

## International property news & market information

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#### Everyone's talking about: Austria

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#### Where it all started: Corfu

Corfu was put on the map nearly half a century ago when author Gerald Durrell published his hilarious memoirs of growing up on the island. But is it a good place to own a holiday home? [read more](#)

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Nice Côte d'Azur is France's busiest airport outside Paris and one of the busiest in the entire Mediterranean, with almost 10m passengers last year. [read more](#)

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#### Where it all started: Vilamoura

At 20 sq km, Vilamoura – literally, the 'village of the Moors' – is one of Europe's largest purpose-built holiday resorts and is one of the foundation stones of Portugal's Algarve. [read more](#)

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#### Consider this: seasonal winds

**Where:** Many parts of southern Europe and the Mediterranean including France, Spain and Italy. The Sirocco is a wind from the Sahara Desert which can reach 100km per hour during autumn and spring, and often deposits large quantities of dust. [read more](#)

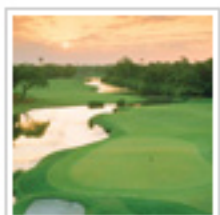
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#### Despite the recession, America clings on to its mega mansions

As one of America's most expensive Beverly Hills mansion comes on to the market, Primelocation looks at the long history of eye-popping property in California [read more](#)

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#### Special report: The world's best golf resorts

Golf resorts around the world offer the winning combination of sun, sport and luxury holiday homes. But do you know your Palheiro from your Pezula? Veteran golfer, writer and TV producer Peter Swain counts down the top 20 golf resorts in the world. [read more](#)

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#### Lakeside living

Lake Como's most famous resident is George Clooney, whose sorties from his lakeside home, Villa Oleandra, on his Harley-Davidson are eagerly snapped up by paparazzi. But the Italian lakes have become a magnet for many seeking the perfect holiday home – not just celebrities. [read more](#)

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## Everyone's talking about... Austria

If your first impression of the Alps came from the movie *The Sound of Music* then there's good news at hand. Buying your own place in the Edelweiss scenery beloved of the Von Trapp family, it turns out, can be quite a bargain compared to the mountains of neighbouring Switzerland and France.



Austria has been an 'emerging market' for ski homes in the last few years. Previously it was overlooked, thanks to Brits' penchant for French-speaking ski resorts and a lack of available properties. But a spate of development and some loosening of the restrictions have ensured that Austria is now firmly on the consideration list for anyone planning to acquire a ski property.

The best skiing is in the west of Austria, particularly in Tyrol state which includes the country's most celebrated resorts such as Innsbruck, St Anton and Kitzbuhel. It's not the easiest place to buy, however, as only properties classified for holiday use can be bought by foreigners.

Neighbouring Salzburg, however, has a slightly more relaxed view, with the result that it has become the main focus for property development aimed at the overseas market. Kaprun and the lakeside Zell am See, for example, both offer a range of new ski developments at reasonable prices.

Agent [Cluttons Resorts](#) is currently marketing two properties in Austria: the futuristic [Schooren des Alpes](#) at Ischgl in the Tyrol, where a large two bed will set you back €780,000, and the much more affordable [Schonblick](#) at Rauris in Salzburg, where you could pick up a two-bed for €189,000 in a resort with a stylish spa and swimming pool. "The skiing is more for beginners and intermediate at Schonblick", says Cluttons' Rob Green, "but it's a family-oriented location where there's loads to do in summer, including hiking, biking and rafting."

Interest in Austria is growing fast, he says. "Property in ski resorts is about half the price for comparable properties in France, and it's a very stable market – it was the second best performer in the latest Knight Frank Global Index." There's even a juicy tax perk thrown in – hold on to your property for 10 years and you won't be liable for any Capital Gains Tax.



Alexander Garrett is a freelance property writer who contributes regularly to *The Observer* and *British Airways' Business Life*.

By Alexander Garrett

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