



## A place in the sun

Despite uncertain times, we're still queuing up to buy overseas. These are the best options near and far, from budget to bling

Average house prices here increased by 4.5% in the year to the end of September, rising at the fastest rate since the tail end of the boom. In 2015, Rightmove Overseas has seen searches in Spain outstrip its usual favourite, France. Yet the analyst Mark Stucklin, who runs Spanish Property Insight, sounds a note of caution. "Overall, there will be a two-speed market in 2016," he says, "with a continued revival in the best areas, where there is demand, but no sign of much recovery in most of the country."

Barcelona continues to blaze a trail as Europe's premier urban resort, with younger buyers attracted by the stylishly renovated period buildings in Eixample, in the city centre. A three-bedroom flat that is ready to move into starts at about €400,000 (£290,000).

### Barcelona from €334,000

On Carrer de Balmes, in the heart of the fashionable Eixample district, a period building has been renovated to create nine flats with one, two or three bedrooms. They have soundproofed glazing and plenty of modernista features; the Passeig de Gracia is just two blocks away.

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