THE MANOR **DORDOGNE**

THE CHATEAU IN THE SKY

You don't need to be a royal to live in a castle fit for a king. Chateau Rouffillac in France's Dordogne offers the real-life fairy tale dream, with grandiose design and regal features aplenty, says **ABY DUNSBY**

THEY SAY AN Englishman's home is his castle. But, frankly it's pretty tricky to get your hands on one of those – unless you're good mates with Prince Harry. Not in France, though: the Dordogne region alone is said to have more than 1,000 chateaux.

We're ready to pack our bags and bid *adieu* to Blighty for this one: the majestic Chateau Rouffillac. This 17th century home, located in the heart of Périgord Noir, in France's hugely popular Aquitaine region, is now for sale.

Rouffillac is perched on a cape which overlooks the lush green of the Dordogne valley and its river below. The castle is surrounded by a 20-hectare wooded park complete with hiking trails, so you can venture out far and wide across your new kingdom.

Rouffillac was restored in the 19th century and has a rich history, having been owned by various French nobles. The lavish interior reflects the style of the Renaissance, and boasts original features including stone fireplaces in each of the two lounges.

There are also 12 bedrooms, two of which are in the castle's towers (presumably where one houses one's princesses). There's a separate house for your staff, too.

Other features include a saltwater swimming pool, stables, a shaded internal courtyard for outside dining, and space to park your helicopter. Naturally.

You'll also be ideally placed to explore the marvels of the Dordogne region, with its abundant vineyards, forests and tobacco fields. Picturesque villages dot across the surrounding countryside, while nearby activities include golf, fishing and horse-riding.

We're starting to feel more regal already. Now, where did I leave my polo stick? ■

Price guide: €3.6m. For more info: HOME-HUNTS.COM

KING OF THE CASTLE: (Clockwise from main) The 17th century chateau is set in 30 hectares of woodland; both lounges feature Renaissance-style stone fireplaces; one of the property's 12 bedrooms

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