

Property **news**

The only way is up

French property inquiries are up 60% in the first quarter of 2016, with a resurgence in the number of British buyers, according to the latest report from luxury property specialists, Home Hunts.

The rise in the number of investors is thought to be down to a number of factors including a favourable exchange rate, lower property prices and low interest rates. Other countries that came onto the French property market radar include Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, propelling inquiries into the French property market to an all-time high.

The French National Association of French Estate Agents (FNAIM) announced

that a record-breaking 800,000 properties were sold in 2015, while Home Hunts announced that January 2016 was the best start to a year they had witnessed since starting the business in 2004.

Various developments to the country's infrastructure have seen renewed interests in certain locations, increasing the property value in the area. The LGV (Ligne à Grande Vitesse) train connection between Bordeaux and Paris that is planned for 2017 has seen property prices rise, while the TGV's new service from London to Marseille has encouraged potential buyers to inquire about property in the Provence region.

The Paris attacks of November 2015

did not damage the French capital's property market with Notaires de Paris figures showing an unprecedented level of activity, with property sales up 42% in the September and November of that year.

"Paris prices are very attractive if you compare with London where prices are almost three times higher," says Home Hunts' Paris-based consultant, Hervé Lévy.

Other areas that experienced an upsurge in buyer interest include the Riviera, where buyers are now seeing more value for money, Languedoc-Roussillon and the French Alps, while the south-western locations of Lot, Gers and Dordogne also proved popular.

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