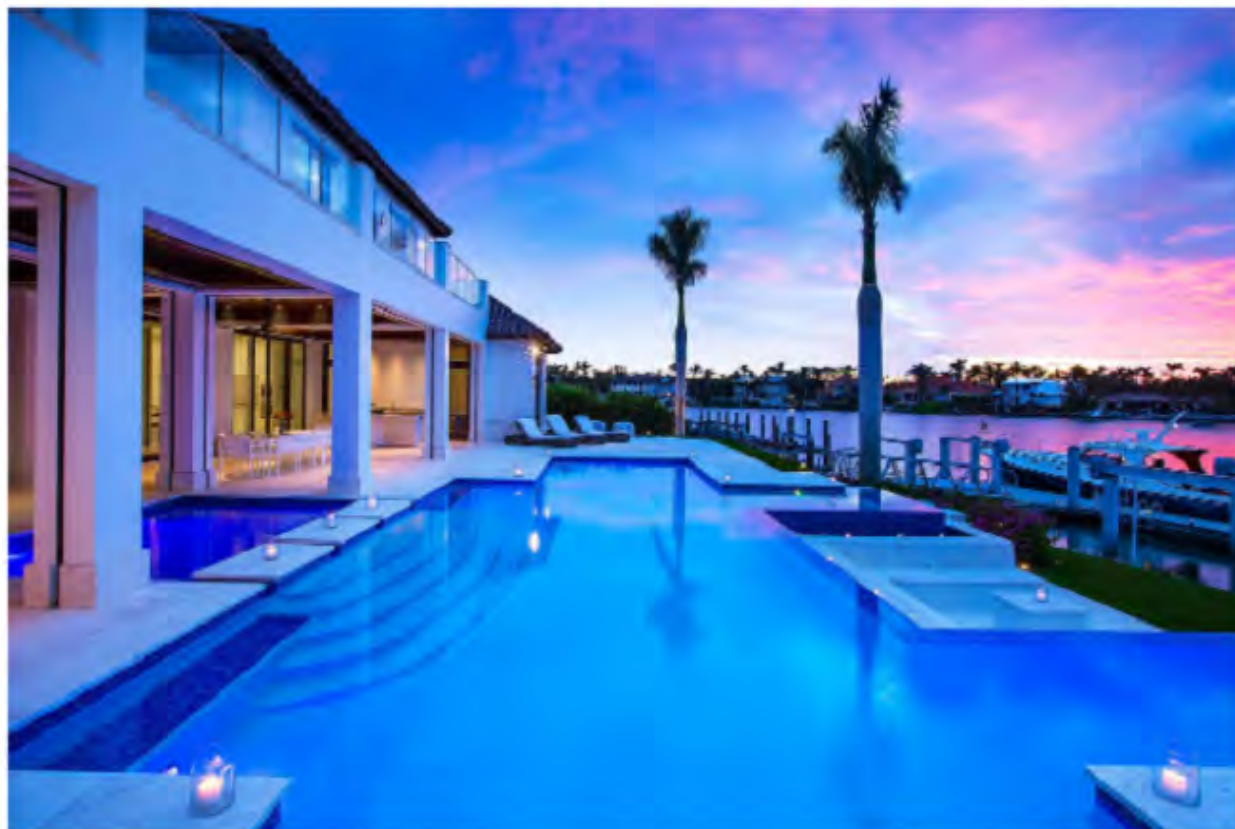




REAL ESTATE | HOMES

# A Wealth Of History, A History Of Wealth

Naples is packed with culture and neighborhoods boasting some of the priciest real estate in Florida.



On the bay side of Naples, this almost 10,000-square-foot house has 200 feet of water frontage and is on the market for \$17.5 million. PHOTO: PREMIER SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

*By Jessica Flint*

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TEXT



The warm weather and white sand beaches are what draw people to Naples, in southwest Florida. The active, philanthropic community and access to sophisticated dining, shopping and culture are what keep them there. The city on the Gulf of Mexico, about a 45-minute drive from Fort Myers, is home to roughly 22,000 people (51.5% are over the age of 65), according to census data. The Naples Pier, built in 1888 and the only way people could get into town until the late 1920s, is like a village commons. Surrounding it is Old Naples, which has historic homes (the oldest was built in 1895) and two retail and restaurant areas, Third Street South and Fifth Avenue South. For residents interested in water access, the Port Royal area, on canals between Naples Bay and the Gulf, features large houses with their own docks. Naples is a golfing paradise, too, with about 70 golf communities.

## **Notable stops and shops**

### **Gulfshore Playhouse**

A regional theater founded by ex-New Yorker Kristen Coury, the Gulfshore Playhouse punches above its weight with a half-dozen or so high-quality productions per year.

### **Conservancy of Southwest Florida's Nature Center**

Take a 45-minute electric boat ride on the Gordon River and learn about the Naples region's distinctive natural environment, which the Conservancy of Southwest Florida seeks to protect.



SANNA MANDER

for a table outside in the sand.

### **Event of the year**

The Naples Winter Wine Festival is an annual three-day celebration benefiting the Naples Children & Education Foundation. Since its inception in 2001, the event has raised more than \$191 million.

### **Advice for the buyer**

When it comes to blockbuster Florida real estate, Miami often grabs headlines. But Miami's priciest community—Fisher Island, with a median listing price of \$4.7 million—is half that of Naples's Port Royal. And people in Port Royal aren't even buying for keeps: In June 2018, a six bedroom, renovated house sold for \$48.8 million—and was promptly torn down.

### **Peach Tree Designs**

Furniture, artwork, lighting and other decor objects are for sale at Peach Tree Designs, a treasure trove of a home store. It's run by husband-and-wife team Judy and Bob Collins, along with their daughter, Stacie Carroll.

### **The Turtle Club**

Watching the sunset is more or less a sport in Naples, and one of the top places to do it is at The Turtle Club restaurant, on Vanderbilt Beach. Opt

## Day trip

The Everglades National Park is a 1.5-million-acre wetlands preserve southeast of Naples. Join Naples Bicycle Tours for a two-to-three hour, naturalist-guided ride in the area. Look for alligators.



PHOTO: NAPLES KENNY PHOTOGRAPHY

### **\$4.2 million**

A block from Third Street South's shops and restaurants, this 4,275-square-foot home has an interior courtyard, with pool, two guest suites, a chef's kitchen, walk-in wine room, butler's pantry and a great room with a vaulted, cypress tongue-and-groove ceiling provide. Agent: Beth McNichols, John R. Wood Properties



PHOTO: BLAINE JOHNSON/PREMIER SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

**\$14.9 million**

A 2018 winner of The International Design & Architecture Awards for residential design and flooring, this single-floor Port Royal home has mahogany, smoked-oak flooring and limestone accents throughout its 5,398 square feet. A wooden patio with a heated pool frame the bay-front view. Agent: Karen Van Arsdale, Premier Sotheby's International Realty





PHOTO: PREMIER SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY

**\$17.5 million**

Floor-to-ceiling glass windows and doors on the bay side of this 9,847-square-foot house showcase the property's 200 feet of water frontage and provide long views of Doubloon Bay. Inside, the central design element is a floating staircase constructed of European White Oak. Agent: Michael Lawler, Premier Sotheby's International Realty