

Central Park South penthouse once owned by Billy Joel sells to European financier for \$11.4M

The apartment has a private elevator. And its three terraces make you feel like you're floating above Central Park.

By [Jason Sheftell](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

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- Evan Joseph

The wraparound terrace at the penthouse at 128 Central Park South looks like it's floating atop Central Park.

He's "The Stranger" who's about to get in a real "New York State of Mind."

An unidentified European financier has bought a massive Central Park South penthouse once owned by Billy Joel — an \$11.375 million aerie with three fireplaces, nearly 3,000 square feet of outdoor space overlooking Central Park, and a private elevator that doesn't stop anywhere but the lobby and the foyer.



- Evan Joseph

The living room also overlooks the park. Joel re-enforced the sound and weight on the elevated platform overlooking the park.

"Your jaw drops when the elevator opens," said agent Lisa O'Connor of City Connections. "It's a real OMG moment. It's like you're floating on Central Park. And that's before you see the terraces."



Billy Joel lived there from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s.

The two-bedroom, two-and-a-half bath unit at 128 Central Park South was owned by Ted Turner before Joel. The singer-songwriter made some subtle changes, including reinforcing the floor to accommodate his piano.

He lived in this uptown elegance during his wild days with then-wife, “Uptown Girl” Christie Brinkley.



- Evan Joseph

The open kitchen is perfect for entertaining.

“The terraces are made for private sunbathing,” said agent O’Connor, who imagined Joel playing the piano as Brinkley sunbathed on the wraparound terrace outside.



Christie Brinkley in Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl" music video

Brokers said the unidentified buyer saw every available condo or coop with outdoor space overlooking Central Park — but wanted something with that "X-factor," said co-broker Karen Loew.

The Joel apartment was featured in a Daily News article in September, 2012, which Loew recalled when her client kept turning down less spectacular apartments.



- Kevin Mazur/WireImage for Clear Channel

Billy Joel performs at "12-12-12" a concert benefiting The Robin Hood Relief Fund to aid the victims of Hurricane Sandy.

"This apartment wasn't on the market but when we found nothing the buyer liked, I remembered the Daily News article and we called the broker," she said, referring to Howard Margolis of Douglas Elliman.

The previous owner had bought the apartment in 1998 for \$1.675 million, yet **real estate consultant Esther Muller** thinks the new buyer got a deal.

"(He) got in just at the right time before the high-end market explodes," said Muller, who worked on the deal with Loew and O'Connor and runs the Real Estate Academy, a continuing education school for real estate agents. "It needs a little work, but this home can almost never go down in value."