



Farmhouse €2.49 million (£2.18 million)

This property is not just a perfect example of its genre, but it's also in a brilliant location. Its position—22 miles from Nice airport, eight miles from the sea and two miles from the centre of Grasse-means owners can enjoy an enviable Provençal lifestyle, yet reserve the right to dip their toes in the sea as and when they require.

The classic exterior is equalled by charming interiors: five bedrooms, two sitting rooms, a kitchen and a dining room are all in superb condition with some notable period features. Outside, shady terraced areas and a large swimming pool are complemented by 4½ acres of grounds peppered with olive groves, plus a guest house and a caretaker's house. Knight Frank (020-7861 1139)



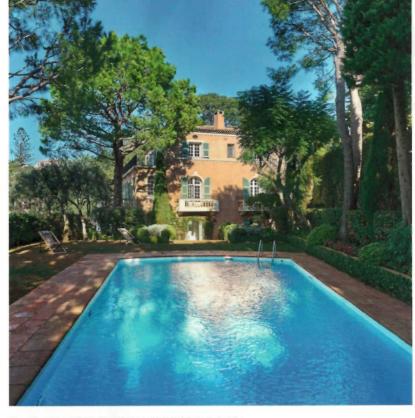
Holly Kirkwood rounds up French properties par excellence by type



Chalet €5.95 million (£5.22 million)

Why buy just any chalet when you can buy Chalet Grand Corniche in Les Gets, which has just won a Best Ski Chalet 2017 award? As well as offering access to excellent slopes and the best summertime mountain fun in France, the property was obviously built with entertaining in mind, from the expansive open-plan living/dining area to the cosy bar room, the snooker room, cinema room and the fully kitted-out gym.

All five bedrooms offer exceptional mountain views (the master in particular), but perhaps the best way to appreciate Mont Blanc in all its majesty is from the spa area, which boasts a sauna, Jacuzzi and swimming pool. Savills (020-7016 3740)



Sur la plage €11.9 million (£10.43 million)

This romantic waterfront property sits right on the Plage de Passable on the west side of the Cap Ferrat peninsula—one of the best private beaches along this glamorous coastline. Despite its traditional exterior, inside, the house has an elegant and modern feel with clean lines and all the rooms are filled with the magical light you only get along the Cote d'Azur. It's a great family house, which is also suited to parties. The master bedroom suite and the dining room both have generous terraces with views directly across the sparkling Mediterranean and back to the Villefranche. What's more, 1,000sq m (10,764sq ft) of gardens and grounds guarantee privacy, so residents can enjoy a morning swim in the gorgeous pool without being overlooked. Savills (020-7016 3740)





Cottage €505,000 (£442,969)

Buyers looking for a generous helping of La France profonde need look no further. Located in the magnificent old part of the medieval village of Saint-Siffret in The Gard, this 15th-century village property may be historic, but has been fully renovated with abundant mod cons, including high-speed internet. There is ample living space including four bedrooms, three terraces, a large cellar and a garage.

Saint-Siffret is an unspoilt, lively village just 21/2 miles from of Uzès and 10 miles from the Pont Du Gard in the Languedoc-Roussillon region. Surrounded by pretty rolling hills, the area is known for its excellent hiking, canoeing and horse riding. Leggett Immobilier (00 33 553 60 84 88)

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Château €15 million (£13.15 million)

If you're going to buy a castle, you're probably in the market for some history, and Château de la Barben, just 20 minutes from Aix-en-Provence, has more than 1,000 years of the stuff. Inside, it offers vast accommodation, which is in excellent condition (not always the case with châteaux). The rooms are light and bright, from the cosy smaller bedrooms to extremely grand reception rooms.

Outside, the extensive gardens, of some 10,000sq m (107,639sq ft), were designed by André Le Nôtre, the principal gardener of Louis XIV, and the 759 acres include expansive hunting grounds and two rivers renowned for fishing. Sotheby's Realty (00 33 442 27 82 75)

Parisian apartment €4.992 million (£4.374 million)

A terrifically chic option for anyone looking for a bolthole in the French capital, this elegant period apartment is on the second-floor corner of a historic building dating back to 1898. In the 7th arrondissement, the Champ de Mars and the shops of the Rue Saint Dominique are only minutes away on foot.

With plenty of character features and fantastic ceiling heights, the property has a vast (for Paris) 2,800sq ft of living space. All the rooms are flooded with light thanks to the corner position and the accommodation includes five large bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen and two studies, plus a large balcony with double exposure to the south and west. The pièce de résistance, however, is the magnificent triple reception opening onto the Eiffel Tower. Savills (020-7016 3740)



Townhouse €1.999 million (£1.753 million)

In the Belle Epoque style, this handsome villa is located in the centre of Le Cannet, just a 20-minute drive from La Croisette, and offers views all the way over to the Bay of Cannes.

The interiors have been beautifully designed, blending wooden floors with state-of-the-art fixtures and fittings. Accommodation includes five bedrooms, open living and dining areas and a separate annexe. Outside, the garden is well kept and bursting with colour. In fact, Le Cannet is surrounded by hills filled with eucalyptus, orange and pine trees, making the pretty terrace an ideal spot for a fragrant nightcap after a night on the tiles. Christie's Real Estate (020-3824 1951)