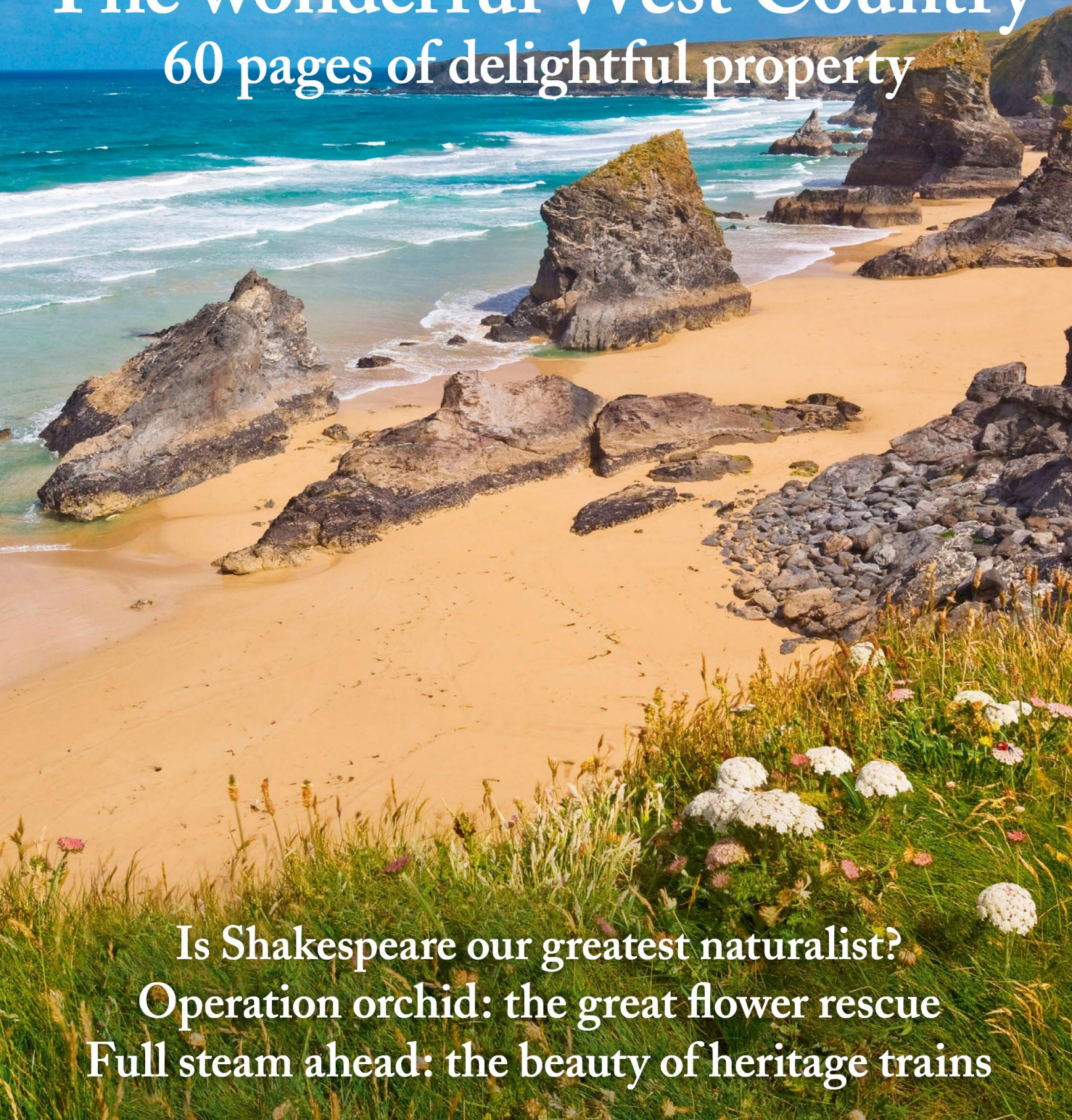


COUNTRY LIFE

EVERY WEEK

MAY 24, 2023

The wonderful West Country 60 pages of delightful property



Is Shakespeare our greatest naturalist?
Operation orchid: the great flower rescue
Full steam ahead: the beauty of heritage trains

Shared economy

The ideal of owning a home overseas can be quashed by mundane realities. From fractional opportunities to resort homes with shared facilities, Agnes Stamp finds alternatives

UNLESS fluent in the native tongue, organising builders in Portugal, making an emergency call to a plumber in Greece or navigating the French legal system can be exasperating, especially if the project management is being executed from a British base. Alternative ownership opportunities offer turn-key solutions to the hassle of property maintenance and are ideal for those without unlimited holiday time. Co-ownership (also referred to as fractional ownership) feels more like a personal investment in a home than a timeshare and can allow access to multiple international locations, perfect for those who can't commit to a specific country. For individuals who value a sense of community, safety, and a wealth of services in beautiful settings, resort ownership is an appealing alternative.



