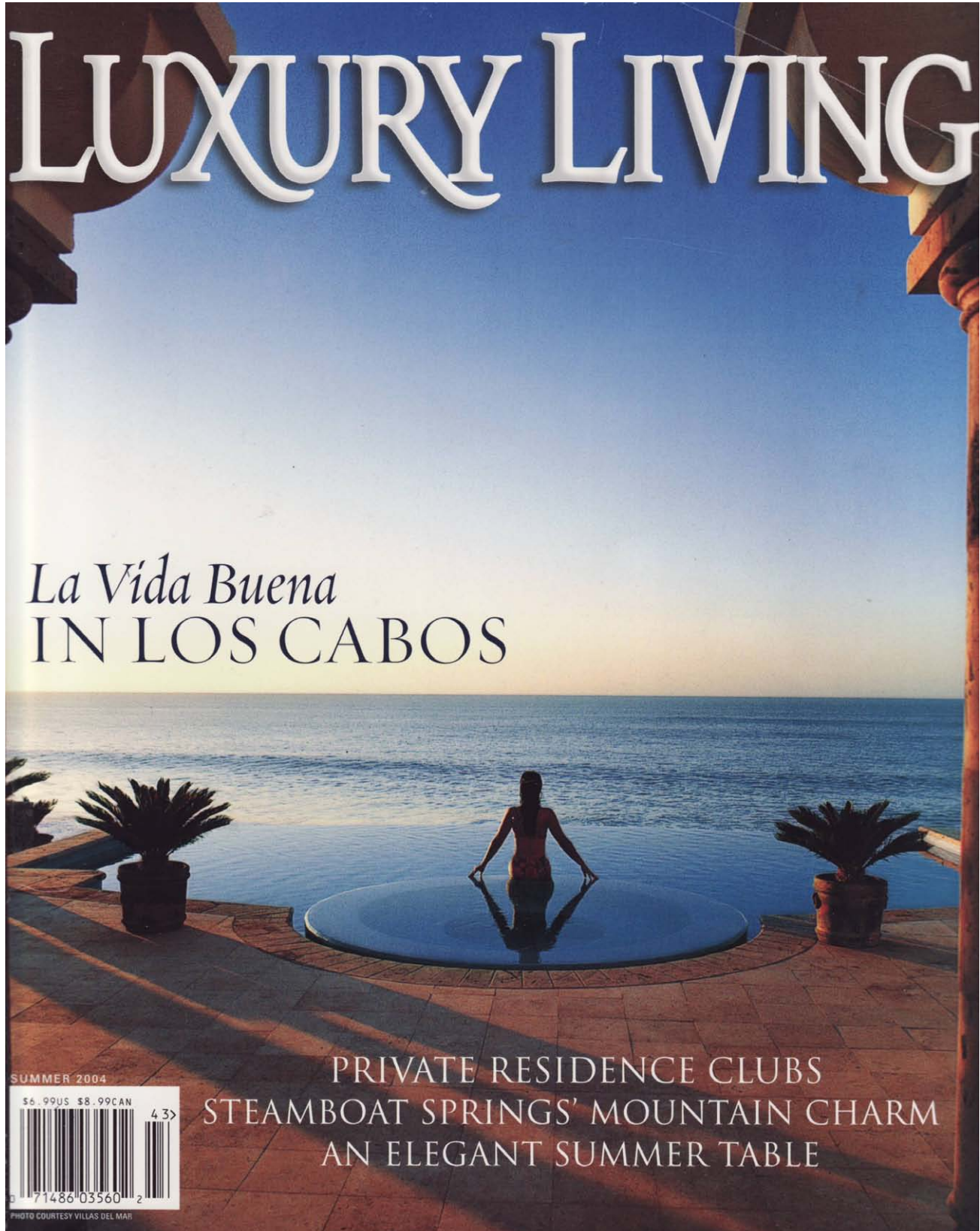


Luxury Living  
Summer 2004  
Striking it Rich  
Pages 58-61



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PRIVATE RESIDENCE CLUBS  
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS' MOUNTAIN CHARM  
AN ELEGANT SUMMER TABLE





