

# INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY

*& Travel*

THE FINEST HOMES, TRAVEL AND LIFESTYLE

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FRANCE

## *Resplendent on the* **RIVIERA**

The Côte d'Azur's combination of history, culture, world-class beaches, stunning seascapes, gastronomy, good schools and international airport access makes it a perfect destination for overseas buyers

### **Bubble Palace, Cannes**

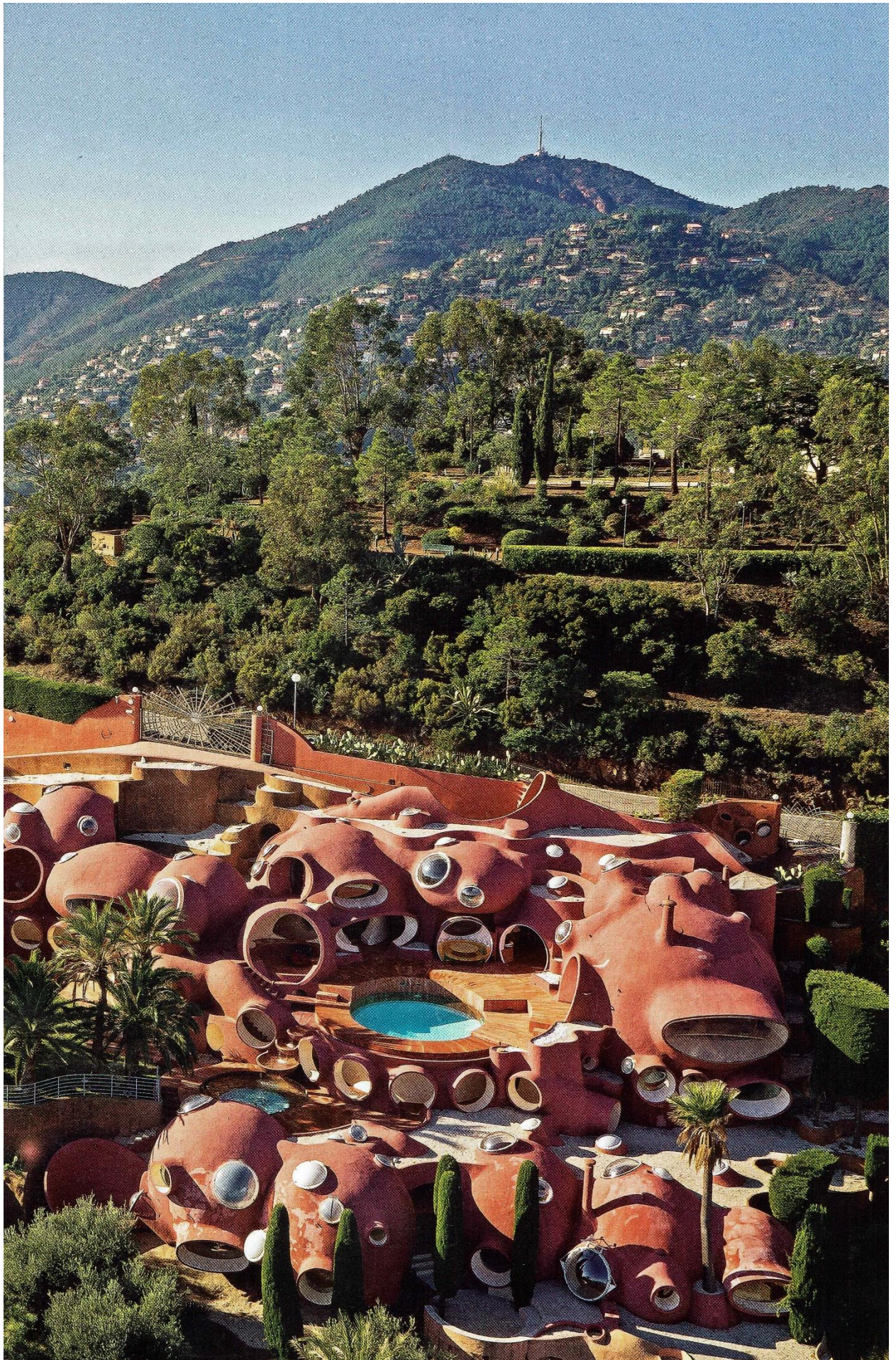
Currently the second most expensive home for sale in Europe, this revolutionary property of approximately 1,200m<sup>2</sup> was designed by the architect Antti Lovag. It was built between 1975 and 1989 and purchased by the famous fashion designer Pierre Cardin in the early 1990s as a vacation home.

