

HOME

HOME

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TIMES+

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If your horizons stretch further than Britain's shores, **Emma Wells** chooses the far-flung beach houses that dreams are made of

Splash out

Let's imagine for a moment that you won the lottery. After splurging on a sports car and securing a new boyfriend/girlfriend/nose, buying a swanky home on an exotic coast would surely come next on the list.

Properties on the seafront always command a premium — there are plenty of people willing to pay over the odds for a view of azure seas and rugged cliffs. And competition is hotting up. "British buyers are actively purchasing coastal properties overseas again as the pound has strengthened and the UK economy continues to pick up," says Giles Hannah, senior vice president at Christie's International Real Estate.

Here are the coastal pads on Home's lottery list — whatever your budget.

BARBADOS £22.5m

Nothing says success like a holiday retreat in Barbados — and Gardenia, in the exclusive neighbourhood of the Garden, in St James, on the west coast, takes luxury to new heights. With eight bedrooms and seven bathrooms (expect guests), the beachfront home has mesmerising sea views, lush grounds of nearly three acres filled with native tropical plants, a tennis court and swimming pool, as well as staff accommodation. Over Christmas and New Year, you should be able to charge up to \$60,000 (£38,700) a week — if you can bear to let it out. Grantley Adams international airport is 15 miles away. **020 7861 1553, knightfrank.com**



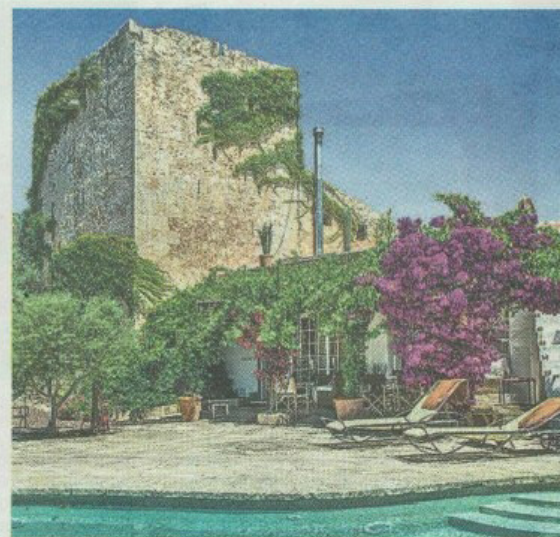
TURKEY £450,000

It's a favourite with English buyers, but the historic town of Kalkan, nestled at the base of a mountain, still retains a traditional Turkish village feel, with its maze of cobbled streets and whitewashed, bougainvillea-draped houses. In Kalamar Bay, this four-bedroom villa has stunning sea views, a huge terrace with barbecue area and a private pool. In the summer months, it could be rented out for up to £2,000 a week.

020 8339 6036, spotblue.com

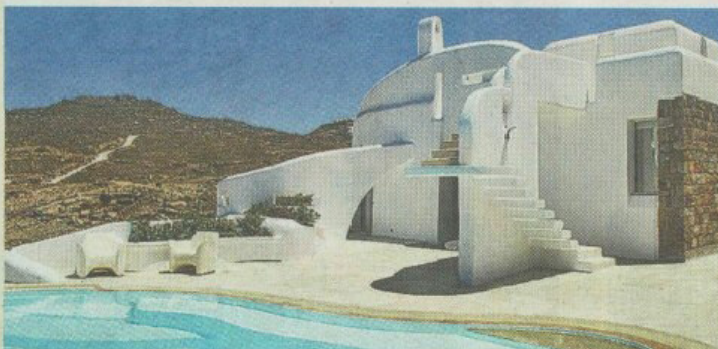


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**GREECE £1.1m**

This striking nine-bedroom, three-bathroom villa, on the northwest coast of the upmarket party island of Mykonos, is built on three levels in a traditional Cycladic design, with sinuous gleaming white walls. In Fanari, which has a Blue Flag beach, and with views of mountains and the Aegean Sea, it has been stylishly interior-designed. There's a swimming pool and barbecue area in the private garden.

