REAL ESTATE SPECIAL REPORT

Virtual Tours Become the New Norm in Selling Homes

Clients Being Able to View Properties Remotely Now Commonplace

■ BY RAY HUARD



Virtual tours have become a key part of what San Diego real estate agencies use to market homes during the COVID-19 pandemic and are fast becoming the new norm.

They range from simple walk-throughs with agents using cell phones to show clients remotely what homes look like to sophisticated

3-D virtual reality programs that let potential buyers walk through homes remotely as if they were there in person.

Melissa Goldstein Tucci of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage likened the effect of a 3-D tour that is becoming more commonplace to looking at a doll house



Melissa Goldstein Tucci

with everything there to see.

Tucci said that she does 3-D presentations on every listing and started doing them well before the pandemic hit.

"I saw it and said, 'oh my God, this looks really cool," Tucci said. "Every time I do it for clients, they're amazed."

"You have to do it now," Tucci said.

Virtual Everywhere

Zane Burnett, chief digital officer with Willis Allen Real Estate in La Jolla, said the number of agents ordering virtual tours "has increased exponentially since shelter-in-place was first ordered back in March."



Zane Burnett

"We push for every listing to have a virtual tour on it," Burnett said, and these are far from the photo collections agents once used to market property.

Short of smelling chocolate chip cookies baking in

the oven, the tours can give buyers the sense of being in a house.

"When we shoot a virtual tour, we want the consumer to see anything and everything that they would be able to

→ Virtual page 20

THE LIST



Rankings based on \$100M and higher.

THE LIST BROKERS Ranked by 2020 local sales volume as of Jan. 1- June 30

Rank	Company Address Website Phone		Local sales volume Jan 1June 30, 2020:	Local units sold Jan 1 June 30, 2020:	# of local offices:	Local territories served	Services offered	Top local exec.(s) Year est. locally	
1	Compass 12275 El Camino Real, Suite 100, San Diego 92130 www.compass.com 858-345-4514	COMPASS	\$2.13B	2,372	9	Coastal communities of La Jolla, Carmel Valley, Del Mar, Encinitas & Carlsbad	Professional consultation in residential real estate sales, purchases & investments	Adam Corey 2018	
2	Pacific Sotheby's International Rea 1111 Prospect St., Suite 100, La Jolla 92037 www.pacificsothebysrealty.com 858-926-3060	Ity Pacific Sotheby's	\$1.38B	1,161	20	All communities of San Diego & San Diego County	Residential property sales, relocation services, luxury property auction	Brian Arrington 2010	9
3	Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices 12770 El Camino Real, Suite 100, San Diego 92130 www.bhhscalifornia.com 858-792-6085	California Properties BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HomeServices California Properties	\$1.26B	1,211	20	San Diego County	Listings, sales, relocation services, mortgage, title, escrow, corp. resources, marketing	Mary Lee Blaylock 1985	
4	Coldwell Banker Residential Broker 13520 Evening Creek Drive N., San Diego 92128 www.coldwellbankerhomes.com 858-755-0500	COLDWELL BANKER REALTY	\$1.09B	1,412	12	San Diego County	Residential, commercial sales, listings, property mgmt., concierge, relocation, mortgage, title	Jamie Duran	
5	Coldwell Banker West 2300 Boswell Road, Suite 100, Chula Vista 91914 www.coldwellwest.com 619-486-3392	COLDWELL BANKER WEST	\$912.5M	1,537	7	San Diego County	Full service, specializing in military relocation	Jose Unibe 2011	
6	Big Block Realty Inc. 2820 Camino Del Rio, Suite 314, San Diego 92108 www.bigblockrealty.com 619-913-7020	BIGBLOCK R E A L T Y	\$876.79M	1,537	5	San Diego County	Listings & purchases	Sam Khorramian 2012	
7	eXp Realty Of California www.exprealty.com 925-575-7605	REALTY P	\$620.83M	893	na	San Diego County	Full service virtual, cloud- based brokerage	Deborah Penny	
8	Windermere Home and Estates 9988 Hibert St., Suite 150 , San Diego 92131 www.whesd.com 858-530-1100	Windermere	\$458.9M	647	8	San Diego County	Full service	Rich Johnson 2013	
9	Redfin 5942 Priestly Drive, Carlsbad 92008 www.redfin.com 877-973-3346	REDFIN	\$455.73M	662	1	San Diego County	Web based real estate database & brokerage services	Anna Nevares 2004	
10	Century 21 Award 7676 Hazard Center Drive, Suite 300, San Diego 92108 www.century21award.com 619-471-2000	CENTURY 21.	\$415.36M	730	9	San Diego County	Real estate sales, settlement (escrow) services, mortgage loans, property management & relocation	David Romero 1985	
11	Willis Allen Real Estate 1131 Wall St., La Jolla 92037 www.willisallen.com 858-459-4033	WILLIS ALLEN REAL ESTATE SINCE 1914.	\$361.95M	278	5	La Jolla, Del Mar, Rancho Santa Fe, Point Loma, Coronado, Metro/ Downtown, Carlsbad, Encinitas	Listings, sales, rentals	Andrew Nelson 1914	
12	First Team Real Estate 2146 Encinitas Blvd., Suite 110, Encinitas 92024 www.encinitas-olivenhain.firstteam.com 760-944-1112	F1RSTTEAM* REAL ESTATE	\$196.4M	299	4	San Diego County	Full service	Marcel Atallah 1985	
13	Keller Williams San Diego Metro 2250 Fourth Ave., Suite 100, San Diego 92101 sandiegometro.yourkwoffice.com 619-233-5935	KW KELLERWILLIAMS,	\$158.31M	244	2	San Diego County	Listings, sales	Robert Schantz 1983	
14	Allison James Estates & Homes 2888 Loker Ave. E., Suite 206, Carlsbad 92010 www.allisonjamesinc.com 442-237-4659	ALLISON JAMES ESTATES & HOMES ELITE	\$147.99M	248	5	San Diego County	Full service	Tom Bullock 2008	
15	Keller Williams La Jolla UTC 7817 Ivanhoe Ave., Suite 101, La Jolla 92037 lajolla.yourkwoffice.com 858-457-9400	KW KELLERWILLIAMS,	\$141.42M	200	1	San Diego County	Full service	Brian Cane 2013	3
16	Re/Max United 10650 Scripps Ranch Blvd.,Suite 112, San Diego 92131 www.homesinsandiego.info 858-549-2700	REMAX UNITED renoxunite dum	\$102.62M	165	3	San Diego County	Residential sales, commercial sales, escrow, mortgage, property management	Cheyanne Terracciano 1987	



