

# COUNTRY LIFE<sup>®</sup> INTERNATIONAL

SUMMER 2018  
GUERNSEY PROPERTY

## Glorious Guernsey



Why you should  
move there

Cliff paths, potato-peel  
pie, salt and pub crawls

PLUS the island's  
finest properties

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Your business



Your life



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Advertisement promotion



## Join Chesneys in Guernsey to celebrate its new HEAT range

To launch its revolutionary new collection of HEAT Barbecue Heaters, which are set to transform outdoor entertaining, Chesneys is offering COUNTRY LIFE readers an opportunity to see them in action on Thursday, July 26, 2018, at Les Prevosts Farm

**A**FTER the official unveiling of the new HEAT range at the Chelsea Flower Show by the chef and television presenter James Martin, it will be launched later this month in Guernsey. 'Chesneys's new Barbecue Heater is brilliant,' said James Martin, 'it's the most versatile cooking appliance I've ever used and also the perfect way to stay warm and create an atmosphere that makes a party last all night.'

'It changes the whole experience of outdoor living; whether you have a large garden or a roof terrace, it extends the time you can spend outside. Sitting around the fire late into the evening with a group of friends is one of life's great pleasures. Given the choice, I wouldn't cook on any other barbecue.'

The four stylish designs provide a unique degree of temperature control, ease of use

and variety of cooking modes that provides almost limitless opportunities for cooking different recipes. Not only is it extremely fast to light, but it emits very little smoke.

Chesneys is kindly offering a limited number of COUNTRY LIFE readers complimentary tickets to the launch at Les Prevosts Farm on Guernsey on a first-come-first-serve basis. Barbecued food will be served, together with drinks, from 5pm to 8pm.

For further details, contact Tanya or Laura on 020-7627 1410 or email [heat@chesneys.co.uk](mailto:heat@chesneys.co.uk)



### What makes it so good

- Features multiple cooking modes, including grilling, chargrilling, smoking, roasting, baking and braising, low- and slow-cooking and pizza-baking
- A healthier way to stay warm. Unlike a firepit, it uses clean-burn technology to burn logs, which reduces harmful particulate emissions at a time when there is increasing concern over air pollution
- Environmentally friendly. Burning wood is carbon neutral compared with gas patio heaters, which emit significant volumes of CO<sub>2</sub> and contribute to climate change
- An efficient, effective way to warm a space. Radiant heat is delivered from a sealed chamber, which means the burn rate and heat output can be governed by means of a simple control system

[www.chesneys.co.uk](http://www.chesneys.co.uk)

CHESNEYS

HEAT



English Heritage/Heritage Images/Getty



## Les not-so-Misérables

**V**ICTOR HUGO'S Guernsey home is set to be restored to its former glory, after a €3 million donation from billionaire François Pinault, father-in-law of Hollywood actress Selma Hayek. Hauteville House, St Peter Port, is where the French Romantic poet and novelist, who spent his life arguing against the death penalty and was a little too politically active for Napoleon III's liking, retreated to in exile. Hugo lived on Guernsey for 15 years (1855–70)

and his house, where he was inspired to write *Les Misérables* and *Les Travailleurs de la Mer* among other works, has been preserved as he had it. His writing room at the top of the house enjoys panoramic views out to sea towards France. However, while restoration is under way and the house is closed, visitors are encouraged to roam the island that Hugo loved. He liked to swim at Havelet Bay, for example, and walk along the coast to Fermain Bay or

Hauteville House (top) is still just as it appeared when Victor Hugo wrote *Les Misérables* (above) up the west side to Port Soif. Some say he regularly met his mistress, Juliette Drouet, at Victoria Tower (built in 1848 to commemorate Queen Victoria's visit), where the pair engraved their initials. Guernsey Museum at Candie Gardens is holding an exhibition of his drawings this summer, entitled 'Hugo: Visions of Exile' (until September 16).

### Show me the money

A fund created earlier this year to boost the island's economy has made its first foray into investment. The idea behind the Guernsey Investment Fund, which is privately and publicly backed and run by an independent board, is to support entrepreneurs and benefit the Bailiwick of Guernsey by creating jobs and opportunities. Public money amounts to £25 million and the board is strict about keeping details private, but acknowledges that four investments have been made so far. Initially, the intention was to support 'technology and innovation companies', but the brief has widened to include property and infrastructure. The fund is seeking applications from both large businesses and entrepreneurs that require only a few thousand pounds. For details, visit [www.ravenscroftgroup.com/guernsey-investment-fund](http://www.ravenscroftgroup.com/guernsey-investment-fund), telephone 01481 732746 or email [gif@ravenscroftgroup.com](mailto:gif@ravenscroftgroup.com)



