REVEL TOP 10

June 2024

June is National Homeownership Month, when we recognize the value of owning a home and the vital role our designers, realtors, and lenders play in our lives. We've partnered with experts who specialize in Coastal Orange County to share some of their top tips for homeowners, buyers, and sellers in all real estate markets.

With a profound focus on Divorce Real Estate, Katie brings a unique blend of compassion and extensive expertise to the division of assets. Combined with her years of education in escrow, title and mortgage, she guides clients through property sales and locating a new home with precision and empathy.

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KATIE DORR

Realtor, The Lynch Group, DRE 02219577

01 Location, Location, Location

When looking for a home, location is the #1 factor that contributes to home happiness. Do your research on the cities you are most interested in to determine what fits your needs and wants.

02 The Price is Right

Setting a high price initially and then reducing it can lead to selling your home at a lower price. It's best to set a realistic price based on recent sales of similar homes in your neighborhood. A competitive price will attract buyer interest and increase the potential for offers.

With an architect for a father and an interior designer for a mother, Sloan Co's principal designer, Amanda Sloan, has lived, worked and played in this space her entire life and is passionate about making her clients' lives easier. We weed through all of the clutter and take care of all the planning and details that go into building or renovating a home so that you can carry on with your day-to-day lives.

sloancodesign.com

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AMANDA SLOAN

Principal Designer, Sloan Co.

03 Space Planning Always Comes First

Before making any purchases, get a birds' eye view of your space and map out size, scale, and flow of your furniture. This crucial step will help you make purposeful and confident decisions when furnishing your home, ensuring your investment is lasting and minimizing costly mistakes.

04 There's No Time Like the Present

It's easy to keep pushing off the bedroom refresh or kitchen remodel you've been wanting, but there will never be a 'perfect' time! If you're feeling stuck about where to start, ask a friend who enjoys home renovation to come brainstorm with you, or hire a professional to help you plan and budget - taking the load off your shoulders and turning your goals into a reality. You deserve your space to function the way you want it to and reflect your personal style - it's TIME!

Rejecting the one-size-fits-all approach of online platforms, Carolyn delivers bespoke experience tailored to your unique journey, ensuring every aspect of your transaction receives the attention it deserves.

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CAROLYN MOWER

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05 Understand the Local Market

Make strategic decisions by staying current on local market conditions which includes average home prices, inventory levels, and how long homes are on market. Buyers should stay informed about desired communities to make a fair offer on a property. Sellers should know recent home sales in your neighborhood to price your home competitively.

06 Be Flexible During Negotiating

Emotions can run high in real estate transactions, typically when it's time to negotiate. Approach negotiations with a clear strategy, know your limits, and be prepared to compromise. Focus on key issues such as price, contingencies, and closing dates to stay on track. Understand the other party's motivations. Seek to arrive at mutually beneficial solutions. Trust your realtor to negotiate on your behalf to help you secure the best deal possible.

Brandi Vanderbeek is a seasoned real estate broker with 24 years of experience in Orange County's luxury market, known for her negotiation skills and attention to detail. Brandi's client-focused approach has earned her a large referral base and elite status in the brokerage community.

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BRANDI VANDERBEEK

Real Estate Broker, Certified Divorce Real Estate Expert-CDRE™

07 Understand Market Trends

Stay informed about local real estate trends. Monitor housing prices, interest rates, and neighborhood developments. This knowledge helps in making well-timed decisions, maximizing investment for both buying and selling. Choose an agent who is well informed of the area. Ask questions!

08 Boost Curb Appeal

First impressions matter. Invest in landscaping, a fresh coat of paint, and minor exterior repairs. An attractive exterior can significantly increase your home's value and attract more potential buyers.

A UCLA graduate, Allycyn's first exposure to mortgage lending was during undergraduate studies while working with the Federal Home Loan Bank Board in Washington D.C. Allycyn's dedication and professionalism have earned her recognition as one of Orange County's leading loan officers as well as being an 11-year recipient of Five Star Professional Award and a 2023 Elite Women of the Year recipient.

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ALLYCYN BENNETT, LOAN OFFICER

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09 Check and Improve Your Credit Score

Before applying for a mortgage, review your credit report for any errors and work on improving your score if necessary. Pay off outstanding debts, pay bills on time, and avoid opening new credit accounts.

10 Get Pre-Approved

Before you start house hunting, get pre-approved for a mortgage. This process involves submitting financial documents to a lender who will then determine the loan amount you qualify for. A pre-approval letter demonstrates your seriousness and ability to secure financing to the seller.