



Midsummer... Not Just a Dream

Did you know Midsummer is a real thing that has roots in both pagan and Christian traditions? Midsummer marks the "middle" of summer, coinciding with the summer solstice—the longest day between sunrise and sunset. It's a blend of pagan reverence for light, nature, and fertility, along with Christian associations with the Feast of Saint John.

The day and season holds a special place in the hearts of people across the Northern Hemisphere. As the sun reaches its zenith, casting the longest shadows of the year, communities come together to celebrate this magical moment.

Ancient British tradition celebrated with a festival of revelry and magic, bonfires and blessings for a bountiful harvest.

Today, in Sweden, it's an official holiday with a vibrant celebration where people dance around maypoles in traditional costumes, celebratory food is served and there are flowers and leaves aplenty. Meanwhile in Alaska, there is a tradition of midnight baseball where you can cheer for your favorite team in perpetual twilight.

Midsummer bridges ancient traditions, celestial wonder, and communal joy. However you celebrate, let's honor the sun's peak and the magic it brings to our lives.



Fresh Summer Gazpacho

- 6 ripe tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- 1 cucumber, peeled and chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 small red onion, chopped
- 4 ribs celery, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2.5 C V8 juice
- 2 Tbsp red wine vinegar
- Salt and pepper, to taste

Method:

Combine the chopped ingredients in a bowl and, working in batches if necessary, add to a food processor or blender. Pulse the ingredients until chunky.

Add V8 Juice, as needed to achieve a soupy consistency. You can also leave thicker if you prefer. Add the vinegar and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving to chill and to marry the flavors. Garnish with fresh herbs (parsley, basil, or cilantro based on your preference) and high quality extra virgin olive oil. You can also garnish with a small dice of the included chopped items.



In Escrow | Offered at \$549,000



Sold | \$1,415,000



Sold | Sold at \$920,000

Recent Activity — Listed: 2 — Sold: 3 — In Escrow: 1 — Coming Soon: 5

FJR & ASSOCIATES UPDATE

Six Summer Projects for Your Home

Summer offers plenty of opportunities to improve the look, feel, and value of your home. Here are six of the best improvements you might want to tackle:

- **Install New Siding:** Change the color or material of your siding to make your home look brand-new and more weather-resistant.
- **Replace the Roof:** If your home needs a new roof, summer is a great time to make this investment since new shingles require heat to form a weather-tight seal.
- **Reseal Your Driveway:** Fill cracks and replace loose concrete, and consider adding a finishing layer like paint for a stylish boost that can also help conceal future damage.
- **Pressure-Wash:** Pressure-washing can help cut the grit and grime that accumulates over winter and spring, refreshing your home's look.
- **Replace Your Windows:** Light-filtering, draft-resistant windows offer high returns when you sell your home and can reduce energy costs.
- **Spruce Up Landscaping:** Depending on the layout of your yard, you have almost limitless possibilities for upgrading your landscaping. New plants, trees, and flowers could make your home the envy of the neighborhood.

Local Activities and Events

- Now - June 28: LA Sanitation Toiletries Drive
- May 22 - June 30: WeHo Pride Weekend
- June 19: Long Beach Juneteenth Celebration
- June 22: Garagiste Wine Festival in Glendale
- June 22: Tacopalooza at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center
- June 25: Summer Beach Party Dance in Monterey Park
- June 29th: Long Beach Taco and Tequila Festival
- June 30: Salute to the Troops: Picnic and Concert in Manhattan Beach
- July 4: Independence Day

Oh by the way... We're never too busy for your referrals



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FJR & ASSOCIATES UPDATE



“What if we could buy a vacation home here?”

We could work remotely...

“There’s no way. It’s totally out of reach.”

The benefits of a vacation home

Real estate is a great hedge against inflation

Reduced travel costs (no hotels or eating out all the time)

Possible tax breaks (check with a financial professional)

Building equity while working from paradise

Short-term rental income potential

By 2025, **32.6 million** Americans will work remotely.



Making the Dream a Reality

Owning a vacation or second home might be more in reach than you think.



Figure out your long-term career and lifestyle goals



Discuss financing options and tax implications with a qualified professional



Do your research (how it'll be used, local laws, services, amenities, etc.)



Buy closer to home for easier getaways and maintenance



Ask me about up-and-coming areas as well as popular destinations

Across North America, there are more choices than ever before. Whether it's a lodge in the mountains, a cottage at the beach, or a cabin on the lake, a vacation home is a great place to build memories with extended family. It can also be passed down for future generations to reap the benefits.

Maybe you sell your primary residence and transition to your vacation home full time. Or you figure out how to work part-time from paradise. Either way, I've got you; I belong to a network of top real estate professionals and can connect you to one wherever your daydream of a vacation home takes you.