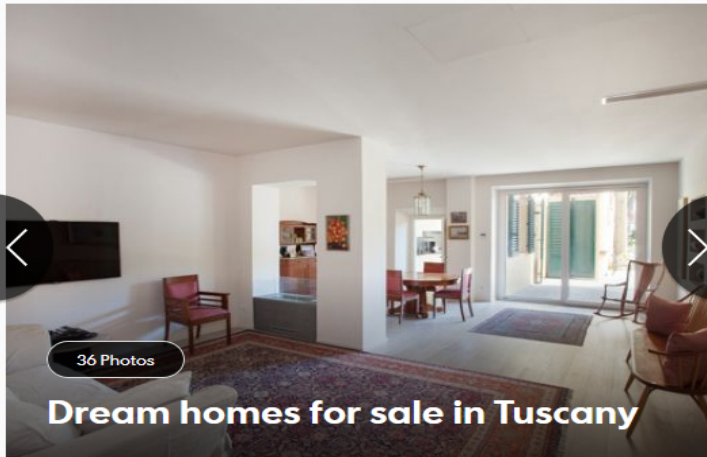


Dream homes: Five tempting properties for sale in Tuscany

Kitty Bean Yancey, Special to USA TODAY Published 8:12 a.m. ET Feb. 8, 2018



36 Photos

Dream homes for sale in Tuscany



(Photo: Lionard Luxury Real Estate)



Tuscany, with its olive groves and historic hill towns, is a favorite destination of Americans. Florence, its capital, is often called the “cradle of the Renaissance” and is the onetime residence of Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Botticelli. It is also a magnet for expatriates.

“We are seeing lots of Americans looking to buy a second home, investment property, or to retire in Florence,” says Daniela Sprea, sales manager at [Italy Sotheby's International Realty](#). “I guess Americans like what the whole world loves about Florence — its stunning beauty and artistic heritage.”

Because the supply of real estate in this UNESCO World Heritage Site is limited, expect to pay a premium for the privilege of sipping a latte in the shadow of the majestic terracotta-tiled dome of 15th-century Santa Maria del Fiore cathedral or taking a sunset stroll across the Arno River on the medieval Ponte Vecchio.

Well-maintained, modernized properties that appeal to Americans typically cost \$1 million or more, real estate agents say. Desirable neighborhoods in the city include Lungarno, Oltrarno and the Palazzo Pitti area, Sprea says.

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If you're looking for space and luxury, “it's more affordable” to purchase in the countryside around Florence, Sprea says. But maintenance costs tend to be higher.

Partly because of that, Americans often focus on apartments in the city center, says Corso Flaccomio, co-owner of the Pitcher & Flaccomio agency. “And as most use (homes) as a second or third house for a couple of months a year, a lot rent out the property so that the house pays for itself” in some way, he says.

See the gallery above for a peek at five properties on the market at publication time.

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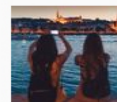
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