

Meet Your Neighbors: Christiane Hartley and Ken Block

It's a Soaring Hawk story that began with a snow angel. The dramatic views of Deer Valley, the Jordanelle Reservoir, and Mount Timpanogos rendered Christiane Hartley and Ken Block completely giddy the day they strapped on their snowshoes to explore a homesite in the new, undeveloped community. The whimsical urge to make a snow angel overpowered Christiane. And in that instant, they knew they had discovered the site for their dream home. The youthful and adventurous senior couple blissfully moved into their stunning, custom Soaring Hawk home in 2017.



Avid sailors, golfers, and skiers, Christiane and Ken relocated to Park City from Marblehead, Mass. in 2004 as their kids approached the end of their college years. They initially purchased an expansive home in Park City off Old Ranch Road. Several years later, they opted to downsize and bought a townhome at The Rustler, a Hideout Canyon neighborhood.



Eventually, though still enthused about Hideout, Utah, they grew to miss the outdoor living space they treasured at their first Park City home; however, they didn't want to

manage such a large house. Soaring Hawk offered the perfect solution. The new community fulfilled their desire to have a well constructed home with luxury finishes, minus the enormity of their previous residence.

Christiane and Ken didn't just build a gorgeous, contemporary residence...they created an idyllic, enviable lifestyle, one they are truly passionate about and maximize to the fullest.

How did you come to move to this four-season mountain town?

Ken: Our decision to move here took six hours from thinking about it to saying we were going to do it. We had visited Park City independently of each other, and then we were here at least twice together.

It was not because Park City is the biggest, the best, the greatest. I listed attributes that you need to live and when you quantify all of that, this area blows everything away. With Telluride, you can't beat the views, but you can't get there. Jackson Hole is really cold. Vail is a ski resort whereas Park City is a community.

In Park City, there are so many ways of making relationships, meeting people, and then actually contributing back to the community in a very short period of time because of acceptance. The politics and the politicians are awesome. People here actually get along politically. There's good discourse. People are working toward the same set of common goals. You can call any of the politicians, and it's easy to get to know them. You can live here in Hideout and be deeply connected to Park City.

Christiane: For me, the advantage of Park City was having one house instead of the house in Marblehead and a ski home in Maine. We have it all here.



How did you discover Soaring Hawk and what initially drew you to it?

Christiane: We were the quintessential Park City downsizers. At The Rustler, our outdoor space consisted of a deck on the main level and another one downstairs. So the idea of moving up the hill to Soaring Hawk and having more outdoor living space was appealing.

Ken: We realized we ate outside almost every time the weather was appropriate in Park City. We were always grilling and sitting on the deck to watch the sunset, and we really missed that, though there were attributes of a townhome that were pretty awesome. We recognized the opportunity to get an even bigger view in a place with a connection to the wildlife and views of the Jordanelle and sunrises that light up the Wasatch Back and sunsets that are off the charts. We loved the ability to work with a great architect and builder to put the dream together at a really fair price, and what's about to happen with the Mayflower development and the Jordanelle Parkway...it's going to be nine minutes away.



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We watched Hideout Canyon's developer build a house on Longview Drive while we were living at The Rustler. Both of us were like, "this guy is a damn good builder." We were just shocked at the quality relative to the price it was listed for. Then the developer said he wanted to build us a house, and that's exactly the quality that we got.





How did you select your homesite?

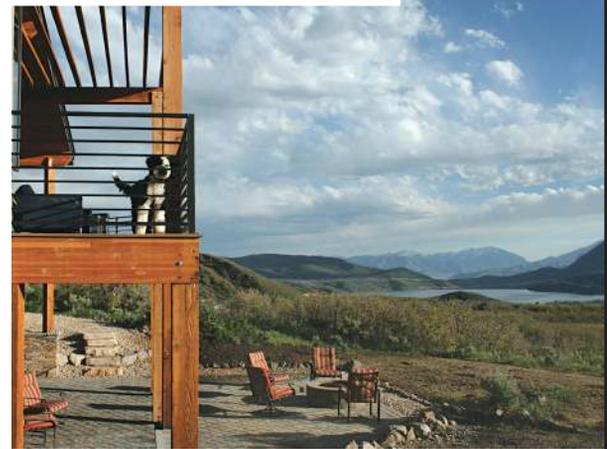
Ken: We were not looking to build a house. We were not going to move, and then the developer suggested we go [have a look] up the road, which was barely plowed. I came here after skiing the next day, and was blown away. I went back home

and said to Chris that we have to get our snowshoes and come back. So we did, and there's a photograph of Chris making a snow angel, which is about where the fire pit is, and she just said, "We're building a house on this lot!"

