

1920s Hollywood Dell Villa Will Bring Out Your Inner Old Timey Movie Star

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Christopher Amitrano/CS8 Photonone

Causing a stir and setting hearts aflutter is a new listing in the [Hollywood Dell](#), the picturesque enclave sandwiched between the Cahuenga Pass and Beachwood Canyon. Perched high above its cul-de-sac street and cloistered behind a battalion of mature olive and Italian cypress trees, the property in question is a romantic little villa that harkens back to the days of early Hollywood.

According to records on file with the L.A. Department of Building and Safety, the single-story residence was owned by silent film actress [Gretchen Hartman](#). The star of productions such as 1917's "Les Miserables" and 1922's "Do or Dare," Hartman was also the wife of actor Alan Hale, Sr., and mother of Alan Hale, Jr., who achieved lasting fame from playing the Skipper on "Gilligan's Island." In 1969, the home was purchased by avant-garde filmmaker and television director [Curtis Harrington](#), who lived in it for nearly 40 years.

Helping to conjure the illusion of entering the garden of an Italian villa instead of a yard half a mile north of the Capitol Records building is a carved-stone staircase flanked by a regal pair of stone lions that leads from the sidewalk to a charming central courtyard with fountain/koi pond and fire pit that the U-

shaped residence is wrapped around.

An elegant entrance hall with checkerboard-tiled floor and glam crystal chandelier flows to the living room, which features coved ceilings, French doors, and a stately fireplace. Next comes a formal dining room, also with barrel ceiling plus French doors that open to the rear garden and pool, followed by the open-plan kitchen, which has been updated with marble countertops, zellige tile backsplash, and a Viking stove.

The 2,650-square foot home has three bedrooms and two bathrooms, both of which have been remodeled in period-sensitive, understated style. The two largest bedrooms are situated on opposite wings of the home, ensuring privacy, while the smaller third bedroom is afforded its own patio.

As nice as the house itself is, its magical outdoor spaces are what propel it into the "Very Special" category. Along with the swimming pool and spa, built-in barbecue and seating, and an elevated lounge area with fire-pit, the grounds are graced with fountains, antique statuary, lush landscaping, and "a secret space for quiet meditation or reading."

Last sold in 2009 for \$1.5 million, the property is [listed](#) with [Brent Watson](#) and [Marco Salari](#) of Coldwell Banker Homes for an asking price of \$2.5 million.

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