

# A Place in the Sun

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# Great WEEKEND ESCAPES

**The ideal weekend bolthole needs to be easy to reach. Easy enough that you can leave your desk on Friday afternoon and be sitting on your terrace in time for sundowners. So where can you get to within a two-hour flight? Here are a few ideas.**



## Cannes, France

**T**he south of France is must be many people's first choice when choosing between destinations within a two-hour flight of the UK. The ideal climate, great beaches, the glamour, even golf: it ticks most boxes, and it is still the first choice for property owners with a million or more to spend. So you will be hard pushed to find a real bargain here as property prices are relatively high compared to regions further north, but you can of course compromise on size and get a bijou bolthole in Nice for €300k (see page 52 for some ideas).

However this country retreat is substantial and located in Valderoure, amongst a wood of some of France's tallest pine trees. Built in 1920 by one of Grasse's

famous perfume producing families, it has a history. Set within 27,000m<sup>2</sup> of land, it offers tranquility yet is only a short drive from the Cote D'Azur's finest golf club, and also some ski slopes.

Its grand entrance is located at the end of a private road and inside there is a grand wrap-around staircase leading to the second floor. Upstairs there are six bedrooms, one of which is reached by a spiral staircase up to the uppermost floor/attic space.

On the ground floor is a wine-cellar and four-car garage and the current owners run a GP medical office from here.

It is for sale for €880,000 (£754k) through Fine & Country Cannes ([fineandcountry.com](http://fineandcountry.com)).



## Dordogne, France

**B**ergerac airport is only 1hr 45 minutes from the UK and this lovely property is only 25 minutes from the airport.

What's more it's only two minutes from a village shop and even a Michelin-starred restaurant, which makes it a perfect weekend escape.

This is a beautifully renovated classic Maison de Maitre property located between the pretty bastide towns of Villereal and Issigeac in the south of the Dordogne.

Elegantly proportioned, it features bundles of charm with original features such as an inglenook fireplace, terracotta and wooden floors, and comes with a small orchard on 1.15 hectares of land.

In excellent condition, it has been retored by a British couple, who are offering the property for £660,000, complete with much of its antique furniture. Inside it offers four bedrooms, three bathrooms, plus a one-bedroom guesthouse. Other features include a laundry room, large barn suitable for conversion and a 12x6m swimming pool.

So all in all, this would make a great family residence of second home.

Find out more: [home-hunts.com](http://home-hunts.com).

1h 45m  
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## Lake Como, Italy

**I**t's affordable and easy to get to Milan and its three airports, and the wonderful Italian lakes are only an hour's drive away (especially if you drive like an Italian).

What with the fantastic shopping of Milan, Lombardy's great cuisine and skiing to boot, this really is a great year-round area.

This two-bedroom property has some view, and with such would equally make a great rental property. Located in Sala Comacina on the sought-after western side of Lake Como (and home to George Clooney), it is also ideally placed to enjoy plenty of sun - it has its own microclimate.

This newly built apartment priced at €495,000 (£424k) has this spacious terrace perfect for al fresco dining, along with two bathrooms, private garage and storage room - ideal for the skis. Nearby there are plenty of restaurants, an indoor shopping centre, and the Swiss border is just 35 mins away.

You need to go and view the property to fully appreciate the benefits, says the agent, Linda Travella ([casatravella.com](http://casatravella.com)).



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