

# H O M E

PROPERTY  
SUPPLEMENT  
OF THE  
YEAR



ROD LIDDLE

# GOES NORTH

But can he persuade his wife to  
move to Middlesbrough? p16

BOB MARLEY'S LOVER SELLS UP IN CORNWALL SHUSH! INSIDE  
THE QUIETEST HOUSE IN BRITAIN NEW ROUTES FOR SMART  
OVERSEAS BUYS 29 OF THE BRIGHTEST AND BEST LIGHTS

## GETAWAYS OF THE WEEK



## USA

Homes in Montecito, California's chic enclave for the cool but seriously wealthy, don't come cheap, and this gorgeous pad is no exception. There are five bedrooms in the Italian-style villa, and the guest house and poolhouse have another bedroom each. On top of that, you get a loggia, a playhouse, sea and mountain views and even a stream. It's private, too, so you won't be bothered by neighbours such as Oprah Winfrey and Jeff Bridges. **020 7467 5330, villagesite.com**



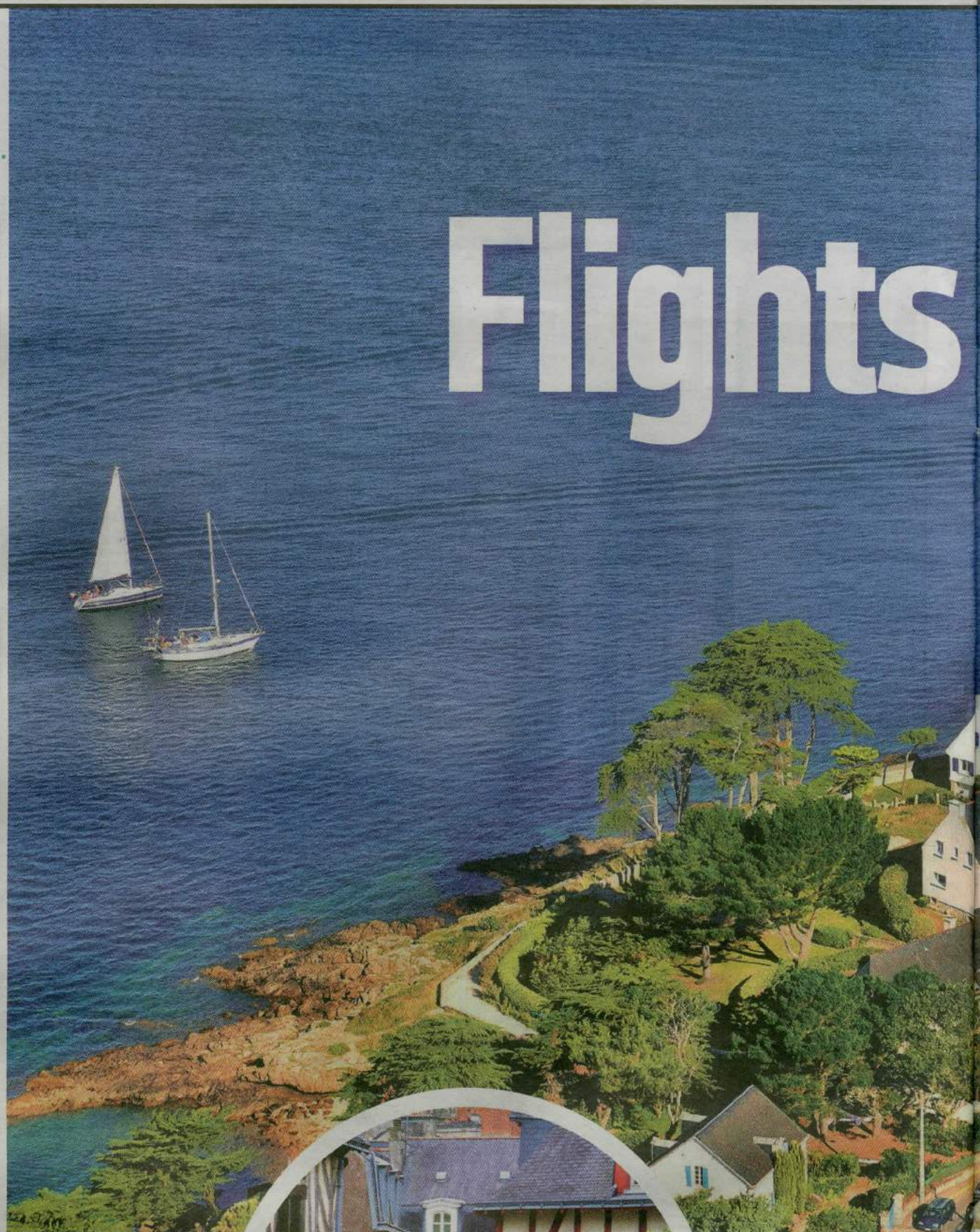
## CAMBODIA

This new island resort offers a uniquely luxurious base for exploring one of the most spectacular coastlines in the world. The 132 one- to four-bedroom homes at Alila Villas, on Koh Russey, will each have a terrace, a private pool, a garden and views of the coast and the jungle. If you buy a one-bedroom pool villa as a rental investment, you will be guaranteed a 6% yield for the first three years. **020 3617 1360, sphereestates.com**



## FRANCE

If you're looking for something quirky, a "bubble home" near Clermont-Ferrand, in the Auvergne, could be just the ticket. Designed in the style of Pierre Cardin's Palais Bulles, it has seven rooms – three of them bedrooms – and the numerous "portholes" let in plenty of natural light. There's a terrace offering breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside, and the garage has decking on the roof. **00 33 6 66 79 26 53, groupe-mercure.com**



**L**ooking for a second home abroad? The first thing you need to know is that you're actually going to be able to get there. Which is why the ever-shifting route map in the sky (along with fluctuating exchange rates and the quality of the grape harvest) is so important to anyone with an interest in international property.

You have to keep watching the skies. New routes come and others go, while some that are promised never materialise. Anyone who bought a property in San Sebastian on the back of this summer's new Iberia flights from Luton, for example, will have been left feeling pretty silly when the service was discontinued after just a few weeks. Still, a house in one of

the most appealing cities in Spain – and one with the world's second greatest concentration of Michelin stars per capita – isn't a bad consolation prize.