INDIVIDUALS BY VOLUME

Tara Shapiro
Scott Aurich
Julie Feld
Gordon F. Henry
Karen Hickman
Heather Hosto
Helen Spear
Kelly LeClair

SMALL TEAMS BY VOLUME

Cain Group
K. Ann Brizolis & Associates
Mark Marquez
Eric Iantorno
Christian Wach
Dave Kibbey and Associates

The Cathy Gilchrist-Colmar Team
Nicolai Glazer Real Estate Group
The Brett Dickinson Team

Gwyn Rice & Lisa Stennes, The Team Advantage Anderson White and Associates

n White and Associates
Rand Douglas Group
Jana Greene & Associates
Team Lange Blea
Murphy Walton Group
Donna Medrea
Gloria Shepard
Jenn Blake Real Estate Group
Roshdieh Group

MEDIUM TEAMS BY VOLUME

Echelberger Group Scott-Finn & Associates

Hernholm Group

LARGE TEAMS BY VOLUME

Stanfield Real Estate Group Dan Conway and Associates

SMALL TEAMS BY TRANSACTIONS

Dave Kibbey and Associates Team Lange Blea

MEDIUM TEAM BY TRANSACTIONS

Echelberger Group

LARGE TEAMS BY TRANSACTIONS

Stanfield Real Estate Group Dan Conway and Associates

Industry-Defining Agents

We congratulate our associates recognized in this year's REAL Trends "The Thousand" Rankings of top agents in the Nation and America's Best Rankings of top agents in California for sales achievements, and acknowledge their consistent annual success.



