



## If I could, I would...



Every so often, we come across a French property that knocks us for six. This month, Andy Duncan, lords it up in a mountainside château

**MANY TIMES**, I have driven through precipitous eastern France, and many times I have gazed forlornly up the mountainsides, my eyes alighting on the stunning châteaux that glower down at me from on high.

Inevitably, I have often thought about what it would feel like to live in one, which is why I have completely fallen for this delightful 17th-century château. Set in a whopping 11.8 hectares of land on the Grand Colombier mountain near Culoz, in



the Ain department, the imposing château, complete with two witch-hat turrets, enjoys sweeping views over the Rhône Valley below. I could picture myself, after a hard day's hiking, sitting outside and soaking up the view with a glass of, say, Condrieu in hand.

The eight-bedroom property has been fully renovated over the past 20 years, and boasts sumptuous interiors, a wine cellar, billiards room, fully fitted kitchen, library and open

fireplace. Outside, there is a tennis court, a swimming pool that shimmers invitingly in this mountain setting, a caretaker's apartment, guest house, guest apartment, stables, and a host of outbuildings. So there is plenty of scope for me to earn a few euros from running a gorgeous B&B here.

The property's holiday destination credentials are boosted considerably by spectacular mountain landscapes on the doorstep, including the Grand Colombier, which is the highest of the Jura mountain range. It is 30 minutes from Aix-les-Bains, 15 minutes from the north shore of Lac du Bourget, and around an hour from that other famous lake at Annecy. Geneva is only an hour away, and Culoz itself has a well-served railway station.

The property has been reduced in price to €1.65 million. **LF**  
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