

# HOME SWEET HOME

Story By Sue Edelstein  
Photos by Clayton Lilley, eHome Tours



Photo by Sue Edelstein

Cassie Wright is a relatively new BBC member and moved to the Balboa Bay Club in 2016. She always wanted to live in Newport Beach and figured if she leased here for a year, she would have time to look around and find her perfect home. Within a couple months, she realized she had already found it and decided she never wants to leave the BBC. "What's not to love?" Cassie explained, "Waterfront living, onsite gym, spa, restaurants, shopping, and my personal favorite, room service. Everyone here is so friendly and my grandson can spend hours running from the pool to the beach. The summer concerts are a blast!"

Her suite is gorgeous and is being featured in this month's Bay Window. "When it came to decorating, I didn't have to think twice about who to hire. I love Barclay Butera's elegant, yet casual coastal style and worked with Ray Langhammer and Kristin Morris to create this cheerful, sophisticated, relaxed atmosphere. The blue and white color palette is crisp and welcoming." The patio is a wonderful extended living space and she looks forward to watching the Holiday Boat Parade. She joined the BBC Mariners Club and plans to enjoy





activities with her Duffy, *Little Piece of Ship*, which is docked at this marina.

Cassie loves the excitement of Newport Beach and splits her time at her homes in slower paced Montecito and her hometown of Bakersfield, where her father, William Wright Sr, opened a Toyota store in 1969. At 21, Cassie followed in his footsteps, worked her way up through the company, became General Manager in 1991, and in 1999 was named Toyota's 30th female Dealer, a year after her father passed away. She is proud of her son, Ross (24), whose dream was to work in the family business and is a Used Car Manager at North Bakersfield Toyota, their second store, which opened in 2007. Daughter Savannah (22) is a junior at Cal State Bakersfield and is studying to become a high school math teacher. Cassie commented, "She is also the world's best young mother to my grandson, Jason (3), who calls me Nonna. He's my favorite little person on the planet."

Cassie retired from the day to day operations to raise her family and is Director of Community Relations, a job that develops relationships with organizations in her community. "I get to make a lot of friends, give away money, and go to a lot of fun events," she said. "Besides being active on the Board of my own companies, I serve on two other Boards: Bakersfield Memorial Hospital Foundation and Hoffman Hospice, both non profits and dear to my heart." She has a Donor Advised Fund at Kern Community Foundation in Bakersfield and some of the organizations she personally supports are The Boys and Girls Club, Meals on Wheels, The Lauren Small Children's Medical Center and Grossman Burn Center

at Bakersfield Memorial Hospital, Children's Miracle Network, and the Women's and Girls' Fund. This year she joined forces with a friend, Monsignor Craig Harrison, who is involved with a local rehabilitation program. Cassie is passionate about helping young adults overcome drug and alcohol addictions, sponsoring men and women who do not have the financial means to enter rehab. Healing and reuniting families is their goal. She returns to Bakersfield every week for a couple days to visit family, friends, and attend Bible study.

Hiking and biking are some of her favorite pastimes. She has spent a lot of time on boats and has enjoyed big game fishing. "There's nothing quite as exhilarating as reeling in a fish that weighs more than you do!" Cassie expressed. Traveling is a great pleasure, especially when she can combine it with art collecting, which has been another passion for 25 years. She spent a month this summer in Europe, and in a past trip has biked through Provence. One of her sweetest experiences was to serve as a guardian for Honor Flight last year. Ninfa, her veteran, served during the Korean War and they traveled to Washington, DC, and toured the memorials. She is slated to be on another Honor Flight next spring.

Cassie states, "I'm very happy as a resident here, and would have to say that at just north of 50, this is the very best time of life. As the Italians would say, *la vita e bella!*" And as her fellow members would say, "Welcome to the BBC lifestyle, stay often!"

**For information regarding BBC residences please call Laura Bryan at 949.630.4379.**