

Client Palazzo Molin
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Top 20 places to live for James Bond lovers

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Venice

Venice hardly needs James Bond to advertise its charms. But its regular cameos in the films, invariably looking stunning, have done the city no harm. It made its debut in *From Russia With Love* (1963), hosting Sean Connery in a gondola. This was followed by a thrilling encore in *Moonraker* (1979). The city took centre stage again, albeit briefly, in *Casino Royale* (2006). The three best Bonds – Connery, Moore, Craig – in the world's most beautiful city. It's quite a hat-trick.

On the market Luxury apartments, priced at between £530,000 and £4.1 million, in the restored 15th-century Palazzo Molin, near La Fenice opera house, with Sotheby's International Realty (0039 041 522 0093).

Picture: Alamy



The name's Bond: Roger Moore and Britt Ekland in *The Man With the Golden Gun*

Did you know?

- Goldwyn's 17th Bond film is also the name of the house in Jamaica where Ian Fleming wrote the original novel.
- One of the scenes in *Diamonds Are Forever* was filmed at the Las Vegas home of Kirk Douglas.
- The Egyptian Pyramids that looked so convincing in *The Spy Who Loved Me* were miniature-sized models.
- There is no such Caribbean island as San Morique, where some of *Live and Let Die* is set. Most of the San Morique scenes were filmed at Ocho Rios in Jamaica.
- The "Uganda" scenes in *Casino Royale* were mainly shot in a country park in Buckinghamshire.
- The jets of 007's dad, Halle Berry in *Cuba* for *Die Another Day* were actually shot in Cadix, Spain.
- In the same movie, landlocked "Uganda" is given an ocean backdrop, courtesy of footage that was filmed on the island of Madagascar.
- The "North Korea" scenes that feature in *Die Another Day* were mainly shot on a backdrop at Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire.
- The *Man with the Golden Gun*, which is set mainly in the Far East, was originally going to be shot in Iran.
- The "Bolivia" scenes in *Quantum of Solace* were actually filmed in Chile - which prompted the local Chilean mayor to stage a protest, for which he was arrested.

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On the market Four-bedroom log house with sea views and within striking distance of Reykjavik: £587,000 with vitrum.com

Jamaica

Jamaica is doubly precious to Bond fans: it not only provided the location for the first Bond film, *Dr No* (1962), but it was where Ian Fleming wrote the original books. Not always as popular with British buyers as some of the other Caribbean islands, but if you want to sip a rum punch, watch the sunset and let your mind wander back to Ursula Andress (and that famous bikini) you'd struggle to find somewhere more fitting.

On the market Two-bedroom beach cottage at the Goldeneye Resort, named after the house where Fleming pounded out his classic novels on a typewriter: £1,025 million with Hampton International (020 7265 6595; hampton-international.com).

San Francisco

A View to a Kill (1985) was Roger Moore's swansong. It reached an

appropriately spectacular climax against one of the most famous backdrops in the world, the Golden Gate Bridge. San Francisco hardly needs 007 to raise its profile. But every little helps and the city remains popular with Americans and overseas buyers. "No destination on our site has seen a bigger increase in enquiries for holiday lettings," adds Kate Stinchcombe-Gillies. "We're confident this market will expand rapidly in 2014."

On the market Eight-bedroom mansion with views of the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz: £10.5 million with Hampton International (020 7265 6595; hampton-international.com).

Sardinia

Not many people would rank *The Spy Who Loved Me* (1977) among their favourite Bond movies. But you will not hear a bad word about it in Sardinia, where some of the film was shot. Before Bond, most Britons regarded Sardinia as a banal tourist, a few getalot of hosting a chic Italian destination. Not now. "We all have an inner Bond and, if owning a property in a destination such as Sardinia with Bond associations can help perpetuate that fantasy, why not?" says Rupert Fowcett of Knight Frank's

Scottish coast



Shanghai



Sardinia



Italian desk. You can pick up a two-bedroom apartment in Sassari from around £250,000.