# STRIKING IT RICH

A couple finds a home as good as gold at  
Arizona's Superstition Mountain

BY DAVID M. BROWN

**E**arly Native Americans referred to the Superstition Mountains as "bad medicine," since no one who entered them searching for lost treasure ever returned. But homeowners Bob and Christine Zamora don't believe in such stories. In fact, they enjoy taking the so-called bad medicine in large doses.



So do the local bobcats. Christine tells how they occasionally ease up to the rear loggia window off the sunken family room of the Zamoras' recently purchased Wildflower estate at Superstition Mountain Golf and Country Club, just east of Phoenix.

Before disappearing into the surrounding desert, the cats peer in for a while, no doubt wondering what Christine has prepared in her high-tech kitchen, with picture-window views of the Superstition Mountains. There, more than a century ago, the Lost Dutchman, Jacob Walz, was thought to have found the rich Peralta gold mine that many, so the legend goes, have died trying to find.

But the Zamoras have found it here in their fourth home, which is already Christine's favorite. They have a home in Lodi, California, as well as one at Stone Canyon Country Club in Oro Canyon, just north of Tucson. Owners of 18 car dealerships in California and Nevada, the couple will open Superstition Springs Honda in January, just 15 minutes from their Wildflower estate.

Proximity to the new car business drove the decision to purchase the \$2.5 million, four-bedroom, four-bath home. It also didn't hurt that Christine fell in love with the 5,265-square-foot, two-story home and its surroundings immediately. "We were looking for a community that we could feel comfortable in," she says.

"We were also looking for an effortless experience," adds Bob. "We only had to bring TVs, kitchen items and personal items—and we were home."



Here nature is prominent: bobcats, quail and hawks, ocotillo and saguaro. To the east are the Utery Mountains. To the north are the Superstitions, which, in the spring, are layered with beds of lupines and poppies. Abutting the mountains and the community is the 2.9 million-acre Tonto National Forest. More than half of the community is natural and landscaped open space, including two Jack Nicklaus-designed golf courses. Just beyond the Zamoras' pool/spa area is the 15th fairway of the Prospector Course. "We play the hole all the time," Christine says. "One

afternoon, no one was playing so my son kept replaying it. He was having so much fun out there."

Developed by Lyle Anderson's Superstition Mountain Properties Inc., Superstition Mountain provides all the golf, home quality and amenities of earlier Anderson communities in north Scottsdale—Desert Highlands and Desert Mountain—as well as Las Campanas in Santa Fe, Loch Lomond Golf Club in Scotland and Hokuli'a on the Kona Coast of Hawaii.

Opened in 1998, the 890-acre development is organized into villages, each with distinctive luxury housing but all sharing an overarching old-world theme: homes that look as though they've already been here for some time, proven like the land itself.

Wildflower, which sits on three-quarters of an acre, was designed by Oz Architects of Scottsdale and built by Anderson Homes and Design, a Lyle Anderson Company, which showcases a limited number of its custom homes in the community. As with the community clubhouse, the home synthesizes various warm-climate architectural styles. Tuscan, Spanish and Mediterranean influences dominate: stone and wrought-iron fences, additional wrought-iron work inside, cantera stone columns and fountains, and saltillo tile floors. For character, the exterior walls were aged with a mortar-washed stone veneer; exposed lintels sit in the stone walls. The clay-tile roof carries traditional mud-set chinking, rough-sawn beams serve as rafter tails, and trellis work appears throughout on the patios, courtyards and loggias. On the rear, also taking advantage of the desert climate and mountain views, is an outdoor living room.

"We fell in love with the quality of the home and the Tuscan theme," says Bob, adding that he and Christine vacation in Tuscany twice a year. Their new home will therefore paradoxically inspire them to leave it, occasionally.

