



THE HERALD
LUXURY
HOMES

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2016

CIRCULATION
34,379

AVE £2,200

BLUE HORIZONS

LUXURY HOMES: ABROAD



Let 2016 be the year you invest in a property abroad, for a luxury escape, or as a buy-to-let. The right location is key however, discovers **Andrea Pearson**

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INVESTORS who are accustomed to a luxury lifestyle in their day-to-day home lives will want to extend this while at their second homes abroad so access to world-class facilities such as restaurants and quality golf and health spas continue to be important factors.

Abama Resort in Tenerife offers owners and guests two restaurants with a three Michelin stars between and then – and bookings at the two restaurants are often a pivotal part of owners' stays.

The 400 acre resort is set in Guia de Isora on the

south-west coast of the island and with an average annual temperature of 18-24 °C making it an ideal year-round destination for poolside living. The nearby Teide National Park offers great views and walking and Tenerife continues to enjoy excellent air connections from Scotland.

The latest villa plots on offer occupy front line positions on the golf course. Each plot allows owners to custom-design their home with bespoke swimming pools that have panoramic views over the Atlantic Ocean and the island of La Gomera. The wider Abama resort has 10 restaurants,

the Ritz-Carlton, Abama hotel, Dave Thomas golf course, seven tennis courts, nine additional swimming pools, luxury boutiques, spa, kids club and a golden, sandy beach.

All aspects of the home from home can be customized. However architectural, landscaping, decorating and project management support services can be provided locally. Plots of 750m² are on sale, with villas estimated to be a spacious 300m² internally. Abama Custom Villas begin at approx £1.5million. Check www.abamahotelresort.com for details

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PLOT YOUR ESCAPE: The stunning Abama Resort in Tenerife is the perfect location for year-round poolside living and boasts a picturesque golf course location.

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LUXURY SKI CHALET IN TROIS VALLEES

THIS is a great time to buy in France because of the strong pound – last year the pound to euro exchange rate reached its strongest point for seven years. Chalet Aspasia is in the Les Allues village a short distance away from Meribel. Offering the ultimate in mountain living, the fully-furnished four-bedroom, four-bathroom ski chalet is designed in a modern style, combining local timber and stone with state-of-the-art lighting and contemporary kitchen and bathrooms. The chalet offers a spacious terrace and balcony both providing stunning panoramic views of the Tarentaise Valley. Benefiting from the Trois Valle valley ski area, the chalet is the perfect retreat for ski devotees.

Priced at £3.4million, check www.mgm-constructeur.com



KEY TO SKI: The spacious chalets are fully furnished so as soon as you arrive you can gather your gear and hit the Trois Vallees.



BUY-TO-LET IN COSTA BLANCA

MANY investors are looking at Spanish property – the country's tourism industry broke records for the third year running in 2015 with an estimated 68 million visitors and around 14 per cent stayed in private villas. Costa Blanca has recently been revitalised with an injection of modern developments and an array of new facilities.

Taylor Wimpey Espana's Brisas de Alenda Golf development is 15 minutes from Alicante Airport and 15 minutes from beaches and nightlife. It has a pool, gym, bar and restaurant and the three-bedroom townhouses have furnished kitchens, air-conditioning and fitted wardrobes, two bathrooms and an additional toilet, as well as a terrace, private garden area and a parking space. Until March 2016, the three-bedroom homes also come fully furnished.

Prices start at £117,000 plus VAT. Check www.taylorwimpeypain.com for more information.



ON THE UP IN MOROCCO

MOROCCO is hotly tipped as an emerging destination in 2016 and beyond. Thanks to its cultural richness, liberal society, year-round sunshine and tough policy on domestic security, tourism has grown steadily year-on-year for over a decade and the country's economy has continued to go from strength-to-strength. Property investors are also attracted by Morocco's value-for-money compared to many European counterparts.

The Ouirgane Valley is an hour from Marrakech and is the site of a boutique development of 14 villas at L'Ammandier. The 12 acre estate has 360 degree views over the Atlas mountains and surrounding National Park. Designed by London-based architect Nick Gowing, the resort's style marries elegant modern living with traditional Moroccan heritage.

The final phase of villas has just been released and a luxury hotel will be opening this year. A range of activities are available to investors including fishing, swimming, hiking, kayaking, jet skiing, skiing, horse riding, mountain biking, bird watching and trekking.

From £329,000 for a two-bedroom villa to £495,000 for a three-bedroom villa. Check www.lamandierhotel.com

WORLD AT YOUR FINGERTIPS: The scenic Atlas Mountains overlook the stylish L'Ammandier development and offer a range of outdoor leisure pursuits.

GOOD INVESTMENT IN ISTANBUL

ISTANBUL is a vast city of 14 million and the second-largest city in the world by population. It is a transcontinental city – its commercial and historical centre lies in Europe, while around a third of its population lives in Asia. Istanbul is one of the fastest-growing metropolitan economies in the world and returns on property investments are still climbing.

On the outskirts of the city is Alkent, just 20 minutes from Ataturk International Airport and five minutes from Buyukcekmece Marina. It has sea views and is surrounded by green fields.