Tara Shapiro Individual by Volume | #37

Scott Aurich Individual by Volume | #88

Cain Group

SMALL TEAM BY VOLUME | #11

Stanfield Real Estate Group LARGE TEAM BY VOLUME | #9



pacificsothebysrealty.com

This representation is based on information from Real Trends, deemed reliable but not guaranteed for the period 01/01/19 through 12/31/19. Sotheby's International Realty® is a registered trademark licensed to Sotheby's International Realty Affiliates LLC. An Equal Opportunity Company Equal Housing Opportunity. Each Office is Independently Owned And Operated. DRE #01767484

#1 TEAM IN SAN DIEGO SINCE 2008



THE JASON BARRY TEAMFrom left to right: Kendra Gibilisco, Jason Barry, Ryan McGovern



RANCHO SANTA FE COVENANT | \$7,688,000 Beyond Custom 5+BR Spanish, Guest House, 3+ Usable Acres



RANCHO SANTA FE COVENANT | \$8,495,000 Chic 5+BR Single Level + Casita, West Side, 4.5 Acres, Views



RANCHO SANTA FE COVENANT | \$2,195,000 Charming 1+BR Bungalow, 2.4 Acres, Pool & Spa, Golf Course Views



RANCHO SANTA FE COVENANT | \$19,995,000

Private Hilltop 49.56-Acre Estate, Soaring Vaulted Ceilings, Crafted with Redwood, Glass, and Marble, Indoor Pool & Spa, Tennis Court, Guest House



OVER \$4 BILLION IN SALES



SOLANA BEACH | \$4,250,000 Recently Refreshed 5BR, Rare Large Lot, Ocean Views, Walk to All



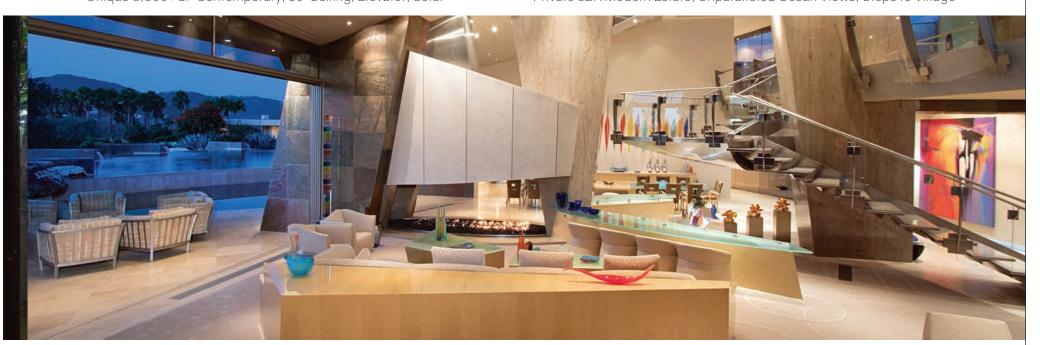
SANTALUZ | \$3,495,000 4BR Sanctuary of Comfortable Luxury, Pool, Solar, Golf Course Views



RANCHO SANTA FE RANCHO FARMS ESTATES | \$4,295,000 Unique 8,800+SF Contemporary, 30' Ceiling, Elevator, Solar



DEL MAR | \$15,995,000Private 5BR Modern Estate, Unparalleled Ocean Views, Steps to Village



RANCHO SANTA FE COVENANT | \$29,995,000

22,500 SF Modern Masterpiece on 33 Acres, State-of-the-Art Smart Home, Stunning Views, Walls of Glass, Sports Court, Stadium Style Tennis Court

858.756.4024 | INFO@BARRYESTATES.COM | WWW.JASONBARRYTEAM.COM

CA DRE #01147550, 01810974 & 01134900

TEXT "JOINJB" TO 22828 TO RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY EMAIL BLASTS

Virtual

→ from page 15

see or want to see if they were there in person. That means every room, the basement if there is one," Burnett said. "It's as close as you can get to walking through a house without walking through a house."

Most agents were using some version of virtual tours before the pandemic, but those that weren't have embraced the technology and those that were have stepped up their use and opted for higher-tech

Jason Barry of Barry Estates and Jason **Barry Team** in Rancho Santa Fe said he was using virtual tours before the pandemic and uses them even more since.

"It's been very effective and productive for us," Barry said, adding that he has sold about six homes in the \$2 million to \$5.5 million range since the pandemic started based solely on virtual tours.

