



## Property News

### Italian property map being redrawn

Redevelopment and historical recognition is putting more Italian property destinations on the map, writes Jo-ann Hodgson.

Montalcino was given recognition earlier this year as a UNESCO world heritage site. Already famous for its Brunello wine production – winning 'best wine in the world' 2006 as voted by Wine Spectator magazine – thermal spas, luxury golf course and annual food, drink and jazz festivals, the area is becoming increasingly popular with buyers of Italian property.

"The summer months in Montalcino produce an amazing spectacle with a real sense of belonging as everyone joins in the festivities," says Eddy Crompton, director of RealPoint Property. "This feel-good factor, the beautiful landscaped and differing styles of architecture from bygone eras is now helping promote the regeneration of certain areas."

RealPoint Property has recently launched La Rancia, an Italian property estate totalling 1,600 square metres, which will see the regeneration of existing stone buildings using eco-friendly building methods. The development will consist of two fully restored manor houses divided into independent departments, plus three secondary buildings which will offer detached properties with private gardens. Prices for the property start at £162,401.

Colletta di Castelbianco in Liguria is also becoming more popular with buyers of Italian property due to the restoration and transformation of the village into an international cyber-business hub. The once-abandoned village has been regenerated by homeowners from Australia, Norway, the USA, Ireland the UK and Italy who converted a 150-square-metre building to provide two business rooms connected to Broadband and the internet.

Around a 60-90 minute drive from airports and 15 minutes from the sea, renovated property for sale in the village all feature high-speed internet, satellite television and telephone connections. Homeowners will also benefit from the village's communal gardens, swimming pool, sauna and open-air theatre. Property prices in this Italian village start from £92,549 for a studio.

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