



# *Custom Beauty* in the Vineyard



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PHOTOS BY LINDSAY ORTEZ

**R**eal estate folks often tell clients to never fall in love with their homes or become too attached, but Suzanne Candini might've broken that rule with her custom Manzanita home in Manteca.

Candini, whose background is in subdivision production building, loves her 5,000-square-foot sanctuary. Her 2003 home was built on a 20-acre lot overlooking a vineyard with Chardonnay, Cabernet and Zinfandel grapes which are shipped to Charles Krug Winery in Napa.

"It's very peaceful here," said Candini, co-founder of Manzanita Ventures. "We love living in a vineyard, and the design of our home fits us perfectly."

While her previous home was remodeled by her husband Milo, this home has far more perks and pleasures sure to keep her feet firmly planted for a long time.

"The kitchen is amazing. It was my husband's idea to barrel the ceiling. His ceiling designs are unique and add so much detail," said Candini. "We've also been fortunate to have a great faux painter, Dawn Martini, who helped with a lot of the design. And our bedroom has a fantastic view of the vineyard, which I wake up to every morning."









Milo, who builds roughly three to four custom homes a year, has a creative side to his homebuilding. He adds a signature design to ceilings, giving them depth, character and most of all layers. His secret – sheetrock.

“I use it instead of wood in the ceilings along with trim, which saves the customer so much money,” said Milo. “I was in drywall construction for 25 years and I don’t know why others don’t use it more.”

Other amazing features that make this Manzanita home sing, “ooh-la-la” include stacked stone walls inside and out done by both Milo and his son Milo Jr., a dining room surrounded by faux-marbled pillars with an adjoining see-through wine closet, and a thrown-like bathtub flanked by his-and-her vanities.

“I made sure that he designed separate vanities!” said Suzanne, whose vanity is slightly more cluttered (the good kind of cluttered) than Milo’s.



While a custom home might cost more than a cookie-cutter one, Suzanne talks about the flipside.

"You can design exactly what you want," she said. "Make it work for your family and your lifestyle. It's sort of like having a dream come true. People think it's so overwhelming, but it's not! You can spend as little or as much as you want."

Of course the drawbacks include time and countless decisions, but Suzanne has a remedy for that as well. "A qualified decorator makes everything easier and it saves you money. That's why we have one on staff."

She said Manzanita is not only committed to great design and quality construction, but also to controlling costs.

"Too many custom builders charge a percentage of costs for their fee. We're not like that. We start with a budget and

charge a fee based on the home," said Suzanne. "Our job is to bring costs in as low as possible while not compromising quality. I'm happy if you choose granite countertops as opposed to tile. It makes the finished product better and it's less work for me. Why should I charge you more for that?"

With four bedrooms, four bathrooms, mostly wood flooring, and almost every ceiling accented with unique trims and designs, Suzanne has no reason to move any time soon. She recalls having to uproot from their last house of 19 years, where they raised four kids together.

"He (Milo) kept pushing me to move, which I hate to do, and I was happy in our remodeled home," she said. "Then he found this amazing vineyard and the rest is history. I'm so very glad I listened to him. He says I should listen more often!" □

