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PERSONAL PROJECT
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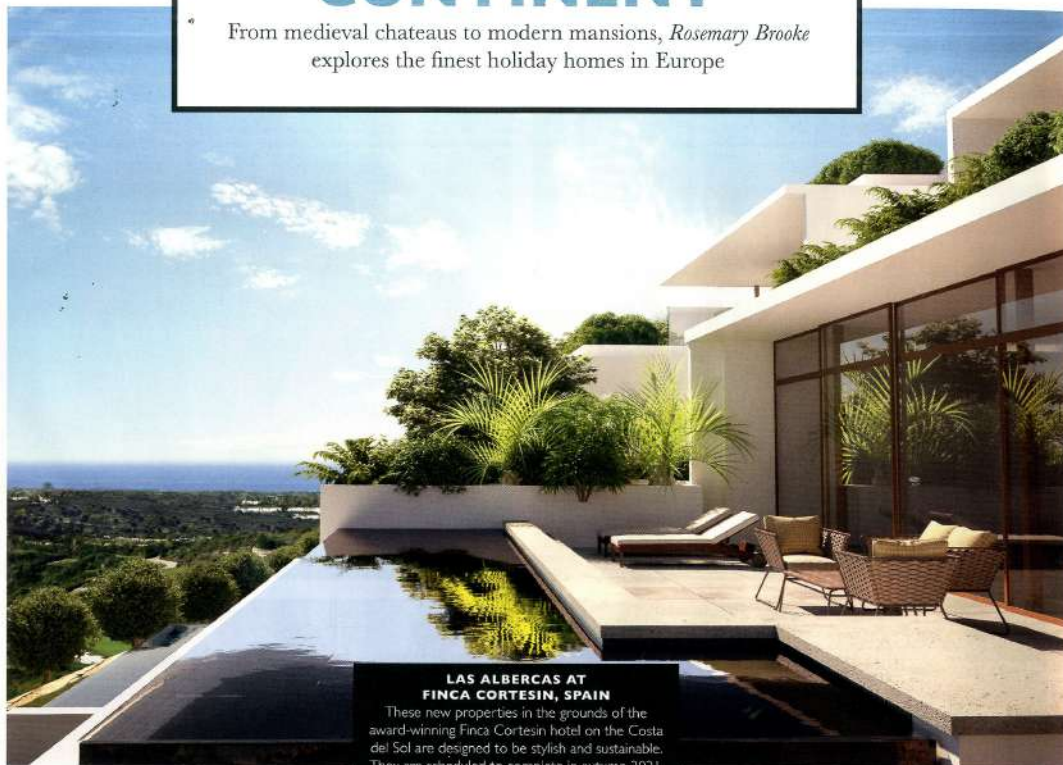
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ON THE CONTINENT

From medieval chateaus to modern mansions, *Rosemary Brooke* explores the finest holiday homes in Europe



LAS ALBERCAS AT FINCA CORTESIN, SPAIN

These new properties in the grounds of the award-winning Finca Cortesin hotel on the Costa del Sol are designed to be stylish and sustainable. They are scheduled to complete in autumn 2021, when residents will be able to take advantage of the hotel's extensive facilities, including the 18-hole golf course. From €1 million.

Finca Cortesin Real Estate: 00 34 952 937 777

One of my favourite books is Elizabeth von Arnim's 1922 classic *The Enchanted April*, in which a group of British women escape the dreariness of a cold and wet London to spend a month in a rented Italian castle, lured by the promise of 'wisteria and sunshine'. The glorious contrast in both the weather and their surroundings not only lifts their spirits, but ultimately turns all of them into much nicer people. Holiday homes always bring with them that sense of anticipation and hope – that the power of a place will help to smooth away the million worries of our daily lives and allow us simply to be ourselves. They're somewhere to retreat and relax, to get together with family and friends. And where better to buy a second home than in Europe? It has a fantastic variety

of properties – from romantic French chateaus to Balearic island retreats – all of which are just a short plane journey away.

If you dream of having a holiday pad that has all the conveniences of a luxury resort, then consider one of the new properties currently being built at the smart resort of Finca Cortesin, located between Marbella and Sotogrande in Spain. The resort has recently been given a Readers' Choice Award by Condé Nast Traveller, naming it the leading hotel in Spain and Portugal. It's easy to see why – it has excellent restaurants (one of them Michelin-starred),

pools, a state-of-the-art spa and a world-class golf course. The Finca Cortesin Las Albercas residences will range from two to four bedrooms, some with their own private pools and terraces.