Wildflower is a great home for welcoming guests. Sitting on the east side of the main level of the home, the master

suite features a two-person shower, a platform tub, two walk-in closets, three separate vanities and a private courtyard with an outdoor spa and shower.

For guests, a winding staircase with wrought-iron balustrade and risers from hand-made Mexican Talavera tiles leads to a hall library/reading area and a guest bedroom and bath with two outdoor decks, including one with a gas fireplace (this warm home has five others).

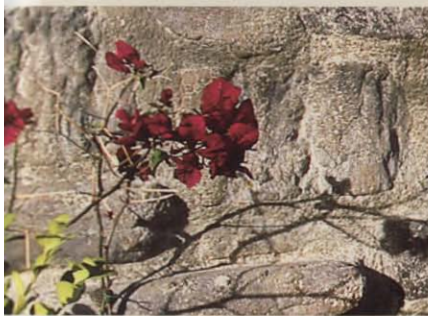
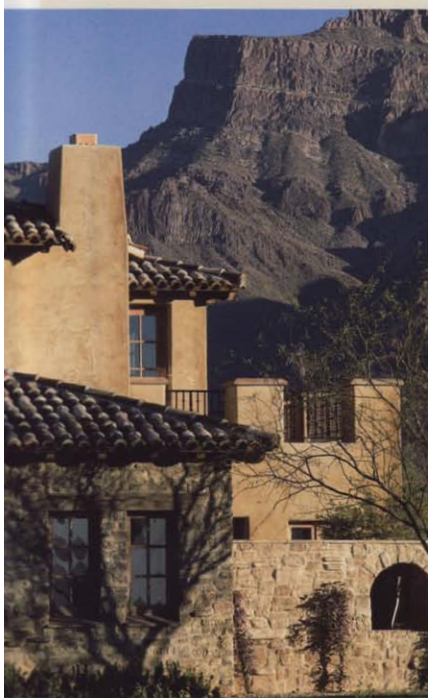
A second guest bedroom sits on the main level and leads to a spacious courtyard with a gas grill, and a casita connected to the house by a latticework of beams. Just outside is a trellised patio with a fireplace, while a short walkway leads to the negative-edge pool and spa.

"When we saw this feature, we knew it would fit us perfectly," Bob says, explaining that they wanted a house that was comfortable for both family and business guests alike. "Four couples can be staying in this home at the same time and still have a great sense of privacy," he adds.

The Zamoras bought the house as is, with the interior design by Beth McGehee, vice president of operations for Anderson Homes and Design. The furnishings include a number of mesquite pieces by Tucson-based Taber and Co., many of which were painstakingly carved from one piece of wood. McGehee maintained the Tuscan and Spanish themes with details such as wrought-iron sconces and archways in the entryway and elsewhere in the home.

Craftsmanship, so apparent in the structure, shows in the interior details as well. Mirroring the stairway risers, Talavera tiles form the risers of the stepdowns from the entryway into the dining room and, opposite, the living room. The living room also showcases exposed Douglas fir trusses and manganese saltillo tiles framed by rustic walnut planking.

Despite folklore, the Zamoras have, indeed, found gold here—without taking one step into the forbidding Superstition Mountains. ❖





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Christine and Bob Zamora's kitchen (upper left) offers storage and butler's pantries, a Dacor range and double ovens, Kohler sinks and an Asko dishwasher. Featuring a table from D.S. Studio of Scottsdale, the dining room (above right) steps down from the entryway and opens up to a Tuscan-style courtyard centered by a fountain. On the other side of the entryway, the living room (left) includes a Robb & Stuckey traditional coffee table, exposed Douglas fir trusses and saltillo tiles framed by walnut planking. Outside, the pool and spa (above) sit adjacent to the loggias and just a putt away from the 15th fairway of the Jack Nicklaus-designed Prospector Course at Superstition Mountain Golf and Country Club.