

BEST OF

Best Neighborhoods For Holiday Home Decorations

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Few things celebrate the pure magic of the holidays like a family home covered in decorations and lit up at night. Some Bay Area neighborhoods take holiday home decorations to new heights. Thanks to a popular website, Lights of the Valley, we're picking our favorite holiday 'hoods to cruise this Christmas.

Pleasanton, Alameda County

Pleasanton is home to several Winter Wondelands, including this gorgeous home on Sea Eagle Court. Children are welcome to climb aboard the Christmas train, most nights feature "snow" falling on the half-hour and visitors are actually welcome to walk around and within the display.



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San Ramon, Contra Costa County

The entire Vista San Ramon neighborhood (161 homes) lights up for the holidays. Now in its 25th year, the "Festival of Lights" features over 152 homes enthusiastically participating. Don't miss the animated nativity scene at the corner of Woodview Terrace Drive and Overlook Court. The entire neighborhood is worth a look. On Saturday, December 18th, over 2,000 luminaries will decorate the streets of the Woodview Circle neighborhood, so you should expect bumper to bumper traffic that night. Pack extra candy canes!



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Livermore, Alameda County

Livermore is home to a magical selection of holiday homes. Don't skip this fabulous facade on Knottingham Circle, featuring a mix of old school decor and modern "green" lighting. Dozens of old-fashioned blow-mold snowmen, Santas and more are mixed in with the latest in LED lighting and technology. A traditional "one-horse-open-sleigh", runway lights to help Rudolf land at the "right"

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house, a hand painted Nativity scene and a large holiday train (actually rewired last year to use [LEDs](#) instead of mini-lights) will wow kids and adults alike. Seems like the folks on Knottingham Circle don't want global warming to melt Santa's workshop.



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Novato, Marin County

It's worth the trip to **Novato** for [this amazing holiday home on Devonshire Drive](#). For 18 years, the Rombiero Family has not only decorated their home on the outside but gets just as colorful and creative on the inside. Believe it or not, the doors are actually open to the public. Each room and hallway is decorated to the hilt and hundreds of visitors cruise through on any given night. According to the Rombiero's, in 2008 the house was toured by 39,000 people. The Rombiero home on Devonshire Drive is one of the highlights of holiday horse-drawn carriage rides in Novato.



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SF BAY AREA GUIDES



Top 10 Desserts

You'll collapse into a sugar coma just thinking about these edible treasures! So as dedicated dessert lovers, we've narrowed down this luscious list to a slightly less morbid Top 10 Treats to Eat Before Your Next New Year's Resolution. Bon appetit!

Petaluma, Sonoma County

Petaluma is home to some pretty amazing holiday homes. Swing by [this dazzler on Santa \(!\) Clara Lane](#), winner of 1st place four years in a row and now a member of the City of Lights Hall of Fame. Make sure you arrive in time to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus, available for holiday hellos from 6 pm to 10 pm every weekend.



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Go For Glam On NYE!

Ringin' in a whole new year is a very big deal! Welcome 2011 in high style, these soirees are perfect for glitz and glam!



Holiday Must See Shows

Among the many marvelous traditions in this magical season is a trip to the theater. Settle into The Nutcracker Ballet or a new tradition with Golden Girls Christmas! Either way, the curtain is calling.



Gifts With A San Francisco Twist

If there's one thing San Franciscans like, it's being from San Francisco. Get local this gift-giving season with these fun, hyper-local gifts to show off your Bay Area pride.

Santa Clara, Santa Clara County

A city with "Santa" in its name has GOT to get into the Christmas Spirit. **Santa Clara** won't let you down! Add to your tour [this New England-style home](#) on Lincoln Avenue. Located near the Santa Clara University Campus, this two story spectacular features lovely lights and "snow" to give you that vintage Christmas feel.



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Vacaville, Solano County

Arlene Drive in **Vacaville** is lovingly known as Candy Cane Lane during the holiday season. This

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wonderful walking Winter Wonderland features several houses dolled up for Santa and his elves. Bring your [mittens](#), find a place to park and explore [this charming stretch of street](#) on foot.



Don't see your holiday 'hood? Don't worry! Head to [Lights of the Valley](#) to explore the Bay Area's most festive homes. And let us know in the comments or on [our Facebook Page](#) if there is a stretch of street that's a must-visit.

Remember, Santa is watching. Help your friends and fellow admirers be respectful and gentle as you explore the hard work and holiday spirit of these beautiful homes.

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