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GRACIOUS LIVING IN THE ELIZABETHAN AGE

If you're looking to retire gracefully and enjoy the latter half of your life in style and comfort, then Grove Place, near Romsey in Hampshire, should suit perfectly. Occupying a Grade I-listed Elizabethan manor house, its 115 individual homes are set in 27 acres of mature, beautifully tended grounds and woodlands. Accommodation ranges from one to three bedrooms, with shared facilities in the imposing main house, and access to 24-hour trained medical care. Club-style amenities include a chef-run restaurant, a bar, sitting and function rooms, a library, billiards room, and a purpose-built health and leisure centre with pool, Jacuzzi, gym, hairdressing salon and a treatment room. Criteria for application is an age of 60+ and prices range from £175,000 to £499,000.

Contact Grove Place: 02380 743590; www.groveplace.co.uk

Update

NOVEMBER DIARY

From Italy to interior design: this month's highlights

A TUSCAN TREASURE

The five-star Timbers Resorts signature development of Castello di Casole offers an exciting, fractional-ownership holiday opportunity in the undulating Tuscan landscape. This centuries-old castle sits majestically on a hilltop in the heart of its 4,200-acre private estate surrounded by working vineyards and olive orchards, and has been exquisitely and sensitively transformed into a luxurious boutique hotel (opening spring 2012).

The undisputed gem in this stunning development is the spacious 3,350sq ft 'Bargagli Penthouse' with three ensuite bedrooms, stunning reception rooms, a private terrace with breathtaking views, and access to unrivalled hotel amenities. Fractional ownership interests (1/6th) are available at €750,000 providing four fixed and two planned holiday weeks, plus unlimited short-notice weeks. Further scattered farmhouses dotted around the estate are also available for whole or fractional ownership.

Call Castello di Casole on 00 39 0577 967511 or visit www.castellocasole.com



HIGH STYLE IN THE FRENCH ALPS

The uber luxurious, Savoyard-style chalet in Courchevel 1850m, pictured below, is deliciously glamorous in both location and accommodation – and just 10 minutes from the resort's private airport. It has six ensuite bedrooms, an enormous double-height reception room with central fireplace, and a triple-aspect balcony with breathtaking views. Sumptuous and sophisticated in design, La Grande Roche offers all the services worthy of a five-star hotel, including an indoor swimming pool, fully equipped gymnasium, a massage and treatment room and a state-of-the-art media/cinema room – not to mention the services of a personal chef, daily housekeeping and a driver. It's surely the ultimate Alpine getaway in Les Trois Vallées, with more than 150km of immaculate pistes for beginners and experts alike. Prices range from €37,000 to €86,000 per week (low to high season).

Call Residential Land on 020 7408 5155 or visit www.courchevel1850chalet.com



RENAISSANCE HOLIDAYS IN A RESTORED ITALIAN VILLA

An intriguing 16th-century villa, Castello di Brazzò in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region of Italy, has been lovingly restored to accommodate 22 guests in seven ensuite bedrooms, a separate double bedroom, and a dormitory for six. A spacious elegance of rooms includes an impressive 100-metre-square Salone, galleried sitting room, two dining rooms, television room, and a games and fitness room.

The 90-acre parkland setting encompasses castle ruins and a 10th-century chapel, as well as a pool, tennis court, rose garden, croquet lawn and an ancient knot garden. Magically located for mountain activities in the Dolomites, the secluded beaches of the Istrian coast, and the captivating culture of Venice, it is within easy reach of three airports. Rental prices on application.

For more details call 00 39 380 106 7849 or visit www.castellobrazzo.com





THE TRUE COLOURS OF HOUSE SELLING

The colour scheme you use in your house can affect how long it takes to sell your property – so suggests commissioned research by PrimeLocation.com, the premier property-search website. It proves that a boldly styled property interior with a strong, personal colour scheme can affect a future purchaser's choice of somewhere to live, and can therefore extend the time the property is left on the market. Regardless of colour scheme, ensuring your selling agent lists your property with PrimeLocation.com will enhance your exposure to the market place and therefore attract that unique purchaser who sees through the cosmetics of such matters. The study concluded: pick



Room sets shown by Dulux

your agent carefully, de-clutter and de-personalise your house and make it obvious what each room is used for.

Contact PrimeLocation by visiting www.primelocation.com