Barry said he uses 3-D tours on occasion, but prefers to do videos or virtual open houses in which he will lead prospective buyers through a house using a cell phone or with a professional photog-

"It's a little more personal and a little more real," Barry said.

The Only Way

Denisse Roldan Newell, immediate past president of the San Diego Chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals, said that when the pandemic hit, "everyone start-



Denisse Roldan Newel

ed going virtual, the whole world really." "It's the only way to sell nowadays," said Newell, a realtor with **Axia Real Estate Group** in Mission Valley. She said she routinely relies on Zoom and Facebook to give virtual tours to clients using her cell phone and uses more sophisticated 3-D software on some listings.

"It's just the new way of doing business," Newell said.

"I was selling a home in La Mesa and I was representing the seller and many of the agents that came through were doing the walk-through for their clients through Facebook Live," Newell said. "Within a week, we had multiple offers."

The California Association of Realtors has recommended that all agents use virtual tours during the pandemic to limit the possible exposure of buyers and sellers to COVID-19.

'The savvy agents and companies had always known that virtual tours are the new norm," said Mary Lee Blaylock, president and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway **Home Services California Properties.**

"With the pandemic, it became even more clear they are here to stay," Blaylock said, adding that Berkshire Hathaway agents had been using virtual tours prior to the pandemic.

"This has grown exponentially in practice and also allows more efficiency and

a safe way to view properties," Blaylock said. She said most listings have a virtual tour and video tour.

If they don't, Blaylock said agents can walk through a home with a client on a video call.



Carla Farley

"Virtual tours have always been there but we were just never dependent on them,' said Carla Farley, owner of Corban Realty Group and president of the Greater San Diego Association of Realtors.

'Now, in the pandemic, of course, anyone who wants to do any kind of business, you have a new skill set," Farley said.

Pre-pandemic, pricier versions of virtual tours that took people right inside the house where they could walk through, look up and down, check the floors and ceilings and roam from room to room were used more sparingly than they've been since the pandemic started.

"You would see them on the higher income but not on the middle income. You just didn't see it that much," Farley said. 'Now, you're seeing it on just about everything.

The cost of doing virtual tours has come down as more agents use them.

Typical costs, according to many agents, range from about \$250 to \$500, although at least one agent reported prices of under \$200.

No Furniture, No Problem

Not only can virtual tours allow prospective buyers a chance to roam through a house, some versions virtually furnish an empty house so prospective buyers get a sense of how their furnishings might fit in.

"Space-wise, it can be critical," Farley said. "When you look at an empty room, you go, 'well, my bed wouldn't fit in here' and actually it does."

While some agents like Barry report selling a few homes "sight unseen" through a virtual tour, many said that a personal walk-through is needed before a sale is finalized.

Agencies who work in South County and deal with many military clients are more likely to sell a home based solely on a virtual tour.

Yvonne Cromer, a real estate agent with Compass and a board member of the Pacific Southwest Association of Realtors, said she uses virtual tours to put buyers in the house as if they were really there.

"It's worth the expense," said Cromer, whose specializes on South County real estate.

"We were doing it before here in the South Bay. We have a lot of military buyers and a lot were on deployment," Cromer said.

Touring many homes in person just isn't practical for many in the military, Cromer said.

A benefit cited by many agents is that

the virtual tours cut down the number of lookie loos they deal with - people who aren't serious buyers but that pre-pandemic made the rounds of open houses for entertainment or out of curiosity.



Eric Matz

"The days of lookie loos just looking at nomes to check them out I think is going to become a thing of the past," said Eric Matz of Windermere Homes & Estates.

Like Tucci, Matz said he routinely offers 3-D virtual tours.

"I do them for every house, I don't care if it's a two-bedroom condo," said Matz, who specializes in Poway. "The consumer's asking for 3-D videos because they know nothing's been photo shopped, nothing's been changed,"

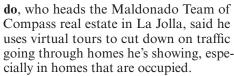
Even so, Matz said he wants buyers that he represents to take an in-person tour before closing.

"The technology is awesome, better than maybe it's ever been before, but it's still not

like coming into the house and seeing it with your own eyes, seeing the neighborhood, seeing where the trees are, "Matz said.