Rather than a particular route, it's safer to look for an airport that's expanding or the advent of a game-changing airline. In 2016, it's Norwegian that has altered the landscape, launching low-cost flights from Britain to America

and useful connections to all corners of Europe – especially Scandinavia and Iceland, though these may be more useful for tourists hoping to glimpse the northern lights than for second-homers.

That said, depending on the result of the US presidential election, there may be a queue for boltholes in Tromsø and Lapland – or even Mexico.

Jet2's new base at Stansted means there's a wider choice

of summer flights to popular holiday destinations such as the Algarve and the Balearics, while Ryanair's expansion continues apace. It is launching fresh flights to several classic holiday spots from regional UK airports, including Manchester, Newcastle, Glasgow and Belfast.

Of course, cheap flights aren't enough on their own – the destination has to be sufficiently special to make it worth enduring the queues and the faff of putting tubes of suncream in plastic bags. Here's Home's round-up of locations we think are set to take off.

## MONTENEGRO

In the long term, the most significant development for Brits seeking new pastures abroad could be the rise of Tivat airport, in this small Balkan nation. When easyJet started flying there from

New airline routes are opening up fresh corners of Europe – and even America – to holiday-home hunters. **Tim Palmer** checks out the latest arrivals

# of fancy



**Get packing** Breton towns such as Port-Navalo, left, and Vannes, below left, will be more accessible thanks to a new route to Brest. Right and below, medieval Kotor, in Montenegro, is a 20-minute drive from Tivat airport



Lionel Lourdel/Doug Pearson/repistat/Allo Pavan/Getty Images

**Tivat airport has brought one of Europe's most spectacular coasts within easy reach**

"Kotor is beautiful, but it's a well-discovered area – it's on the cruise-ship route. The Lustica peninsula is really unspoilt, and there are lots of little beaches.

"There was a lot of interest in this area 10 years ago, but that tailed off after the crash. Now you can buy properties at the same prices, but it has much better facilities and infrastructure."

Developers are beginning to take an interest – most obviously in the shape of Lustica Bay, a high-end golf resort where flats start at €335,000 (£295,000; savills.com) – but this is a part of Europe where you can pick up a rural wreck for considerably less than €50,000. Seafront flats go for €50,000 and up, while €250,000 buys a pretty stone farmhouse. If you want something special, a historic villa on the harbour in Rose, probably the best village on the peninsula, is on sale for €850,000 (see panel, below).

