

House & Home

FTWeekend

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Hot property Spooky links

By Claudia Knowles



Château de Rouffillac, Sarlat, Dordogne, France, €3.6m

Where In Sarlat-la-Canéda, a small commune in a protected area of south-west France. The château overlooks the Dordogne valley and is an hour and 20 minutes by car from Bergerac international airport.

What A 15th-century château built around a courtyard, set in 19 hectares of parkland. The house has more than 1,000 sq metres of

living space spread over three floors, including 10 bedrooms, all of which have views of the river.

Why Next door are the ruins of a 11th-century church with a graveyard. In the 19th century the château was owned by Count Montmeja, who was revered at the time for his work on pathology and his photographic collection of obscure skin diseases.

Who Home Hunts, home-hunts.com, tel: +33 970 44 66 43

Inniscurrig Castle, Dalkey County Dublin, Ireland, €10.5m

Where On the Irish coast near the town of Dalkey, less than 16km from central Dublin and about 25km from the city's airport.

What A five-bedroom, Victorian house with views of the sea from its large conservatory. The property has a boathouse and its own working harbour — one of only two privately owned harbours in Dublin.

Why Inniscarrig was built as a summer retreat in about 1847 by a Dublin physician. Past guests have included Edward VII and George V. A family living in the house in the 1970s claimed there was a ghost named "Charlie" living in the attic.

Who Christie's International Real Estate, christiesrealestate.com, tel: +353 872512909



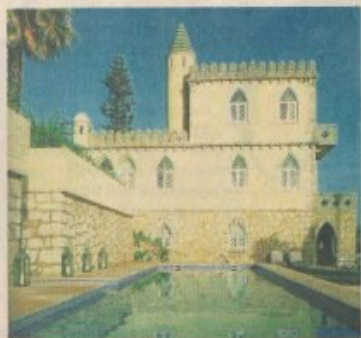
Rookyard Farm, Old Newton, Suffolk, UK, £1.3m

Where On the outskirts of Old Newton, 40 miles from Cambridge. Stansted international airport is about an hour's drive away.

What A six-bedroom house dating from 1390, with restored Tudor interiors. The house overlooks a medieval moat and has an orchard and walled garden.

Why While restoring the house the owners say they discovered a mummified cat, a pair of shoes, a broomstick and a small skull dating back to the witch-hunting era of the 16th and 17th centuries. The items are thought to have once been used as talismans to ward off evil spirits.

Who Struff & Parker, struffandparker.com, tel: +44 1673 216841



Castle in São João do Estoril, Portugal, €3.5m

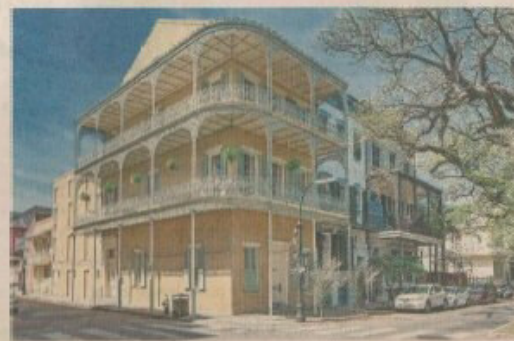
Where Near the town of Estoril on Portugal's west coast, half an hour's drive from Lisbon Portela airport. Estoril is within the municipality of Cascais, known as the Portuguese Riviera.

What A four-bedroom, 19th-century stone castle overlooking the Atlantic, with 424 sq metres of space arranged

over four floors. The property also has an outdoor pool and large terrace.

Why Portuguese television personality José Castelo Branco claims he came close to buying the property in the 1980s but was put off when a "ghost" tried to push him off the edge of the terrace.

Who Fine and Country Cascais/Lisbon, fineandcountry.com, tel: +35 1 234 643 636



600 Esplanade Avenue, New Orleans, US, \$2.6m

Where On the edge of the historic French Quarter, Louis Armstrong New Orleans international airport is a 20-minute drive away.

What A five-bedroom townhouse with traditional lace-iron railings on two verandas, plus a writer's studio and separate staff apartment.

Why Esplanade Avenue is on the route of the city's official Halloween parade, the Krewe of Boo, which attracts hundreds of costumed revellers each year.

Who Christie's International Realty, christiesrealestate.com, tel: +1 504 319 6226