



COOLEST NEIGHBOURHOODS TO INVEST IN

Forget Lisbon and Barcelona – they're overpriced and crowded. These are the canny choices, says *Zoe Dare Hall*

The cost of living crisis may have scuppered plans for ordinary mortals to even think of buying a holiday home in Britain or abroad, but for the lucky ones who can still afford a place in the sun, where to buy these days? The usual suspects – Lisbon, Barcelona, the Balearics – are too crowded, expensive and mainstream. To invest wisely (and pleasurably), follow the eco crowd, the artists, bohemians and digital nomads – or buy where the locals go on holiday, not the Brits. Here are the ten coolest destinations to buy a holiday home now.

GALICIA, SPAIN

After a summer of searing Spanish heat, Galicia in the northwest, with its craggy coastline, green landscapes and comfier temperatures, is attracting buyers. The wellness scene is flourishing here, spurred by the presence of the Camino de Santiago, and it's near the top of Savills's new Yoga Index too, scoring highly for air quality and cost of living.

Clients' budgets are about €400,000-€900,000 and they want coastal homes or rustic properties, says Rafael Rosendo, director of Lucas Fox. A seven-bedroom waterfront villa in Pontevedra is €2.49 million (£2.18 million; lucasfox.com), but there's cheaper rural stock too – a large stone house near the Camino is €240,000 (galicianrustic.com).

COTIGNAC, FRANCE

The southern French market town of Cotignac distils all that is lustworthy

about Provence. There are art galleries, artisan shops, a farmers' market and "a massive wine scene – there are a lot of famous Provence vineyards in the area," says Tim Swannie at Home Hunts estate agency. He is marketing a seven-bedroom "Provençal dream" château for €3.95 million (home-hunts.com).

Cotignac has A-list approval – Brad Pitt has a Miraval wine estate, the Clooneys spent a reported €7 million on their property in Brignoles, and James Dyson has owned the nearby Domaine des Rabelles vineyard for decades.

ZAHARA DE LOS ATUNES, SPAIN

This small town near the windsurfing mecca of Tarifa on the Costa de la Luz has one of the most spectacular beaches in Spain – a 6km-long carpet of golden sand. The smart Atlanterra enclave has some of the most expensive modern villas with panoramic sea views on the entire Spanish coast. The newest is the cliff-top Iris (josepizarro.com) belonging to the super-chef José Pizarro, where you can rent rooms or the entire house. Similar villas cost about €2.5-€6 million to buy.

Elsewhere, Zahara pueblo has a typically laid-back Spanish beach-town feel with high demand for holiday lets in summer. Townhouses cost from about €400,000, and two or three-bedroom beach apartments about €300,000.

ABAMA, TENERIFE

Away from its sanitised south-coast resorts, there's an edge-of-the-world feel as you traverse Tenerife – wild waves



GALICIA, SPAIN €2.49 MILLION

A frontline property in the south of the Rias Baixas, Pontevedra, with complete privacy and direct beach access. The perfect project for a family or investor looking to create one of the region's standout private luxury homes lucasfox.com



ÎLE DE RÉ, FRANCE €2.13 MILLION

An elegant 19th-century building located close to the port of La Flotte with approximately 2,900 sq ft of living space. In the standing stone courtyard are two annexes with bedrooms and shower rooms larochelleiledere-sothebysrealty.com

crashing against black rocks, and deep ravines. But nowhere strikes a happier balance than the luxurious Abama resort (abamahotelresort.com), among the banana plantations on the southwest coast. A Moorish-style Ritz-Carlton hotel marks its entrance, but the residential element – including apartments from €500,000 at Las Terrazas de Abama (sphereestates.com) – rises up the hillside to provide a front-row seat to the natural drama, including a private beach. You'll barely need to leave, as the resort's shopping centre opens this month.

OJEN, SPAIN

High above Marbella, this Moorish Andalusian hill town is a Spanish-style party pueblo where whole families are out in the village square until 8am at rock and flamenco festivals in the summer. A new arts centre is also taking shape, marking the mayor's drive to seal the town's reputation as a cultural hub.

Ojen's properties cost a fraction of the price of Marbella, with two-bedroom townhouses with mountain and sea views from €175,000 (intermarbella.com). An influx of Dutch and Swedish buyers are moving in, renovating old townhouses and starting up vibrant new restaurants, adding a newly cosmopolitan vibrancy.

MELIDES, PORTUGAL

An hour's drive south of Lisbon, the unassuming town of Comporta has found a following among a bohemian jet set with a penchant for beach shacks and guitar-

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Home Overseas

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 Île de Ré, linked to La Rochelle by a road bridge, offers a slow-paced world where cycle paths take you through forests and vineyards, and around picturesque harbours

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strumming – and neighbouring Melides is set to be the next big thing. The fishing village could be Portugal's Montauk or Ramatuelle, says Frederico Mendonça, head of Cluttons' Lisbon office.

Planning laws keep new development low-density and away from the beach, but Spatia Melides is the first to emerge with full planning permission, with villas for sale from €3.79 million (cluttons.com) on a five-star resort with direct beach access.

GOCEK, TURKEY

Likening it to the French Riviera, Claudia Winkleman says the sea off Gocek is the best she has ever swum in. Located on Turkey's Turquoise Coast, where wealthy Istanbul families go on holiday, "it's picture perfect", says Mark Harvey, head of international for Knight Frank. Gocek is an increasingly popular alternative to Bodrum's north coast, says Julian Walker at Spot Blue estate agents. Detached villas via Equinox Estates (equinoxestates.com) start at about £450,000 for a three-bedroom villa in Gocek Heights.

CAS EN BAS, ST LUCIA

Rainforest covers 70 per cent of this island, which has the world's only drive-in volcano and 25 dive sites. "It's a more beautiful and more affordable option to Barbados as it's still relatively up and coming from a property perspective," says Robert Green at Sphere Estates, who is marketing the Cas en Bas Beach Resort in the north of the island. Set on a horseshoe-shaped bay, it is ranked one of the world's top 50 beaches. Properties

start from \$330,000 (£293,000) for studio apartments (sphereestates.com).

NICOYA PENINSULA, COSTA RICA

In Costa Rica, the phrase "pura vida" can mean hello, goodbye, thank you or no problem – and it's a philosophy to life that's attracting digital nomads and eco-minded entrepreneurs. The Nicoya peninsula on the Pacific coast has the added bonus that life expectancy here is among the longest in the world.

Since Covid, estate agents have been swamped with demand. Coastal towns such as Potrero are popular, close to Liberia international airport and international schools. A three-bedroom condo or house in Potrero will cost from \$400,000 (point2homes.com).

ÎLE DE RÉ, FRANCE

A favourite of rich Parisians, Île de Ré is linked to La Rochelle by a road bridge and is just a day's drive from the UK side of Le Shuttle. It's a slow-paced world where cycle paths take you through forests and vineyards, and around picturesque harbours.

Houses rarely cost less than €1 million. You can occasionally find a one or two-bedroom apartment in a harbour town for €350,000-€450,000. Just over the bridge, in La Rochelle, a four-bedroom house is priced at €798,000 through Sotheby's Realty (larochelleiledere-sothebysrealty.com), while a five-bedroom house in La Flotte costs €2.13 million (larochelleiledere-sothebysrealty.com).



The Nicoya Peninsula in Costa Rica has an easy-going lifestyle and life expectancy is among the longest in the world, which is proving attractive to property investors