

OLD WORLD CRAFTSMANSHIP

Casa Linda

By Aaron R. Fodiman
Photography by Laurence Taylor



The rear of the home features cornerless glass pocket doors that can be opened completely to create a "Florida den." Its outdoor fireplace has a 35-inch television built in above it. The outdoor living space adjoins the pool, which features swim-up, stone-top bars and underwater stools.

SOME PEOPLE, WHEN ASKED WHY THEY EVEN ATTEMPTED to do something difficult - if not impossible - such as climbing a mountain, swimming the English Channel or running a marathon, give a simple, straight forward, "To prove I could do it" answer. ▶



Casa Linda is intricate and beautiful. It was designed to take the best advantage of the site on which it was built.

The kitchen is a wondrous combination of superior products, such as distressed alder wood cabinets, Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances, a pre-cast stone hood and a pecky-cypress ceiling. A tumbled-stone edge was used to add detailing to the granite top of the larger-than-normal kitchen island.

You may wonder what this has to do with home building. So would I, if I hadn't received that reply from the owners of Windstar Homes, Bobby Gross and David Lesser, when I asked them why they attempted to build a house as difficult as Casa Linda. They welcomed the challenge and set out to prove that they could accomplish any task set





◀ The tongue and groove maple ceilings, wood beams and decorative corbels of the billiard room were seamlessly integrated into each other in order to achieve the desired effect.

before them, no matter how difficult it was. They knew that they had the technical skills to fulfill the dream. The home would be difficult to build, however, due to its numerous design requirements. The plans called for twenty-two and a half degree angles throughout, an open-room system devoid of hallways, the use of very high-quality products in ▶



◀ The master bath is resplendent with high-quality detailing. Two televisions are conveniently placed, one for the shower and one hidden behind the mirror that can be viewed while the owner shaves.

The master bedroom has a beautiful hand-painted ceiling. The ornate moldings and four-step plaster finish that were used here and throughout the home required skilled craftsmanship and much time to apply.





A piano loft above the grand parlor and the dining room serves as a bridge to connect several areas on the second floor. The detailed ceiling work and segmented cast-stone columns are fine examples of the skillful craftsmanship employed to build this home.



◀ The pre-cast stone fireplace was built with wood and plaster inlays, then hand painted. Interior designer Franco Pasquale of Tampa selected the furniture and window treatments throughout the residence.

unusual combinations and extensive intricate detailing. Building this house to meet their own very demanding standards would be a venture that they eagerly anticipated.

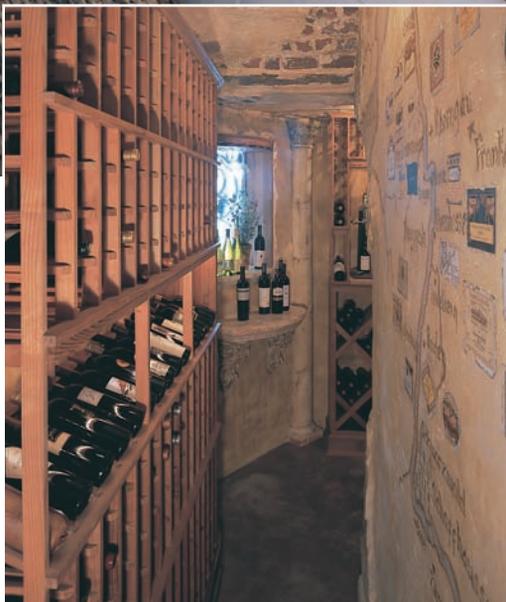
Windstar's structural team studied the plans and worked out all the particulars and potential problems that they could project prior to commencing construction. They projected that it would take twenty-four months to complete the project, but because of their ability to organize and schedule, they were able to complete the home in less time. ▶



A wrought-iron spiral staircase leads from the two-story office/library to an upstairs reading loft.

◀ The dining room features custom maple and black walnut cabinets inset with individually-cut pieces of beveled mirror.

The lanai enjoys a view of the pool with its pergola over the bar area, as well as the lake behind the home.



▲ The wine cellar, which was artistically constructed beneath the home's main staircase, appears to actually be below ground in a centuries-old building.

The completed house is not only spacious, but it is also heavily detailed. The more time you spend in the home, the more you notice the multiple levels of detailing that are present.

In construction, as in any other business, there are three elements to be considered - the quality, the service and the price. Most people are able to offer the best price only by reducing the level of quality, service, or both. Windstar has built their business by refusing to reduce the quality or the service they offer.

The amazing end to this story is that you can still view this incredible residence. Potential clients can see first hand what Windstar is capable of creating. 🏡

EDITOR'S NOTE: To arrange a personal visit to Casa Linda, contact Windstar Homes, (888) 582-HOME.