

# Exclusive: Stanley Cup Champion Julian Silver Trades the Ice for Open Skies at Silver Ridge Ranch

*After a surprise retirement that stunned the hockey world, Stanley Cup champion Julian Silver has quietly traded the rink for ridge lines. Now, he and his partner, Wyatt Halliday, are building something new in the California mountains.*



**BY MARGAUX WILDER**  
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Nestled at the base of the Sierra Nevada, where the air runs crisp with pine and the hush of untouched wilderness, Julian Silver is learning how to breathe again.

The former Las Vegas Desert Coyotes forward—whose career ended with a dramatic Stanley Cup victory and an even more dramatic retirement—now spends his mornings walking fence lines and watching the sun rise over his newly acquired property: Silver Ridge Ranch, a 200-acre luxury lodge and equestrian escape tucked just outside of Silver Creek, California.

“I used to wake up to weight training and film review,” Silver says with a wry smile, standing on the wraparound deck of the main lodge, which is currently under renovation. “Now it’s coffee, trail planning, and making sure we have enough feed for the winter before breakfast.”

If this sounds like a sharp turn for one of hockey’s most celebrated (and tightly controlled) careers, that’s because it is.



*After almost 20 years Julian Silver traded in his skates for a cowboy hat and boots*

Just days after hoisting the Cup, Silver stunned fans and sports media alike by announcing his retirement and turning down a staggering two-year, \$37 million offer from Toronto. The decision sparked speculation across sports radio, Reddit threads, and more than one breakfast roundtable.

But here, beneath a sky bluer than any arena light, the reasons feel less shocking and more inevitable.

“I had some injuries that never really went away,” Silver admits, his gaze softening. “I could’ve pushed through. But it would’ve cost me. And I’ve already given hockey everything. My body, my twenties, a relationship. When you get a chance to choose something else—someone else—you take it.”

That someone else is Wyatt Halliday, his partner and now co-owner of Silver Ridge Ranch. The two met while in Las Vegas. Their romance stayed largely out of the public eye, a fact Silver seems grateful for.

“ And I’ve already given hockey everything. My body, my twenties, relationships I couldn’t hold onto. ”

“She’s the reason I’m standing here today,” he says, simply. “I wouldn’t have made it without her.”

Though Halliday remains a private figure—she declined to be interviewed for this piece—it’s understood she has a strong background in hospitality. Together, she and Silver have spent the last twelve months quietly transforming the historic property they purchased from longtime owner Roman Calloway, whose family had run a working dude ranch here since the 1970s.

Gone are the battered bunks house and mess hall. In their place: cedar guest cabins with outdoor soaking tubs, a fully renovated lodge with vaulted-beam ceilings, and curated trail experiences designed for guests seeking adventure and indulgence. Silver Ridge will offer full-service catering, guided day rides, weeklong glamping retreats, and add-ons like stargazing dinners and couples’ fly-fishing weekends.

It’s rustic luxury with a tailored edge—think Ralph Lauren meets California cool.

“We didn’t want it to feel like a theme park version of the West,” Silver explains. “Wyatt had this vision—something elegant but grounded. A place where people could disconnect, recalibrate, and still drink really good wine.”

The ranch is slated to open for bookings this summer, with private soft-launch events planned for early June. And while Silver insists he’ll be mostly behind the scenes (“I’ll be the guy fixing fences”), fans hoping to spot him in person might have a better shot than they think.

“We’re here full time now,” he says. “We’re not commuting back and forth from Vegas. This is home.”

It’s a notable shift for the athlete who once logged more airline miles than vacation days. Silver’s career—launched with the London Knights in the OHL and ignited when he was drafted first overall to Montreal. He was traded three years later to Minnesota, then Los Angeles before being traded to Las Vegas, where he played the final stretch of his career and ultimately helped secure the franchise’s first Stanley Cup.



*Wyatt has been very hands on when it come to designing the spaces. She wants people to be able to leave the city behind.*



It’s not lost on him that most players don’t get to choose their ending. But Silver did.

“I got the storybook moment,” he says, pausing. “Most guys don’t. I didn’t want to ruin it by dragging it out.”

He’s quick to clarify: he still loves the game. Still watches. Still gets texts from teammates who don’t quite believe he’s happy spending his days on horseback instead of at training camp. But he doesn’t miss the noise.

“It’s quieter out here,” he says. “Not just around me but in my head.”

When asked about wedding plans, Silver laughs and gives a practiced shrug. “We’re engaged,” he says. “No date. No rush. We’re happy. And that’s enough for now.”

It’s hard not to believe him. He looks lighter here, more at ease than he ever did postgame. The man who once measured his worth in goals and plus-minus ratings now seems content measuring it in trail mileage and the quality of a quiet evening.

*It’s not the kind of ending most people expected—but maybe that’s the point.*