

Gigantic Log Cabin in Florida Woods Offered For Sale at \$14m+

by Colleen Hawkes

Log cabins don't get much bigger than this – it's so big you could hardly call it a cabin, although that's where the design roots lie.

We are told it's the sort of home American billionaires dream about, and you may need to be one to afford it – the asking price is US\$9.6 million (NZ\$14.53 million).

The 2322 square-metre house, in northern Florida, fronts a fish-filled creek and is surrounded by a 505ha forest with abundant wildlife. So, it's not surprising to hear it has been operated as a lodge.

Timber Creek Lodge, as it is known, has all the hallmarks of the perfect log house, right down to the giant stuffed bears that stand guard over the entrance, and the huge deer antler chandeliers (the light fittings alone cost US\$250,000). But modern living is not overlooked – there's a 22-car garage.

The hunting and fishing compound was created by the owner, who is the founder of Pro Bass magazine. The house itself does everything a traditional log cabin has done since the 1600s. Namely, it's a fortress against the weather, predatory wild animals and in some cases, predatory humans.

Back in those times, pioneers building their cabins had to fell their own trees, debark the logs and cut the notches that hold everything in place. They chinked – filled the spaces between the logs – with whatever they could find. This included mud, animal hair, grasses



and bits of cloth. As the listing agency representative says, "Although primitive, a unique sense of warmth and security existed inside, which only came from being surrounded by wood protected from the unknown wilds of nature on the other side of the walls."

The creek on the property has been stocked with bass and catfish, and the forest is home to large, white-tailed deer.

The lodge has eight bedrooms including a master with fireplace, sitting area and balcony, ten elegant bathrooms, a 185-square-metre living room with 12m ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows overlooking Juniper Creek.

The stone fireplace is double-sided, and there is a lift, home theatre, fitness gym, over-the-top wine cellar, games room, gun room with safe, large chef's kitchen and butler's pantry.

The listing agents are Jon Kohler and Walter Hatchett of Jon Kohler Associates, Lamont, Florida. Property detail and photos courtesy of Top Ten Real Estate Deals.



The 2322 square-metre lodge spans three levels and comes with eight bedrooms and 10 bathrooms.



The house, which is owned by the founder of Pro Bass magazine, has been used as a hunting and fishing lodge.



Large bears guard the entry into the house.



Floor-to-ceiling windows provide lovely outlooks.



Exposed beams and a stone fireplace are features of the huge living area, which has a 12m-high ceiling.



Stone benchtops and solid timber joinery continue the theme in the kitchen.



It may be a giant log cabin, but there's a place for fine dining.



The bedrooms are also in keeping with the log cabin character.



Bedrooms have their own ensuite bathrooms.



Stone also features in the bathrooms.

Photos by Jon Kohler & Associates