Elsewhere in eastern Europe, Ryanair's busy new hub in Sofia is a reminder that Bulgaria is a land of low-cost skiing, beach resorts and rustic charms – and property there really is cheap. You can buy a house for less than €5,000. Yet a lot of foreign buyers lost heavily when the local market tanked after the crash, so it's still worth approaching with caution.

## FRANCE

It can take an awfully long time to get to Brittany. It's either a painfully long drive from Calais or a shorter drive but a lengthy ferry crossing to St Malo or Roscoff – lovely when the weather's perfect, a stomach-churning ordeal when it's not. There are a few flights to Dinard, in the east, but the unspoilt west is less well served.

Flybe stopped services to Brest in September, so the launch next month of a new route from Luton by the small French airline Fly Kiss will be a godsend for the many Brits who have bought holiday homes there, and could make this idyllic corner of France an even more attractive proposition for anyone in search of a Gallic bolthole.

The main attraction for second-homers here – predominantly Brits and Parisians – is that it's a refuge from the noise and aggravation of modern life. "It's still natural and

Gatwick in the spring, it brought one of the most spectacular and undiscovered stretches of coastline in Europe within easy reach for the first time. Montenegro Airlines also flies there, and the airport – which has plans for a new passenger terminal – is an easy 20-minute drive from the stunning medieval city of Kotor, a Unesco World Heritage site that's like a mini Dubrovnik perched on Europe's southernmost fjord.

Yet Andrea Marston, co-founder of Montenegro Prospects estate agency, insists there are even richer pickings on the Lustica peninsula (it's pronounced "Looshtitsa"), where you can find great-value properties in idyllic villages surrounded by olive groves, secluded beaches and glittering seas.

"You can't fly anywhere else in Europe and have these kinds of locations within such a short drive – and the roads are quiet," she says.



## MONTENEGRO

Is there a prettier spot on the Adriatic than Rose, at the tip of the Lustica peninsula? It has beautiful old stone houses, a laid-back atmosphere and great restaurants selling the freshest fish, overlooking the crystal-clear sea of the Bay of Kotor. This three-bedroom villa (with red shutters, centre of picture) just a few steps from the water, offers a rare opportunity to buy a traditional home in the centre of the village, right by the harbour. Recently renovated – with local stone for the floors and walls, and oak windows, doors and stairs – it has a large kitchen/diner on the ground floor and an airy living room up top.

**01628 623087, montenegroprospects.com**

→ rustic, with little fishing ports, lovely beaches and friendly people," says John Campbell, an agent with Leggett Immobilier. "The roads are quiet and every town has a market."

Finistère, at the far western tip of Brittany, is the perfect hunting ground, especially the southern side, where the weather tends to be a bit more reliable. The most popular areas, including Pont-Aven and Concarneau, can be pricey, so it's worth taking a look at the up-and-coming Crozon peninsula, where small cottages sell for about €150,000 and larger, more attractive properties go for upwards of €300,000. If you don't mind looking inland, a half-hour drive from the coast sees prices fall by as much as a third.