## Taste of the sea

**A**NEW Guernsey sea salt is on the scene and it comes in six different infusions, including kelp and lemon and thyme. Launched some six months ago, Etai Organic uses fresh seawater from the islands of Guernsey, Herm and Sark, which is then sterilised, triple-filtered and slowly evaporated. From £5.50; visit [www.etaiorganic.com](http://www.etaiorganic.com)



## Art of the matter

**I**SLANDER and art collector David Ummels is calling for Guernsey to have its own 'iconic' Arts venue and has told the Guernsey Chamber of Commerce that the artworks would be free. 'I know six or seven world-class art collectors who love Guernsey and live here,' says Mr Ummels. 'Out of love, they would lend their artwork free to curate something world-class, so we can support our tourism infrastructure and offer something to our local community. However, the venue is not there.' Mr Ummels is the founder of charitable initiative Art for Guernsey, which invites internationally renowned artists

to exhibit their work on the island and brings over an artist in residence every year. This year, an ink drawing (above) by Olivia Kemp, former artist in residence, is one of 100 works personally selected by The Prince of Wales for an exhibition to mark his 70th birthday at Buckingham Palace, London SW1. 'Prince and Patron' opens on July 21 until September 30 in the State Rooms. Currently, Art for Guernsey is running a programme in which some 18 schools on the island are loaned artworks of museum quality, the study of which is incorporated into the curriculum. Visit [www.artforguernsey.com](http://www.artforguernsey.com)

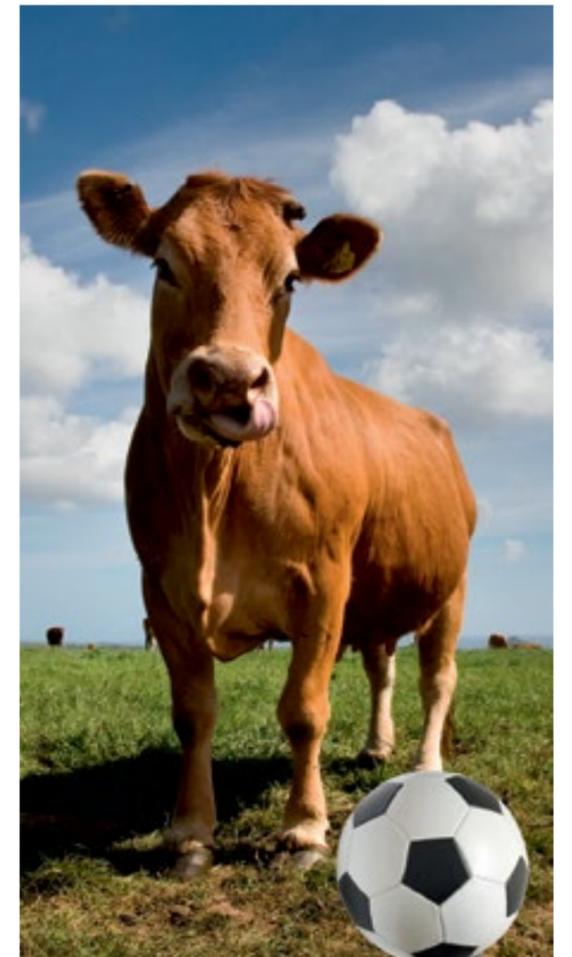
### Hold the phone

A Guernsey school is pioneering the use of a parental-control app to help pupils 'develop a healthy relationship with the internet and social media'. Staff at the 455-year-old Elizabeth College, an independent boys' school in St Peter Port, found parents were increasingly worried about the pervasiveness of technology in children's lives. An app called FamilyTime, which restricts how much time can be spent on a device and what can be done with it, proved to be a possible solution after a trial. It is now mandatory for Year 7 pupils to have FamilyTime on their phones, installed and managed by parents, with access to non-educational resources blocked from 8.25am to 4pm. 'We don't have an issue with boys doing what they should be doing in class, but we do have an issue with [them] using their devices during break times,' explains Dave Costen, Elizabeth College's director of digital learning. 'They're spending time on their screens and, although they're talking to each other, they're not looking at each other. It's that aspect of students' welfare that we're interested in. We're also looking to teach them a little bit of self-moderation.' If the initiative proves successful, it will be rolled out to the incoming Year 7 and 9 classes next September. Mr Costen reports that feedback from parents thus far has been 'universally positive'. *Carla Passino*



### Clear skies ahead

Guernsey airline Aurigny hopes to get its hands on new fog-beating technology that could see flight delays due to bad weather dramatically reduced. The prototype involves infra-red cameras for pilots, which can cut the number of times a plane cannot land due to fog by 50%. Aurigny's flight operations director Nigel Moll calls the ClearVision technology 'a game changer' and the company is pitching the case to its shareholders. 'We would like to be one of the first, if not the first, customers for this system,' says Mr Moll.



