

# Style and Sophistication On a Grand Scale

Amenities, architecture make Saddle River Grand one of a kind

WRITTEN BY BROOKE PERRY

"This is luxury living on the grandest scale," says Terrie O'Connor of Saddle River Grand, the community of custom Manor-style townhomes that was fully sold even before its graceful wrought-iron gates swung open to welcome the first homeowner in 2012. Its 68 residences were snapped up by buyers eager to trade their traditional homes (and the accompanying high taxes and maintenance bills) for the ease and elegance of a modern, ultra-luxurious townhome that came with the added bonus of lower tax bills and less upkeep. "You don't even need to own a snow shovel here!" she smiles.

A longtime resident of Bergen County and president of Terrie O'Connor Realtors, O'Connor was one of Saddle River Grand's first residents. She was drawn to its location — the George Washington Bridge is just a 20-minute drive east — and the developer's extraordinary attention to detail. "From the landscaping and architecture to the amenities, it's a perfect balance between Old-World sophistication and modern style," she says.

Indeed, Fairfield-based Woodmont Properties spared no expense on the award-winning collection of luxurious Georgian Colonial-style townhomes, topping it all off with the kind of high-end amenities and services more often found at a private country club. Industry accolades quickly followed, including awards from the National Association of Home Builders in 2013 and "Awards



of Excellence" in 2013 and 2014 from the Community Builders & Remodelers Association of NJ.

Credit for the community's gracious architectural design goes to Bob Zampolin, an accomplished Westwood-based architect whose client list includes Fortune 500 CEOs and A-list celebrities. Although the townhomes' exteriors share the same architectural elements, the interiors are far from cookie-cutter. "Each one is a bit different," notes O'Connor of bespoke details such as Venetian plaster walls, coffered ceilings, custom millwork and imported marble that make each townhouse feel unique.

Ranging in size from 4,450 to 5,500 square feet, the custom-built homes are light-filled showplaces with stunning design features, including high ceilings, arched windows, elevators and private

patios. A great deal of the total square footage is devoted to "heart of the home" spaces, including extra-large custom designer kitchens, two-story Great Rooms and lavish master suites complete with oversized walk-in closets and imported marble bathrooms with custom cabinetry. "There is really nothing like Saddle River Grand in the area," says O'Connor.

## WHERE NEIGHBORS BECOME FRIENDS

Her neighbors couldn't agree more. Among them are Caroline and John Barr, who moved to Saddle River Grand in 2016 after living in Ridgewood for 31 years. With their daughters grown and many friends beginning to move away, "the time felt right to look for a new

community to fit this new stage in our lives," the couple recalls. "We didn't need a six-bedroom house anymore, and all the maintenance that goes with a home built in 1940, but we didn't want to downsize either. We wanted four bedrooms so our children and their families still had a home base in Bergen County."

While Saddle River Grand's superior construction immediately won them over, the atmosphere of community is what stood out most. "I never dreamed that I would find so many new friends here," she says.

Get-togethers are easy, thanks to the Clubhouse, a social hub and favorite (pre-pandemic) gathering spot for wine and cheese parties, barbecues and book club meetings. In addition to a beautifully furnished Great Room for get-togethers, it features a state-of-the-art Fitness Center, expansive Yoga Studio, and inviting outdoor swimming pool, hot tub and fire pit. "It's like a college campus for adults," says Barr, who looks forward to post-pandemic coffee hours, wine and cheese parties, and regular mahjong games in the Clubhouse.

## FAVORITE FEATURES

Among the most-loved features at Saddle River Grand are the custom, chef-caliber kitchens and bathrooms by Ulrich, Inc. in Ridgewood. Designer Aparna Vijayan worked directly with nearly 40 homeowners to personalize their spaces, ranging from kitchens and bathrooms to laundry rooms, libraries and basements complete with built-in bars and wine cellars. Vijayan relied on her 24 years of design experience to simultaneously execute the multi-room projects, all in just nine months. Her in-depth knowledge of affluent homeowners' likes and dislikes kept the task manageable. "These buyers were moving from very expensive, very ornate and traditional homes into townhomes that were lighter, more open and more transitional in style," she explains. "The opportunity to sit down with them and to help them plan a custom kitchen that fit their personal style and the design of their new home was a joy."

Not surprisingly, many of them have turned into repeat customers. "Now that people are spending so much more time at home, I've been called back in to upgrade laundry rooms, enhance libraries (floor-to-ceiling wood paneling is especially popular), and turn guest bedrooms into fully functioning home offices.

Take the grand tour at  
<https://youtu.be/Zo4NsFwvB0E>



The award-winning collection of elegant, luxurious Georgian Colonial-style townhomes at Saddle River Grand include the kind of high-end amenities and services more often found at a private country club.

PHOTOS: KYLIE PERRY/REX, BERGEN COUNTY AERIAL MEDIA