020 3667 7016, akinternationalestates.com

**SPAIN £2.1m**

With 13th-century origins, Torre San Nicalau, a 15-minute drive from the Menorcan capital, Mahon, has been converted into a luxe estate with eight bedrooms. The gardens have countryside and Med views, as well as an outdoor kitchen, pergolas, pool and fishpond.

020 7348 9772, aylesford.com

32 / OVERSEAS**NEW YORK STATE, USA £14m**

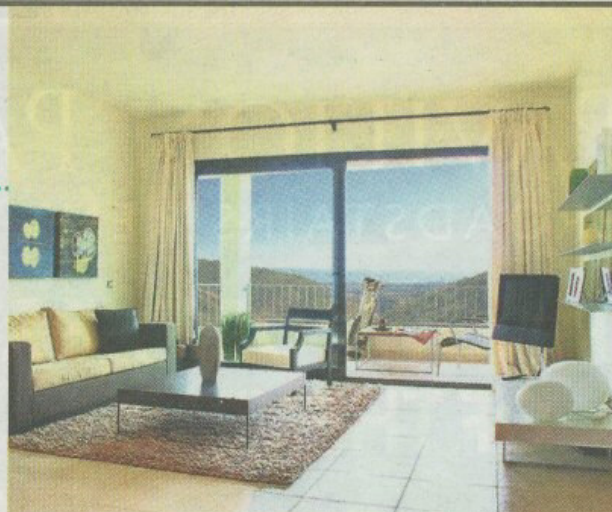
This ultra-contemporary four-bedroom oceanfront home in Sagaponack – which has some of the splashiest homes in the Hamptons – has a modern marine feel, with a pool and lots of pristine wall space on which to display your collection of abstract expressionists. Don't bring the chopper, though: flights look set to be restricted after complaints about the noise. **00 1 631 500 9030, bespokerealestate.com**



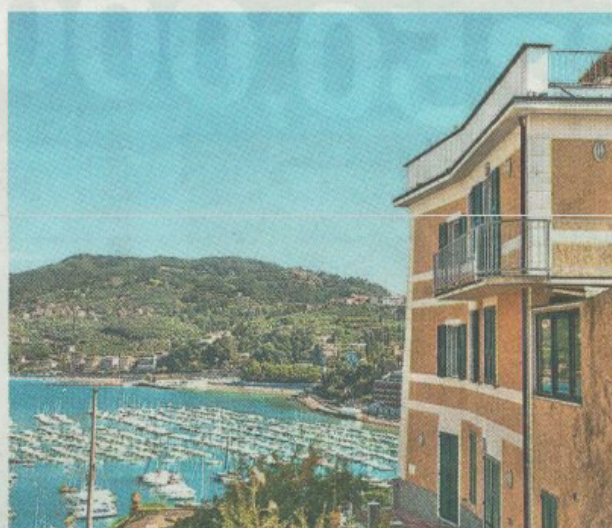
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ANTIGUA £19.2m

It's hard to know which to take a dip in first: the sea, or the 65ft pool. The colonial-style Ty Molineux estate – at Jumby Bay, with views over Davis Bay beach and across the Caribbean to mainland Antigua – has four bedroom suites in the main house and two two-bedroom cottages in the grounds. In the 7.9 acres you'll find a tennis court and outdoor games area, and a dining gazebo right next to the beach. There's also a gym and a spa-treatment suite for ironing out any post-exercise kinks. **020 7861 1097, knightfrank.com**

**SPAIN from £109,500**

A five-minute drive from the beach, and 40 minutes from the airport, the Samara development, in Marbella, features 169 flats, with one to three bedrooms, distributed over 25 blocks. A two-bedder here could make a good lock up and leave, with 24-hour security on the site and underground parking. **0800 011 2277, sequire.co.uk**

**ITALY £611,000**

Next door to the castle in Lerici – the Riviera town once home to the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley and his wife, the Frankenstein author, Mary – and overlooking the Gulf of Poets, in La Spezia, this two-bedroom flat has three garden terraces with coastal views, and an outdoor pool. **00 39 02 8707 8300, milan-sothebysrealty.com**

**AMSTERDAM**

What's the pull? Simply strolling alongside Amsterdam's catch-your-breath lovely canals, admiring the 17th-century townhouses and bridges, and stopping in one of the great cafes, is as fine a way to spend the day as can be imagined. Should the weather not hold up, the museums are world class. The centre is compact enough to cycle through with ease and the locals are friendly and tend to speak flawless English, which makes life easy – Dutch is neither a beautiful language nor an easy one to pick up.