**Earlier this year, a football match on Guernsey had to be abandoned after a pitch invasion by a herd of 200 cows; players used corner flags to round them up, then called it a draw and went to the pub. One onlooker called it 'a tsunami of cows'**



**Beaucamp de Haut** | Castel | Guernsey | POA | 🏠 x 9 | 🚗 x 7

**An Exceptional Guernsey Estate**

For the first time in more than 30 years Swoffers is pleased to offer Beaucamp de Haut to the market. Sitting in the middle of approximately 25 acres of its own land it is an exceptional property of more than 18,000 square feet. Offering total privacy and seclusion this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to acquire a unique beautifully maintained Guernsey home.

The extensive grounds include a swimming pool, tennis court and capacious garaging with further scope for additional accommodation above.

Ask **Shauna Clapham** for full details and price.

**Features**

- ✓ 18,000 sq ft of accommodation
- ✓ Set in approximately 25 acres of land
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What's on



# A year in the life

Rosie Paterson rounds up the best things to do on the island this summer and beyond

**Until Sept 16**

**Hugo—Visions of Exile**

Banished from his native France, Belgium and Jersey, novelist Victor Hugo sought refuge in Guernsey in 1855, staying 15 years. This exhibition examines his drawings, created on the island. You can also visit Hugo's property—Hauteville House in St Peter Port—where he wrote *Les Misérables* ([www.museums.gov.gg/gmag](http://www.museums.gov.gg/gmag))

**July 22**

**Motorsport Seafront Sunday**

On Sundays during the summer, visitors to St Peter Port can enjoy myriad market stalls and alfresco dining options. July 22 will also boast a Twisty Sprint, a stunt rider and multiple vehicle displays ([www.visitguernsey.com/event/motorsport-seafront-Sunday](http://www.visitguernsey.com/event/motorsport-seafront-Sunday))

**August 15–16**

**The West Show**

A two-day event, Guernsey's annual agricultural and horticultural show encompasses animal and machinery displays, riding competitions and family fun (<https://thewestshow.com>)

**September 13**

**Guernsey Air Display**

Honouring those who served in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War, this year's display will be particularly poignant, given the RAF

centenary. As well as military aircraft, both retired and modern, there will also be a performance from the Red Arrows ([www.guernseyairdisplay.com](http://www.guernseyairdisplay.com))

**September 15 to October 30**

**Autumn Walking Festival**

Catch the last of the sun's rays with a guided walk through some of Guernsey's most beautiful landscapes. There's something to suit everyone, from a sunset stroll to a cultural town turn ([www.visitguernsey.com/event/autumn-walking-festival](http://www.visitguernsey.com/event/autumn-walking-festival))

**October 1 to November 11**

**Tennerfest**

An island institution, every year, residents and visitors make the most of fixed-price meals in more than 170 restaurants across the Channel Islands (around 70 in Guernsey). From £10, it's a chance to sample some of Guernsey's finest food ([www.tennerfest.com](http://www.tennerfest.com))

**May 2–4, 2019**

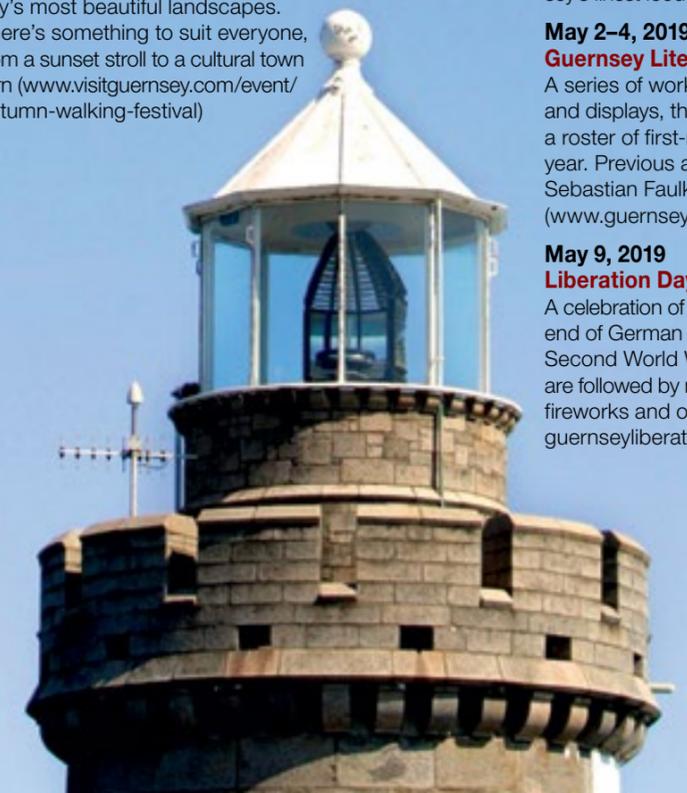
**Guernsey Literary Festival**

A series of workshops, discussions and displays, the festival also attracts a roster of first-rate speakers every year. Previous attendees include Sebastian Faulks and Clare Balding ([www.guernseyliteraryfestival.com](http://www.guernseyliteraryfestival.com))

**May 9, 2019**

**Liberation Day**

A celebration of freedom, marking the end of German occupation during the Second World War. Church services are followed by military street parades, fireworks and other events ([www.guernseyliberationday.com](http://www.guernseyliberationday.com))



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# WE UNDERSTAND GUERNSEY



**LE VAUQUIEDOR MANOR**  
£5,750,000



## Livingroom's award winning website is only part of their story.

Internationally recognised as Guernsey's leading estate agent, Livingroom is synonymous with privacy and discretion. Boasting the broadest selection of residential property in Guernsey, Livingroom offers a contemporary service with old fashioned values.