Less Traffic

Ramon Maldona-



Ramon Maldonado

"The less people in the house, the better for the owner and everybody to stay safe," Maldonado said. "With the vacant ones, it just depends on the property because with vacant property, you have more access to them.'

Pre-pandemic, Maldonado said he tended to use video tours on homes selling for \$2 million or more, adding that, "We're using those tools for all price points now."

Wendy Purvey, COO of Pacific Sotheby's International Realty in Rancho



Wendy Purvey

company stepped up agent training in the early days of the pandemic when nothing was moving, including learning how to use virtual tours.

"We were teaching and training and us-

ing this downtime like crazy," Purvey said. "This is forcing even the least tech people to use technology, otherwise they can't do business."

Purvey said buyers and sellers also are using virtual reality in their own businesses and personal lives, so they expect it from real estate agents when they go to buy or sell a house.

"I think we're going to have some permanent changes," Purvey said.

Roxana Said of Pacific Sotheby's International Realty said that she offered virtual tours on her social media sites prior to the pandemic but does so far more now.

"This definitely changed the way consumers look at property," Said said.

An Evolution

Angela Avilez, vice president of Century 21 Award for Southern California based in

Mission Valley, said virtual tours aren't new but "nothing was as robust as it is right now."

"The pandemic has really forced us to embrace different tools, the virtual experience, as part of real estate," said



Angela Avilez

Avilez, who is a realtor with Cardenas and Company.

"It's an evolution." Avilez said.

The pandemic "really rattled and disrupted what the normal was, "Avilez said, adding that she provides virtual tours on every home she lists.

"If I'm selling a mobile home or I'm selling a \$10 million home, the experience is the same," Avilez said.

She said Century 21 agents have sold homes based solely on virtual tours.

"The virtual tours, they basically weed out and prioritize what people really want and it brings to the table the serious buver," Avilez said.

Jamie Duran, president of Coldwell **Banker Residential Brokerage Southern** California, said Coldwell agents had been trained in virtual tours and were using the technology prior to COVID-19, although it's up to individual agents how sophisticated they want to get with the virtual tours they use, from simple pre-



Jamie Duran

sentations to the 3-D versions.

"We never skipped a beat when COVID hit because really, our technology was already in place," Duran said. "Moving forward, everybody should be doing them (virtual tours) in some form. It's just so much more visual today with everyone going online.'

Sellers just expect it as a routine part of marketing their homes, Duran said.

"I just don't think you can afford to be camera shy or virtual shy anymore," Du-

Linda Moore, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in Encinitas, is one of those who has stepped up her use of the technology Coldwell offered when the pandemic hit.

Moore said that she used virtual tours

sparingly before the pandemic because prospective buyers would schedule an appointment to tour homes in person. She said she has since come to rely on them.

"I'm using them on every one of them now unless the



seller doesn't want it," Moore said. "I think they're very helpful for every property."

The Walk

Miguel Diaz with Douglas Elliman Real

Estate in Mission Valley said nearly all of his clients want to tour homes using cell phone applications in which Diaz will walk through a house with the clients following his progress on their phones or comput-



Miguel Diaz

"It's real time," Diaz said. "I'll start outside of the home. I'll give them, a look of the street, the neighborhood. I do a walk-through starting with the front door. We'll stop in very single room. There's conversations happening. Sometimes they'll

have specific questions, like what is the floor, what is the countertop.

Diaz said 3-D virtual tours, which were offered for their "cool factor" prior to the pandemic, have the new become normal."



Amanda Pendleton

Nationally, the online brokerage and listing agency **Zillow** reported that 86 percent of agents it surveyed in July used virtual tours and 72 percent said they would keep using them when the pandemic ends.

"This has become a really effective marketing tool for agents. Agents have been really quick to adapt," said Amanda Pendleton, Zillow communications manager.

Pendleton said that prior to the pandemic, agents were slower to adopt virtual tours.

"This kind of kicked it into high gear," she said.









