

Horse havens

By Susan Rubin

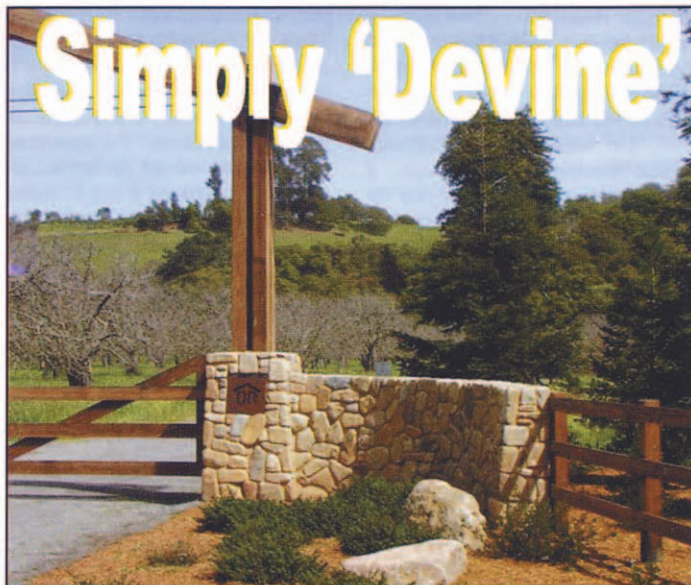
My special thanks go to Vicky Moon for her colorful tour of this fabulous West Coast ranch! We agree this Horse Haven is simply 'Devine'.

Nestled in the hills between San Jose and Monterey, California, is the stunning 90-acre Devine Ranch. The official location is Aptos. As a visitor approaches a stonewall-and-wood timber entry gate, there's an elegant copper plate, which simply reads: DR.

Fresh ocean breezes waft across the breathtaking landscape and a scenic glimpse of the Pacific Ocean. Several construction trucks are parked

just beyond the entrance. This is home for Rick Devine, a 44-year-old IT executive recruiter and founder of Devine Capital Partners. He shares this magnificent horse haven with his wife Vicki and three daughters: Jennifer, 20, Katarina, 12, and Sabrina, seven. It's also the lovely new home to three hunter/jumper ponies, four Quarter Horses and one 'ranch horse'.

"My objective when looking for an architect was/is to build a house and a barn that matched, i.e., same architecture," Rick Devine says. "You don't see that in California all that much. Mostly, you see nice homes with 'kit' barns, or an old barn from days gone



Embedded steel plate with the DR brand flanks both sides of the Devine Ranch entrance.

by. You don't see 'East Coast' quality barns in California."

Devine searched the Internet and found John Blackburn of Blackburn Architects out of Washington, D.C. and San Francisco. "I was impressed with their barns and that they also designed homes," Devine adds. "My goal was a 'Tahoe-like' architecture

with California redwood and rock – a rustic look. We achieved that. The barn is beautiful."

The adjoining hilltops frame a westward view of a verdant swath of vegetation, cobalt water and azure sky. It's a project in the making with a 5,000-square foot residence, two barns, 60-

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foot diameter round pen, outdoor arena and a slew of sweet horses. This perfect blend of home, horse, hi-tech, and happiness is a California casual lifestyle, which includes a weekly mother-and-daughter ride for Vicki and Katarina. The youngster is a frequent competitor in the medium

pony divisions at Indio, NorCal Pony Finals and the Pebble Beach Equestrian Series (including the Classic).

Katarina has been riding since age four and is now the proud owner of "Me And My Shadow" – a black roan mare formerly owned by Jenna Sarchio and purchased through trainer Don Stewart. The pony was third in the country last year. 'Shadow' was

recently flown from Ocala to California to take up residence in the handsome new stable. The new trainer is Vickie Rose.

Vicki Devine has had a number of her design ideas incorporated into the new hilltop home and barns. For instance, from each of the two entrances, a long curving driveway leads between the paddocks, past one

of the stables – a seven-stall barn built of Douglas fir and rough-hewn cedar siding – right up to the foundation of the much-awaited residence.

The house will include an outdoor BBQ area for the family to relax in after a long, sunny day of riding. Inside, a 34-foot exposed stone chimney will keep the clan cozy on cool winter nights.

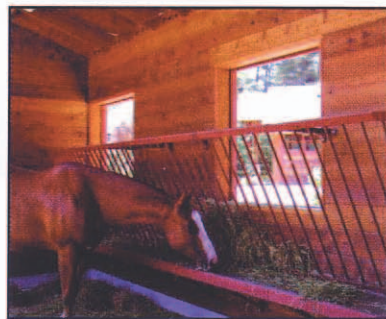


Northern view showcases the 16' barn doors.



The skylight illuminates the barn aisle's rubber "brick" pavers.

Gus enjoys an afternoon snack in the cool and breezy "lunchroom."



The run-in shed is built into the paddock and offers the ability to fill the hayrack from outside.

Just downhill to the east is another barn. It has redwood timber framing with hammered metal connections and Montana River rock column piers. There are also translucent skylights and clerestory windows. The exterior embraces redwood beveled horizontal siding and redwood tongue-and-groove horizontal siding at turnouts. Glimmering copper gutters and match-

ing downspouts keep these horses safe from the random West Coast thunderstorms.

Keeping in context with the design of the residence, the lower equestrian facilities are designed and built with similar finishes. The Devine's put much time and investments into their horse family and want to keep everyone safe. The aisles of this barn are

laid with the finest materials. Brick rubber pavers are perfectly joined at the cross aisle with concrete aprons. Porous asphalt within the stalls allows moisture to drain through and keeps disease and mildew at bay. And while not in the field, the horses enjoy custom feed bins with stainless steel liners and automatic water stations in each stall.

Out in the paddock, a redwood post and beam run-in shed provides shade from the brilliant California sunshine. A nearby outdoor automatic waterer bubbles with cool water. "It's a real statement of classic rustic California, it's beautiful, but not gaudy," the owner says.

Yes, it is simply ...Devine.



The 60' diameter round pen awaits finishing touches; details include deep overhangs of beautiful cedar decking and elegant copper gutters supported by redwood timber outriggers.



Redwood timber framing supports black powder-coated sliding stall front doors.

The Devine Ranch barn is built of redwood timber framing with hammered metal connections and Montana River rock column piers.

Photos courtesy of the Devine family



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