



Celebrity cribs

MTV Cribs may have had its doubters, but celebrity mansions tell the real stories, with property remaining one of the safest investments for high-net-worth individuals

Celebrity homes are all about individual taste. From French chateaus to country ranches, even mansions come in a variety of styles and designs. *Upward Curve* looks at the houses of four celebrities, what's inside and what they paid for their home sweet homes.

GEORGE CLOONEY

At Villa Oleandra in Laglio, Italy, the views of Lake Como are incomparable. George Clooney bought this incredible villa

(pictured above) back in 2002. It was originally constructed in the 18th Century in the eclectic architectural style and includes 25 rooms throughout the house, an outdoor theatre, a pool, tennis courts, a gym and a sizable garage to store Clooney's collection of vintage motorcycles.

The villa has been visited by many of George's famous friends over the years, including Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Jennifer Aniston and Matt Damon. It was also used for

scenes in *Ocean's Twelve*, the second instalment in one of Clooney's most iconic film franchises, which he starred in with Brad Pitt.

Italy has been a special country for Clooney. He married his wife Amal in Venice in 2014, and he owns other properties in Italy, including the villa next door to Oleandra. While George only paid about US\$7 million for the villa in 2002, it is now estimated to be in the region of US\$100 million.

TIGER WOODS

Unlike the other homes on this list, Tiger Woods' Florida residence was custom built for his specific needs in 2010, with a huge focus on indoor and outdoor sports facilities, mostly concentrated, of course, on golf. Split into two sections, the property consists of living quarters, a space of 3,300 sqf, and a multi-purpose building of 6,400 sqf. A fully equipped gym and media room occupy the multi-purpose space, as well as a media room, a wine cellar and an incredible glass lift, with breathtaking views of the surrounding areas.

The buildings are linked with a glass covered walkway, and the property also includes a guesthouse, garage and mooring for Woods' boats. An oxygen therapy room, games room ➤



and private cinema top off some of the indoor features of the property but by no means do the amazing amenities stop there. Located on Jupiter Island, one of the most exclusive parts of Florida, the property has a custom four-hole practice course, complete with six bunkers, as well as a putting studio, running track and two pools. The property set Woods back about US\$54.5 million.

GEORGE LUCAS

Named after the title character in arguably his most iconic franchise, A-list director George Lucas's Skywalker Ranch lies on a 26 acre estate. The architecture resembles traditional style architecture, with extensive gardens and a cobblestone driveway. Located in Marin County, California, Lucas uses the property for mixing and recording

motion picture sound, though its unique attractions go far beyond the film industry.

With a man-made body of water, Ewok Lake, and a barn with animals, the property seems to function much like a real ranch, though much of what goes on there is connected to Lucas's films and the Hollywood industry in general. The ranch also boasts a garden with fruit and vegetables, which are used in the kitchen of the on-site restaurant, vineyards, a swimming pool and fitness centre, as well as racquetball courts.

Above: George Clooney and Julia Roberts at Cannes **Top right:** Taylor Swift at the American Music Awards **Below:** Aerial views of Tiger Woods' US\$60m mansion featuring an oxygen therapy room



A hilltop observatory, underground garage, and a fire station are also on the property, though perhaps the most notable attraction is the 300-seat theatre, known as 'The Stag'. Lucas also has private theatre screening rooms and a research library housed under a stained-glass dome. Although Lucas doesn't live on the property, he often uses it as a retreat for himself and others. The entire property is estimated to be worth around US\$100 million.

TAYLOR SWIFT

Though Tay-Tay's digs ring in at the cheapest on the list, the truth is she still paid a whopping US\$18 million for her secluded Rhode Island abode. Known as Watch Hill, the house is a Georgian revival style estate built in 1934, and Taylor is only its most recent owner. The

property is 12,000 sqf in total, with eight bedrooms, nine bathrooms and eight fireplaces, as well a private beach as part of the five acres of land.

While Rhode Island doesn't seem to have a reputation for celebrity presence, this seems to be the reason Swift chose this property to begin with. Surrounded by a quiet neighbourhood and incredible coastal views, the serenity and history of this home is rumoured to have inspired the song 'The Last Great American Dynasty' by Swift herself.

For Swift, the beach and the size of the property seem to be draw points, as she has been known to host parties for 4th of July at the mansion, and also her iconic 'girl squad' seems to have spent time there. ■