More than ever, buyers are looking for overseas properties with a potential income to help cover the running costs. 'The second-home market has changed significantly over the last decade,' says Paul Tostevin, director of Savills World Research. 'Once it was a discretionary purchase primarily for the owner's own use, but today's global market is driven by income returns.'

Chateau Lembeye in south-west France would meet these criteria – with its 10 bedrooms and ample space for entertaining, there's scope for it to be used as a wedding venue or a rental property. The picturesque chateau dates back to the 14th century and has far-reaching views that



BURALLA, ITALY

This traditional farmhouse lies 14 kilometres from the historic city of Lucca, set amid the wooded hills. The eight-bedroom property has been restored and modernised, but retains its rustic charm, while the six hectares of land includes a swimming pool and an olive grove. €5 million. *Knight Frank: 020 3925 9100*



LAS ATALAYAS DE ABAMA, SPAIN

Located in the grounds of Tenerife's world-renowned Abama Resort, each of these 10 properties sits on its own private plot, each with a pool and sea views. The villas have airy, open-plan layouts, and owners can avail of the resort's many amenities, including the excellent golf course. From €1,035 million. *Abama Resort: 00 34 922 126 011*

MUNTERS VÄG 26, SWEDEN

Occupying a spectacular position on Lake Mjörn near Gothenburg, this property would make a wonderful holiday home for water-sports enthusiasts. Built in 1929, with plenty of elegant architectural details, this country house is an atmospheric rural retreat. SEK 29.5 million. *Christie's International Real Estate: 00 46 796 174 404*





**CHATEAU LEMBEYE,
FRANCE**

This historic chateau in Aquitaine has medieval origins and sits on 13.8 hectares of land, including an established vineyard and woodland. It has 10 bedrooms – the master suite has a steam room and study – as well as a separate guest annexe. €2.09 million.
Home Hunts: 020 8144 5501



**THE SEAHOUSE,
SPAIN**

This contemporary hillside villa occupies a prime spot in the fashionable enclave of Port d'Andrax in Mallorca. It was completed last year, and has a total of five bedrooms, split between the main property and the adjacent guest house. There's also an infinity pool – perfect for contemplating the spectacular sea views. £13.7 million.
*Engel & Völkers
00 34 971 67 47 80*

stretch as far as the Pyrenees. There's even an established vineyard, if you're keen to set up a winemaking business.

In Italy, Villa Medici on the Tuscan coast is another European jewel that could be rented out when not in use as a holiday home. It's easily accessible – a 20-minute drive from Pisa airport and an hour from Florence – and is set within a 22-hectare estate.

The historic building was originally a hunting lodge belonging to the Medici family, and was enlarged in the late 19th century, when it was



ONE&ONLY KÉA, GREECE

Occupying a tranquil, beachside spot on the closest Cycladic island to mainland Greece, One&Only Kéa Island is a luxurious new resort, with a number of private homes for sale. It's set to launch in 2021, and its many facilities will include three restaurants, a beach club and a spa. From €3 million.
*One&Only:
www.oneandonlyresorts.com/kea-island*



VILLA MEDICI, ITALY

This historic villa in Tuscany is surrounded by its own land – including olive groves that can be harvested to produce home-grown olive oil. There are enough bedrooms to host the largest gatherings – 10 in the main house, plus several separate apartments. £4 million.
Casa & Country: 020 7993 2967

bought by the ancestors of the present owners. It still retains plenty of impressive original features, from the bell tower and the casement windows to the beautifully ornate frescoed ceilings on the ground floor. High french windows lead into the garden, where sun-kissed lawns and ancient trees are surrounded by the rolling hills.

So although it may be almost a hundred years since von Arnim wrote her ode to an Italian castle, there are still no end of European hideaways to bring joy to all who live in them.



VILLA CASSEDDA, ITALY

Located on Sardinia's beautiful Costa Smeralda, this 600-square-metre villa has a separate guest house and a large heated swimming pool. With extensive outdoor cooking facilities and a dining area on the terrace, there's plenty of opportunity to enjoy the glorious surroundings.
€6 million.

Sphere Estates: 020 3617 1360

VILLA CALLISTI, GREECE

High in the hills of Agia Sofia, overlooking Mykonos Town, this villa has been cleverly built into the island's rock face. Arranged over several levels, with five bedrooms, expansive living areas and three large terraces, it's both a tranquil family home and an excellent space for entertaining. POA.
*Beachamp Estates Mykonos:
00 30 22 89 02 47 97*