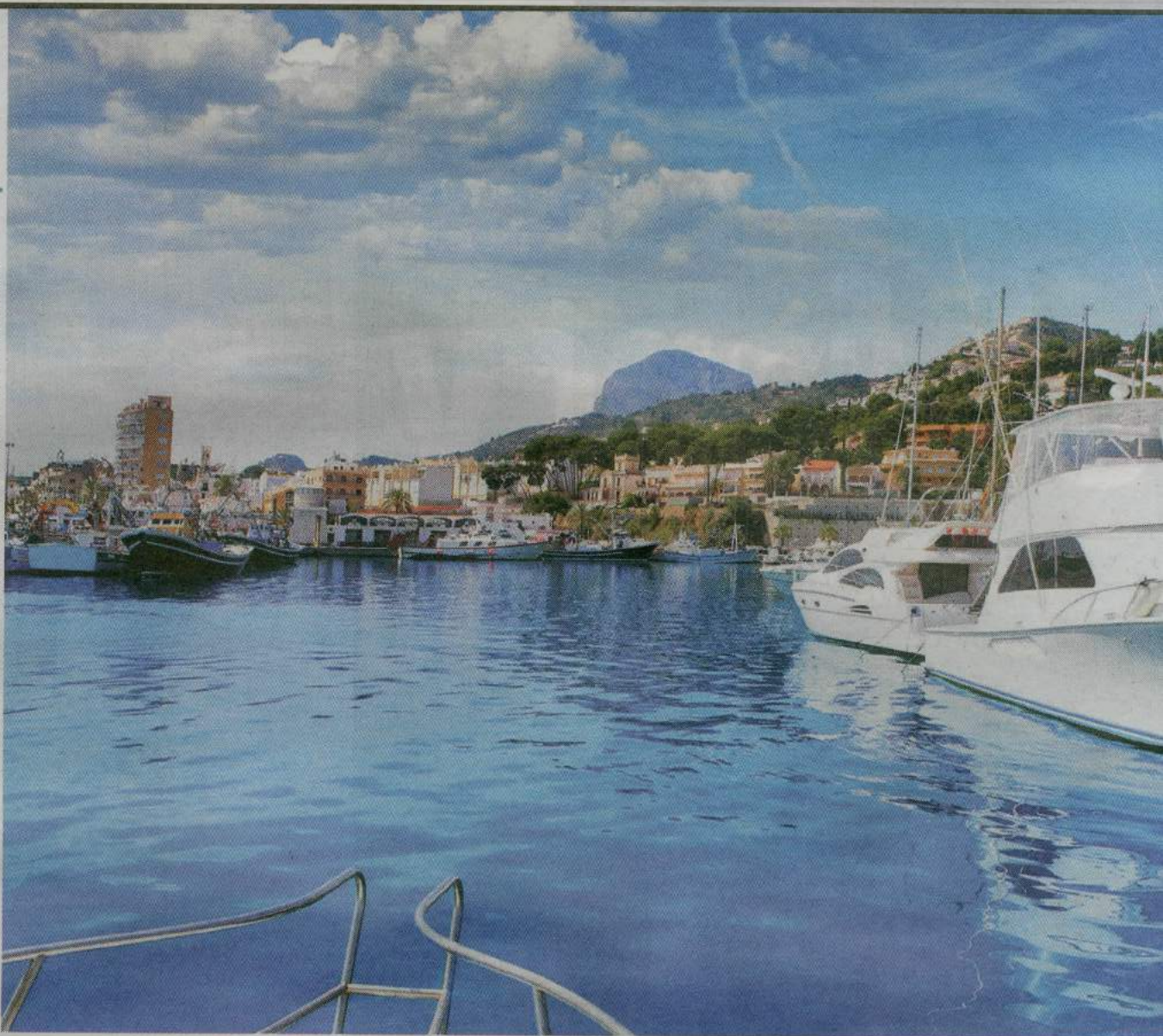
**"It's the Spanish dream – 320 days of sunshine, eating tapas and drinking rioja"**

Elsewhere in France, there's good news for established second-home destinations further south. Ryanair is laying on extra flights to **Toulouse** this month, adding to British Airways' route from London City to Bergerac, which was launched earlier this year. And Fly Kiss now serves **Clermont-Ferrand**, the Auvergne city that's home to Michelin tyres, from Luton, opening up another undiscovered rural patch.

## COSTA BLANCA

In Spain, the biggest airport growth has been at Alicante, which saw a 16% increase in the number of international passengers in the first half of the year. Ryanair and Jet2 are adding flights from a range of UK airports, swelling a big choice that also includes easyJet and BA.

This makes the Costa Blanca one of the most accessible corners of Spain – something that's being reflected in an improving property market. According to Marc Pritchard,



