

COUNTRY LIFE

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Property news



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A year in France

From truffle-hunting in the oak forests of Périgord to lavender-gazing under the summer sun in the Lubéron via racing in Chantilly and Calvados-tasting in Normandy, there's a house for every season in France, says Arabella Youens



↑ **For sale** €3.923 million

A new development in the village of Marseillan on the edge of the Étang de Thau, a large saltwater lagoon, will be the first seafront vineyard resort in France. La Baraquette, named after the wooden shacks around the edge of the lagoon used by the oyster farmers, will comprise four- or five-bedroom seafront villas, two-bedroom apartments and patio villas, built around a walled courtyard. Prices range from €337,000 to €3.923 million. *Savills (020-7118 0077)*



March Blossom in the Languedoc

The Languedoc-Roussillon area borders the Pyrenees to the west and the Mediterranean to the east and is famously home to the Cathar castles and the World Heritage Site of Carcassonne. Sometimes known as the 'other South of France', a world away from the glitz and glamour of the Riviera, it's often cited as the area that the French would most like to retire to. The fishing villages around the lagoons can be very pretty, but the countryside inland is also captivating, especially in spring, when the area's almond trees bloom, covering the landscape with a blanket of fragrant white and pink.