

FINANCIAL POST

Living in the Queen's 'hood

Have eight Rolls Royces? This is the place for you

Shane McGinley, *Financial Post* Published: Saturday, March 22, 2008

Recently hit the Forbes rich list and need more room for all your money? This mansion in England has room for eight cars, 300 bottles of wine and has eight pools. And it is still on the market, for \$154-million.

Located in Windlesham, on the Surrey-Berkshire border, Updown Court is steeped in privilege and English aristocracy. During the reign of King Henry III, the area was declared part of the forest of Windsor. It is only 45 kilometres from central London and 20

minutes from Heathrow. Once through the electric gates and up the heated marble driveway, visitors will marvel at the architecture, designed by John Scholz of Bel-Air fame.

The main 4,400-square-metre Georgian-style house is divided over four floors and surrounded by 58,000 square metres of English gardens. It is bigger than both Buckingham Palace and Hampton Court combined. It has 13 bedrooms, 20 bathrooms and 43 lavatories. It even has one ensuite swimming pool, reached via a glass elevator. There is also a squash court, a cinema and a two-lane bowling alley in the basement.

The main staircase, at the heart of the mansion, was inspired by Gianni Versace's villa in Miami. The foyer is a mosaic of the globe, made with 24-carat-gold designs.

The penthouse floor consists of four bedrooms, two bathrooms, two shower rooms, two powder rooms, two dressing rooms, two walk-through sitting/dining rooms, a terrace with infinity pool and central leisure/reception area. The east wing holds the master bedroom suite, consisting of a sitting area, bedroom and bathroom, a pool and a glass lift to the pool area.

The west wing on the ground floor level includes a cherry-panelled office, breakfast room, kitchen, sitting room, two powder rooms and a banquet hall. The west wing pool is surrounded by marble pillars and also has a beauty salon, sauna and male and female dressing rooms.

There are also two separate guest properties on the estate. One consists of six bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, a kitchen/dining area and an upstairs sitting room. The other has three bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms, a kitchen/dining area and upstairs sitting room. The gatehouse alone also has two bedrooms, a conservatory, kitchen/ breakfast room, a sitting room, two separate powder rooms, a security room and waiting area.

Of course, there is also a heliport and a heated garage with room for eight Rolls Royces. The wine cellar has room for 300 bottles.

Neighbours include Queen Elizabeth, Elton John and golfer Nick Faldo. According to media reports, the owner of the mansion is London-based Indian billionaire Lakshmi Narayan Mittal, who is worth in the region of \$50-billion. - For enquiries, contact Updown Court Ltd., tel 0044 1276 453336; www.updowncourt.com. For sales information, go to www.savills.com, www.hamptons-int.com or www.theresabernabe.tv

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