four years to construct it, finishing in 2008. The steel-frame home's exterior is bricked, then coated in stucco and hand-cut limestone accents, and topped with a barrel tile roof, which is rare for the area. The grounds are perfectly manicured, and every stone terrace is heated to extend the outdoor entertaining season. Even the entrance is a showstopper: Guests are greeted by a stunning loggia.

Inside, the stonework throughout is a work of art; inlaid patterns of rare marble give it an almost Vatican-like feel. All of the materials were meticulously chosen to accentuate one another: The chevron walnut floor in the salon complement the barrel-vaulted, coved ceiling, giving it a regal feel; a coffered ceiling in the dining room accents the French style of the fabric tufted wall coverings. The kitchen is outfitted in fl or-to-ceiling Calacatta marble with solid slab walls. Even the paint colors were custom matched onsite to accentuate the rooms' natural light.

To be expected in a structure of this stature, every imaginable amenity is included—an elevator, chandelier lifts, a 10,000-bottle wine cellar. But modern touches aside, the house retains a stately, old-world elegance. >>>

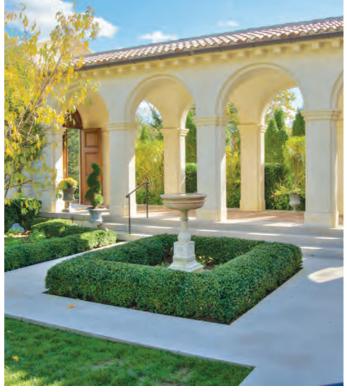






The exterior spaces make this property feel like a resort. **Above:** A heated swimming pool has both auto-fill and auto-cleaning capabilities and the a ea around it is accented by a pergola for outdoor dining; there is also a wood-fi ed oven outfitted with an infra ed thermometer. **Below:** Wrought iron accents, porches, terraces, and a loggia (notice the handkerchief ceiling) make for appoximately 1,500 square feet of covered entertaining space.









The salon's twin antique mantels are made from Rouge Royale, a rare marble sourced from a French monarch. The oval-shaped transome windows and mirrors reflect one another ac oss the space and there is a barrel-vaulted ceiling with cove lighting. Custom millwork accentuates the upholstered wall treatments throughout.





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Clockwise from top left: 1. The dining room walls are upholstered and there are matching French chandeliers.

- 2. The Art Deco-style library has Cuban mahogany on the ceiling and lacquered walls with Greek key-cut appliques in a French Moderne style. The antique fi eplaces in every room were shipped over from Paris.
- 3. The kitchen walls are solid Calacatta marble slabs; the stove is a rare French Lacanche.
- 4. In the cellar, there are 87 custom-built, pull-out shelves for storing wine bottles on their side, as well as magnum and double magnum storage, a tasting space, three temperature controls, and brick floors
- 5. The floating stai case is a true work of art: It took craftsmen from Alabama and Georgia more than a year to build.
- 6. The breakfast room has extensive millwork and paneling. The stone floors have four inlays of marble.









Above: The hickory beamed ceiling is accented with silver metallic tea-leaf paper. The custom cabinets are made from Cuban mahogany with boulder white granite countertops and marron cohiba granite borders. The floor is made f om light emperador marble. Below: An example of the custom millwork found throughout the home.





