

REAL ESTATE

HOT PROPERTY

Old Saybrook oasis offers stunning Long Island Sound views

By Sloan Brewster

With walls of windows overlooking the sea, a big yard and a large swath of beach, this property is an oasis.

Chris and Celeste Cestaro bought the 3,910-square-foot colonial at 363 Maple in Old Saybrook when their children were in elementary school. At the time, they lived in a house they had built but wanted something right on the water.

Conveniently, the beautiful waterfront home across the street came on the market. Not only was the house perfect for their family, but the property had 335 feet of Long Island Sound frontage and a large yard with an in-ground swimming pool.

Since then, it has been the setting of many wonderful parties, Celeste Cestaro said.

"It just couldn't have been more perfect," she said.

When the children were growing up, they had pool parties in the heated pool and hot tub until their son's Halloween birthday.

"We would keep the pool open until the end of October," Celeste Cestaro said.

When they got a bit older, the kids' friends would come for sleepovers. They spent days swimming, sunning and playing volleyball and nights sleeping in tents lining the private yard.

The house was built in 1926 and the Cestaros removed the existing pool and installed a heated gunite pool with a hot tub surrounded by a bluestone patio and an herb garden.

Sliders on the first floor open to the patio, which is warm year-round because of sun exposure, and the family enjoyed spending time there.

"I go out there in the middle of January with my cup of coffee," Celeste Cestaro said. "It's an easy yard to be in."

The views from the walls of windows in the house are panoramic.

"You first watch sun rise to the east and it goes across the sky," Chris Cestaro said. "Then



Peter J. DePatie

The colonial at 363 Maple in Old Saybrook features multiple rooms with walls of windows overlooking Long Island Sound.

you can watch the sun set in the west, right over to where the castle on Cornfield Point is."

All but one room have views of the water.

"You feel like you're in the water when you walk in the house," Chris Cestaro said. "It's really, really remarkable."

The true appeal of the property lies in the fact that it's in a great area overlooking Long Island Sound, according to the Cestaros and listing agent Sue Cohn Darmon, of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty.

"Location, location, location doesn't even begin to describe this," Darmon said. "It sits overlooking Long Island Sound, there's a pretty long staircase to the water."

She too described the feeling of sitting in the water when in the house, but added that there's

Details

Address: 363 Maple, Old Saybrook

Price: \$1.95 million

Number of rooms: 10

Features: This 3,910-square-foot colonial features 335 feet of water frontage, a .68-acre yard, views from every room, a heated gunite pool, a hot tub, a bluestone patio and walls of windows. The rooms flow into one another and the home includes two potential master suites. The current master is on second floor and has walls of windows, a vaulted ceiling and a wood-burning fireplace. The second one is on first floor (currently a game room) and has two sets of sliders to the patio with pool.

Schools: Kathleen E. Goodwin Elementary School, Old Saybrook Middle School, Old Say Brook High School.

is no need for flood insurance as the house sits high above the water.

Sitting in the great room, there are 180 degrees of gorgeous views, Darmon said. Even her photographer, who regularly takes pictures of luxury properties, said he had never seen quite

such vistas.

"It's just crazy spectacular views," she said.

The bright window-lit rooms flow one into the other.

The kitchen has high-end appliances, granite countertops, a center island and, of course, beautiful views.

The second-floor master has a wall of windows overlooking the pool and water, a wood-burning fireplace, vaulted ceiling and an en-suite bath.

"You can wake up every morning to views of Long Island Sound," Darmon said.

A room currently used as a game room with an en-suite bath and two sets of sliders to the pool could be a first-floor master.

Walls of windows give the house a tremendous feel.

"There's no other house in Old Saybrook that feels like this house," Celeste Cestaro said.

"When you walk into it, it's just walls of windows with beautiful views."

Listing agent: Sue Cohn Darmon, William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, 860-707-6879, sdarmon@wpsir.com