

HOME

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AREA GUIDES | PROPERTY SEARCH | HOME & GARDEN | SHOP | OFFERS LUXURY

News | New homes | Affordable | Hot homes | Rentals | Holiday homes

Legal Q&A

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Dubrovnik and The Italian Lakes are second-home hotspots for British buyers

Holiday homes in the Italian Lakes - or across the coast in Dubrovnik - offer tranquil water views as well as a handsome rental return.

Cathy Hawker

Publish Date: 31 July 2015



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Blue heaven: homes on the banks of Lake Maggiore in Italy enjoy some of the most coveted views in Europe. Image: Rex

Most homes with views over water come with a hefty premium. For second-home hunters, a view of a lake, river or the sea can push up property prices by more than 30 per cent, even in already top-flight holiday destinations.

Here we check out two attractive holiday home locations that are near the water.

Dubrovnik, Croatia

Across the clear Adriatic Sea from Italy's east coast, South Dalmatia in Croatia offers good sea views backed by a dramatic landscape of vines and orange trees.

Sun Gardens is an established hotel and family-focused sporting resort 15 minutes from medieval Dubrovnik on a mile-long beach. It has a 201-room hotel and 207 apartments, with 18 restaurants and bars, tennis and squash courts, extensive gym and spa facilities, a climbing wall, football pitch and indoor pool.



From £163,000: one-and two-bedroom apartments set among shaded walkways on the Adriatic coast at Sun Gardens, Dubrovnik

The impressive resort has entered its final phase, selling 32 one- and two-bedroom apartments from £163,000. Annual service charges start from about £3,100 and the resort will manage rentals and maintenance.

"This is a hassle-free solution for buyers who want good family time in a safe and interesting location," says Julian Houchin of resort owners iO Adria.

"Owners come from 15 different countries and are receiving gross rental returns of about five per cent, helped by a successful conference business outside of the peak holiday season."