

LOS ANGELES **CONFIDENTIAL**

MARY J. BLIGE, LIVE!

THE DIVA UNPLUGGED, UNCENSORED... UNFORGETTABLE

LAwards Mania!

PLUS Tommy Mottola, Gary Sinise, Sunset Marquis at 50

the hills are alive!

PROPERTIES WITH THE BEST VIEWS GET PRIMO PRICES. BY KATHY A. MCDONALD

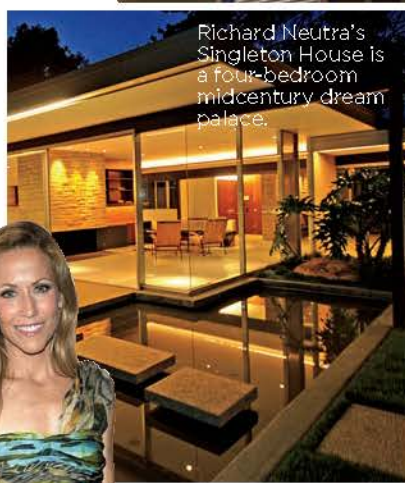
If there's one ultimate LA real estate status symbol, it has to be a house in the Hills with jetliner views (preferably) and a pool (without question). That rule also leads to the corollary: eventually that house will be sold. This winter, several hilltop aeries demonstrate the spectacular heights available to LA buyers, from singer/songwriter Sheryl Crow's top-of-the-canyon retreat to the cr me de la cr me of modernism, a Richard Neutra-designed, glass-walled pavilion at the top of Mulholland Drive in Bel-Air, previously the home of the late Vidal Sassoon.

MANICURED GROUNDS AND DROP-DEAD VIEWS are just beyond the glass walls of the 6,400-square-foot, four-bedroom, five-bath Singleton House built by Richard Neutra in 1959. Restored and expanded by Vidal and Ronnie Sassoon, this modernist stunner is a midcentury dream palace. The house is faultlessly sited on more than five well-groomed acres; the ease of access between interior and exterior is a Neutra hallmark, and glass sliders make the transition seamless. The Sassoons' additions involve a terrazzo tub in the master bathroom and all new terrazzo floors, poured during the residence's extensive renovation. Garden stones, rumored to have been artfully placed by Isamu Noguchi, are among the estate's custom extras. Kurt Rappaport, president of the Westside Estate Agency (weahomes.com), is handling the \$17,995,000 listing.

CHART-TOPPING SINGER/SONGWRITER Sheryl Crow put her exquisite three-house property atop a Hollywood Hills canyon on



An exterior view of The Avenue.



Richard Neutra's Singleton House is a four-bedroom midcentury dream palace.



A living room at the high-end rental property The Avenue.



Sheryl Crow has put her three-house property on the market for close to \$16 million.



Crow's Spanish Colonial house in Vista Canyon was built in 1926.

the market for \$15,950,000 last fall. The more than 10-acre compound (created when Crow combined two separate properties) is linked by an infinity pool and hiking trails that lead to the top of the canyon. The property consists of the main 1926-built Spanish-Colonial house to the two guest houses: one, a four-bedroom, three-bath painstakingly restored Craftsman-style bungalow, and the other, an 1885 cottage complete with three bedrooms, and two bathrooms. With the estate's retreatlike feel, one can find inspiration—or have some *serious* fun—next to the teepee or under the thatched roof of a tropical *palapa*. Myra Nourmand and Joanne Vuylsteke of Nourmand & Associates Realtors (nourmand.com), represent the gated compound.

CLOSE BY CROW'S HIDEAWAY ESTATE IS Hollywood's latest addition to the high-end rental market. Intended for the condo market, The Avenue (theavenuehollywood.com) began construction as The Madrone (a John Laing Homes development). Bankruptcy intervened and construction stalled out. Enter The Resmark Companies, a real estate investment company, and the project was revived and completed by the original architects, the Cunningham Group, which is also responsible for SBE's The Redbury's striking red facade.

Of note are the seven available penthouses that face north to the Hollywood Hills and offer unique views. The bi-level, double-height units combine boutique hotel and apartment design with a loftlike feel. Lease prices start at \$7,000 per month, but shorter-term leases can be negotiated, depending on availability. Above street level, between the 180-apartment complex's three seven-story buildings, is what luxury renters crave: a private pocket park with loads of amenities, from a social deck with pool to an outdoor fire pit. Life at the top in Los Angeles just got better. **LAC**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE CORRIGAN/GETTY IMAGES (CROW); EVERETT FENTON; G. DILEY (SINGLETON HOUSE)