▲ Alcácer, Portugal, from €3.79 million (about £3.35m)
Only one hour from Lisbon and 15 minutes from the sleepy fishing villages of Melides and Comporta, Spatia Melides is a secluded 170-hectare (420-acre) estate with direct access to the sandy beaches of Pinheirinho. The spacious and airy three- and four-bedroom residences benefit from a 24-hour concierge, valet, maintenance, housekeeping and security service, as well as private pools, outdoor kitchens and fire pits. Shared five-star resort facilities include a hammam spa, sauna and steam room, a fully-equipped gym, pilates and yoga studio, indoor and outdoor pools. *Savills* (020-7409 8135; www.savills.com)



▲ Abruzzo, Italy, from €95,500 (about £84,500)
Situated in the medieval hill town of Casoli, with panoramic views of the Apennine Mountains and the Adriatic Sea, Palazzo Ricci is a fractional-ownership concept that resides in an exquisitely renovated 18th-century palace. Marrying the perks of staying at a hotel with home ownership, the fully-furnished one-, two- and three-bedroom residences enjoy 10,000sq ft of beautiful private gardens and an elegant outdoor pool. Inside, Roman baths, a games room, gym, spa and a bar keep residents entertained. *Palazzo Ricci* (00 39 348 724 5032; www.palazzoricci.club)



◀▲ Sgiacca, Sicily, from €2.39 million (about £2.18m)
Surrounded by 230 hectares (570 acres) of secluded olive groves in south-west Sicily, the open-plan three- and four-bedroom private villas of the Verdura Resort overlook the shimmering blue Mediterranean Sea. Each villa benefits from a fully-equipped kitchen, a 60sq m infinity pool, pergola-shaded terraces (which make perfect reading nooks) and full access to the shared five-star resort facilities, including spa, gym, beach, tennis courts, two championship golf courses, bars and restaurants and concierge assistance. *Knight Frank* (020-7861 1553; www.knightfrank.com)



▲ Algarve, Portugal, €20 million (about £17.7m)
Set on a vast 26,156sq ft plot with panoramic views of the Quinta do Lago lake and North Atlantic ocean, this fully-furnished, seven-bedroom, 10-bathroom modern villa benefits from spectacular facilities, including an indoor pool, 20m outdoor pool, private spa and fully-equipped gym. Residents can entertain in the glass wine cellar, cinema room and bar with indoor/outdoor living areas and enjoy access to the five-star Quinta do Lago resort facilities (located in the protected nature reserve of Ria Formosa), including the North, South and Laranjal golf courses and extensive multi-sports complex. (00 35 128 939 2754; www.quintadolago.com)



▲ Europe, €425,000 (about £376,000) for 1/17 share
Allowing access to not one, but four luxury homes with local charm, August's Signature Collection is a creative solution for roving Europhiles who enjoy year-round destination holidays. With residences in Mallorca, Chamonix, Tuscany and the south of France to pick from—each comfortably sleeping 8–10—this concept curates the best of city, rural and alpine living. *August Collection* (020-3973 9120; www.augustcollection.co.uk)

► Agios Nikolaos, Crete, from €700,000 (about £619,000)
Set into the dramatic hillside, each of the Elounda Hills residences enjoys unobstructed views of the Mirabello Bay and the Aegean Sea beyond. The 55-hectare (138-acre) resort aims to become the leading ultra-luxury, sustainable destination in the Mediterranean, encompassing optimised renewable energy sources, water and waste recycling, plastic-free zones, 'fish-to-fork' dining and colourful botanical gardens. The two-, three- and four-bedroom open-plan apartments enjoy a range of boutique marina perks, including seasonal mooring for superyachts, a private beach club, health and wellness centres, bustling restaurants and bars. *Elounda Hills* (00 30 698 045 5044; www.eloundahills.eu)