Marin Real Estate Update – Q1 2019

The Big Picture:

With 45% of all listings currently in **contract for homes priced under \$900,000, that segment has shifted back to being a Sellers Market**. As we go up in price, the advantage shifts, with homes in the \$900,000 - \$1,500,000 range exhibiting a Balanced Market and for home above that price range, Buyers having the upper hand. **Prices have moderated** with only a 1% increase this first quarter but showing a 20% gain year-over-year when comparing all housing types.

When taken separately, **sales prices of single family homes were actually down by 5%** for the quarter, and up 6% for the year. **The median price of a single family home was \$1,250,000**, down from \$1,315,000 seen last quarter.

The median price of a condo was \$645,000, almost unchanged from the previous quarter's \$647,000, but up 13% for the year.

Sales prices continue to be 1% less than list prices.

As predicted in the previous quarter's report, the number of homes available for sale (the "inventory") has increased significantly, from 239 homes to 464 (as of April 16.)

Prices:

The statistics for each sub-market are shown below.

Single Family Homes		Year Change	Qtr Change			Year Change	Qtr Change
Belvedere/Tiburon*	\$3,450,000	18%	37%	Novato	\$975,000	20%	8%
CM/Greenbrae/Larkspur	\$1,790,000	33%	11%	San Anselmo	\$1,285,000	8%	4%
Fairfax/San Geronimo*	\$910,000	3%	-4%	San Rafael	\$ 1,125,000	11%	0%
Kentfield/Ross*	\$2,174,250	-21%	-13%	Sausalito*	\$2,162,500	25%	-6%
Mill Valley	\$1,525,000	-4%	-10%	All Marin	\$1,250,000	6%	-5%

Condos/Townhomes		Year Change	Qtr Change			Year Change	Qtr Change
Tiburon/Mill Valley*	\$860,000	-1%	-14%	San Rafael	\$607,500	26%	-13%
CM/Greenbrae/Larkspur*	\$765,000	11%	8%	Sausalito*	\$973,759	25%	12%
Novato	\$577,000	23%	18%	All Marin	\$645,000	13%	0%

Statistics from BAREIS MLS, deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

* Less than 25 homes have sold this quarter for this area, so these statistics are less reliable than those for other markets.

Inventory and Time on Market

The number of homes listed has increased by 94% as happens each Spring. There are now 464 "Active" listings, resulting in a 3-month supply.

There are only 5 Active distressed listings. Distressed properties are those in foreclosure, short sales and bank-owned properties.

The median time it takes to sell remains at 32 days.

Buyers or Sellers Market?

It's generally considered a Buyers Market when less than 25% of listings are in escrow, a Balanced Market when 25-40% are in escrow, and a Sellers Market when more than 40% are in escrow. By this measure,

- It has shifted back to a *Sellers Market* from a *Balanced Market* for homes priced less than \$900,000, with 45% of the for-sale homes in escrow.
- It remains a *Balanced Market* for homes priced between \$900,000 \$1,500,000 (39% are in escrow).
- And it remains a *Buyers Market* for homes priced more than \$1,500,000 (20 % in escrow).

The chart below shows median prices in Marin over the past 13 quarters. There is a spike in prices in Q2 of each year, so if that trend holds for 2019, we will see a jump in prices in my Q2-2019 report.

