A home in the clouds
Spacious estate sits on 19 acres in Wine Country

With 3,350 square feet of living space, this $4.2 million property includes three bedroom suites and a one-bedroom guest apartment.
A garden courtyard on the home’s main level features an outdoor cooking and dining area.

‘House in the Heavens’
Healdsburg estate’s glass walls bring nature into a variety of open living spaces

By Terry Shaw
BLOCKSHOPPER.COM

One of the owners said the home feels as if it were floating on the edge of the world.

“We waking up in the morning, we’re so high up we’re above the fog line,” said Mitch Laufer. “It’s like you’re on a plane looking at all those white clouds. People walk in and their mouths drop.”

With 3,350 square feet of living space, 5208 Chemise Road in Healdsburg has three private bedroom suites, a one-bedroom guest apartment and five baths. It’s listed for $4.2 million. Features include wide-plank birch flooring, redwood decking around the living areas, and
floor-to-ceiling windows with Italian teal frames. “I’d say the house is 75 percent glass,” Laufer said. “No matter what room you’re in, you’re looking at vineyards and hills.”

Laufer and partner Michael Dadario have used the home as a weekend retreat for six years. “The minute you get there, you take a major deep breath and it’s so relaxing,” Laufer said.

He enjoys spending his days by the 50-foot lap pool. “In the evening, it’s the front patio,” he said. But his favorite spot may be the master suite’s 7-by-4-foot shower. “It’s like you’re walking into a room instead of a shower,” he said. “It makes you want to stay in there. From that shower, you can look through the bathroom into the valley.”

The couple considered naming the place House in the Heavens, like a hotel in Hawaii. “It’s a great home for entertaining,” Laufer said.

Open patio areas surround the pool. There are outdoor heaters, a gazebo, an eight-burner barbecue island and an outdoor shower.

A circular driveway can accommodate up to 15 vehicles. The three-car garage has built-in storage cabinets.

Laufer said the 750-square-foot guesthouse, which overlooks the pool and valley, is far enough away from other living areas to offer privacy. It has an outside staircase and deck, a fireplace, white oak cabinetry and custom tile.

The main home’s kitchen has stainless steel countertops and sinks, an onyx work station, a Gaggenau five-burner stainless steel cooktop and hood, two Fisher Paykel dishwashing drawers and double-well ovens. Other features include a double-door brand-name refrigerator, an under-counter microwave, a 144-bottle wine chiller and heated floors.

Laufer said it’s a great year-round residence. “The living room is wonderful at night, especially with a fire going,” he said. “You can sit outside and have dinner on the covered patio, even when it’s raining all around you.”

Laufer stressed the property’s privacy. “There are 38 homes on the road, and each of them has at least 10 acres,” he said. “Some have ponds. Others have vineyards or olive orchards. The best thing is that it’s only 14 minutes from town, if you want to see a movie or go to the restaurant or a theater.”

For more information, contact Frank Nolan of Vanguard Properties at (415) 377-3726 or frank@vanguardsf.com or Sheri Morgensen of Sotheby’s International Realty at (415) 269-5634 or sherimorgensen@sothebyshomes.com.