CALL TO RECEIVE A COPY OF THE SPRING/SUMMER 2018 OPEN MARKET REVIEW SHOWCASING THE FINEST HOMES CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN GUERNSEY.



Recognised as one of the island's most attractive Georgian residences and reflecting some of the style and elegance of a French country house, Le Vauquiedor Manor proudly sits within 2.13 acres of beautifully tended grounds on the outskirts of St. Peter Port. This graceful property has been sympathetically renovated throughout by the current owners. Meticulous attention to detail has been shown throughout and offers up to six bedrooms, six bathrooms and eight reception rooms, including staff flat and guest wing. A beautifully renovated three bed coach house with its own separate Open Market Registration sits within the grounds, which include a walled garden and small paddock. Le Vauquiedor Manor is approached over an impressive driveway, the South-facing gardens offer privacy and tranquility.

TALK TO OUR OPEN MARKET TEAM TODAY ON +44 1481 233008

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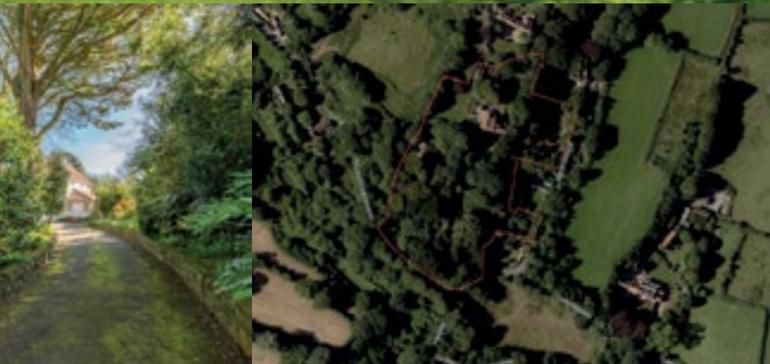
**WOODCOTE**  
£2,750,000



**VUE DE REVE**  
£4,950,000



**MONT HAVELET COURT**  
£2,700,000



Approached over a long private driveway, Woodcote lies in an area of outstanding natural beauty and sits nestled in a hidden valley in the heart of St. Andrew. Dating back to the 1920's, the property would benefit from a thorough and complete restoration programme to appreciate the original nature and style of this special home. Alternatively, it provides an exciting opportunity to demolish and re-build.

Rarely does an opportunity to purchase a property in such a stunning location present itself. Vue de Reve is located on the Southern headland of Icart offering stunning sea views, 3.2 acres of grounds, access to the cliff paths and complete privacy. There are a variety of options available to a prospective purchaser to create their dream home and lifestyle in Guernsey with planning permission granted for two different schemes.

1, Mont Havelet Court is a luxury brand new apartment forming part of a small, exclusive development in St. Peter Port. With lift access to all apartments and secure underground parking, great care has been taken to ensure the highest quality materials have been used. This impressive, lateral apartment enjoys superb views over Havelet Bay including Castle Cornet and the neighbouring islands beyond. The lateral and supremely spacious accommodation comprises hall, contemporary open plan kitchen/dining room and sitting room, pantry, utility, cloakroom and four bedrooms (three of which boast en-suite facilities). Landscaped communal garden and three parking spaces accessed via a car lift.

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# Making history

A high-profile film set on Guernsey has opened up the island's charms to a new audience, finds Holly Kirkwood

**F**ROM enchanting clifftops and white sandy bays to the pretty cobbled streets of St Peter Port, Guernsey is a wonderful place to potter around. The pace of life is unhurried; a positively serene speed limit of 35mph means even drivers take their time as the bees buzz lazily and families play cricket on the beach. These old-world charms have been attracting tourists for years, and rightly so, but, this spring, the release of a high-profile new film shone a light onto a little-known chapter of the island's history.

Directed by the acclaimed director Mike Newell, of *Four Weddings and a Funeral* fame, and starring Lily James, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* was released in April, introducing the island to a whole new audience.

‘Despite its unusual subject matter and eccentric title, readers fell in love with it,’

The film is based on the book of the same name, written by Mary Ann Shaffer and co-authored by her niece, Annie Barrows. Set during the Second World War and its aftermath, the story centres around a small rural community in Guernsey and how it dealt with four years of Nazi occupation.

