

Palm Beach condo has 'magical views,' owner says

palmbeachdailynews.com/story/business/real-estate/2023/02/10/florida-real-estate-palm-beach-condo-has-magical-views-owner-says/69880323007

REAL-ESTATE

On the market in Palm Beach: 'We will miss our magical views,' says Ibis Isle condo owner

Priced at about \$3 million, Ron and Ellen Goldensons' renovated corner condo in Tower Vallencay looks straight down the Intracoastal Waterway.

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Special to the Palm Beach Daily News



Ron Goldenson, a physician from Boston, first visited Palm Beach several years ago on the advice of a friend.

“I was not feeling well, and it was very cold at home,” he explains. “My friend invited me to come down and stay a few days, and that’s how I came to see Palm Beach. Shortly after, my wife, Ellen, and I both visited and decided we had enough with shoveling snow and freezing pipes.”

Shopping for a Palm Beach home, they toured a lakefront condominium in Tower Vallencay on Ibis Isle, the South End residential community on a small island in the Intracoastal Waterway opposite the Phipps Ocean Park.

The building — one of a side-by-side pair built in 1970 — stands on the northeast tip of Ibis Isle, offering direct views down the waterway to the north and, to the east, the canal that separates the island from the rest of Palm Beach.

Ron describes condo No. 10 at 2155 Ibis Isle Road — a third-floor apartment on the building’s northwest corner — as a hidden gem. They have owned it since 2014.

“We bought it in one day. We fell in love with the Intracoastal vistas and the luminosity of the apartment. Every room has large glass sliding doors overlooking the water, and we have an 800-square-foot deck where we see sunrises and sunsets,” he says.

“Our apartment is like a ship in the middle of the Intracoastal. Looking out over our balcony is like looking over the railing of an ocean liner. All day, we see a parade of boats, barges and fishing boats.”

The condo did need some updating, however.

“It was not in good condition,” Ron recalls. “It had not been touched since it had been built. All the systems and appearances were dated, so we gutted it and started from scratch.”

They hired Anthony Saba of AD Saba Enterprises, Inc., an Atlantis firm, as their contractor. Today, Saba is armed with a strong recommendation from the Goldensons, who have bought a house in Atlantis and are again working with him on renovations.

And that means the Goldensons have listed their condominium for sale through Douglas Elliman Real Estate agents Joan Wenzel and Pamela Gottfried. It is priced at \$2.978 million.

The two-bedroom unit has 2,749 square feet of living space, inside and out, and 9-foot ceiling heights. The floor plan positions all the main rooms off the central foyer and hallway, giving each room access to the wraparound balcony with views of the Intracoastal.

The Goldensons’ renovations included replacing the electrical and air-conditioning systems. They also added wood floors, installed impact-resistant sliding-glass doors, and updated the bathrooms.

There's also a newly fitted kitchen with custom cabinetry, granite counters, tile backsplashes and professional-grade stainless appliances.

The Goldensons opened up the kitchen to the dining room to afford it a water view, and they repurposed the former pantry to serve as a temperature-controlled 300-bottle wine room. Adding custom cabinetry in the guest bedroom allows it to double as a den.

Designed by the late Palm Beach architect Gene Lawrence, Tower Vallencay was landmarked by the Landmark Preservation Commission in 2021.

The six-story building where the Goldensons live comprises 22 condos, with amenities that include a 24-hour door attendant and Ibis Isle's nighttime security guards. Each apartment comes with two covered parking spaces. Additionally, the lobby and entry portico have recently been remodeled.

Residents can use either the swimming pool between the two buildings or the community pool in the center of Ibis Isle.

While the Goldensons are looking forward to moving into their new home, there has been much to appreciate at Tower Vallencay, says Ron, whose wife is a yoga teacher.

"We will miss our magical views. At night, we see twinkling lights, an ever-changing parade of boats and beautiful sunsets. There is always something entertaining and interesting to see.

"Ibis Isle is also near islands that serve as bird sanctuaries, and we have a constant vision of birds flying above."

He adds that because the building is near Phipps Ocean Park, it's "just a short walk to the beach."

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