

PRESS RELEASE

Martinez Historical Society

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Martinez Home Tour



Harry Potter fans will enjoy visiting this house. It has a secret door to a hidden sleeping nook, but one that is much cheerier than the "closet under the stairs" in which the young wizard slept.

Seven Homes to Star in Upcoming Tour

"See the homes of the stars." That's the refrain in Hollywood. But in Martinez, it's the homes themselves that will be the stars of the upcoming Martinez Home Tour on Saturday. In Hollywood, it's hop on a bus, drive by the home, listen to the tour guide talk about the movie star, and move on. But the Martinez Home Tour will allow visitors to actually walk through seven unique homes from the 1920s while homeowners or docents explain the features of the house.

“Every house on the Tour this year is a star” said Carol Russell of the Home Selection Committee. “And the homes are within walking distance of each other in the Arlington Way neighborhood.” An example is Marc and Amelia Hunter’s meticulously restored 1923 Craftsman which was featured in American Bungalow magazine’s winter issue, a first for a Martinez house. “But the other homes are all gems too,” said Carolyn Boone Duncan, Home Tour Chair. “Visitors might well conclude that other homes on the Tour are deserving of national attention also.”

“The homes this year have spectacular kitchens” observed Barbara Lucero who is also on the Home Selection Committee. Three of the vintage homes, such as the 1928 Spanish Revival belonging to Mayor Rob Schroder, have modern gourmet kitchens that were designed to fit in with the rest of an older house. Other kitchens are nearly original – or were designed to appear so. In the kitchen of the 1920s English Cottage restored by Jack Vosney, the cabinets are new, but were made to appear old by painting them with many layers of paint and stains until the appropriate look was achieved. In the 1927 Hetzler home, the tiny vintage kitchen is fully functional and features an eye-catching hammered copper sink. The 1928 Gliatto house still has the original Wedgewood stove, so carefully maintained over the years that it needs no restoration. It even retains its matching salt and pepper shakers.

The unique personalities of the homeowners can be seen in the houses. A daughter in the Hetzler house insisted on painting her entire bedroom with vines and flowers – even on the ceiling. Jack Vosney built a cottage in the garden that has wall paper which he created from articles in an 1881 magazine. The Gliatto house features vivid colors both outside and inside -- with every room of the home painted a different color by its owner, a former artist.

As for the owners of the homes on this year’s Tour, none are movie stars, but many are well known in the community. For example, Candice Gliatto is the owner of Citrus Salon on Main Street. When asked what was unique about her house, Candice replied “My house is full of art. We rotate the art at the Salon. And after every show I buy a piece of art by a Martinez artist to display in my house.”

Corrine Christiansen has her own 1922 Craftsman house on the Tour. As a teacher at the New Leaf Academy, Corrine was named the 2012 Educator of the Year in Martinez. Corrine added an inlaw unit to her home in which her mother lives. Craftsman features such as hardwood floors and wainscoted walls were utilized to make the addition appear as if it dated from the same period as the main house.

When asked what visitors would find interesting about his Spanish Revival home, Mayor Rob Schroder replied with a chuckle “They will have the opportunity to see the skeletons in my closet,” a reference to his bid for re-election and the political campaign now in progress.

The Tour will offer most visitors their only opportunity to see the interiors of seven 1920s homes that have been so well-preserved or so successfully renovated as to merit inclusion in the Martinez Historical Society’s 8th annual Tour. “To see the photos of the houses before the Tour begins, visit the website,” said Carter Wilson, the Home Tour photographer. “The website is at www.MartinezHomeTour.com.”

Also on the tour will be all four floors of the 1930 Art Deco Masonic Temple, the 1890 Martinez Museum, the 1882 John Muir House, the 1849 Martinez Adobe and the Shell Refinery Museum.

The Tour date is Saturday, October 11, from 10 am to 4pm. The tour begins from the Shell Clubhouse at 1635 Pacheco Boulevard. Buses leave approximately every 10 minutes. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at www.Eventbrite.com (via credit card) or from the following Martinez merchants (with cash or check):

I've Been Framed (411 Ferry Street)
Char's Flowers (635 Main Street)
Martinez Museum (Court & Escobar Street)
Mountain Grounds (Alhambra & J Street)
Romain's Jewelry (510 Center Avenue)
Bagel Street Café (580 Center Avenue)
The UPS Store (the Lucky Shopping Center).

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Best Western Plus John Muir Inn
State Farm Insurance, Matthew Rinn, Agent
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Note to the press:

1. To view or download **captioned** photos of homes, copy and paste the following link into your browser: <http://www.martinezhometour.com/index-24C.html>
2. To view or download **non-captioned** photos of homes, use the following link: <http://www.martinezhometour.com/index-20C.html>

