



**SO GRAND** Commonwealth Avenue boasts stately residences.

**TOP SPOTS TO LIVE**  
**High-Priced-Homes Edition**

**1 DOWNTOWN BOSTON**

(Back Bay, Beacon Hill, West End, North End, waterfront, Chinatown, and South End)

- > Median single-family home price in 2009 **\$1,958,000**
- > Change since market peak in 2005 **+45%**
- > Median condo price in 2009 **\$510,000**
- > Change since market peak in 2005 **-2%**
- > Population **79,731**
- > Residential tax rate **\$11.88**

People don't think of downtown Boston as having many single-family homes, but according to Tracy Campion, owner of the Boston real estate firm Campion and Company, more have been cropping up in the past few years as developers are taking multifamily town houses back to their stately roots. "They're scattered throughout these neighborhoods," she says, "and they range from \$800,000 to \$20 million." Condos, of course, can be more affordable, with many two-bedrooms in the Back Bay going for less than \$600,000. Newer condo buildings, in particular – Bryant Back Bay, the Clarendon, the W, and others – appeal to those looking for a hassle-free lifestyle. "You get garage parking, one-level living, elevators, doormen," Campion says of these buildings, noting that they're all within walking distance of attractions like Newbury Street, the Theatre District, and the Charles River. If you can afford it, what's not to love?