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pretty villages where life takes on a restful air.

Current properties include two-bedroom apartments at Rotella, a restored £82,000/€118,000 and a typical Le Marche style house at Massignano, set just 3kms from the sea and with sea views. In need of restoration £131,000/€190,000.

Contact Casa Travella or visit casatravella.com.

Liguria

Colletta di Castelbianco is a beautifully restored 13 century hilltop villa between Genoa and Nice. Just 15 minutes away from the sea, the stone built narrow streets combined with a charming little square, patios and garden to make it unique.

The original project was to restore the abandoned village with a strong modern angle. Homeowners have come together and taken this hedonistic life further into the 21 century by creating and running a business centre in the result, a 150sq metre building has been converted, providing two business centres bringing cyber heaven via Broadband and the Internet to owners and visitors. Already hailed as one of the first high speed e-villages in Europe, the co-located business centre has now enhanced that characteristic and makes the whole more sustainable.

The business centre also provides an opportunity for home owners to rent, to those who are looking for a break but also need to have constant co-located businesses, family and friends via telecommunications. The centre is intended to draw the flow to Colletta during winter months and is open to villagers and visitors on agreed terms and conditions.

Access to Colletta is via Nice or Genoa, with airports being around 60/90 minutes away.

Delightfully renovated homes are currently available, all of which enjoy a direct connection for internet, satellite television and telephone connection to a central switchboard. Owners also benefit from the village's communal gardens, swimming pool, sauna and summer open air theatre.

Studios are priced from €137,000 (approx £92,549), one-bedrooms from €124,300 (approx £124,300), two-bedrooms from €318,000 (approx £214,823) and three from €416,000 euros (approx £281,026). Anticipated gross rental return could be eight per cent pa.

Contact Realinvest International on 0207 376 7919 or visit realinvest.co.uk.

Calabria

Italy's exceptional tax legislation also makes Calabria a tasty investment. Italian law ensures that property owners don't fall foul of inheritance tax; while buying their property for more than five years also escape the capital gains tax. The purchase of insurance bonds under Italian law also guarantees 100 per cent return should there be any problems during the development stage, lowering the investment to virtually zero.

Calabria is a land of contrasts with summer temperatures reaching a scorching 30C in the low lands, whilst temperatures in the mountains fall below zero during winter. This location literally means you can ski in the morning and enjoy après-ski in the afternoon soaking up the Mediterranean sun; perfect for an indecisive couple or if you can't agree on a holiday option.

Situated just south of Naples with miles of uninterrupted white sandy beaches and a delicious lifestyle on the doorstep, Jewel of the Sea consists of exceptional apartments, townhouses and villas. From one- to four-bedrooms, all situated within a gated community, with 24 hour attendants and private parking. One-bedroom apartments are priced from £59,000. A one-bedroom beachfront villa is priced at £77,000.

Contact McLaren Properties on 01543 268333 or visit mclarenproperties.co.uk

Italy

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