



The hills are alive

A new Alpine resort has lots of our favourite things, as **Nicola Venning** discovers

IF solving a Problem Like Maria in the stage version of *The Sound of Music* was a challenge, the fictional character's homeland in Austria is far easier to get to grips with. In fact, pretty Salzburg, where much of the musical was filmed and the surrounding mountainous province of Salzburg are home to quite a few of one's favourite things.

Since joining the EU in 1995 Austria has been lifting its property restrictions. Now foreigners can buy into some of its beautiful countryside. One of the most charming mountain hotspots is the one-time goldmining village of Rauris in Salzburg, a mere one hour from Salzburg airport.

Savills and Alpine homes are selling 118 two to four-bedroom apartments (58 to 110 square metres) with large balconies in Schönblick and large balconies in Schönblick only five minutes walk from the new gondola. Prices for phase two start from £133,000 for a two bedroom apartment - generally cheaper than comparable resorts. A two-bedroom



Beautiful view: the new chalets in Schönblick and, right, a village band strikes up

apartment near the lift in nearby Zell am See would be about £214,285 though it is larger and livelier.

The Schönblick development is being built by British developer Guy Taylor from Leeds-based Watson Batly architects.

"We have an informal joint venture with the local mayor," says Taylor, who has also bought a chalet in the village. "They wanted us to build upmarket apartments to rent out and help the town develop sustainably and high end family tourism."

Owners have the option of either a five per cent (net) rental guarantee for five years and three weeks use or unlimited use and an optional rental

pool. Schönblick was the first and only place Jack Christen, a RAF Squadron Leader from York and his partner, Pamela Cooke, visited when he was looking for a second home in the Alps.

"I am more than happy that it was the right thing to have done," says Mr Christen who paid £100,000 for a two bedroom, two bath apartment.

"It's a summer resort as well. Three of my five children are still young and into mountain biking, walking and swimming so they'll love this." He also found it easy to get from Salzburg using a handy combination of train and taxi. Rauris has 36km of slopes in the

and is within forty minutes of larger resorts such as Zell am See, Saalbach and Kaprun. There is also The Höhe Tauern national park, lakes rivers and weekly music concerts in the town square. The pretty ancient spa and ski resort of Bad Gastein is along the valley. Schubert and Strauss used to compose here and it was a favourite haunt of Mozart's mother.

Culture lovers might prefer Salzburg with its horse-drawn carriages, medieval winding lanes and intense musical tradition perfect contrast to the mountains

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THE SOUNDS OF MUSIC

● May 18-20. Baroque with a Touch of Jazz will honour the tenth anniversary of the death of Sándor Végh with works by Haydn, van Beethoven, Schubert, Mozart and Bartók at the Mozarteum.

Contact www.Salzburg.info
● Over 350 concerts are held in Salzburg in the beautiful Marble Hall at Mirabell Palace.

Contact www.ViennaClassic.com
● Mozart's Requiem is regularly performed at the Kollegienkirche, Universitätsplatz, Salzburg.

Contact www.WiennaClassic.com
● Best Of Mozart Concerts, Salzburg: the Salzburg Chamber Soloists in the Festival Quarter and the Great Hall at the Mozarteum. All year.

Contact www.bestofmozart.info
● Julie Andrews lovers can take the Sound Of Music tour of Salzburg.
Contact www.panoramatours.com
● Simple delights in Rauris village which has music in the square in summer evenings.
Contact www.rauriserताल.at