On the market Refurbished five-bedroom villa near Porto Rotondo, above: £7.9 million with Knight Frank (020 7861 1058; knightfrank.com).

Corfu

For *Your Eyes Only* (1981) was another of the less celebrated Bond movies. Yet the Corfu setting helped bring much needed publicity to an island that had become more associated with package holidays than beautiful people. Modern Corfu has some stylish enclaves and, after the Greek property crash, prices are looking competitive again. "Corfu has always been a niche market. Most buyers know the island well and, as they are generally paying cash, get good value," says Richard Way from the Overseas Guides Company (overseasguides.com).

On the market One of Corfu's grandest mansions, centre right. Dating from the 18th century and covering 52 acres, it has been completely renovated, with new living quarters added: \$5.85 million with Savills (020 7018 3700; savills.com).

Scottish Highlands

How many people watched the heart-stopping finale of *Skyfall* (2012) and thought: "Wow! I had forgotten how much beautiful scenery there is on my own doorstep?" The scenes set in Scotland were filmed in Glencoe and showed the Highlands at their inimitable best. Prices start at around £230,000 for a six-bedroom detached house with a good-sized garden.

On the market An island worthy of a James Bond villain, above, top. Remote house with its own helicopter hangar, on Scotland's beautiful coastline: £3 million with Knight Frank (0131 222 9800; knightfrank.com).

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Rogue (2009). The three boat Bonds - Connery, Moore, Craig - in the world's most beautiful city. It's quite a list-lick.

On the market Luxury apartments, priced at between £530,000 and £4.4 million, in the restored 15th-century Palazzo Molin, far right, near La Fenice opera house, with Setchey's International Realty (0039 041 522 0093; setchey-intl.com).

Albania

Has the Bond effect spread to Albania? Its apparent cameo in *For Your Eyes Only* (1981) was misleading. The scenes were shot in Greece.

Albania at that time was one of the most closed societies in Europe. But things are looking different 30 years later. Albania is a fast-growing tourist destination where you could now ask for a vodka martini without being laughed at. Purchasers of properties at the five-star Liletta Bay Resort and Spa on the Adriatic coast even get a car thrown in - though not an Aston Martin, alas.

On the market Three-bedroom villas at the Liletta Bay Resort (0845 125 8600; lilettabay.com) from £95,000.

Movie magic: Oscar winner Halle Berry in *Die Another Day*, and Sean Connery, above right, in *Thunderball*



Thailand

Few countries have basked in the reflected glory of the Bond films as much as Thailand. *Ko Tupa* was one of the locations for *The Man With the Golden Gun* (1974). It is known to this day as James Bond Island. This beautiful spot, the stuff of advertising posters, brings a touch of style to a far-flung destination.

On the market Five-bedroom villa at Layun on the west coast of Phuket: £1.22 million with CBRE Thailand (0088 2654 1111; cbre.co.th).

Istanbul

Nearly 50 years separate Istanbul's Bond debut in *From Russia With Love* (1963) to its thrilling cameo at the start of *Skyfall* (2012). It also featured in *The World Is Not Enough* (1999), helping send property prices up 13 per cent in the year after the film's release. "Istanbul has really caught the eye of property investors from Britain as well as from the Middle East," says Louise Reynolds of Property Venture. "There is double-digit capital growth and rental yields of between five and 10 per cent."

On the market Two-bedroom apartments with sea views in a new development 30 minutes from the airport: £75,000 with Property Venture (01932 849536; property-venture.com).

The Bahamas

Thunderball (1965) may have been one of the weaker Bond films. But the shots of the Bahamas in the sun helped cement the image of a tropical paradise. Tragedy by coral reefs. The area reopened to good effect in *Casino Royale* (2006).

On the market Apartments and villas in the super-luxury Albany Resort (001 688 909 7001; albanysbahamas.com), where part of *Casino Royale* was filmed, range from £930,000 to £12.3 million.

