

Le Marche

Pronounced Le Mar-kay, this Italian region is bordered by the Adriatic Sea and hemmed in by the Apennine Mountains, and offers rolling hills and medieval towns – in addition to bustling coastal resorts.

With capital appreciation of around five per cent per annum in the past few years, prices here have stayed reasonable, attracting those buyers who have been priced out of Tuscany or Umbria.

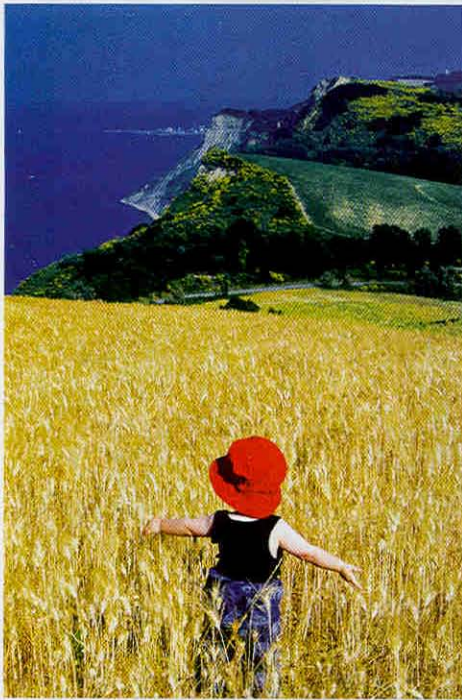
Recently earmarked as the new Tuscany, the stretch around Grottamare and San Benedetto del Tronto holds particular charm. This area has affordable property ranging from seaside apartments to country villas and farmhouses. Experts say the British like to buy the properties inland rather than by the sea and there is a large choice with properties to restore for under around £88,000 or a little more.

Linda Travella has sold property in Italy for 22 years, and says: "If you are looking to buy a farmhouse investing in Le Marche is a great idea. You will find a good choice, and for £178,000 not far from Amandola you can find a property set in an acre of land that could be used as two apartments, each providing two bedrooms. This could make a good investment as one could be used for personal use and the other for rental."

She adds: "Le Marche is an area where people decide to go and live as well as buy a second home. Families with children are the most likely buyers, as well as clients that want a change of lifestyle and perhaps to open a B&B."



TOP Rancale is a development of eight two- and three-bedroom homes in Perugia, Umbria. Renovated by Ultissimo, prices start at £240,000
MIDDLE Also by Ultissimo is the San Vittorino Estate. Prices here start from £215,000 for a one-bedroom apartment and go up to £495,000 for three bedrooms
BOTTOM In Le Marche, this property has been restored into numerous apartments with a shared swimming pool. An apartment can be bought for £116,000 here, through Casa Travella



Umbria

This 'Green Heart' of Italy is famed for renaissance cities and medieval towns, and in many ways Umbria is similar to neighbouring Tuscany: a less developed and traditional option for those who love Italy, as well as prices that are some 30 per cent cheaper. It is ideally placed for days out in Rome, Florence, and Assisi and property is good value for money.

Paul Belcher, restoration specialist and managing director of Ultissimo, says: "Umbria has remained a popular destination for Brits buying a second home. In this region, farming remains an important way of life and fresh produce is always available. Locally grown asparagus, cured meats and excellent wines produced from local vineyards all serve to define the flavor of Umbria and makes it a popular region for food lovers.

"With the relatively recent opening of Perugia airport to international flights, Umbria is now more easily accessible for spending long weekends in a second home. And without a huge influx of tourists Umbria retains its charm throughout the summer months, thus making it a firm favourite with British buyers."