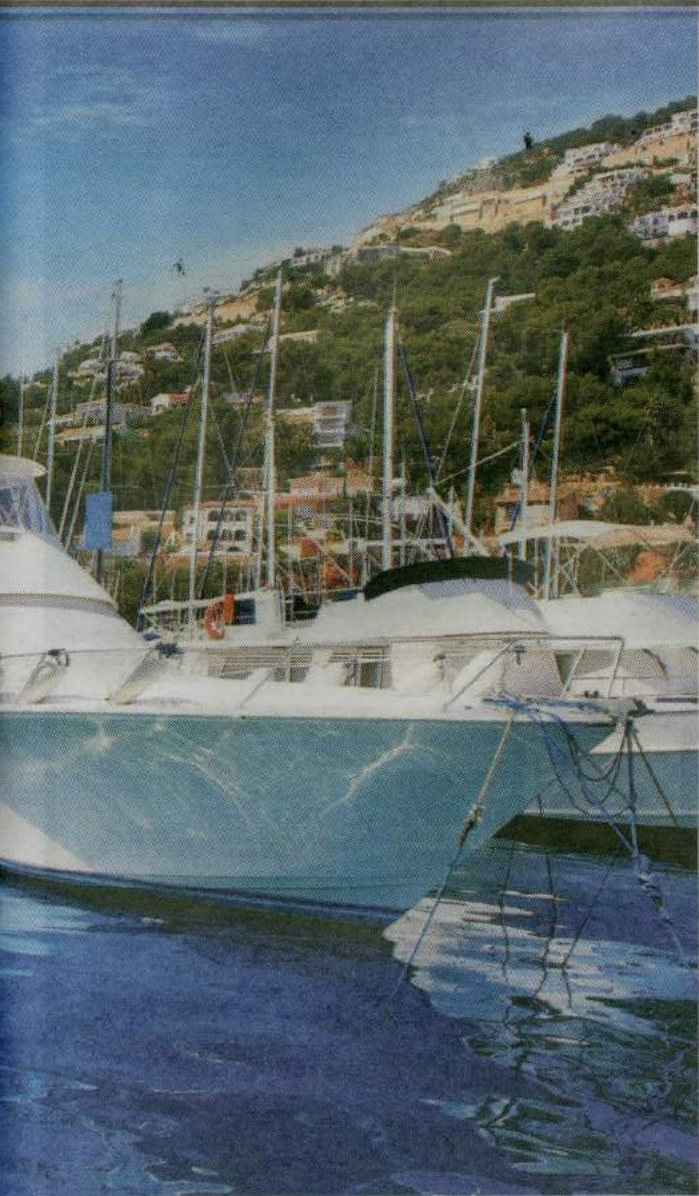
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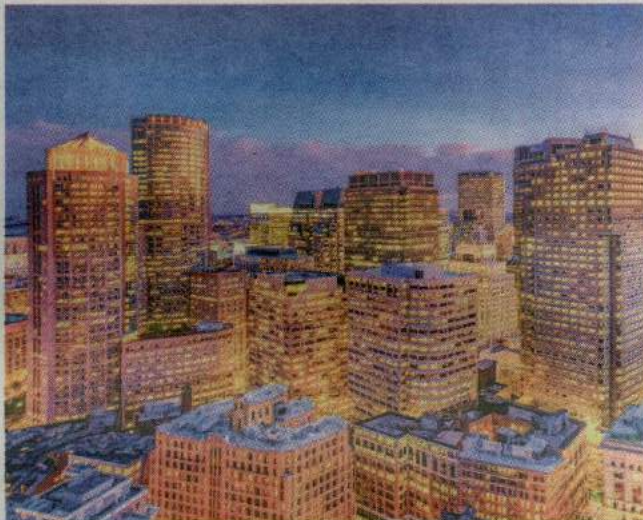
sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey España, prices are rising fast in the busier, cheaper resorts on the stretch of coast to the south of Alicante, and are beginning to follow suit in the more mountainous (and upmarket) section to the north.

He recommends towns such as Javea, Altea and Moraira for anyone looking to enjoy the Spanish dream – “320 days of sunshine, eating tapas and drinking rioja outside, with a view of the Mediterranean” – without much risk of losing money. You can buy a villa with a pool for less than €400,000; upgrading to a new-build, with that sea view, will set you back an extra €100,000.

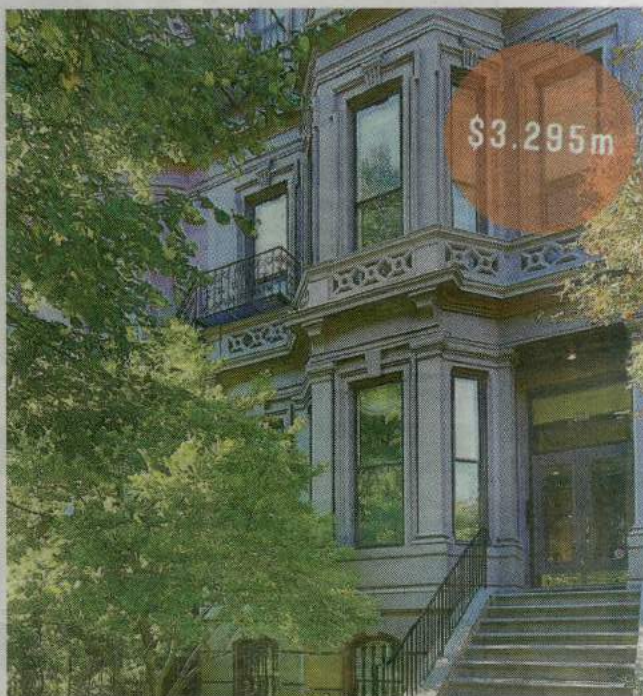
Further up the coast, the long-awaited opening of Castellon airport – Ryanair has services there from Stansted – has given a boost to affordable resorts such as Peñíscola and Vinaros.