Where to live The young tend to prefer the Canal Belt, where you're looking at at least £250,000 for a studio. Families prefer the streets south of the Vondelpark, a 5- to 10-minute cycle to the centre.



This area, where a four-bedroom house costs from about £2m, has some of the city's best schools and early-20th-century redbrick villas.

The cost of living Eating out is close to London prices (about £3 for a beer; £10 for a light cafe lunch). A monthly public-transport pass costs £64.

Any worries? Amsterdam is a tourist magnet, which means it can be thronged with fools brandishing selfie sticks. Coffee shops (selling marijuana, not macchiato) can be grubby and a little threatening.

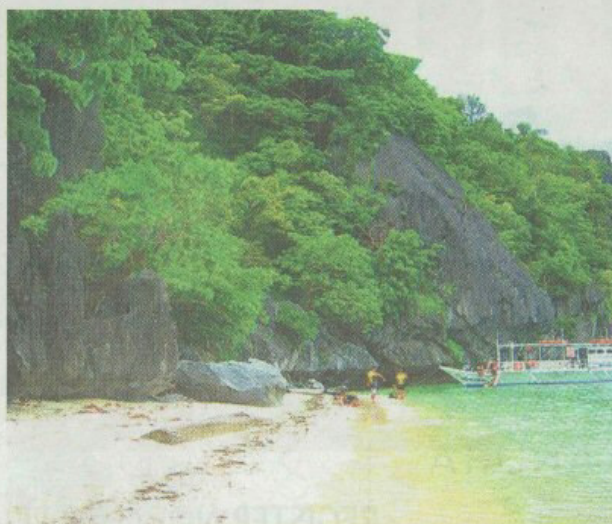
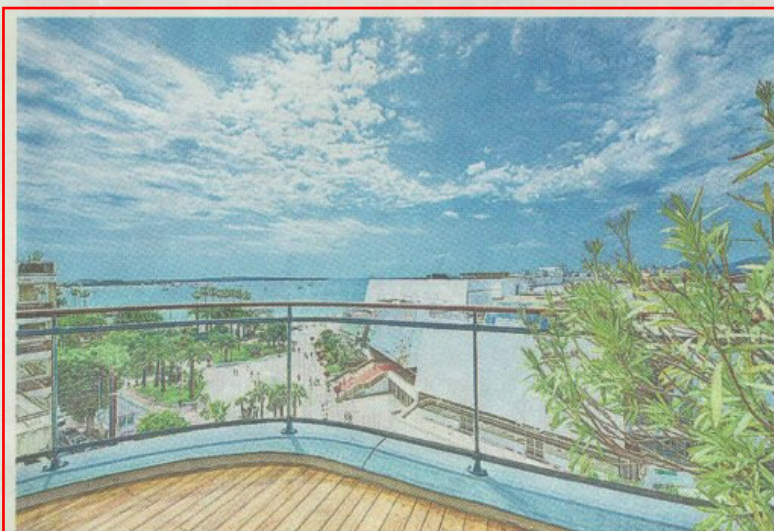
What the locals say Boris Johnson is right – cycle helmets are for children only.

Who to call 00 31 20 716 2418; engelvoelkers.com

Ruth Bloomfield

FRANCE £6m

The Cannes film festival ends today, but the glamour returns next May. You'll get a bird's-eye view of all the best frocks from this fifth-floor, three-bedroom penthouse, which overlooks the Croisette and Palais des Festivals. It comes with a 1,700 sq ft private terrace with a pool, accessed by a glass lift – also private – and an open-plan kitchen. **020 8144 5501, home-hunts.com**

**PHILIPPINES £500,000**

One for adventurous types: a remote 11-acre beach lot on Cadlao Island, part of El Nido, in Bacuit Bay, Palawan, famous for its white sand, lagoons and lush forests. It's a 20-minute boat ride from the nearest town. The agents say you should be able to build a house, if it conforms with local laws. **00 63 977 174 4018, lamudi.com.ph**