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Here are the places to aim for if you want to buy a golf resort property in the sun. By *Peter Swain*

uyers after fair weather and fairways are investing big in golf resorts in
Europe and the Caribbean.
The desire to escape inner-city congestion and the post-Covid shift to flexible remote working have made the prospect of living amid leafy, wide-open spaces increasingly seductive. So why not get your greenery with 18 holes and a spa as well?

Nadine St Gemme and her

Nadine St Gemme and her American husband Eric have just paid about £1 million for a three-bedroom villa with a small pool and easy access to the well-established Dave Thomas 18-hole course on the Abama resort in Tenerife, just over four hours from London and several regional UK airports, including Liverpool where they live. "It's the full package here: warm weather, beaches, sporting facilities, golf and good food," Eric says.

Four of these ten newly launched Atlantic Ocean-view villas, priced from €1.255 million (£1.1 million) to €1.345 million, have sold so far, with the Abama Prestige Owners Club taking care of their management. Unlike other Abama units that are part of the resort, these are private affairs with no pre-existing rental agreements, ready to move into in late 2022.

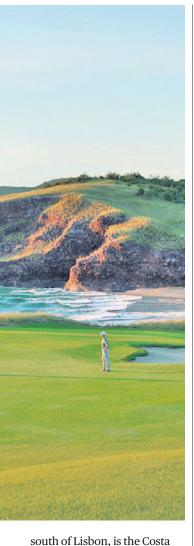
"We both work in tech, and since Covid we can now work remotely for a couple of months a year," Eric says.
"The virus has made us think more about lifestyle. In January it's paradise, so a perfect sanctuary from the winter weather and all the health problems. Our six and nine-year-olds are taking golf lessons, and we're using the new multi-court tennis complex. We love it."

In France, Les Bordes in the Loire Valley has just added a stunning new Gil Hansedesigned course to its existing Robert Von Hagge-designed 18-hole masterpiece. More than half of the first phase of 45 three to six-bedroom houses have sold already, with prices starting at about £870,000. Buyers have so far

come from the UK, US, Scandinavia, Germany, Switzerland and, of course, France. There are plans to convert the 19thcentury Château Bel Air on the estate into an 88room Six Senses hotel and spa, with tennis, fishing, bike trails, a village square and equestrian facilities. To toast victory in the clubhouse, the vineyards of Sancerre, Anjou and Chinon are all near by, but it's the two fine golf courses and easy 90-mile drive from Paris that appeals most to British buyers.

Portugal has long been a favourite for golfing holiday homes, with Quinta do Lago in the Algarve still one of the market leaders. The new kid on the increasingly chic coastal block around Comporta and Melides, about an hour and a half





Terra Golf and Ocean Club.

This stretch of the Alentejo

coast has something of the

French president Nicolas

Hamptons about it – Prince Albert of Monaco, the former

Sarkozy and the football manager José Mourinho have

Built around the American

all enjoyed its scenery and

golf course architect Tom

Fazio's first course in Europe

and ready for play next summer, 84 properties priced

from £1.7 million have been

sold so far at Costa Terra, of

which 55 have been bought by

developer's CEO, Mike Meldman, sees the way the market is moving. "Buyers are

discovering they can work

from a second home - their

They want fresh air and

view holiday homes.

kids can even learn remotely.

fun. The pandemic is transforming the way people

The Casa Nova restaurant

down on the beach is already

vineyard and organic farm are

Elsewhere in Europe, the

Swiss ski resort of Andermatt has just launched two new

apartment blocks, Mira and

Elva, for energetic types who

enjoy the piste in the winter

and fairways in the summer.

announce prices for the first

90 lots set around a new Jack

Nicklaus Signature course. Of

In the Peloponnese, southwest of Athens, Kilada is about to

open, with clubhouses and

'comfort stations" (snack

bars) around the property

under construction. A

planned, with the whole enterprise taking shape over

the next couple of years.

relative seclusion.

British buyers. The

The Swiss ski resort of Andermatt has just launched two new apartment blocks, Mira and Elva, for those who enjoy the piste in the winter and fairways in the summer

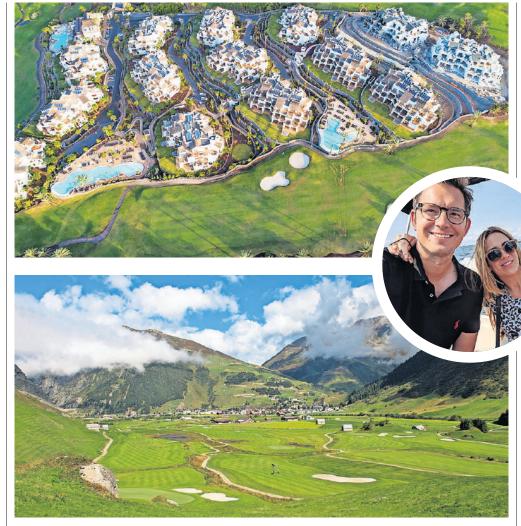
Left: the golf course at Cabot St Lucia. Top right: the course at Abama in Tenerife. Spain. where **Nadine and Eric St Gemme,** inset, have just bought a villa. Below right: the course at Andermatt in the Swiss Alps

the clubs in southern Spain. Finca Cortesin near Marbella and Las Colinas near Murcia have interesting new offerings this winter.