## BOSTON

The big news in long-haul flights has been the arrival – and continued expansion –



**Bright lights** Above and left, Boston is now on the low-cost airline circuit, with one-way flights from £149. Far left, Javea, on the Costa Blanca



## BOSTON

Back Bay has been one of the most desirable corners of Boston since it was developed in the mid-19th century, and this second-floor flat in an elegant Victorian brownstone on Beacon Street is the perfect place to savour its elegant charms. There are views of the Charles River through huge windows on one side, and the smart boutiques and restaurants of Newbury Street are within walking distance. It has three bedrooms, three bathrooms, a high-tech chef's kitchen, garage parking and direct lift access. **020 7467 5330, robertpaul.com**

of Norwegian. The low-cost Scandinavian outfit has revived the dream of cheap transatlantic air travel, which has had a bumpy ride since the days of Freddie Laker in the 1970s. It's offering one-way flights to Orlando, New York and Oakland (for San Francisco, as well as the East Bay's lively foodie scene) for £179. There's also LA from £199 and, from next month, Las Vegas from £239.

More interesting for holiday-home hunters, rather than tourists, are its flights to Boston, Massachusetts (from £149), which bring one of the most civilised corners of the US within range.

In Boston itself – charming, walkable and superpolite – you'll pay upwards of \$700,000 (£550,000) for a basic two-bedroom flat in an established area such as elegant Back Bay, close to the smartest shops and restaurants. For better value, Brian Dougherty, co-owner of Robert Paul Associates estate agency, suggests East Boston, right on the doorstep of Logan airport, which is convenient and popular with investors (as well as pilots looking for a pied-à-terre). You can get a really good apartment there for \$350,000.

You don't have to head far out of the city to get a salty taste of the East Coast's maritime lifestyle. Just 20 miles away, on the South Shore, towns such as Hingham, Cohasset and Duxbury are filled with pretty New England wooden houses where you can enjoy the secluded beaches, wooded inlets and pretty fishing coves along the intricate coastline. There's easy access to Boston by car or ferry, too. Three- or four-bedroom houses start at \$500,000, but it's not hard to spend millions of dollars.

According to Dougherty, this is a good time for anyone looking to buy on Cape Cod, the idyllic seaside playground of the East Coast elite. “It's mostly second homes, so it was hit hard in the recession and it's only beginning to catch up now,” he says. “We've got properties that have been for sale for two or three years. If a home is on the market for two or three weeks in a good area of Boston, you know that something's wrong.”

Cape Cod is a bit further away from the city and the airport, but its charms include stunning beaches and lively, traditional towns such as Falmouth, Hyannis Port and Provincetown, where you'll find a bit of culture, too. If you're lucky, you can snap up a cute cabin for \$200,000, but a handsome house in a nice town will cost upwards of \$500,000 – and for a grand home on a prime stretch of waterfront, you'll need millions in your suitcase.

## BRITTANY

This handsome stone house in the village of Plonévez-Porzay, in Finistère, ticks all the boxes for a Breton bolthole. A few minutes' walk from a beach and a choice of good restaurants, it's less than an hour from Brest airport, with easy access to a host of stunning spots, including Quimper and the gorgeous village of Locronan. Set in 1.75 acres, it has a big lounge and living/dining area, six bedrooms and a conservatory, all newly renovated. **0870 011 5151, frenchestateagents.com**



## COSTA BLANCA

Javea is one of the smartest resorts on the northern stretch of the Costa Blanca – and there are signs that the market is picking up after a rocky few years. The new Jardin del Mar complex is marketing two-bedroom flats for €269,000 and three-bedders from €305,000, all with direct beach access, parking and use of the communal pool and gardens. There are shops and restaurants within walking distance, and a pretty path winds along the coast to the port and more beaches.

**0800 012 1020, taylorwimpeyspain.com**