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Christiane: There's a lot of people like us looking for homes in the 2,500 to 3,000-square-foot range, and that is very rare in Park City. Whatever exists of that size is old and needs a lot of work. Soaring Hawk ended up meeting our needs with the CC&Rs calling for 2,000

to 3,500 square feet. These are the homes here, and many of them are one level, which you can't find in Park City, especially in a new home with high quality finishes. We wanted a smaller home, but not one that wasn't built properly.



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What have been your favorite aspects of living in the Soaring Hawk neighborhood?

Ken: These views are ridiculous. We've traveled the Alps a lot, and this view looks like the Swiss Alps. Ace Kvale is a renowned climber, guide, and photographer who has lived in the Himalayas and was here twice last summer. He said this view was "beyond mesmerizing." A really soulful person with a connection to these mountains will get it.

The transit time from our former house to Main Street versus here to Main Street is within a minute. The average cost of an Uber ride to Main Street from here is \$12. Most of our life is in a 10-mile radius. There's really not much more that you need.

Something we have discovered is that by living here, most of the time you fall into a state of mindfulness because the power of these surroundings is so strong. You can tune out a lot of things.

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This is so powerful because you become acutely aware of the positivity of your surroundings and not [of] a neighbor running a stop sign or honking horns. A lot of those urban issues have appeared in Park City just in the last decade. I don't think we're going to have much of that here.

In the mornings, when the Jordanelle is glass, you see the reflections of the mountains in the water. You can see the Deer Valley trails on the water and name them upside down. It's just breathtaking. This is the kind of stuff people pay zillions for vacation, and it's your backyard.

Christiane: It feels like you are so far away, yet you are so close. It's so quiet. It's wonderful. You feel like you're at the end of the world, but you're not. We enjoy the access to Deer Valley and being away from the day-to-day traffic. In Park City, it's not traffic as we know it back East, but this is [still] a lot easier to go in and out of than a lot of communities in Park City.





What would you like prospective homeowners to know about Soaring Hawk and Hideout Canyon?

Christiane: I think people who move to Park City have the idea of a small town. Park City is getting a bit bigger than the small town that they have in mind, and this just takes it back a little bit. This house would probably cost twice as much in Park City.

Ken: You are living in this almost nature preserve here with views that you can't get anywhere in Park City. You also have a first-rate hospital five minutes away. We are seniors, and you wind up needing more tests and medical care. You have all of that down the road with the Park City Hospital's Live Well Center and the expansiveness of the facility.



What do you enjoy most about your home?

Christiane: Originally, we wanted a one-level house, but this lot didn't really lend itself well to it, so we built it in a way so we can live on the main floor. We don't really have to go downstairs. We live with the views, and it's just so peaceful.

The deck is amazing and the fact that the windows open up to it. In the summer, this is all always open. We feel like we're living outdoors, and it's just awesome.



Our kitchen sink is angled at 45 degrees so if you look straight out from it, you see Mount Timpanogos and Deer Creek Reservoir. And we put that same angle in the bedroom. Another really cool thing is our walk-in pantry with two entrances, one from the garage and one from the kitchen. So when you walk in with your groceries from the garage you walk straight into the pantry without walking around through the great room to the kitchen. And that is very, very cool! And we have a second bedroom master suite on the main level, which could also easily be an office or baby's room.

What kind of wildlife do you encounter at Soaring Hawk?

Ken: There were coyotes the other night. Elk come over this crest, and you'll see an occasional cow and calf moose wander down here. There are deer. There are bunnies. And hawks.

Ken: We're very fortunate. We live a blessed life. We get to travel to some awesome places. Too often, we just are having the time of our lives, but we can't wait to get home. We just miss being here. ■