

# EUROPE AT ITS BEST

*Claire Pilton* celebrates Eurocentrism with a continental spread of new developments, golfing resorts, country estates and coastal properties



## Vale do Lobo Algarve launches 500 new villas

Founded in 1962 by Costain and Trusthouse Forte, **Vale do Lobo** was purchased in the mid-1970s by Dutch entrepreneur Sander van Gelder, who developed the resort over the next 30 years. Spanning more than 1,000 acres, it features two 18-hole championship golf courses, the largest tennis academy in Portugal, a wellness centre, 15 restaurants and bars and 1,500 villas and apartments. Following the resort's sale in 2007 to a group of Portuguese and international investors, the re-branded Vale

do Lobo Algarve began a strategic facelift; the new management has also initiated a €500-million, 10-year investment programme for the development of two prime areas of land within the resort which are being marketed by *Landsdowne RE* (020 7268 2100). Directly overlooking the Atlantic and flanked by a nature reserve, Oceano Clube offers some of the last true beachfront land available in Portugal; plots ranging from 800sq m to 4,500sq m with construction areas from 224sq

m to 350sq m start from €1.3 million, and from €3 million for a finished villa. Vale Real is set between the greens and fairways of the Royal Golf Course, and will comprise a mix of 283 custom-built villas, linked villas and apartments together with a new five-star hotel; here plot sizes range from 841sq m to 1,600sq m with construction areas of 314sq m to 500sq m. Prices start from €1.15 million, and from €2.65 million for the completed villas.

## An Italian job well done



On the strength of a holiday in Umbria, Sussex-based couple Steven and Karen White acquired a derelict farmhouse near Perugia in 2000. The demanding but ultimately rewarding process of purchasing and restoring their own property inspired them to set up **Fervidus White**, a specialist company that assists people who wish to buy in Italy but who lack the time and experience to locate their dream home and deal with restoration and interior design themselves. *Fervidus White* (020 7193 1050) draws on a team of trusted professionals, craftsmen and

artisans to work on its projects, and is currently project-managing the design of the Four Seasons Golf Resort and Spa at Antognoalla. The company is also instructed on a number of one off and 'project properties' that range from a partly restored €950,000 farmhouse at Maranaccio to an €8-million 1950s villa on the shores of Lake Como near Colico. Set in 3.5 hectares of gardens with a boathouse and direct private access to the beach, Villa Nautica has eight bedrooms and enjoys 180-degree views across the lake to the mountains beyond.