

August Team is here to help you no matter what month it is

**Creative
Advantage
of Two**



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Money Magazine Rates Sarasota #1

Sarasota, FL

There are 35 miles of pristine white sand beaches just minutes away from Rose and Richard Elliott's three-bedroom home in Sarasota, Fla. But you'd never know it by talking to them. "Of course, there are beaches," says Elliott, 52. "But we hardly ever go to them. There's just so much else to do down here."

Sarasota may be the ultimate beach town, with its sun-kissed location on the Gulf of Mexico, more than 200 sunny days a year and an average year-round temperature of 71°F. Yet there are plenty of other reasons why we named it the best small city. The county -- which includes Venice, Northport, Longboat and Siesta Keys -- has its own symphony, ballet and

opera companies. The 1,800-seat Van Wezel Performing Arts Center lures productions like the Broadway road company of Chicago. The Ringling Museum of Art -- established by circus baron John Ringling, who settled in the area in the 1920s -- has an extensive collection of American and European art. Like sports? Just an hour away there's the NFL Tampa Bay Buccaneers and arena football's Storm.

Sarasota also offers a triple treat: The lifestyle is very affordable. The median home price is a mere \$126,000. "This is the kind of place where you can get an incredible, brand-new home for \$200,000." The schools are outstanding, and the job market is brisk. Sarasota County's public school students in key grades outscored 95% of their peers in the state. And perhaps most of all, the city posted job growth of 5 percent in the past year, ranking it among the top 25 metro areas in the country. During the next decade, it's expected to see a 30.5 percent increase in jobs, putting it at No. 7 in the U.S. Many of those jobs are in the retail and service sectors -- Sarasota is a thriving tourist destination -- but they are also in other industries.



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This is not intended to solicit currently listed properties

Sotheby's International Realty

Established in 1976 as a logical extension of Sotheby's fine art auction services, Sotheby's International Realty has since developed into the world's premier luxury residential real estate brokerage and marketing company.

While real estate is by nature local, the market for important real estate can be national, even global. This is where, being positioned as the only true international, full-service real estate brokerage; Sotheby's International Realty offers tremendous advantages. Brokerage expertise on the local level, combined with access to important international markets and purchasers of fine art, furnishings and collectibles, ensures that the homes represented receive the far-reaching exposure they deserve.

Through their global network and proprietary marketing tools and techniques, Sotheby's International Realty can communicate property information quickly to an established qualified client base, and to a broader audience through their web site.

Sotheby's International Realty & Michael Saunders & Company advantage

- 180 Sotheby's affiliated offices worldwide
- More than 12,000 agents
- 250 years in the fine art and auction business
- International exposure

Bird Key Real Estate Market Update as of May 19th

- 30 MLS homes for sale priced from \$5,000,000 to \$425,000
- 12 Garden homes priced from \$1,150,000 to \$425,000
- 4 Canal homes priced from \$1,675,000 to 774,900
- 14 Bayview homes priced from \$5,000,000 to \$999,999



Palm Beach, Fla., \$75 million

The Most Expensive Beach Houses In America

Felicia Paik, Forbes.com

With Memorial Day weekend just around the corner, thoughts are turning to sun, surf and sand. If you're in the market for a luxury beach getaway (or are just looking), there are a number of homes for sale at the top end of the market. A beach property here is being defined as a property where you can feel the sand between your toes and the ocean breezes on your face by just stepping outside your door.

At \$75 million, the most expensive beach house on the market is Montsorrel, a 13-acre estate in Palm Beach. Interestingly, however, the rest of the priciest beach homes in America don't qualify as the most expensive in the country, even though it's generally presumed buyers pay premiums for waterfront homes.

Hawaii has several high-ticket properties, including one listed at \$25 million on the lush Four Seasons Resort Hualalai. Off the coast of Massachusetts, Cape Cod and Nantucket, there are beachfront offerings that can be had for about half the price of those in Hawaii and Malibu, Calif. While Martha's Vineyard remains a chic summer destination, there are presently no A-list waterfront properties for sale there.

