

Enter a land of make-believe

As China's richest man snaps up an £80m pad in London, *Anna Partington* opens the door to a world of fairytale castles, chateaux and mansions, all at fantastical prices



Hönäster Castle
 Sweden
 Price: \$5.6m (£3.78m)

There's nothing noir about this piece of Sweden's cultural heritage. At the foot of Mount Kinnekulle, in the province of Västergötland, and nestled in a forest inhabited by deer, you'll find Hönäster Castle. It dates from the 14th century when it was owned by King Magnus Eriksson. The property has six bedrooms in each of the four wings, a library, staff quarters and stables – as fitting of a formerly royal residence.

Agent: Christie's (0046 8 662 68 00; christiesrealestate.com)

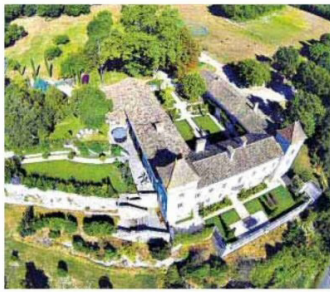


Royal Castle
 Italy (Chianti)
 Price: €9.5m (£4m)

Perched on top of a hill between the wine capitals Bolgheri and Castagneto Carducci, the Royal Castle has views of the Tyrrhenian Sea. The 12-bedroom property is authentically Tuscan with its stone and brick façade, crenellated

towers and large wooden doors. And, if the castle alone does not do it for you, then it also comes with a private beach 15 minutes drive away.

Agent: Precious Villas (0039 055 685849 or 020 7467 5330; preciousvillas.com)



Château Lauzerte
 France (near Cahors)
 Price: €2.8m (£2.07m)

This six-bedroom family home comes with a separate apartment, a three-bedroom guest cottage, and a renovated stone barn with stables. Below ground you'll find a temperature-controlled wine cellar. The estate covers 60 acres of land

with paddocks and a swimming pool, but the surprise *cadeau* is a walnut plantation, the sales from which may help cover the heating bills in the winter.

Agent: Home Hunts (020 8144 5501; home-hunts.com)



Château-Fortress
 France (Limoges)
 Price: €4.24m (£3.14m)

This listed château, with parts that date from the 10th century, is surrounded by a moat, has two lakes and is nestled in 42 acres of woodland. The property is spread over 16,145 sq ft and boasts a family kitchen, chapel, study, library, two master suites and four large en-suite

bedrooms. With additions from the 17th and 19th centuries, it is littered with wooden panelling, marble fireplaces and tiled flooring. Outside you'll find several outbuildings, such as an orangery, a caretaker's house and stables. It's three hours south of Paris and 25 minutes from Limoges.

Agent: Group Mercure (0033 666792 653 or 020 7467 5330; groupe-mercure.com)

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

Gestelhof Castle
 Belgium (near Antwerp)
 Price: €20m (£14.7m)

Flanked by two canals, Gestelhof Castle dates from the 16th century but was rebuilt in 1796 after a fire. Today, it is considered an official monument in Belgium, where it is situated along the Nete River, 31 miles from Brussels. Built over five levels, including a cellar that spans the almost 121,000 sq ft property, the

castle has a library, a billiards room, an indoor greenhouse and a rooftop terrace with 360-degree views of the surrounding parkland. It sits in half an acre of grounds, with a swimming pool, outbuildings and a farm.

Agent: Christie's (0031 10 22 508 22; christiesrealestate.com)



121,000
 SQ FT

Château Leval
 France (Western Loire)
 Price: €1.9m (£1.38m)

This Neo-Renaissance château stands in grounds of almost 24 acres, comprising landscaped gardens, a private lake, woods, horse pastures and a helipad or two. Built in 1854, the property has 12 bedrooms, nine bathrooms and is spread over 9,425 sq ft, including the separate orangery, pavilion and caretaker's apartment. It comes with a fully equipped exercise room, cinema, wine cellar and swimming pool, as well as a children's pool with decorative fountains.

Agent: Home Hunts (020 8144 5501; home-hunts.com)



Chateau Rouffillac
 France (Dordogne Valley)
 Price on application

This fairytale castle is tucked away in 30 acres of woodland overlooking the Dordogne Valley. It has eight living rooms and an inner courtyard. If your budget is unlikely to stretch to the multi-million euro price tag, you can rent it out starting from €4,800 per week (£3,532).

Agent: Home Hunts (020 8144 5501; home-hunts.com)



Woodstock Castle
 US (Connecticut)
 Price: \$45m (£30m)

Woodstock Castle in Connecticut is fit for a king. It spans 18,777 sq ft, is set on 75 acres of land and boasts a 120ft tall tower. The owner – a multi-millionaire steel mogul – put his fairytale home on the market in September 2014. It comes complete with a petting zoo.

Agent: Christie's (001 860 572 9099; christiesrealestate.com)



Caverswall Castle
 UK (Staffordshire)
 Price: £3m

This moated castle was built in 1205 on the site of an Anglo-Saxon manor house that had been seized by one of William the Conqueror's noblemen. It became derelict and in 1605 the Mayor of Stafford, Matthew Cradock, bought and rebuilt it as a Jacobean mansion retaining the tower, walls and turrets. The property is spread over 18,274 sq ft, has 16 bedrooms, 11 bathrooms and 20 acres of land. It has all the



rooms you would expect to find in a castle: a billiards room, drawing room, wine cellar, library and a gatehouse. The property has been on the market since October 2013 and planning permission is pending to turn the historic property into a hotel and spa.

Agent: Sotheby's (01932 860532; sothebysrealty.co.uk)

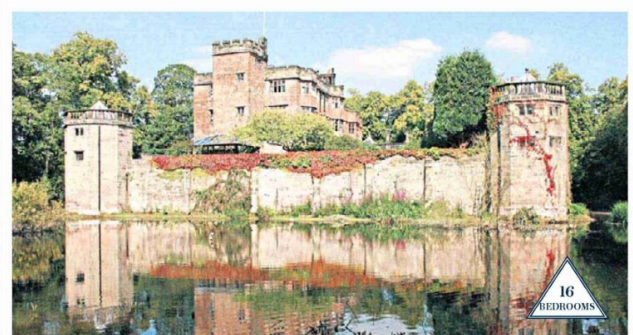


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16
 BEDROOMS