

Southern California native, world traveler and avid foodie, Realtor® Sandy Gruzdis enjoys bringing all her passions together in a profession she says is all about finding ways to connect with people. During her first career as a sales representative for global luxury brand Louis Vuitton, Sandy learned that client satisfaction was not dependent upon the label she was

selling, but rather her ability to create and maintain relationships with her clients. "Jewelers would suggest my brand to their customers because they knew I was going to stand behind it and service it. No matter what company you work for or what product or service you are selling, your reputation goes with you. You have to do what you say you will, or your word means nothing."



Whether someone is buying their first home or downsizing for retirement, Sandy strives to understand where they are in their journey and get them to their destination with competence and compassion. Her professionalism and care are the foundation for her numerous repeat and referral relationships. One client stated: "Having Sandy as our Realtor® was the best decision our family made. From the beginning of the process to the very end of escrow, Sandy was there making sure things went smoothly. Her professionalism was above and beyond our expectations. We were kept in the loop via daily emails and text messages. If we had any questions or concerns, Sandy was on top of it without hesitancy. The smooth transition during an emotional time assured us that we made the right choice to have Sandy and her team take care of our needs. Definitely a 5 star recommendation!"

Sandy's enthusiasm for real estate is also linked to her childhood experience as the daughter of immigrant parents from Lithuania who came to the U.S. during World War II. "My parents came here with nothing but the clothes on their backs. We were never monetarily rich, but from an immigrant standpoint, we were super wealthy. My dad started his own business, and both of my parents worked hard to raise three children. They bought a home, sold it, and bought a nine-unit apartment building. We lived in the main unit and, as we were growing up, we helped maintain it. I think that experience helped me appreciate the value of real estate and how it can help a family create financial stability."

As a food enthusiast, Sandy has engaged in the development of various restaurant concepts. When she transitioned to a career in real estate, she wanted to create an experience that made clients feel welcome and at ease during a potentially stressful life event. "Real estate is an extension of hospitality to me. I love helping people find the house they can call a home and invite other people in. It's not about making the sale, but finding the perfect fit so that house can become a home. I don't look at it as just four walls, but as the place where someone spends most of their time, and where relationships are nurtured and a family grows. It makes me happy to be part of it."

Recently, a friend's mother passed away, and she chose Sandy to sell the family home. Sandy's friend is from a large Italian family, and Sandy listed the house on behalf of all five siblings. She kept in touch with each of them throughout the process, and she was successful in acquiring 10 offers on



the property. When the day came to review the offers and choose a buyer, Sandy invited them all to meet at the family home. There, she set rented tables with red-and-white-checked table cloths and served an elaborate Italian dinner — complete with real plates and flatware — so the siblings could enjoy one final meal together in their family home. In doing so, she gave them an experience they will never forget.

For Sandy, food and travel go together. She says Bali is her favorite destination so far, because of the extraordinary nature of its people and food. "Food is heavily entrenched in the culture, lifestyle and beliefs of the people in Bali. There are certain foods you eat when a baby is born or when someone gets married. It's very special." Sandy often takes cooking classes in the countries she visits, and she enjoys preparing new dishes for her friends and family. "It's a creative outlet for me, and it's how I show love," she says.

According to Sandy, she doesn't just sell real estate, she specializes in creating connections. "My goal is to deliver the highest level of service I can while helping my clients find the right home that is the perfect fit for their family. Each person and their journey is different, and I feel it's my job to understand their needs and make their experience as seamless as possible."

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Executive Agent Magazine