

Tuscan Villa

BRINGS OLD WORLD CHARM TO WESTBANK

CANADA : BRITISH COLUMBIA : KELOWNA

Rick Jaheny's Tuscan Villa is about providing a beautiful, completely liveable space that is as much about getting away from it all as it is about feeling at home. Located above Okanagan Lake, this home enjoys captivating views, overlooking the Vineyards of Mission Hill and Quail's Gate Wineries. Only minutes from Kelowna, Westbank is one of the most desirable areas in which to live, with access to all the amenities of the city, while remaining a peaceful, picturesque community. As well as being the proud home of some of the largest wineries in the Okanagan Valley, there are also several golf courses and ski resorts for those who enjoy an active lifestyle. The Tuscan Villa is secluded,

with access through a private old country, down a cobble-stoned driveway, which leads to the 4-car garage and main entrance.

"From the minute you open the front door and experience the home and the yard, you feel like you are somewhere else," states Jaheny, and true to his word, the beautiful home takes you back to an older Europe with warm, Italian colours conjuring images of long, dusky evenings. Dark wood windows frame the captivating views below, which overlook the vineyards of Mission Hill and Quail's Gate Wineries. "I wanted to try and create a feel for Tuscany in





the Okanagan,” he states, and it is obvious that in this he has been entirely successful.

The house was designed to be a comfortable living space and the layout accommodates our daily routines, creating an aesthetically beautiful yet functional home. The kitchen, for example, is set in the centre of the villa, as it plays a central role in most people’s lives. Designed by Caroline Walch, the room features millwork supplied by Phoenix Millwork of Kelowna as well as a \$37,000 red Aga stove, imported from Europe, a walk-in pantry with built-in espresso maker and a walk-in storage fridge, featuring a limited edition Jamieson fridge door. From there you can access the living areas and dining area, forming one large room surrounding the Kitchen and creating continuous harmonious space in which separate elements of the house are joined into one creative whole, ensuring that its inhabitants “always feel connected.” The breathtaking views are also incorporated into the design of the house, with large dark framed windows, terraced sundecks and numerous patios.

An artistic spin on the house creates a dynamic interplay between the creative structure of the house and the perception of its interior spaces. Having chosen paintings from Hambledon Art Gallery, Jaheny really feels that being in a position to collect and savour art has a substantial effect on the ambience of the home. “The idea was to assemble an art collection,” he continues, and with beautiful Canadian paintings lining the 17-foot gallery hallways and incorporated into almost every room in the house, the creativity and aesthetic appeal is heightened considerably.

Creative expression does not sacrifice luxury, however. The beautifully designed master suite features a rock-and-timber fireplace, a spacious walk-in closet and a luxurious ensuite, which includes a Koehler jetted tub, a his-and-her vanity and a large tiled steam shower. The mountain and lake views complete the room, romantically framed by the large windows.

Guests will be accommodated in style within the guest living area, which includes a custom pool table, a media centre, a private kitchen and deck. \$225,000 of audio technology, supplied by Andres Electronics, make this the ideal home for those who love to entertain or for whom music is a way of life. The 17 ft tall rock fireplace within the living area emits warmth and creates intimacy, while a built-in state-of-the-art media centre, temperature controlled wine cellar and a bar quarter are perfect for entertaining.

The wood, which covers all solid surface floors in the house, is 300-year-old recycled white oak recovered from Europe (supplied by Koeda Flooring), and the interior doors, windows and walls are constructed using recycled lumber from ‘tumbled down’ buildings. Recycled materials are also used in the ceilings, adding to the authenticity of this Tuscan-style home, with



imperfections left in the Venetian plaster adding to its charm and warmth.

One of the house's biggest successes, according to Jaheny, is the consistency that is apparent throughout the home. The colour scheme, the materials used and even the plumbing (all Kohler) add to the flowing design and further connect all the separate elements within the house. "The consistency and the softness (of the design) made the house what it is today," claims Jaheny, who adds that they also contribute to the authentic Tuscan feel, as materials were not as readily available in the older Europe he envisions.

Jaheny refuses to take all the credit for this work of art, stressing the importance of his dedicated crew, who work alongside him every step of the way. "I couldn't do it alone," he says, adding that the members of his team have all been with him for at least 10 years, enabling them to work efficiently together and to know what Jaheny expects in the fulfillment of his visions. "Our houses are truly a team effort," he says and in a house in which attention to details and interactive spaces are essential, it is fitting that its construction be a joint endeavour.

Jaheny has insisted on standards of the highest quality and this is evident throughout the home. High end appliances that look like they could have been from a different time period, such as cast iron faucets, were hand picked, as was the custom granite (supplied by Custom Granite) used throughout. There are no nails in the baseboards (finished at Westside Refinishing) or





within the \$100,000 walk-in closet, as they would take away from the beauty of the wood. The elegant ironwork featured in the house is hand crafted by a blacksmith at Red Willow Forge, while the light fixtures come from Lights Plus in Kelowna. "I can't thank the suppliers enough" says Jaheny, also giving credit to Liberty Furniture (of Vancouver), the company that helped bring the house together by supplying gorgeous furniture that fits into the character of the home perfectly. Jaheny's insistence on providing the best in quality stems from his attempt to make the home authentic.

This home enjoys authentic old world charm and though undoubtedly luxurious, offers all the options of a casual, laid back lifestyle, allowing you and your guests to feel at home. Although visually striking, Jaheny remarks that "The house hasn't intimidated anyone yet." With an enviable location, guarded privacy and a perfect marriage of form and function, this Tuscan Villa is unquestionably an inspired work of art.

For more information on the Tuscan Villa, please visit www.sothebysrealty.ca

