



property

Property hot spots

Compasspoints



An Englishman's home is his castle. No need to pretend any more, tower-crazy **Liz Meek** finds the real thing – and not just in England

Bargain of the week



LOCATION
Kilmartin

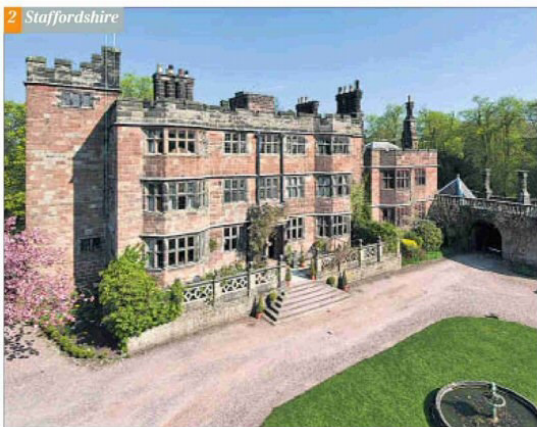
GUIDE PRICE
£375,000

AGENT
Knight Frank (0131 222 9600; knightfrank.co.uk)

1 Scotland

● This restored 16th-century fortified property has three en suite bedrooms and an acre of mature gardens. A variation on a Z-plan castle, the design includes round towers projecting from opposite corners. The first-floor great hall is heavily beamed, with a wood-burning stove in the large, stone inglenook. The town of Oban is 29 miles away.

2 Staffordshire



LOCATION
Caverswall

GUIDE PRICE
£3m

AGENT
Strutt & Parker (01743 284200; struttandparker.com)

● Formerly the home of the Wedgwood family, Caverswall Castle dates back to Saxon times. It was rebuilt in 1625 as a Jacobean mansion, while the pottery barons added a decorative ceiling in the library when they lived there during the 1880s. The property has a moat, towers, gatehouse and the old dungeon. If you prefer your guests to sleep in luxury, there are seven suites and six further bedrooms.

3 Scotland



LOCATION
Pencaltland

GUIDE PRICE
£250,000

AGENT
Smiths Gore (0131 344 0881; smithsgore.co.uk)

● One of nine apartments is for sale in Saltoun Hall, just 15 miles from Edinburgh. There is a grand communal entrance, leading to your own vaulted reception hall. The drawing room has a huge bay window and there is one bedroom. Residents share 32 acres and fishing rights.

4 Devon



LOCATION
Iybridge

GUIDE PRICE
£350,000

AGENT
Audley Retirement Villages (0800 093 8181; audleyretirement.co.uk)

● Flete House was rebuilt in the Gothic style in 1835, although parts date back to the 16th century. In 2005, it was remodelled into luxury retirement apartments and there are currently two for sale. No 10 is a two-bedroom, first-floor apartment, while No 11 is a three-bedroom flat for £425,000. All the homes are designed for independent living for those aged 55 and over. The 12 acres of landscaped grounds include a pretty Italianate garden.

5 Durham



LOCATION
Castle Eden

GUIDE PRICE
£329,000

AGENT
Fine & Country (0191 384 2277; fineandcountry.com)

● Jasmine House originally formed part of the castle's stables here. Private, with a large enclosed garden, it has three bedrooms, high ceilings and stone fireplaces. Next door is the Castle Eden golf course.

6 London



LOCATION
Kingsbury

GUIDE PRICE
£180,000

AGENT
Auction House London (020 7625 9007; auctionhouse.london.co.uk)

● Highford Court was one of four distinctive blocks of flats at the crossroads on Buck Lane in north London. They were designed in the Thirties by Ernest Trobridge. The architect employed disabled former servicemen to build the homes and paid full union rates. Turrets disguise the chimneys and bin stores, while the battlements hide roof terraces. A three-bedroom, first-floor flat here will go to auction on April 24.

Property of the week



7 France

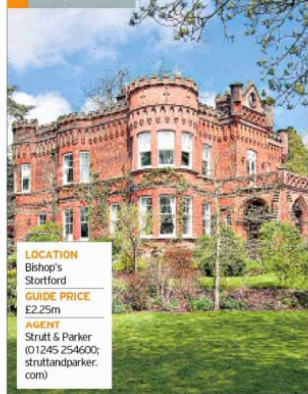
LOCATION
Aubusson

GUIDE PRICE
£538,000

AGENT
Leggett Prestige (0033 5575 50606; leggettprestige.com)

● This nine-bedroom chateau was built as a country house and hunting lodge by a Parisian family in 1891. The original lithographic plans can still be viewed today. With its own lake and 15 acres of land, it is a perfect hideaway. The house retains its original oak staircase, marble fireplaces, painted ceilings, ornate plasterwork and panelling. An attractive coach house and a caretaker's cottage give scope for further accommodation.

11 Hertfordshire



LOCATION
Bishop's Stortford

GUIDE PRICE
£2.25m

AGENT
Strutt & Parker (01245 254600; struttandparker.com)

● This Edwardian family home, complete with crenellations and turrets has been updated by the present owners. They have kept the period details and quirky character of this American gothic, brick-built property. Carfield Castle has seven bedrooms, five bathrooms and four reception rooms. Outside, in the south-facing gardens, there is a 100-car pond.

8 France



LOCATION
Dordogne

GUIDE PRICE
£3.5m

AGENT
Home Hunts (020 8144 5501; homehunts.com)

● High above the Dordogne valley near Sarlat la Caneda, this Renaissance chateau has ten bedrooms and an enormous drawing room. There is a library, study, dining room and television room. The kitchen boasts a vaulted stone roof.

9 Italy



LOCATION
Lombardy

GUIDE PRICE
£2.5m

AGENT
Utissimo (020 3178 4975; utissimo.com)

● A project for a true romantic, Castello Ferré, overlooks Lake Maggiore and is waiting for someone to bring it back to life. It is set in grounds with its own beach. The main building would provide five beds. Full approval for the work has been granted.

10 France



LOCATION
Cognac

GUIDE PRICE
£2.45m

AGENT
Savills (020 7016 3843; savills.com)

● Here is a genuine French chateau near Cognac with 10 bedrooms and 42 acres of fully restored gardens and grounds. This includes extensive river frontage and many water features, too. A six-acre lake has been created, with several islands. There is a gardener's cottage, staff apartment and office, plus potential for further buildings within the estate, which is totally surrounded by high stone walls.