Published in 2008, the novel quickly became a word-of-mouth hit and, despite its unknown author, who died the year it was published, unusual subject matter and completely eccentric title, readers worldwide fell in love with it; to date, it's sold more than 7.5 million copies.

The genesis of the book was as unlikely as its success: Shaffer wasn't an author—she was a librarian and editor from West Virginia—but she happened across a history of the Occupation on a visit to Guernsey in 1976, which made her want to know more. The Nazis occupied the Channel Islands from June 1940 until May

From the visit of a West Virginian librarian to an acclaimed film starring Lily James: Guernsey has won admirers worldwide

Studiocanal/Moviestore/REX/Shutterstock



1945, by which time these microscopic dots in the English Channel had become the most heavily defended location along the whole Atlantic Wall.

What interested Shaffer, however, was not the historical detail, but rather the moving story of what happened to the communities. It wasn't until 30 years after her initial visit that she was persuaded to put pen to paper by her book group, and she used real-life stories from survivors to bring the manuscript to life. The result is a charming epistolary novel written with verve and wit, featuring a cast of characters you wish would jump off the page and take you to lunch.

It's also somehow a quintessentially English book, despite being written by an American. The prose evokes Wodehouse and Wilde and effortlessly conjures postwar life in London.

It also tackles some pretty serious issues. When the protagonist, Juliet

## When the protagonist visits Guernsey, she finds a rich tapestry of light and dark

Ashton, visits Guernsey, she discovers a rich tapestry of light and dark; the island is populated by glorious characters who make us laugh, but, as the story develops, we learn the extent to which they suffer.

The film remains faithful to the story and Mr Newell easily translates the vivacious energy of the book onto the screen, adding luscious landscapes and pleasing period detail. Matthew Goode, Jessica Brown Findlay and Penelope Wilton all join Lily James in a partial *Downton Abbey* reunion

The taste of wartime resilience: heroine Juliet Ashton tries the famous potato-peel pie for the first time

and the cast does a brilliant job in bringing Shaffer's characters to life.

Although much of the filming took place in north Devon, the film is, as is the book, an unabashed love letter to Guernsey and its people, as well as a tribute to the joy of reading.

The island is no stranger to hosting fans of *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*. 'It's been a real driver for tourism through the interest in activities such as guided walks, tours and exhibitions that are linked to the novel,' says Mike Hopkins of VisitGuernsey. 'We hope the film will have a similar effect on our tourist numbers, with an expected 6%–9% uplift in the next two years.'

As the film retells the enchanting story on the big screen, islanders welcome those who wish to experience this very special place for themselves. Let's just hope none of them bring their Lamborghinis. ↘

## I'll drink to that

With sterling dedication, James Fisher visited as many Guernsey pubs as possible—here are his recommendations

IT'S a rare occasion when your editor walks up to your desk and enquires if you'd like to write about 'The Best Pubs in X', but it happened to me. That's how I found myself standing in the rain on the streets of St Peter Port in Guernsey, cash in the left paw, notebook in the other and the **Cock and Bull** directly ahead.

Bedecked in ephemera of all kinds and oddly reminiscent of the 1950s, it quickly dawns that the ideology of craft brewing has thankfully left this place well alone. There's live Irish folk music and plenty of room—a terrific place to fill out a Sudoku or meet with friends before dinner.

**The Swan** is on the far side of town and is the kind of place where nobody will ask you to explain the offside rule. Sport reigns supreme here and, although there aren't many places to sit, the atmosphere is lively and fun.

Handsome **The White Hart** stands on the waterfront and considers itself



one of the largest pubs in Guernsey. It feels like a Wetherspoons, but, mercifully, the carpet was left behind. It's certainly big and although it lacks atmosphere, it would be ideal for a large group or families.

**The Thomas de la Rue** is also harbourside, with pleasant views, and is a little more intimate and eccentric in its layout, with a good selection of beers. It's not brilliantly lit and can feel a bit dark, but I'd been to a few pubs by this point, so that may just have been my eyes.

**The Ship and Crown** has a terrific restaurant on the top floor—the

Cheers! There's no shortage of places for a pint on Guernsey

Crow's Nest—and the pub itself is equally good. Clearly very popular with the locals, there was good service, good beer and good music. The quiz machine also proved extremely generous.

### The Albion House Tavern

is the closest pub to a church in the British Isles and that's the only interesting thing about it.

Finally, a couple of miles out of town is the magnificent **Bella Luce**, a wonderful rustic bar, restaurant and hotel. For those more used to the Cotswold lifestyle, this is where you'll likely be happiest and the home-distilled Wheadon's Gin is outstanding. If you ask really nicely, they'll show you the still.