Michael Saunders
& Company

Exclusive Sotheby's
Associate for
Sarasota &
Manatee Counties

Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota will open in fall of 2001

The New Ritz-Carlton is situated on 11 acres overlooking Sarasota Bay, Bay-front Island Park and the downtown waterfront. Guests of the hotel will enjoy a beach club on Lido Key and a 20,000 square-foot spa.

The 50 luxury condominiums, 270 guestrooms, including 26 suites and The Ritz-Carlton Suite, will all feature waterfront views. Guests wishing additional services and privacy in accommodations can take advantage of The Ritz-Carlton Club. The Club level is accessible by a specially cut elevator key and offers the services of a dedicated concierge and five food and beverage presentations daily in The Lounge.

Recreational options for guests include

tennis facilities, a spa and fitness center and outdoor swimming pool. Dining facilities will include The Dining Room, The Lobby Lounge, a pool-side bar serving more casual fare and a private dining room with seating for 14-guests.

More than 18,000 square feet of conference space will be available, including a 12,000 square-foot ballroom. Six meeting rooms and one boardroom will also be available for meetings and events. The Business Center will have capabilities to handle office services ranging from copying and faxing to high speed Internet access.

Source: Ritz-Carlton website



Interesting Little Known Facts

- The Capitol Building in Washington D.C., has 365 steps. They represent every day of the year.
- Your birthday is not a special day -you share it with no fewer than nine million others.
- A ball of glass will bounce higher than a ball of rubber. A ball of solid steel will bounce higher than one made entirely of glass.
- Ten percent of men are left-handed while only 8 percent of women are left-handed.
- The 1906 San Francisco earthquake was the equivalent of 12,000 Hiroshima bombs.

Hot off the Press Ritz-Carlton Beach Club News

Michael Saunders & Company will have the newest information on the new Ritz-Carlton Beach Club as the exclusive marketing company for the project!

A tower of 76 condominiums will be built on Lido Beach. Michael Saunders & Company will start marketing the project in January 2002. However, if you would like to pre-register now, your name will be added to a list of individuals who will receive all the **newest information first!**

If you would like more information, please contact the **August Team** at **373-0038**.

Popular Kids' Names

	1980		1990		1998		1999	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1.	Michael	Jennifer	Michael	Jessica	Michael	Kaitlyn	Jacob	Emily
2.	Jason	Jessica	Christopher	Ashley	Jacob	Emily	Michael	Hannah
3.	Christopher	Amanda	Joshua	Brittany	Matthew	Sarah	Matthew	Alexis
4.	David	Melissa	Matthew	Amanda	Nicholas	Hannah	Joshua	Samantha
5.	James	Sarah	David	Stephanie	Joshua	Ashley	Christopher	Sarah

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Experience the Creative Advantage

John and Rita combine their talents in real estate, advertising, communication and computer technology to offer a unique sales and marketing real estate approach.

When it's time to move, it's time to talk to a real estate team with the knowledge and commitment it takes to make selling your house and buying another a wonderful experience.

Please contact us anytime for a free Brokers Opinion **373-0038**

A commitment to excellence



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Accounting firm Arthur Andersen established a small presence when it acquired a 20-person tax software company here in 1984. Today it has 850 employees in four divisions, including its technology solutions unit. "For people who want to work and live in a small community, it offers plenty of advantages," says James Shedivy, Andersen managing partner. "You can go home to have lunch with your kids."

It's so desirable that communications executive Nicholas Branica commutes to his job in Charlottesville, Va. rather than uproot his wife Tonie and his two daughters, Christina, 11, and Nichole, 8. Branica settled in a six-bedroom beach house in Siesta Key when he took over Sarasota-based Key Voice Technologies, a telecommunications firm. When Branica became CEO of another telecom firm, Charlottesville-based Comdial, he never thought of leaving Sarasota. "We can jump in our boat and drive around the keys to fish or watch dolphins; we can watch manatees at the beach," says Branica, 47. "You couldn't get us out of here with a nuclear explosion."

Source: Money Magazine website

Sarasota, FL

The metro area in a nutshell:

Population:	530,900
Avg. home price:	\$126,100
Public school spending per pupil:	\$5,491
Student/teacher ratio:	18
Average commute time:	18.4 minutes
Future job growth rate:	30.6%

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