Montenegro

How many Britons could have found Montenegro on the map before it featured in *Casino Royale* (2006), looking almost as gorgeous as Eva Green? The Montenegro scenes were actually shot in Italy and the Czech Republic. But the power of the Bond brand overcomes small details like that. As a result, Montenegro now has

the cachet of a cool place to buy property, and is attracting billions of pounds of investment.

On the market Three-bedroom villa at the Sea Breeze development overlooking Kotor Bay: £376,000 (seabreeze.me).

Rio de Janeiro

Rio de Janeiro's estate agents were peaking up at the prospect of Brazil hosting the 2014 World Cup, the city got some much-needed free publicity in *Moonraker* (1979). Prices are still relatively affordable here too, though expect them to surge next year. A two-bedroom apartment close to the beach will set you back about £450,000.

On the market Plot of land at the Rio Hills Resort, an up-and-coming 5-star boutique hotel: £51,000 with Aspen Woolf (aspenwoolf.com).

Tokyo

At the time of *You Only Live Twice* (1967), Tokyo was a comparatively obscure capital city. The Bond films, coming hot on the heels of the 1964 Olympics, helped seal its future. A central two-bedroom apartment in this vibrant modern city with 1,000 sq ft of

living space will cost at least £450,000.

On the market Two-bedroom apartment in the sought-after Minato-ku area: £1,945 million with realestate-tokyo.com.

Louisiana

Ask Bond buffs to name their favourite chase sequence and many might plump for the boat chase in *Live and Let Die* (1973), which brought the distinctive bayous of Louisiana to world attention. New Orleans aside, Louisiana is still unashamedly. There are, however, bargains on offer for the enterprising house-hunter with delusions of being Roger Moore in a speedboat. A four-bedroom detached house will cost around £100,000.

On the market Five-bedroom 1905 villa in New Orleans: £1.15 million with Brit Gallowsay (britgallowsay.com).

Vauxhall

Time was when wealthy Londoners would not have dreamed of buying south of the river. But the sight of James Bond against the background of the 16th building in Vauxhall - particularly in the high-speed chase

along the Thames in *The World Is Not Enough* (1999) - was like a wake-up call. Riverside properties in Vauxhall continue to be among the most sought-after in the capital. "Buyers often assume that the security must be good because of the James Bond and M16 connection," says Robert French of Knight Frank's Riverside office.

On the market Spectacular four-bedroom apartment on the 45th floor of One St George Wharf: £19.5 million with Savills (savills.co.uk).

Udaipur, India

Thirty years after *Octopussy* (1983), featuring scenes shot in the famous Lake Palace Hotel, the residents of Udaipur still talk fondly about the time when James Bond came to India. The Udaipur footage not only captured the bustle and bustle of the country, but showcased its magnificent architecture.

On the market Three-bedroom villa in Anawall: Hill: £120,000 with propertywala.com.

Swiss Alps

You might not have liked George Lazenby as James Bond in *On Her*

Majesty's Secret Service (1969), but you could hardly fail to be impressed by the glistering Alpine scenery. Skiers have been flocking to the principal location for the film - Piz Gloria, the revolving restaurant near Murren in the Bernese Oberland - ever since. Ski chalets in the area are pricey, starting at about £1.2 million for a four-bedroom property.

On the market Luxury three-bedroom apartment in Grindelwald, above, centre: £2.1 million with Investors in Property (020 8805 5511; investorsinproperty.com).

Las Vegas

Sean Connery bowed out with more of a whimper than a bang in *Diamonds Are Forever* (1971). This was a movie redeemed in the opinion of many, only by the vignettes of Las Vegas and its surrounding desert. But, as ever, the presence of Bond gave the glamorous city's property prices a shove in the right direction. Will it happen again with the next Bond film? You wouldn't want to bet against it.

On the market One-bedroom penthouse on Las Vegas Boulevard: £154,000 with Savills (020 7016 3740; savills.com).