There's a pub for everyone in St Peter Port and its near surrounds, whether you want a cosy chat or rousing music, so hopefully you'll find one you like. From experience, however, I suggest you don't visit them all in one day. ↘

# La Carriere

Le Bigard, Forest, Guernsey

magnificent longhouse

# Guernsey



La Carriere is a magnificent example of a traditional manorial Longhouse dating back to the 16th century and stands in an unspoilt hamlet on the edge of the island's spectacular south coast cliffs.

More recently a reconstruction project spanning four years established new benchmarks in terms of quality of craftsmanship and meticulous attention to detail.

The historic and attractive form of the dressed and random granite elevations are matched for character inside with a superb array of carved stone features, inglenook fireplaces, flagged floors and wood paneling.

**OPEN MARKET £7,350,000**

Magnificent Guernsey Manor  
Stone and Oak Interior Detail  
Beautiful Surroundings  
Close to South Coast Cliffs



## Guernsey. Where every home is only minutes from a stunning panorama

The Island of Guernsey lies only 25 miles off the coastline of Northern Western France yet managed to forge its own identity and heritage through a colourful history. A subtle blend of Gallic and English influences, Guernsey stands a world away from the unwelcome demands of a hectic lifestyle with a culture and relaxed ambience all of its own. Its appeal to tourists is a testament to the islands charm and natural beauty that glorifies in quiet sandy beaches, rolling pastureland and dramatic cliffs. The capital town of St. Peter Port dates back

to Roman times and boasts a wealth of delightful architectural styles as well as hosting a vibrant and well regulated financial services industry.

Guernsey offers the ideal compromise between offshore tax seclusion and convenient accessibility, with direct air and sea routes to many of Europe's principal cities. For prospective new residents, fiscal advantages include the complete absence of death duties, inheritance tax and capital gains tax as well as no vat or goods and services tax - and a flat 20% of income tax.



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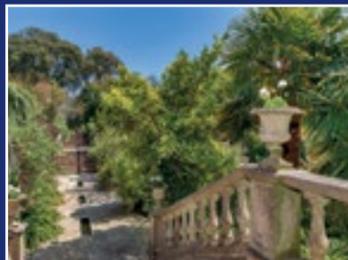
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# La Petite Vallee

Rue de Putron, St Peter Port, Guernsey

extraordinary gardens

# Guernsey



A characterful 1920s home in a Tudor Revival style with half-timbering, ornate brick chimneys and leaded glass windows. The property stands in a much favoured location, on South facing valley slopes above Fermain Bay and a short walk away from its renowned beach café.

Probably the most outstanding feature of this beautiful home is its extraordinary ornamental garden of just under two acres. Designed, landscaped and planted by a Kew trained specialist, the grounds feature a shaped swimming pool partially enclosed by brick and stone built cloisters, balustrade terracing, a water garden with rill, a Victorian style greenhouse and kitchen gardens.

The accommodation provided is typical for a comfortable family home but includes a sizeable three bedroom 'gatehouse' annexe that offers ancillary space for a number of possible uses.

- Stunning Tudor Revival Property
- Prime Residential Area
- Spectacular Award Winning Gardens
- Three Bed Gatehouse Annexe

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# Just around the corner

From castles to coppersmiths, bunkers and buildings made of seashells, a walking tour of Guernsey is full of surprises, finds James Fisher

**R**OBERT DE NIRO. 'Who?' 'Robert De Niro! He's in the greenhouse. He follows you everywhere.'

I was intrigued. I marched to the back of Sausmarez Manor, the gardens of which I was visiting and, sure enough, there he was, smiling that inescapable De Niro smile. Colin Firth was right behind him, although his arm was horribly broken and I think a dog had chewed his ear.

They were cardboard cutouts, of course, but by this point, my second day on the deliciously deciduous island of Guernsey, I had been so surprised by the amount of history and culture that I was willing to take nothing for granted.

I'd landed in a field the previous evening and been graciously picked up by the ever-present Island Taxis for the transfer to Les Douvres, my base in St Martins and an ideal spot for those looking to hike around the magnificent cliffs of the island's south coast. More on them later. The driver was an effervescent individual who, without even a hint of encouragement, delivered his entire life story to me in an ➤

Exotic, yet comfortingly familiar: Guernsey is a glorious place for a walking weekend



## Guernsey on foot

aural barrage of which Tchaikovsky would have been proud. Weeks later, I met up with friends who happened to have grown up on the island and was informed that Guernsey cabbies are notorious for their friendliness and storytelling. The silence of the metropolitan Uber has no place here—and long may it last!

