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Two South Florida Homes to Ask \$60 Million

Two Fort Lauderdale, Fla., homes—one with ties to the late Miami Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga—are set to hit the market for about \$60 million

By Katherine Clarke



The Isle of Capri home is asking \$27.5 million. PHOTO: LIFESTYLE PRODUCTION GROUP

Two Fort Lauderdale, Fla., homes—one with ties to the late Miami Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga—are set to hit the market for about \$60 million.

The properties, located on the New River, are owned by Tom and Katia Bates. Mr. Bates is a homebuilder and a Florida native, while Mrs. Bates is an interior designer from Venice, Italy. Together, they run Innovative Creations, an interior-design business.

The first property, on Isle of Capri Drive, is the Bates' family home. The couple purchased the property for \$950,000 shortly after becoming engaged in the early 1990s and razed an existing house to make way for a new one-story, Mediterranean-style home. Over the years, they renovated twice, most recently building a guesthouse on an adjacent lot.

Together, the main house and a guesthouse comprise about 12,800 square feet. The main house has five bedrooms and 10½ bathrooms and has views of the river. There are ceiling murals inspired by Italian palaces and a collection of antique Venetian Rezzonico-style chandeliers. The floors are Jerusalem stone, unfinished travertine marble and onyx. A club room features an intricate coffered ceiling with custom-made leather panels.

The property features about 435 feet of deep-water dockage, which would allow a large yacht to dock out front, Mr. Bates said. Outside, there is a large gazebo imported from Italy as well as a pool.



The Bontona Avenue home is asking \$32 million. PHOTO: LIFESTYLE PRODUCTION GROUP

The couple bought the nearby second home, on Bontona Avenue, two years ago. Mrs. Bates said she had looked down the street at the home for years, imagining what she would do to improve it if she ever got the opportunity to buy it. It was owned by Wayne Huizenga's sister, Bonnie, public records show, and a stone sculpture of a dolphin remains at the property.

The Bateses recently completed a massive renovation on the house, tearing it down to the studs. The finished project measures 11,800 square feet with six bedrooms, a beauty-treatment room, a gym and an enormous master suite spanning almost 3,000 square feet. With 700 feet of deep-water dockage, there is enough space to dock a superyacht.

"When we bought our first house here, we never could have imagined that in 20 years, we would own two properties with a value of potentially \$60 million," Mrs. Bates said.

The Isle of Capri home is asking \$27.5 million, while the Bontona Avenue home is asking \$32 million.

Christopher Wands, Pietro Belmonte and Chad Carroll of Douglas Elliman have the listings.