





de vivre Jolie

The land of food, style and romance, France captures the imagination and fills it with exquisite pleasures. But why be content with a weekend, or a flyby visit? Make France your home and enjoy the croissants, couture and culture any time you like.



Whatever your particular image of France, be it the Parisian lifestyle or rural Brittany, the possibility of buying a home in France cannot help but stir a few pangs of excitement. A land bursting with history, culture, style and an incredibly developed appreciation of the good life, France is worth putting right at the top of any second home list. Cheese and champagne are protected by law, wine seeps from every pore and its citizens have perfected the pout. France is a country unlike any other, and the best way to appreciate it is to live there...



LA VIE EN PARIS

The streets of Paris retain a certain haughtiness born of the natives' assumption that the city is the most beautiful, the food the finest and the style the chicest. Whether it ticks all these boxes is debatable, but even if it manages one or two that's not bad going. A townhouse in one of Paris's trendier suburbs can be difficult to get your hands on, but it is most definitely worth it. Options range from smart townhouses (top) to restored cottages (above) and even modern gems by Le Corbusier (right).

Photo credit: Paul Raftery/VIEW & Architect: Le Corbusier & Amedee Ozenfant

CIRQUE DU SOLEIL

The sun-drenched coasts of southern France really do buzz with excitement, as the fantastic entertainment lives up to the perfect surroundings. From Monaco to Nice and beyond, the Mediterranean sunshine beats down on the villas just minutes from the water's edge. Options include the views from a candlelit terrace in Cannes (above), or this magnificent shoreline villa in Villefranche sur Mer (right).



Photo credit: French Property Centre



À LA MONTAGNE

The Alps loom over Europe in imposing style, but among the heady white peaks are picturesque valleys that make a wonderful mountain retreat. With the pistes nearby for the winter months and the lakes and green hills for summer leisure, the mountainsides of France provide perfect property opportunities. With views this good, you can't go wrong.

Photo credit: Prestige Property Group

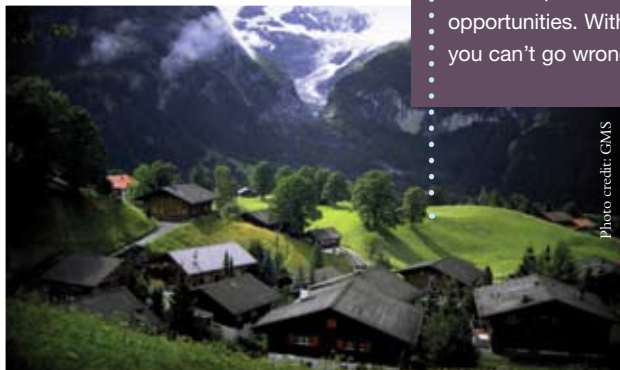


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À LA CAMPAGNE

Surrounded by vines, orchards or quaint cobbled streets, the French countryside attracts millions of tourists every year who are attracted to its languorous lifestyle and sunny disposition. A cottage or villa will provide an idyllic setting for long evenings at the garden table, tasting local produce and sipping local wine. Options include this small but beautifully kept villa in Charente (above), a restful poolside spot in Grimaud (centre) or a manor house in Pau (bottom right).



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L'HISTOIRE

A chateau in France is about as good as it gets. You may even be able to get a moat around it. These spectacular old buildings, capturing centuries of history and heaving with the weight of inimitable grandeur, are often surrounded by land that has been groomed to perfection for as long as the building has stood there. This is the perfect way to own a piece of history, while allowing for a completely modern interior (right). Options range from a smaller chateau-style in New Laval (above) to a vast historic monument in South Charente, near Bordeaux (below right).



Photo credits: Prestige Property Group



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