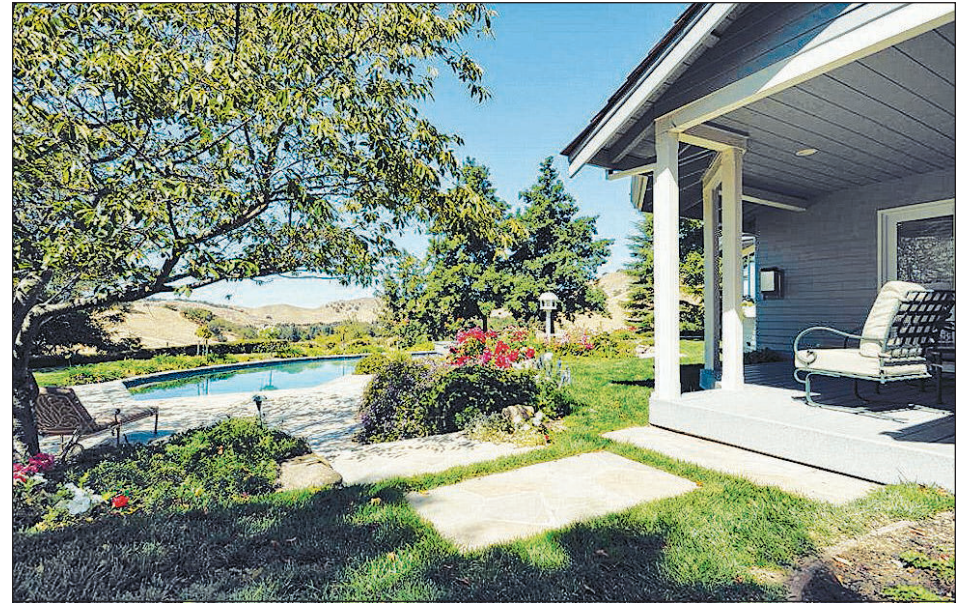


## ONE OF A KIND



## Traditional home, cottage and horse barn bask in countryside setting in Alamo

BY LINNEA SMITH JESSUP  
SECTION EDITOR

Those for whom the sight of acres of nature, the sounds of birds and the feeling of complete privacy are heart's desires will feel right at home at 12 Country Oak Lane in Alamo. Surrounded by its lot of 7.48 acres, tucked on a private lane with a gated entrance and perched high enough to share views with the hawks, this spacious house also includes a guest cottage and barn facility.

White fencing and trees edge the long drive to the house and emphasize the country setting. Gray siding with white trim, many gabled windows and a wood shake roof proclaim a traditional welcome as one approaches the wide driveway and large lawn area in front of the house (top left).

The charm continues as one enters through a wood door with glass insets and steps on to beautiful hickory floors. Built in 1984, the house has been upgraded and expanded and fea-

tures several gathering spots. The living room, currently used as an office, is near the front door. A bonus room at the back of the house has French doors opening to the back yard, shelves for hundreds of books and shares a two-sided fireplace with a den.

The kitchen/great room (bottom left) stretches comfortably across hardwood floors to its own fireplace. The area includes a huge walk-in pantry, mahogany-topped island and stove trimmed with a large stone arch. An expanded eating nook is illuminated by a Tiffany-style hanging lamp and complemented by three smaller, similar lights over the island. Large windows make this area bright and light by day and myriad recessed lights keep it glowing in the evening. White cabinets, a white farmsink and white shelving in the island and a small desk area add to the cheerful atmosphere. A formal dining room is just steps away, close to the main entry.



Completing the ground floor are a large laundry room, powder room and hallway leading to the oversized three-car garage.

Two staircases — one in the entry which circles elegantly to second floor and one providing access from the kitchen — lead to the home's four bedrooms. At the top of the entry stairs a dormer window with a window seat provides a charming nook for reading, and down to the right is the master suite with sitting area, fireplace, bathroom with heated flooring, sunken tub and large shower plus two sinks and a walk-in closet.

Two bedrooms both overlook the backyard and share a bathroom with two sinks. The other secondary bedroom faces the front yard and has its own bathroom. Nearby is yet another bonus room — great for a pool table, movie screen or other diversions. Also on this level are two large walk-in attic storage areas that can accommodate a plethora of items and keep them easily accessible.

Family and guests will quickly gravitate to the backyard, with its wide view that can be enjoyed from two covered porch areas as well as a stone bench circling a large tree. An outdoor barbecue center is nearby and flagstone decks surround the pool and raised spa that cascades melodically into the pool (top right). Down a long stairway to a lower level of the property is a fenced sport court; solar panels have been installed nearby to help provide efficient energy for the home.

A smaller, very charming porch on one side of the house welcomes guests to a lovely one-bedroom cottage, with spacious living room, open kitchen area and a large bedroom and bath with sunken tub as well as a shower. This cottage can also be accessed via the garage.

The three-car garage, which has been finished with sheetrock, has cabinets for storage and a workbench.

The property's horse barn is separated from the home by the driveway and a long stretch of

land. Here one finds four stalls, a tack room and wide doors at opposite ends of the building, plus an adjoining sand arena. Fully fenced pastures, approximately 4 acres, are accessed by a gate. Nearby is a three-car garage and there is plenty of room for parking.

Morning or evening, this home's setting is tranquil and inspirational. It's a great place to enjoy the seasons, with hillsides going from green to gold, wide open spaces stretching in all directions and a starry panorama overhead at night. Hwy. 680 is four miles away, making this a lovely retreat that is still close to schools, shopping and dining in Alamo or beyond.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF EMPIRE REAL ESTATE

### VITAL STATISTICS

**What:** A traditional two-story home at 12 Country Oak Lane, Alamo.

**Size:** Approximately 5,479 square feet of living space on an approximately 7.48 acres.

**Bedrooms:** Four.

**Bathrooms:** Three full and one-half bath in the main house. Cottage has one bedroom, one bathroom.

**Features:** Four fireplaces in main home, hickory and oak floors, remodeled and expanded kitchen, covered porches near the pool and spa, outdoor barbecue, sport court and guest cottage. A four-stall barn, pastures and two three-car garages on the property. Gated entry on a private lane.

**Price:** \$6,700,000.

**Listing agent:** Cynthia Aiken, Empire Real Estate, 925-217-5090, [www.CindyAiken.com](http://www.CindyAiken.com). View home at [www.12CountryOakLane.com](http://www.12CountryOakLane.com).

*Information believed accurate, but not verified.*