Over in the Caribbean the other big issue of the day, climate change, has had a big impact on one new golf development. In 2017 Hurricane Irma damaged about 95 per cent of homes as well as the electricity and water supplies on the island of Barbuda. Its roughly 1,500 inhabitants were moved to its big-sister island, Antigua. Barbuda is as flat as a blank sheet of paper and overnight became effectively just that - a precarious economy, dependent on sand mining and subsistence fishing, was no longer sustainable without massive investment.

A consortium called PLH (Peace, Love and Harmony...no, really) already had an eye on two prime tracts of beachside land, and decided to act. Its managing partner, Discovery Land (DL), has 23 other high-end, mostly golf course-based developments across the Caribbean, North America, the Caribbean, Hawaii and Mexico, so they know what they're doing. A couple of years on they've taken \$375 million in sales at the Barbuda Ocean Club (BOC), while 250 construction workers are right now building dozens of grand homes, an 18-hole Tom Fazio-designed course and luxe club facilities.

Concerned about the ootential loss of cultural identity, certain Barbudans have objected to "persons who have the wealth" buying





FROM £1.5M

On 375 acres of Point Hardy at the northern tip of the island, the Cabot St Lucia course is expected to be playable in late . 2023. The estate will also have three and four-bedroom townhouses and 3.000 sq ft flats.

cabotstlucia.com



FROM €1.255M

Les Atalayas are a newly launched set of ten villas in the Tenerife resort of Abama. As well as access to the golf course and professional tennis complex, you are also near the beach abamahotelresor

t.com



The Les Bordes golf estate in the Loire Valley have a development of 45 stone and timber houses designed by the architects Michaelis Boyd. Ranging from three to seven bedrooms, you also get a concierge.

residences are planned on Coco and Palmetto Points. Owners will belong to one

property on the island.

the Barbuda council told

The Sunday Times: "It is

the developers continue

investing in the island's

infrastructure and people."

philanthropists have built a

desalination plant to supply

and "Clinic in a Can" health facilities, and set up interest-

investing in small businesses

programme. BOC employs 240

destroyed by sand mining and

Barbudans and is restoring

two miles of dunes, some

the hurricane. The region's

biggest colony of breeding

magnificent frigatebirds, one of the wonders of the

Caribbean natural world, is

fast recovering post-hurricane

To date, buyers at the BOC

in the mangroves a few miles

are American and prices are

three-acre beachfront plot

and buyers can expect to

a 2,500 sq ft house – some owners are budgeting £8

million to £16 million for air-

mansions. More modest,

turnkey 2,000 sq ft three-

houses") start at about £3 million. In all, about 495

 $bedroom\, casit as\, ("little$

conditioned, hurricane-proof

begin at about £2.25 million,

spend the same again building

punchy. Three-quarter-acre to

around the coastline

250,000-gallon tank and

fresh water to the capital,

Codrington, new roads

free loans for local home

through a well-resourced

restorations, as well as

community outreach

So far DL and interested

vitally important that

However, a former member of

of the most exclusive private clubs in the region, complete with spas, restaurants, kite-surfing, scuba diving, tennis, golf and best of all, the famous pink-tinged sands of the island's practically empty beaches at the end of their gardens. They're a sporty crowd – I was told the gift shop stopped selling XL T-shirts due to lack of demand. A new private airport on Barbuda opens next year,

but there are no plans yet for a hotel.

The events of the past 18 months have been game-changing. "People can now work anywhere with fast broadband and good transport links," says James Burdess, Savills estate agency's man in the Caribbean.

"Destinations such as Barbuda, St Lucia and Barbados have become even more desirable, especially at the top end. It's no longer just retirees – heavy hitters in their fifties and even forties, who can live anywhere, increasingly want to be in the sun, by the sea, with plenty of sporting and recreational facilities for their families.'

Two hundred and sixty miles south of Barbuda, Cabot Saint Lucia ticks all those boxes and then some. On 375 acres of Point Hardy at the northern tip of the island, the golf resort has nearly a mile and a half of ocean frontage; its significant elevation changes are perfect for what its designers Coore and Crenshaw describe as an "off-the-charts spectacular" golf course, expected to be playable in late 2023.

"We've already done \$120 million in sales," says Ben Cowan-Dewar, the co-founder and chief executive of Cabot. He adds that the three and four-bedroom Fairway Villas, which start at £2 million, are "popular". These and larger four-bedroom, 3,000 sq ft lateral flats costing upwards of £3 million should be complete in 2023; 130 custom properties starting at £1. 5 million are the jewels in this particular Caribbean crown.

As in Barbuda, Cowan-Dewar observes, "Covid has undoubtedly increased the demand for holiday real estate. We've got flights coming in every day from Heathrow and Gatwick [about nine hours' flight time] and there's an established Greg Norman course half a mile away." The development will also have a 50-suite boutique hotel, resort and spa designed by the British architect Richard Evans of Six Senses Seychelles fame.

After an extended lull caused by the financial crisis and Brexit, a comfortable greenside home in the sun is now seen by some as a haven from overcrowded city life and never-ending health challenges. In fact, it's a



lesbordes.com