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MAGAZINE

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CASTLES IN THE SKY

What does the most expensive condominium ever to hit the San Diego real estate market look like? In a word: palatial. Offered at \$12.5 million by Neuman & Neuman Real Estate (619-595-7025; palaceinthesky.net), the 4,400-square-foot condo, dubbed Palacio del Cielo, or Sky Palace, occupies the 22nd and 23rd floors in the south tower of the Renaissance building in downtown's Marina District.

"It's like living in Hearst Castle in San Diego," says real estate broker Gregg Neuman. The four-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bath condo at First Avenue and G Street features a 1,500-square-foot garden terrace and two-story main hall with 2,000 square feet of Italian marble flooring, gold-leaf ceiling and a 20-foot-tall fireplace. "The detail is beyond belief," says Neuman. "Elaborately carved woods, stonework, hand-painted artwork—every detail was created on the spot." Another detail: Each toilet is covered in silver gilt. Other features include a state-of-the-art kitchen, two wine cellars, a home theater and game room.

Neuman says the interest level has been "extraordinary." The property's listing page on Realtor.com has received more than 15,000 hits in the past 90 days. Owners Jerilyn and Jim Shaw bought the penthouse in 2004 and began the multimillion-dollar renovation to transform it into their Italian palace. The couple is now looking to their next building project.

THE PLUSH LIFE

For San Diegans accustomed to the finer things, it's only natural their canine companions share the lifestyle. Enter Plush Puppies Kennel & Daycare Center (619-561-4299; plushkennel.com) in El Cajon. The VIP treatment begins the moment the Lincoln Town Car stretch limo pulls up to whisk pooches off to the free-range kennel operated by Catz Plush (yes, that's her real name).

"People have started calling it Disneyland for dogs," says Plush. "It's the alternative to traditional boarding in that play time is *all* the time." Facility features include 5,500 square feet of outdoor play yards with shade trees, agility jumps, a large swimming pool (and wading pools for smaller dogs) and a waterfall. "It's a very Zen type of atmosphere," says Plush, who leads daily games and activities. She also operates a cattery, a separate space with four "kitty condos."

Plush "interviews" all dogs prior to acceptance into daycare or boarding. "We want to ensure each dog is comfortable in a social setting," she says. "Creating a safe and a stress-free environment is our top priority." She recently opened the Plush Puppies Doggie Depot, a convenient pickup location for dog owners who live or work in the downtown area.

Opening next month in Sorrento Valley, Snug Pet Resort (858-643-0010; snugpetresort.com) bills itself as a "four paws" resort, with more than 22,000 square feet of space for dogs to lounge, play and be pampered. Dog trainers Toni and Michael Stone teamed up with LaDainian and Torsha Tomlinson and veterinarian John Boyd to create the ultimate all-in-one resort for pooches, complete with EasyTurf play yards, swimming pool, a grooming/spa center, luxury suites (each with its own window and television), a training academy, full-time veterinary clinic and upscale retail boutique.

"LaDainian and Torsha are big animal lovers, and they're really involved in creating a state-of-the-art facility where everything is top-notch," says Toni Stone, who became friends with the Tomlinsons after training their dog. "They know there's a huge need for something like this in San Diego—a place that offers all of these services in one spot."



Plush Puppies' doggie limo

SWEATING IN *Style*

For some, merely getting to the gym for a workout is a luxury. For others, real luxury means the gym comes to them. Addie Merrill and her husband, Tyler, offer private, in-home personal training through their business, Addie's Personal Training Studio (858-483-2711; addiestudio.com), which has semiprivate, appointment-only gyms in Pacific Beach and La Jolla. "We take a boutique approach to fitness by offering customized personal-training sessions," says Addie.

One La Jolla client she trains five mornings per week called on her to re-create Addie's Pacific Beach studio at the client's home. "I built her a complete 1,600-square-foot gym, bringing in all the equipment I use in my own studio," she says. Addie also trains the woman's husband and stepdaughter in their home gym and has developed a comprehensive nutritional program. She's hit the road with them on vacation, too.

"They took us to Hawaii with them for a week so they could stay up on their training while on vacation," says Addie. "We did a lot of outdoor training on their private beach, went hiking and kayaking and were able to monitor their nutrition." ■



For more photos, as well as a story about collectors and a luxe local wine cellar, go to sandiegomagazine.com/UltraLuxury.