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# Connecticut's Gold Coast

*Greenwich, Darien, Westport, Norwalk and Stamford are regarded as Connecticut's most attractive coastal properties within an hour of New York City.*

**L**ocated within Darien, an affluent coastal town flanked by larger Norwalk and Stamford, Tokeneke is a private association with its own police force and private beach club. The contemporary home at 40 Arrowhead Way, a five-bedroom, 4,976-square-foot structure built on a 1.06-acre parcel in 2006, is about a quarter mile from Long Island Sound, and comes with an open gourmet kitchen, media room, and a large, bright lower level with a playroom, sauna and wine cellar. The first-floor master bedroom, with a fireplace, opens to a private patio with an outdoor fireplace.

On the market for \$3,975,000, the home was designed by architect Deborah Berke. "The current owners searched and searched for a home in Darien, and their biggest concern was light," said Hannah Burge, sales agent with Houlihan Lawrence. "They found an old ranch sitting on top of a hill, fell in love with the location and built this in place of the ranch. When you are in the house, it is so light you don't even have to turn on a light. Some modern homes are not really family-friendly, but this one was custom designed. The garage/guest house is a stand-alone winterized yoga studio with its own propane and septic.



Even the walk-out lower level is well designed."

10 Woodland Road in Norwalk, listing for \$6,495,000, is a 6,665-square-foot Nantucket-style, five-bedroom home in Wilson Point, a beach club association on the Rowayton border with about 85 residences, a private beach, tennis courts, and a deep water and swim dock. The home features a gourmet kitchen with professional grade appliances, including two Sub-Zero refrigerators, a Viking warming drawer, a wine cooler, two dishwashers, a wet bar area with a center island and black granite in the open kitchen. French doors open to a bluestone terrace with a covered porch and endless water views.

"The private sandy beach is a great spot at high tide or low tide. You can watch all the boating, kayaking, paddle boats and water skiers — or you can go clamming or fishing," said Eileen Murphy, sales agent with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty. "Wilson Point is home to the Norwalk Yacht Club, and features homes ranging between \$2 and \$12 million. This one, with three finished levels on a prime piece of land, is one of the best, offering a real beach lifestyle 55 minutes from New York City. In my view, Wilson Point is Fairfield County's best-kept secret, and a great Hamptons alternative for both primary or weekend residents."

A 5.34-acre compound off Stanwich Road in mid-country Greenwich, 10 Barnstable Lane was once part of a 200-acre estate used to train the U.S. Olympic equestrian team. On the market for \$5,395,000, the compound includes a 5,782-square-foot main home with five bedrooms; five-and-a-half bathrooms; a great room with coffered ceiling, French doors and a grand fieldstone fireplace; a courtyard surrounded by English gardens and a pool; a pergola; and an expansive lawn beyond. The compound also has

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** The compound at 10 Barnstable Lane in Greenwich includes a spacious main home with a courtyard surrounded by manicured English gardens. Photo: Julien Jarry

**ABOVE LEFT:** This contemporary home, set on top of a hill at 40 Arrowhead Way in Darien, is only about a quarter mile from Long Island Sound. Photo: Nest Photography

**ABOVE RIGHT:** French doors open to a bluestone terrace with a covered porch and expansive water views at 10 Woodland Road, a Nantucket-style home in Norwalk. Photo: Steve Rossi



a separate guesthouse, which adds a sixth bedroom, and a car collector's studio that also serves as an office.

The main home was used as paddocks more than a century ago, and today's walnut-paneled dining room once served as an Olympic trophy room. Some of the authentic barn doors on the outside have also been preserved. "Because of its history, this home is unique and exudes personality," said Robin Kencel, associate broker with Douglas Elliman Real Estate. "It is not just one house, but a true compound with the main house, a beautiful pool and two other major structures, all on high land with great vistas, and all only about 13 minutes from the center of town."

A waterfront home at 48 Owenoke Park in Westport, on the market for \$5,399,000, is set on a cul-de-sac at the end of one of Westport's most sought-after streets near Compo Beach. Offering Long Island Sound views through floor-to-ceiling windows, the four-bedroom, five-bathroom home comprises three floors and 4,967 square feet in all, including a master bedroom and a gym, with the most panoramic water views on top. It is within easy walking distance of the Longshore Golf Club, which was purchased by the town in 1967 and features an 18-hole golf course, three swimming pools, a tennis court and an ice skating rink.

"The house has water on three sides, with amazing water views plus a dock — and with the club and beach nearby you have all the outdoor amenities," said Judy Michaelis, associate broker with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage. "There are plenty of geometric windows, sliders and skylights, and the pool is grandfathered in: you couldn't build a pool there now because of zoning restrictions. Longshore is open to all Westport residents, the fees are nominal, and it even has a new restaurant. In my opinion, there is nowhere this close to the city that has a country club on the water like Longshore and Compo Beach."

Set on 2.68 acres in Stamford, close to the Greenwich border, 688 Westover Road is a carefully designed riverfront home that is on the market for \$1,295,000. In 1981, the current owners retained the architectural firm of Herbert S. Newman, which had been involved in the design of high-profile buildings at Yale University, to design a structure informed by Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Kahn, also an architect known for his association with Yale. The home's exterior is cedar planking, with gabled skylights and multishaped windows to maximize views of the Mianus River in innovative ways.

The home is 4,442 square feet in all, with a second-floor master suite featuring a balcony deck



and additional decks off several rooms. There is also a gallery hallway — one side with bookshelves and windows above, the other with red oak cabinets. The two fireplaces were created from stone excavated from the property. "The house itself is truly an architectural gem, with a very long driveway past the tennis court and beautiful gardens celebrating the private, unspoiled setting," said Elayne Jassey, associate broker with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices. "Across the river is a wooded area, also unspoiled, making for a wonderfully tranquil retreat."

The 19th-century home at 300 Cascade Road in Stamford, close to the New Canaan border, was bought in the 1960s by a well-known antiques dealer who had it razed except for the antique wide-plank floor boards, classic beams, front door and fireplaces, and then built it anew, keeping the character intact but introducing higher ceilings, a family room close to the kitchen and a huge Thanksgiving-size dining room. Now a four-bedroom, 3,758-square-foot home with a generator, central air, heated gunite pool with patio, new roof, new septic, new outdoor lighting and security system, perimeter fencing, skylights and an audio system, it is on sale for \$949,000.

"She kept the good things that are virtually impossible to find today — the floors from the



1800s, the beams and stunning fireplaces — and eliminated the elements that buyers in this era find challenging," noted Jassey. "The current owners have a great interest in wine, and there is a great wine cellar. They are also great at landscaping, and it really shows. It is a genuine, authentic home that is ideal for someone who doesn't want a run-of-the-mill colonial, but instead wants a charming statement house with ample space and high ceilings set on a beautiful acre in North Stamford." ■

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** Long Island Sound is on display through the floor-to-ceiling windows of this waterfront home with a dock at 48 Owenoke Park in Westport. Photo: Steve Rossi

**ABOVE LEFT:** Original 19th-century floor boards, beams, doors and fireplaces complement modern amenities within this charming rebuilt house at 300 Cascade Road in Stamford.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** This riverfront home, at 688 Westover Road in Stamford, features cedar planking, gabled skylights and multishaped windows designed to maximize its views of the Mianus River.