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.

![Image of a decorated home in Pleasanton](www.lightsofthevalley.com)

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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!

![Image of a decorated home in San Ramon](www.lightsofthevalley.com)

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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”

![Image of a decorated home in Livermore](www.lightsofthevalley.com)
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.

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.

Petaluma, Sonoma County

Petaluma is home to some pretty amazing holiday homes. Swing by this dazzler on Santa (I) 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.

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.

Vacaville, Solano County

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