

Coastal Grower

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John & Karen McCabe

By Melody Young | Photography By Patrick Tregenza

Do you have a “happy place”? A place where your soul expands and your worries diminish? John and Karen McCabe do. That place is our very own Monterey Peninsula, Pacific Grove to be exact.

The McCabes began traveling to Pacific Grove to avoid the heat of their hometown. They purchased a small, 1000 square foot cottage a few short blocks from the beach and began to explore the town. Before long, they were coming at least once a month to enjoy their little bit of heaven.

Two years ago, while out on a walk, they came upon an open house and couldn't resist going in. They immediately fell in love with the two story remodeled home you see in these pages. That was when the McCabes took a leap of faith and purchased yet another vacation home. They christened it “Sea Glass Sanctuary” in honor of their love for the beach and the sea glass they find scattered there. This home, Karen says, is intended to hold extended family and, hopefully someday, grandchildren. The idea was to have a home large enough for everyone to stay together and close enough to have family strolls on the beach. Because they cannot stay in two places at once, they decided to occasionally rent the house as a vacation rental with Sanctuary Vacation Rentals.

This property is everything one could wish for in a vacation spot. The McCabes have furnished Sea Glass Sanctuary with all the furnishings and items that they would want to find in a vacation home. The main level of the home welcomes visitors with open arms. Guests are treated to wine and cheese as well as a list of things to do and see Pacific Grove and surrounding areas. The McCabes feel strongly



Compliments from guests









All ready for guests

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about encouraging visitors to create their own adventures and memories. With 2100 square feet in the main house, there are four bedrooms and two and one half baths. The backyard hosts a darling 300 square foot guest cottage with a bedroom and bath. There is room for everyone. Beach toys, chairs, and barbecue supplies organized for easy use add to the enjoyment and relaxation.

It would, however, be very tempting to just curl up in one of the overstuffed sofas in the great room to read or play a game by the fire. The natural, soothing colors and textures of the space reflect the ocean and natural surroundings outside. The floors are a warm, polished wood while the walls are painted a buttery cream. When the skies are gray, there is just enough pop of fun coral hues to keep the house light and cheerful. Whether it is sunny or our local fog has rolled in, there is never a bad day by the ocean. Karen had a wonderful time furnishing the home with a mixture of new and vintage pieces as well as adding personal family touches and treasures throughout. From the vintage lamps to the deeply personal family art displayed on the walls, the guest feels as if they are staying in their best friend's home.

The kitchen and dining area silently beckons. The knotty alder cabinets are crowned with glass cabinets holding hand blown glass treasures. The granite countertops and travertine backsplash add a bit of formality and elegance to the space. The six burner chef's range stands center court among every amenity one could ask for to create a meal for family and guests. No detail has gone unnoticed. The dining table is ready and waiting laid for eight. The casual and pleasant mix of colors and textures set the stage for a fun evening of food, drink, and conversation.

The master suite is a vacation spot in its own right. There are fabulous views of the bay from the bedroom and the adjacent balcony. The room, with its bright playful



Let's plan dinner



Playful Master suite

color scheme is airy and uncluttered. What a wonderful way to start a day on the coast! A luxurious master bathroom boasts a see-through fireplace from the bedroom to the Jacuzzi bathtub. Limestone tile in warm hues along with fluffy white towels and robes all contribute to a spa-like experience. There might not be any reason to come downstairs if it weren't for the short walk to the beach to watch the fishing boats.

Sea Glass Sanctuary is as comfortable for two as it is for 10. The McCabes have thought of everything, just as they would want it for themselves. They have given others a chance to experience and love Pacific Grove the way that they do.

So where is your happy place? Do you travel to it, or is it in your own backyard? Wherever it is, make the most of it as the McCabes have.

Live life to the fullest.



Soaking in luxury

The idea was to have a home large enough for everyone to stay together and close enough to have family strolls on the beach.
