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Tesla And SpaceX Founder Musk Buys \$17 Million Bel Air Mansion

[Forbes Life Elon Musk](#)

Tesla and SpaceX founder Elon Musk has purchased the [\\$17 million](#) Bel Air manse he has been living in for the past few years.

The 20,248-square-foot French colonial sits atop a hill and behind a gate, hidden by greenery and steep rocks that bolster its front decks. I visited Musk there last year while working on a *Forbes* cover story; he proudly gave a tour of the place, which includes six bedrooms, nine bathrooms and many fireplaces (I lost count). The estate overlooks the city of Los Angeles. On a clear day you can see the ocean.

Notable among the effects are a deep, dark wine cellar, a two-story stark white library complete with rolling ladder (books by Ayn Rand and Norman Mailer) and – the spot where he spends the most time – a home theater set up with a massive screen ideal for playing apocalyptic video games. In fact, the man cave was where we spent the bulk of our time that day before going for a drive—Musk is a big fan of BioShock and patiently taught me the finer points of the game while I fumbled like a mitten-wearing receiver with the controls.

Outside, as you'd expect, a five-car garage held a Tesla Roadster (the Model S had yet to come out), a Porsche 911 and an Audi SUV. [We took the Roadster.](#)

Musk told me he enjoyed hosting developer friends to parties out back—there's a large tiled patio with tennis courts and a pool—but didn't do extreme entertaining. Indeed, I was struck by the fact that the place felt like a show house rather than a family home. Framed photographs held stock images, and simple things like loose doorknobs needed the attention of a real homeowner. The furniture, he told me, was rented.

The only personal effects I noticed on the walls were a panoramic photograph of Musk with then-wife Talulah Riley watching an eclipse on a beach and a few colored drawings taped to the wall by some of his five young sons. (A homemade ceramic model T-Rex in his bathroom—across from the treadmill positioned by the bathtub under the flat-screen TV—was an endearing touch.)

But even then Musk was considering purchasing the place from Mitch Julis, who co-founded the Canyon Capital Advisors hedge fund and had initially listed it for \$27 million in 2008. He said he wanted to make it more to his taste.

Click through the slideshow to see more shots from Elon's place.

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