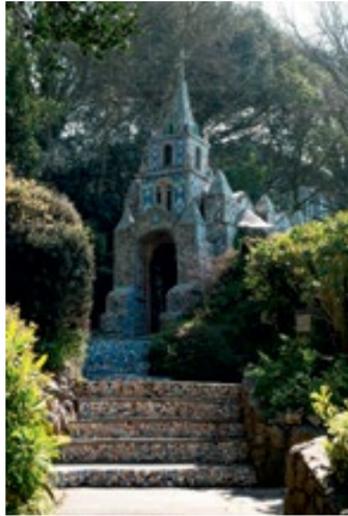
The cobbled streets of St Peter Port—'town' to the locals—are a good place to explore first. It's the only urban part of the island, although 'urban' is generous. There are plenty of shops you'll recognise and many more interesting ones that you won't. The fortress of Castle Cornet lurks menacingly at the end of the sea wall and there are many fine museums, notably the German Naval Signals HQ, an underground labyrinth that sheds light on the Occupation. It's pretty uphill, but a nice walk that takes you through the heart of the town from Castle Cornet. Ask about the world's biggest pig. It's the best story you've never heard.

### ‘The Little Chapel is so wonderfully intricate and pointless that it’s a must-visit’

The island has a lot of stories you've never heard, such as the Little Chapel in St Andrew. Built by Br Déodat, a determined Catholic exile, it's meant to be a miniature replica of the Lourdes chapel. After two failed attempts, including an iteration that was criticised so much he tore it down overnight out of spite, Br Déodat eventually completed it. It's decorated with seashells, broken china and general flotsam and is so wonderfully intricate and pointless that it's a must-visit.

Further east lies Sausmarez Manor, a superbly entertaining country house that somehow contains a sculpture park, a small railway, a pitch and putt, a coppersmith and numerous other intricacies. It's a shining example of how a community can be centred on a manor house in the 21st century and the owner, Peter de Sausmarez, deserves credit for looking after one of the focal points of the island's history.

The manor is the perfect metaphor for Guernsey itself. The island holds a startling density of history and activity within its modest 25 square miles.



There are the remains of a Roman merchant vessel housed in a museum opposite Fort Grey, a Martello tower that houses the Shipwreck Museum, which tells the story of the many victims, both metal and flesh, of Guernsey's west coast. These two fascinating sites are a two-minute stroll away from one another and 20 minutes' walk further south is Pleinmont headland and observation tower MP3, a haunting reminder of wartime.

The Occupation is an unfortunate part of the island's history, but a vital one, and the tower and its surrounding tunnel system reek of a solemn brutality, both architectural and ideological, that demands calm reflection.

Perhaps the most impressive aspect of the island is the southern coastline. From Les Douvres, I ambled southwards for all of half an hour before arriving at the majestic Jerbourg Point, where it's possible to view most of the surrounding islands that form the Bailiwick of Guernsey, as well as Jersey and, on a clear day, France.

The best view is straight down, where your eyes rest on a coral-blue sea that looks far too exotic to be the

*Clockwise from top: Castle Cornet guards St Peter Port; Sausmarez Manor, where Robert De Niro lurks; the quirky Little Chapel of St Andrew. Facing page: The path goes ever on and on around the cliffs of Guernsey*

English Channel. Heading west, the coastal path is easy enough to follow, although challenging to walk at times, and the sights, sounds and salty seaside smells arrive one after the other, like a greatest-hits album. Cafes and restaurants are generously scattered throughout and you're never too far from a main road, so the best plan is to keep heading west until your legs can take no more. It's unlikely you'll walk more than 200 yards without tripping over a former Nazi bunker or installation (they're still causing trouble, some 60 years later), so there's plenty for an Occupation enthusiast here, too.

Guernsey is one of our archipelago's finest destinations, yet is somehow unsullied by the great British holiday-maker. It's far enough away that you can achieve the relaxation that comes with exotica, but close enough to home that the plugs and money are the same; a perfect hybrid for a weekend escape. You have no excuse not to visit.

*Hotel Les Douvres, from £80pp (01481 238731; [www.lesdouvres.com](http://www.lesdouvres.com)) Gill Girard, Guernsey Gold Accredited tour guide (07781 104094; <https://gillgirardtourguide.com>)*



Best buys

# Cream of the crop

Six of the finest houses on the Guernsey market



## ↑ St Saviour's, offers in excess of £1.5 million

For sale for the first time since its construction 160 years ago, Fort Richmond, which comes with two acres, offers its new owner a chance to make a mark in the pages of history. With a tranquil coastal setting, it has been granted permission for conversion to a private residence of five bedrooms with six bathrooms. *Cooper Brouard (01481 236039)*



## ↑ St Martin's, POA

Les Caches Hall dates from the 1700s and is reached via a long, brick-paved drive. Despite its age, it's been well kept and retains plenty of charm, including painted shutters, vaulted ceilings and woodburning stoves. There are five bedrooms, an indoor pool and a tennis court and the pretty landscaped gardens include a pond with a pergola in the centre. *Swoffers (01481 711766)*



