

GRAND *Getaways*

Whether you're after a rental property for extra income or simply somewhere to escape to at weekends, be inspired by our guide to UK holiday homes Words *Zoe Dare Hall*



Glyn and Jane Martin commissioned their architect daughter Annie (01647 272 839; anniemartin.co.uk) to design a modern, eco-friendly holiday home on the site of a Thirties chalet where they'd spent many family holidays. On a hillside overlooking Seacombe beach in south Devon, the three-bedroom build cost £350,000 in 2008, and was valued shortly afterwards at £1.2million. Available to rent from £750-£2,700 per week. (01647 24108; seacombe-devon.co.uk)

Despite rain and the recent recession, it seems little can dampen our desire for a bolthole in the UK. Knight Frank (020 7629 8171; knightfrank.co.uk) reports that the new-build second-home market remains resilient, while a recent survey by Direct Line suggests 165,000 people have holiday homes in England and Wales.

Overseas properties tend to have a more reliable climate in their favour, but a UK vacation house offers easy accessibility, minus the stress and cost of plane travel. Chosen carefully, it can also be a reliable investment, and owners won't have to face worries of currency fluctuation or unexpected taxes on

non-resident property owners. Cornwall is by far the most popular holiday-home destination, based on the number of second dwellings in the county. Polzeath, Padstow and Rock are all in Knight Frank's top 10 second-home hot spots – but prepare to pay a high price for a prime location. West Sussex fares best if you compare rental yields and capital increases, according to the Holiday Cottage Investment Index by Holidaycottage.com. Or, like 20,000 other people each year, you could reap the value of building your own property.

In this guide you'll find advice about building, spotting potential, and making money from a holiday rental. →