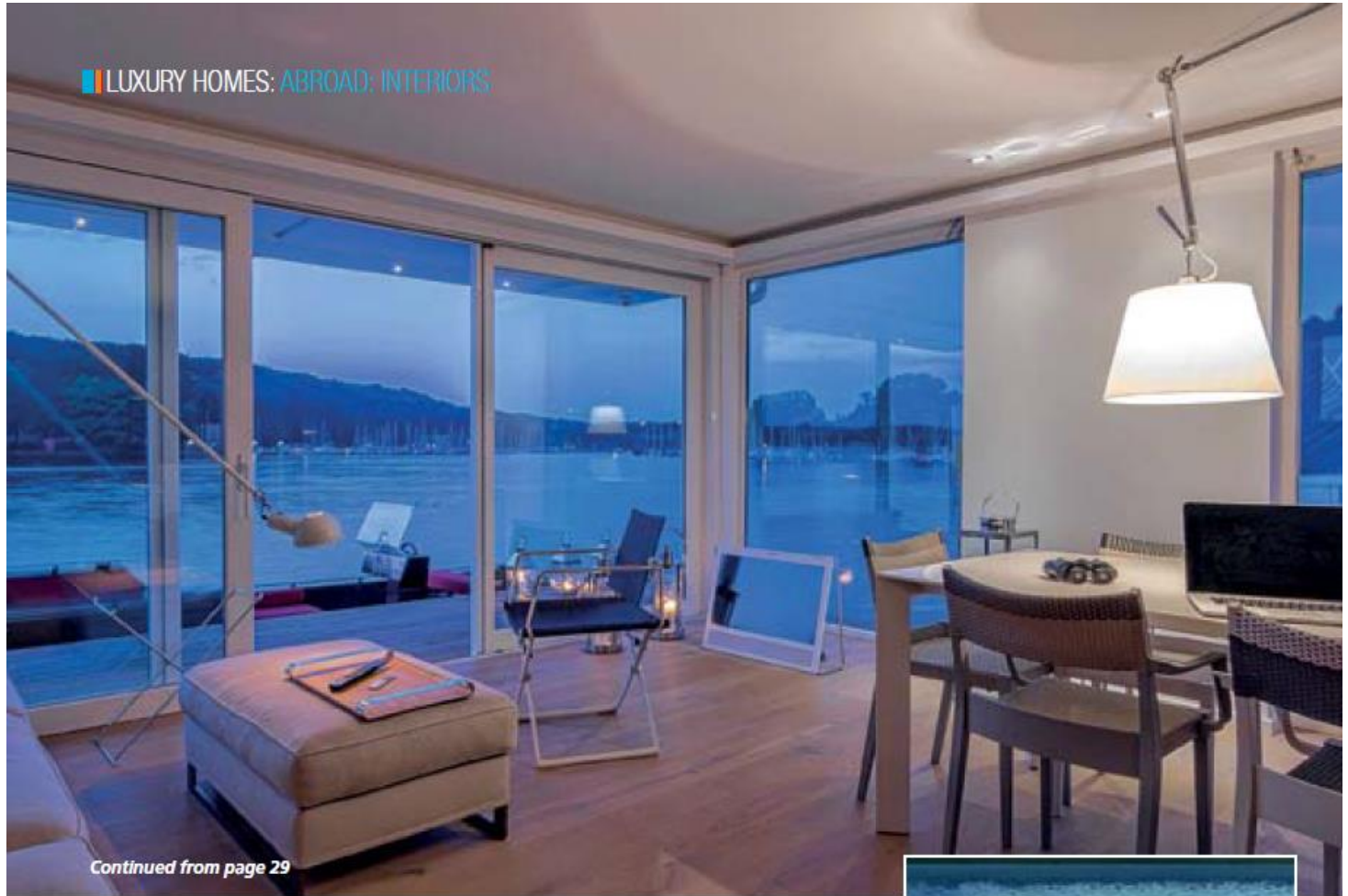
Oceanic Bayview Villas are eco-homes built across three floors with four to seven bedrooms, four bathrooms, a dining room, internal suspended balcony overlooking the grand living room, kitchen, winter garden, a games/cinema room, Jacuzzi room, and staff quarters.

With the mezzanine over the main lounge, and large panoramic windows out to the water, the sense of space is immense.

There is also a clubhouse close by with sauna, steam baths and large outdoor pool.

From £1.1million, check www.universa21.com for details.

Advert ID:GL1275903
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THEN WE TAKE BERLIN

COMBINE urban living with the freedom and flexibility of a mobile waterside location in Berlin.

Germany's capital and cultural centre, filled with iconic architecture, is booming in terms of tech start-ups, art, music, food and entertainment.

Add to this the fact that Germany has the strongest economy in Europe, a highly regulated housing market and many affordable properties, and Berlin emerges as an ideal city in which to invest.

Buying a houseboat means no need to

choose between a funky urban space or a tranquil escape – they really are the best of both.

These ones from Black Label Properties have a hot tub on the roof terrace, a sauna, under floor heating, a fireplace, air con, Miele appliances and Wifi.

The floating apartments are also self-sufficient with their own water treatment and power generation facilities and all just five miles from the airport.

From £154,000 to £926,000 for the Loft edition, go online at www.blacklabelproperties.com



WAVE OF INSPIRATION: Berlin provides an attractive opportunity for investment, with houseboats offering a flexible lifestyle.