Taking the form of a cluster of bubbles spread over six levels, the property is at the forefront of contemporary architecture. It includes a panoramic lounge, reception room and 10 suites decorated by contemporary artists. A stunning 500-seat outdoor auditorium overlooks the sea, facing the bay of Cannes, while gardens, ponds and a swimming pool create a clifftop paradise stretching over more than 8,500m<sup>2</sup> of grounds.

**£276.7m / €319.5m / \$335m**

**Michaël Zingraf Real Estate Christie's**

[www.michaelzingraf.com](http://www.michaelzingraf.com)



## France · Resplendent on the Riviera

**B**Y ALL ACCOUNTS, the French Riviera property market is booming, boosted by low interest rates, price falls inland, and an increase in sales in coastal locations, such as Cannes, Antibes and Saint Tropez. Tim Swannie at Home Hunts reports that buyers are now getting more for their money in locations such as Biot, Opio, Roquefortles-Pins and Châteauneuf de Grasse. “Grasse, the world capital of perfume, is also a great area for investments,” he says. “The town is currently spending millions redeveloping the centre and there is a direct train line to Cannes and the rest of the Riviera.”

Home Hunts’ data revealed that the area’s most coveted locations are Mougins, Valbonne and Grasse; Cap d’Antibes and Cannes; Villefranche-sur-Mer and Saint Jean-Cap-Ferrat; and also Saint Tropez. “Two medieval villages, Mougins and Valbonne offer authentic charm, good amenities and have a busy events calendar,” says Amy Bault, a Riviera consultant for Home Hunts. “These villages are very international whilst not being overrun with tourists in the summer. They are also close to several international schools.

“The Cap d’Antibes and Cannes are both around 30 minutes from Nice airport and have wonderful sandy beaches. Both areas are excellent for yacht lovers. Clients invest in these areas as they have the dream Riviera lifestyle on their doorstep. The bustling town of Villefranche-sur-Mer neighbours the forested peninsula of Saint Jean-Cap-Ferrat.

“These are popular areas known for their beautiful sea views and proximity to Monaco. With easy access to the beaches and ports, they offer an ideal investment for many of our clients. A quaint village, Saint Tropez offers a perfect blend of old-world charm and glamour. Property wise, there are a huge number of luxury villas, apartments and townhouses available in the area. Prices remain high as it’s a highly exclusive location attracting buyers from all over the world.”

Tim Clark of Leggett Prestige believes that the upcoming election in France will deliver a more proactive government and this has prompted the interest in high-end property to increase. “Property asking prices are still a little on the high side in this segment,” he advises, “however vendors are rarely in a rush to sell, but will entertain offers from serious clients.”

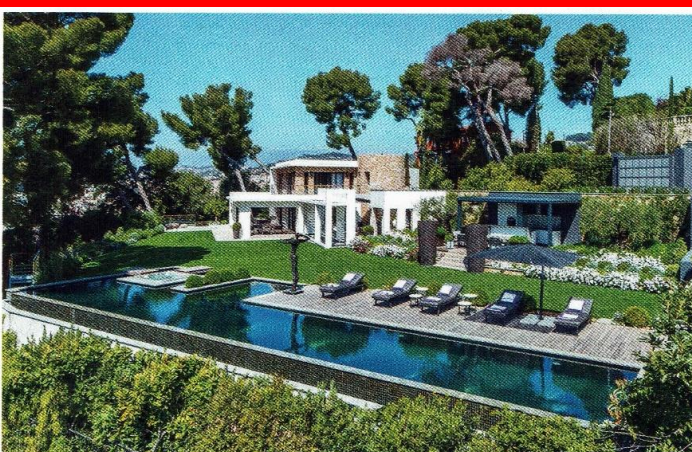


### Ramatuelle, near Saint Tropez

Previously owned by the late singer and songwriter George Michael, this property is on a green very close to the Pampelonne beach. It has been completely renovated and offers a great view

The ground floor includes a living room, dining room, kitchen and three en suite bedrooms. The first floor is a master bedroom with walk-in wardrobe and bathroom, while at garden level there are bedrooms with adjacent shower room/bathroom plus a caretaker’s apartment. Amenities include a gym, heated swimming pool, inter-connected sound system and air-conditioning.

£10.3m / €11.9m / \$12.5m John Taylor Saint Tropez [www.john-taylor.com](http://www.john-taylor.com)



### Cannes

Contemporary villa in the heart of the most sought-after area of Cannes with an amazing sea view over the Bay of Cannes, from the Lerins Islands to the Esterel hills. The six-bedroom property is on flat land of 3,000m<sup>2</sup> with landscaped garden, swimming pool and summer kitchen. It includes an entrance hall, living room, dining room with wine cellar, fully-equipped kitchen and two-bedroom caretaker’s house.

£11.7m / €13.5m / \$14.2m

Home Hunts [www.home-hunts.com](http://www.home-hunts.com)