DANE SODERBERG

Broker Associate | Founding Partner CA DRE# 01456182 | danesoderberg.com 858.337.1417 | dane@compass.com



La Jolla, 2BR/2BA | \$1,895,000 Nelson Brothers Team, 858.215.3739 | DRE#s 01376023 & 01801493



Coronado, 2BR/2BA | \$1,795,000 info@willisallen.com, 877.515.7443



La Jolla, 4BR/4BA | \$2,999,000 Nelson Brothers Team, 858.215.3739 | DRE#s 01376023 & 01801493



Rancho Santa Fe, 4BR/3.5BA| \$2,995,000 info@willisallen.com, 877.515.7443



Solana Beach, 3BR/2BA | \$2,495,000 info@willisallen.com, 877.515.7443



Univeristy Heights, 4BR/3.5BA | \$1,600,000 info@willisallen.com, 877.515.7443



Andrew E. Nelson, President & Owner | DRE# 01204280 Coronado | Del Mar | La Jolla | Metro | Point Loma | Rancho Santa Fe





COMPOUND INTEREST

Encinitas | 8BR Suites/18BA | \$4,995,000

Stunning Spanish | Moroccan, hacienda style estate/compound located in the historical Olivenhain area of Encinitas, adjacent to the area's most popular horse trails. A true "Entertainer's Delight" this 16,330 sq. ft. custom estate has gorgeous features with a private place for everyone in your family or business needs.



Jessica Wallace-Kelley Broker Associate DRE# 01408321 858.367.3771 JKelley@willisallen.com





THE FOXHILL ESTATE IN LA JOLLA

10BR/14BA | 22,897 sq.ft. | Total: \$37,000,000

With the unparalleled 32 acres of prime La Jolla land, this iconic and renowned residence is far and away the largest residential property in Southern California's most picturesque seaside community. Crowning the Country Club neighborhood, the main residence offers panoramic ocean, golf course, village, and sunset views.

Andrew E. Nelson 858.361.4007 DRE# 00458472



Andrew E. Nelson, President & Owner | DRE# 01204280 Coronado | Del Mar | La Jolla | Metro San Diego (coming soon) | Point Loma | Rancho Santa Fe







TODD ARMSTRONG

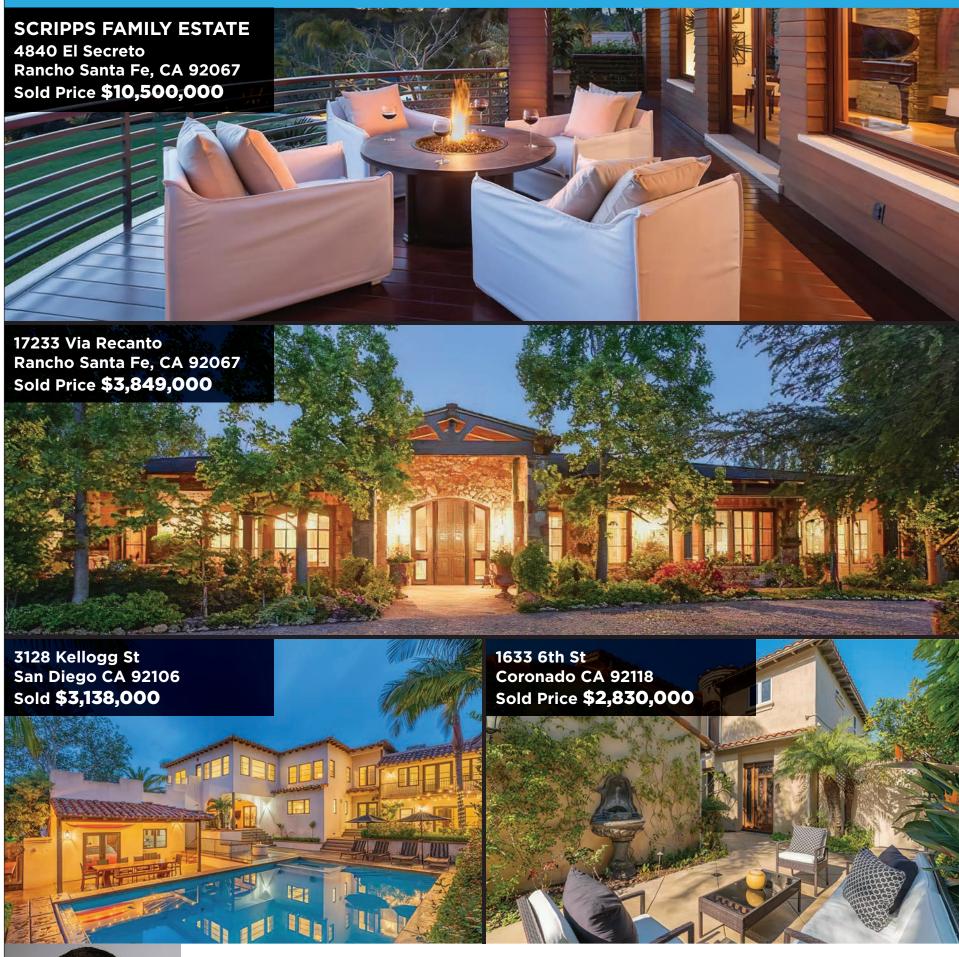
Real Estate Advisor I Sports & Entertainment Division Cal DRE #01256537 | www.ArmstrongEstates.com 858.229.8752 | todd.armstrong@compass.com





