

# NASHVILLE



## THE **MUSIC** ISSUE









# Crown JEWEL

A BELLE MEADE MANSION TAKES LUXURY TO NEW HEIGHTS.

BY BRIAN BARRY

PHOTOS BY DAVID BOYER AND BRUCE CAIN

As 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 floor-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 area around it is accented by a pergola for outdoor dining; there is also a wood-fired oven outfitted with an infrared thermometer. **Below:** Wrought iron accents, porches, terraces, and a loggia (notice the handkerchief ceiling) make for approximately 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 across 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 from light emperador marble. **Below:** An example of the custom millwork found throughout the home.





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