

A private visit with David Cassidy

BRAVO correspondent Frances Schoenberger was the first journalist to visit David Cassidy at his home. You've never seen David so closely before

David in front of his house: it has lots of rooms and is hidden behind tropical plants

Why don't you come over tomorrow for a swim, then we can chat by the pool and I'll show you my grove," said David Cassidy on the phone. Only those who know him well know how difficult this invitation was for him. After all, David has never had his private realm photographed before. The tasteful 6-room country-style villa is located in the middle of Encino, the most prominent district of the San Fernando Valley near Los Angeles. David lives there as secluded as the Queen.

A high iron gate protects him from unwanted visitors, while dense trees and bushes block any view of David's house. You have to say a code word into the intercom at the gate so that David's housekeeper, Kathleen, prints it on the opener. David's still asleep," says Kathleen as I step through the front door into the living room, which is crammed with instruments and amplifiers (David is working on his new LP). Frances, don't be embarrassed. Come into the bedroom, he calls out in a sleepy voice. I'm still dead tired because I've been in the record studio all night

David is curled up under a blanket with the pattern of the American flag, a gift from Hamburg BRAVO reader Ramona Thielicke. Man, you've gotten so thin," I exclaim in amazement. David has never been this skinny, you can literally see every rib. It's all the work, the love and my Spartan lifestyle," says David. The fact is that David hasn't eaten meat for years and only eats vegetables from the health food store.

You can see what David has really grown fond of on a wall in his bedroom, which is covered in photos and souvenirs. Pictures of

Girls, parents, tours, horses, his dog Bullseye and also one - that really blew me away - of me.

David jumps into a pair of Bermuda shorts, camouflages himself with sunglasses and throws on a cowboy hat. Come on, let's go on a tour of the grounds.

The house has three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living room with lots of wood on the walls and ceiling and an open fireplace, a rustic dining room and the coziest place - a rustic kitchen with a lace doily and flowers on the table. David is followed at every turn by "Bullseye" - a cross between a setter and an Australian shepherd. Bullseye really is my best friend," says David. I'm always sad when I have to part with him. Recently, I even hired a private plane to take Bullseye to recordings at the

David splashed the BRAVO photographer at the swimming pool out of sheer mischief