

# Upmarket Italy

This romantic country has everything the tourist – and the investor – could want. And, finds Johnny Turner, recent property offerings in some of the more stylish spots are very impressive indeed

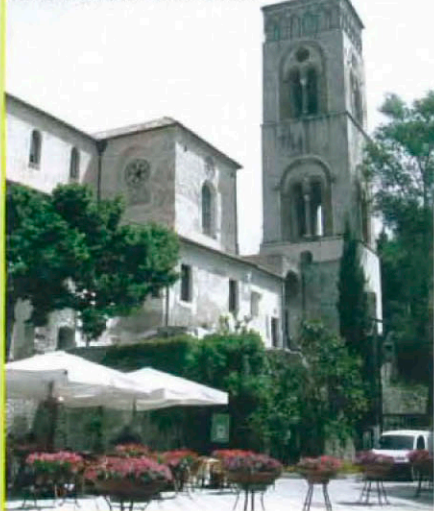
**T**he world loves Italy, and it's easy to see why. The culture, the art, the food, the sun, the landscape, the philosophy of life – all of this can easily lead a more reserved country to have an inferiority complex. And Italy is fast climbing the charts in terms of desirability to property investors, one reason being that so much of the current availability is beautifully designed and set in the most gorgeous locations.

A good example of this can be found in one of the UK's favourite Italian regions, Tuscany. For those in search of an amazing investment in this beautiful area, Casa Travella Premier offers a stunning agriturismo complex located in Cerbaia, just 20 km from Florence. The property includes a magnificent villa built over two floors and substantial further buildings. There are 63 hectares of land, of which ten hectares of vineyard produce Chianti Classico, seven hectares are planted with olive trees and two hectares have nut trees; the remainder is divided between woodland and arable land.

The main building has 640 square metres of accommodation and there is a swimming pool. Priced at €4.9 million. Visit [casatravellapremier.com](http://casatravellapremier.com) to find out more.

Also from Casa Travella Premier is the Villa Carla, near Tremezzo at Lake Como. This stunning building has a spacious two-bedroom apartment located on the top floor of an impressive period villa with magnificent gardens stretching down to the lakeside. The apartment measures 160 square metres and affords magnificent views. It has original 'cotto' floor tiles, fresco ceilings and access to part of the magnificent garden. Priced at €800,000.

Ravello on the Amalfi Coast



For more information on either of these opportunities see [casatravellapremier.com](http://casatravellapremier.com) or call 01322 660988.

In Gubbio, located in the beautiful region of Umbria, the San Vittorino Estate comprises eight properties which are currently being restored. Expansive beamed ceilings and terracotta tiled floors are complemented by modern kitchens, sophisticated bathrooms and open fireplaces. Each home has a private patio and garden area or large terrace. All properties share a large swimming pool, tennis court and golf practice area on the 120-acre estate. Six properties remain at prices from €420,000 to €600,000.

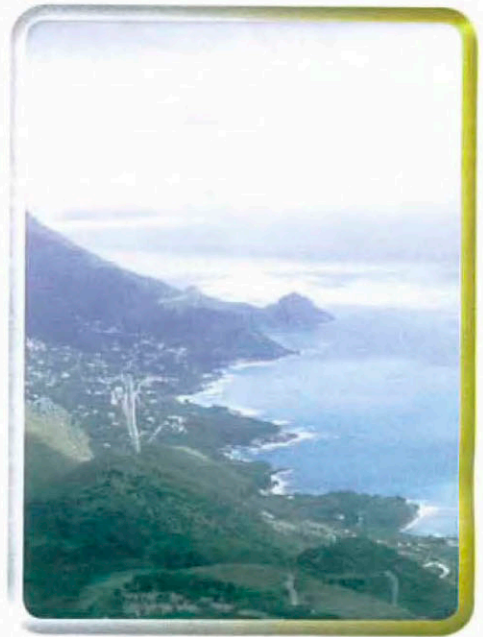
Another development from Ultissimo in Umbria is Rancale, which offers eight newly restored properties, all with private gardens. It is located within mature grounds and accessed via a tree-lined driveway. Each property has the exclusive use of a large swimming pool and all-weather tennis court. Three of the eight properties remain on sale; prices range from €310,000 to €520,000. A fully furnished show home is now open. For more information on San Vittorino or Rancale visit [ultissimo.com](http://ultissimo.com) or call 020 3178 4975.

On the fabulous Amalfi coast, high-end property specialists Italian Property offer Villa Antares, a prestigious villa in the village of Vettica, five minutes from Amalfi. Spilt over two levels, the house has seven bedrooms, all en suite, a large living space with floor-to-ceiling windows giving an uninterrupted view of the sea, plus a professionally equipped kitchen and a cocktail bar.

Outside space includes an organic garden, a dining terrace, a graceful gazebo seating area, a solarium and Jacuzzi. Villa Antares also has a garage, private access to the sea and a small private jetty. Simply but elegantly furnished throughout, it is the epitome of chic Italian living. The property is on the market for €9.3m.

Other available properties include a luxury villa, complete with motorboat, on the island of Capri, a hilltop house with panoramic terrace near Positano, and a partially restored property with ruins ripe for renovation near Ravello one of the few remaining examples of this type in the area. Prices start at €1.6m. Visit [italianproperty.eu.com](http://italianproperty.eu.com).

San Vittorino Estate in Umbria



## Calabria: a true hotspot

**I**taly has been much commented on in the past few weeks. A recent Telegraph survey found that its readers rates Italy the most popular tourism destination in Europe. Soon after, Knight Frank were quoted in the Times as saying that the traditional Italian property purchases such as farm-houses and cottages should take the back-seat to off-plan apartments in upcoming markets like Florence.

Meanwhile, Liam Bailey of Property Abroad says, 'Italy will always have a strong property market – especially ... because of the number of Britons emigrating every year, who tend to go for Italy, France and Spain.'

Bailey picks Calabria as the up-and-coming spot to go for, citing developments such as phase two of Jewel of the Sea in Bracaleone as ones to watch. The one- and two-bedroom apartments in a gated resort-style development features swimming pools and an aqua park, plus clubhouse, restaurants, cafés and a commercial centre.

As a visitor to Calabria earlier this year, I can vouch for the sheer loveliness of the beaches, the wealth of sunshine and the feeling that you've happened upon an undiscovered gem. I had driven down the coast from Naples, stayed overnight in Amalfi and continued south, stopping at Diamante, a beautiful town of 5,000 people known as the 'City of Murals'. Indeed there were colourful murals on many of the lovely old buildings, showing the locals' belief in the importance of beauty in everyday life.

The proprietress of a cosy restaurant, who kindly brought me calamari in the distinctly un-lunch-hour-like time of 3pm, said, 'Napoli is the trouble, Amalfi is the money and Calabria' – at this point she spread her fingers and looked skyward – 'is the sun.'

The property investor must be in tune with the tastes of holiday visitors, and as far as I'm concerned Calabria is a quiet beauty that is ready for its moment.