



Barcelona's draw as an "Urban Resort"

Spain's second city is luring new home buyers who like the city-and-surf lifestyle of the stylish coastal metropolis

WALL STREET
JOURNAL

The high-end market in Barcelona is concentrated in three areas: the Eixample district, Zona Alta and Diagonal Mar.

The Eixample district—rich in historic low-rise apartment buildings—is known for its unique urban design, based on a vast grid cut by wide avenues. The district's mix of historic architecture and thriving street life is luring the new buyers, says Alex Vaughan, the U.K.-born co-founder of Lucas Fox, a group of real-estate agents based in Barcelona.

Of the three high-end areas, Zona Alta has the largest concentration of properties priced above \$1.1 million, says Mr. Vaughan. Buyers like the mountain views, the privacy and the foreign schools, agents say.

The area offers upscale apartment buildings and lavish villas. Turó Park, the green heart of the district, is known for its high-end apartments, Mr. Vaughan says, while the streets of Pedralbes neighborhood has Zona Alta's priciest villas. Pedralbes draws "the Catalan elite," he adds.