Compass Is A Licensed Real Estate Broker (01991628) In The State Of California And Abides By Equal Housing Opportunity Laws. All Material Presented Herein Is Intended For Informational Purposes Only. Information Is Compiled From Sources Deemed Reliable But Is Subject To Errors, Omissions, Changes In Price, Condition, Sale, Or Withdraw Without Notice. To Reach The Compass Main Office Call 310.230.5478







Real Estate Advisor | Sports & Entertainment Division Cal DRE #01256537 | www.ArmstrongEstates.com 858.229.8752 | todd.armstrong@compass.com

COMPASS



Compass Is A Licensed Real Estate Broker (01991628) In The State Of California And Abides By Equal Housing Opportunity Laws. All Material Presented Herein Is Intended For Informational Purposes Only. Information Is Compiled From Sources Deemed Reliable But Is Subject To Errors, Omissions, Changes In Price, Condition, Sale, Or Withdraw Without Notice. To Reach The Compass Main Office Call 310.230.5478

- 66 Remarkable" is a great description of Todd's services... his real estate knowledge & expertise is the Best I've experienced. (Having bought/sold ten homes in my history.) He is kind & patient with an innate sense of my needs & calming my angst! He coordinated all transactions, making this sale seamless for me. I will continue to recommend the valuable Todd Armstrong to all of my friends & family!
- 66 Todd represented us with the purchase of our new home. He paid attention to every detail during the entire real-estate process. He is an excellent problem solver, negotiator and the most knowledgable real-estate professional I've met. If you are buying or selling your home, I highly recommend Todd.



TODD ARMSTRONG Real Estate Advisor Sports & Entertainment Division Cal DRE #01256537 www.ArmstrongEstates.com 858.229.8752 todd.armstrong@compass.com

COMPASS



Compass Is A Licensed Real Estate Broker (01991628) In The State Of California And Abides By Equal Housing Opportunity Laws. All Material Presented Herein Is Intended For Informational Purposes Only. Information Is Compiled From Sources Deemed Reliable But Is Subject To Errors, Omissions, Changes In Price, Condition, Sale, Or Withdraw Without Notice. To Reach The Compass Main Office Call 310.230.5478

FEATURED PROPERTIES



- 66 Remarkable" is a great description of Todd's services... his real estate knowledge & expertise is the Best I've experienced. (Having bought/sold ten homes in my history.) He is kind & patient with an innate sense of my needs & calming my angst! He coordinated all transactions, making this sale seamless for me. I will continue to recommend the valuable Todd Armstrong to all of my friends & family!
- 66 Todd represented us with the purchase of our new home. He paid attention to every detail during the entire real-estate process. He is an excellent problem solver, negotiator and the most knowledgable real-estate professional I've met. If you are buying or selling your home, I highly recommend Todd.



TODD ARMSTRONG Real Estate Advisor Sports & Entertainment Division Cal DRE #01256537 www.ArmstrongEstates.com

858.229.8752 todd.armstrong@compass.com

COMPASS



Compass Is A Licensed Real Estate Broker (01991628) In The State Of California And Abides By Equal Housing Opportunity Laws. All Material Presented Herein Is Intended For Informational Purposes Only. Information Is Compiled From Sources Deemed Reliable But Is Subject To Errors, Omissions, Changes In Price, Condition, Sale, Or Withdraw Without Notice. To Reach The Compass Main Office Call 310.230.5478

FEATURED PROPERTIES

