



OJAI VALLEY INN

CASA ELAR AT-A-GLANCE

OVERVIEW

Casa Elar was built in 2006 by the Crown Family of Chicago as a private residence on the grounds of the Ojai Valley Inn. Casa Elar refers to the initials “L” and “R” for Lester and Renee Crown, owners of the Inn. Casa Elar is popular for celebrity escapes, family reunions and destination weddings.

KEY PLAYERS

Architect: William Mahan of Santa Barbara, Calif.

Interior Designer: SFA Design of Santa Barbara and Los Angeles, Rosie Feinberg

Landscape Architect: Katie O’Reilly Rogers of Santa Barbara

Exterior light fixtures: Steve Handelman Studios of Santa Barbara

Site lighting: Gambino Lighting

Contractor: Tyler Development of Calabasas, Matt Grode – lead

Landscape Contractor: Clark and White of Los Angeles and Ojai

Project Management: NWB Design, Neva Williams Bradigan of Ojai

ARCHITECTURE

Resembling a Tuscan Villa, Casa Elar features custom-color, steel-trowel plaster, Santa Barbara sandstone, custom African mahogany windows and doors and operable Italian shutters. The front entry and great terrace fountains are hand-carved limestone. There are a total of four fountains on the property. The driveway apron is made of interlocking pavers and the driveway is chip-sealed colored gravel over asphalt.

SIZE

Square footage of house – total structure = 10,147

First floor – 5,454 square feet

Second floor – 3,953 square feet

Garage – 740 square feet

Square footage of fenced area including structure = 44,000 square feet

AMENITIES

- Two master suites upstairs, the Red Room and the Blue Room, both with hand-carved limestone fireplaces, carpet by Stark. Each suite has his and hers bathrooms with crème marfil countertops, honed-limestone floors, all custom millwork. Each suite has an outdoor covered porch with fireplace.
- Two large bedrooms downstairs, each with full baths featuring crème marfil countertops and custom millwork. The fireplace in bedroom #3, the Green Room, is hand-carved limestone. The fireplace in bedroom #4, the Yellow Room, is plaster with a tile surround. Carpets are by Stark.
- Guest/staff apartment over garage with living room, dining room and kitchenette area, bedroom and bath. Pool and spa area with wooden trellis. Hardscape stone is the same travertine used in the world-famous Getty Museum and Santa Barbara limestone.
- Great Room includes large seating areas, dining table for 12, buffet area, wood-burning, hand-carved limestone fireplace, walnut floors with large formal rug.
- Library/entertainment room includes large seating area, card table area, desk area, wood-burning, hand-carved limestone fireplace with deep-red marble surround, built-in bar, large entertainment center with 61-inch flat screen TV. Carpet is by Stark. Full-house sound system can be accessed in the Library (portable control unit) and additional wall Krestron control units are located in the Great Room and Kitchen.

- Large kitchen with butler and service pantries, laundry room and staff restroom. Kitchen countertops are basaltine stone. Appliances are by Sub-Zero and Wolf. Breakfast nook has barrel-roof ceiling and leads to an outdoor, covered porch with hand-carved limestone fireplace and travertine hardscape.
- Elevator to second floor suites has a walnut finish and antique mirror.
- Guest powder room on first floor has a pewter sink in a custom-millwork vanity.
- Great Room outdoor terrace has hand-carved limestone fountain, the same travertine as seen in the world famous Getty Museum and overlooks the fairway of the golf course.
- BBQ terrace includes wooden trellis atop cast concrete pillars, stone Mugnaini pizza oven, gas BBQ, built-in seating, overlooking the barranca.
- Formal front entry of Italian design will park eight vehicles; two-car garage with two additional parking spaces in front of garage doors. This area also can be used for entertaining as it has an entertainment power package. There are seven field-grown olive trees surrounding the motor courtyard. The front elevation is softened by eight Italian cypress trees. Other plantings include rosemary, roses, lavender, and box hedges. Fruit trees include lemon, orange, pear, peach, fig, apple, avocado, and apricot. The front custom-made iron gate is operable by code, card reader and by phone access in house.
- Cart path leading to the golf course has a custom-made iron gate operable by code.
- Rotunda: a 24' high entry foyer with a dome finished in Venetian plaster. The floor is limestone, and the baseboards are walnut as are the treads on the circular stair. Circular stairs with ornate custom-made iron railings lead to master suites on second floor.
- Total number of fireplaces: 12 plus the outdoor pizza oven.
- Massage room with kiva-style fireplace also has facilities for hair salon. A large roof garden off the massage room serves as an outdoor treatment area and overlooks the surrounding golf course.
- Artwork – a large portion of the collection is by local artists from the Ojai Valley. Some local names include Carol Topalian, Jeff Sokja, Jennifer Moses and Susan Amend. Architect Bill Mahan was commissioned to paint two watercolors for the home. The first-floor hallway features a collection of archival photographs of some of the numerous stars and celebrities who have visited the Ojai Valley Inn over the years.

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