

REAL ESTATE

Inside the Alabama castle that wants to be Versailles

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Take a peek at this Alabama mansion that's heading to auction this month.

Photo: Handout

Sweet home Alabama!

An insanely opulent 27-acre estate in Birmingham, Ala. — which is also touted as the state's largest — will head to auction on **Oct. 31**.

Standing at roughly 55,000 square feet, the manse, the design of which is inspired by European royal castles, has 15 bedrooms, 16 bathrooms and six half-bathrooms. It took four years to construct and cost over \$30 million. And it's no wonder — ridiculous features abound.

Beyond its size, the most notable accoutrement is the estate's massive guitar-shaped driveway, which surrounds gardens and fountains. Previous media reports have dubbed the spread The Guitar House.

But that's just scratching the surface. Other outdoor perks include a six-stall barn with an apartment above it, plus a riding arena for the horses to strut their stuff. There's also a pool with a waterfall and two covered cabanas.

Inside, you'd think you were in Versailles. The main house boasts gold leaf, stucco, millwork and stonework detailing throughout. The entry foyer alone has a sweeping staircase, a custom-painted ceiling mural and a crystal chandelier. It leads to the great room, which has more chandeliers, a fireplace, floor-to-ceiling windows and herringbone tile floors.

The private quarters include separate his-and-hers master suites with spa-like bathrooms and walk-in closets.

But for some serious fun, there's a wine cellar with storage for 2,000 bottles, a gym, a billiards room and a 25-seat cinema-style screening room with a 170-inch screen.

Guests might want a piece of this, and there's room for them. In addition to all of the above, there's a 3,000-square-foot guest house with a two-car garage.

Want in? All you need is a driver's license and a \$100,000 deposit to bid.