## ↑ Castel, POA

In 25 acres and with all the delightful seclusion that that entails, Beaucamp De Haut is a grand, handsome country house that's on the market for the first time in 30 years. It features nine bedrooms, a swimming pool, a tennis court, a walled garden, a stable block, a barn and staff accommodation. *Knight Frank (020-7861 1065) and Swoffers (01481 711766)*

## → St Peter Port, £5.5 million

Tudor Revival, half-timbered and very pretty, La Petite Vallee occupies a sought-after spot on the south-facing valley slopes above Fermain Bay, just outside St Peter Port. It has seven bedrooms (including the annexe), ornate brick chimneys and a glorious ornamental two-acre garden that includes a Victorian-style greenhouse and a lagoon-like swimming pool surrounded by an overgrown cloister. *Martel Maides (01481 713463)*



## ← St Martin's, £4.5 million

With seven bedrooms and a staff flat, Le Vauquiedor Manor is 'recognised as one of the island's most attractive Georgian residences', say agents. Set on the outskirts of St Peter Port, the French influence is evident and the gardens, stretching to just over an acre, have been beautifully tended. *Cooper Brouard (01481 236039) and Swoffers (01481 711766)*

## → St Martin's, £5.25 million

The heart-meltingly beautiful views from contemporary Couin de Vacque are uninterrupted for 180°. From its perch on the south-coast cliffs, St Peter Port can be seen, as well as Alderney, Herm, Sark and the French coast and the ground floor's floor-to-ceiling windows opening onto the terrace and the heated swimming pool mean you can enjoy the view to the full. The house has five bedrooms and the garden has direct access to the cliff path. *Swoffers (01481 711766)*



*"Personal service at its best! The Quintessential team were brilliant, found us the perfect home, overseeing our furniture arrival when our ferry from the U.K. was delayed, provided lots of helpful info about Guernsey, and much more." Maria Lozano Garcia*

*"Having done in-depth orientation with you for a few days before our arrival, made the settling in, when we finally arrived in Guernsey, so much easier. I did not come with unrealistic expectations and knew what to expect from the start. Having been around the island thoroughly during orientation helped me to find my way with much more ease - I think this helped me hugely." CSS*

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# How to make a move

Some dream, others make it happen. Holly Kirkwood talks to two families who have relocated to Guernsey to see how they made it work

**D**ESPITE paying regular visits to Guernsey for years, it wasn't until Chloe Moakes had her own family that she considered living there herself. 'My parents moved to the island when I was 14,' she explains. 'I was at boarding school by then and went on to find work in London, so I'd never lived there, but when I married and had children, Guernsey seemed like the right place to bring them up.'

She and her husband, Nick, were looking to relocate from London and wanted to be mortgage-free. After many

years of dreaming about moving to Guernsey, when they saw the right property for sale, everything fell into place quickly. They put their four-bedroom terraced house in Fulham on the market at the end of last year and applied for school places immediately. 'The schools were so supportive,' Chloe explains. 'George is 10 and Beatrice is eight and it was a simple process to find them places at fantastic schools they adore.'

The family moved into their five-bedroom period property in St Peter Port a few months later—and they

*Above, from left: Winding down after a day sailing or swimming, in one of the island's many alfresco cafes; the beach of L'Ancrese Bay; enjoying a clifftop stroll*

**‘A favourite thing about the island is the way people treat each other with genuine courtesy’**

love it: 'It has everything we need, with lots of space, a beautiful garden and the location is brilliant,' says Chloe.

Chloe has found work locally, but Nick stayed in his London-based role in finance. This means combining working from home with a day or two on the mainland every week. Often, when Nick arrives for London meetings, Chloe says, he's actually had an easier commute than his clients.

Pat Johnson and his family had only been to Guernsey once, for a sailing holiday, when they decided they might want to live there permanently. They were living outside Lockerbie in 2004 and Pat was ready to retire. He sold his business and set about looking for somewhere to settle that would suit the whole family. 'Rory and Morgan were young—three and seven—so Liz and I wanted a place that could offer a good education and a great quality of life. We'd had such a wonderful time on that holiday, it made me think perhaps it was the place for us,' he explains.

'When you've been a workaholic for years, it can be difficult to adjust to retirement, so we wanted to get it right,' Pat continues. 'We visited the island three or four times and looked at quite a few houses before everything fell into place.'

In the end, they moved from their manse in the Scottish countryside to a large Georgian property in St Peter Port, which is very private, with a terrific two-acre garden and close to the action in town.

Since their relocation 14 years ago, the Johnsons haven't looked back. The children are now at university on the mainland, with an idyllic childhood of sailing, picnicking and beachcombing behind them, and Pat is chairman of Floral Guernsey and devoted to his garden.

One of his favourite things about the island is its sense of community and the way people treat each other with genuine courtesy. 'It's like going back to the old days,' he says.

*Courtesy of VisitGuernsey*

*iStock/Getty Images Plus; nobleimages/Alamy Stock Photo; Chris George Photography/VisitGuernsey*