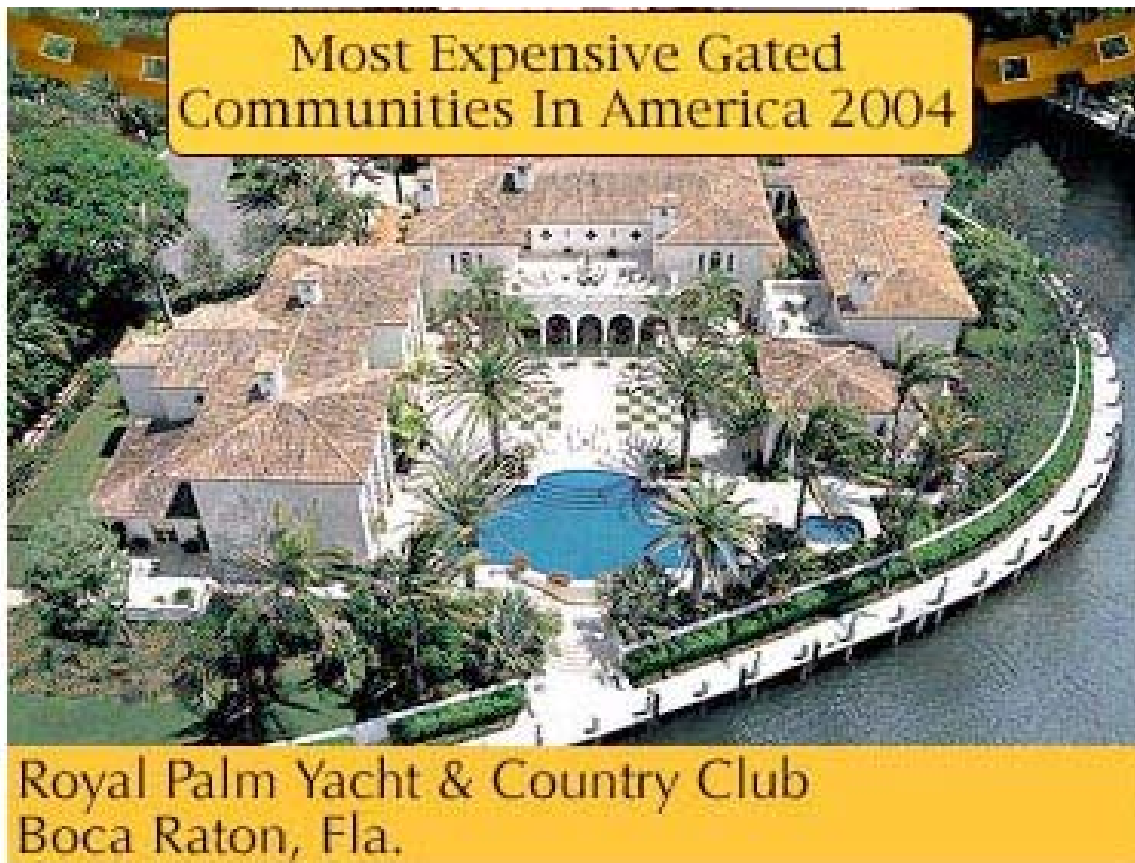


## There's Gold Behind Those Gates

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Just how elite has Boca Raton become? According to Forbes magazine, it's home to three of the 10 most expensive gated communities in America.



Boca Raton's Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club, with homes up to 25,000 square feet, has the distinction of being the most expensive gated community in the country. If you want to buy there, be prepared to plunk down at least \$950,000 -- the price of the cheapest home available right now, according to David Roberts, owner of Royal Palm Properties LLC, an independent brokerage in Boca Raton.

Roberts has a listing for a 9,500–square–foot estate with seven bedrooms, eight full baths, a 1,300–square–foot guesthouse and room for a megayacht.

The price? \$15.75 million.

Why pay so much to live in a gated community? "People want a certain sense of security," Roberts said. "You just feel totally safe."

The gates discourage thieves and others looking for trouble. But they also increase isolation and elitism.

The other Boca Raton communities on Forbes' top 10 list are The Sanctuary and Le Lac. The remaining seven communities on the list are in California, Hawaii, Connecticut, Nevada and Arizona.