

GOLF LIFE TRAVEL

SECOND HOME CLUBS

BUY OR INVEST AND THEN TRAVEL THE WORLD BY MARY WILSON

YOU MIGHT LIKE TO HOLIDAY In gorgeous, but different, locations around the world, but how can you guarantee that each property is of the same high quality you require? One way of ensuring this is to join an upmarket second home club – where you utilise your own asset (your holiday home) enabling you to travel around the world without paying hotel and villa rental rates.

3rd HOME is a private club for the owners of luxury second homes and has properties in over 70 countries including South America, Asia, the Caribbean, USA and Europe. Homes include those on wine estates and game reserves in South Africa complete with butler, apartments in Trump Tower in New York and a Bahamas property that was featured in a James Bond movie. The newest resorts to be added to the pot are Porto Montenegro in Tivat, Montenegro where there are waterfront apartments and penthouses, and Calacont in Ibiza, which has some of the island's rarely found beach-front properties.

The club is only open to second home owners, who can effectively deposit time in their second home to travel to and spend time in other people's homes. Unlike other swapping clubs the exchange does not have to be reciprocal and 3rd HOME covers the first \$3000 of damage to the owner's property should there be any accidents.

Each member's home is graded – based on location, sales value, proximity to

attractions such as a beach and amenities offered such as maid service, chef, access to restaurants, pools, sport facilities etc. This gives a property a key value which is multiplied by the number of weeks the property is made available and graded



according to peak/low season. Members are awarded their 'keys' as soon as they deposit the weeks they have available and the only money that changes hands is a reservation fee - from £255 to £640 per week depending on the number of 'keys' used. Extras such as chefs or drivers will cost more.

Marcus Vere, a musician and song writer, and his wife, Laetitia, own a thatched five bedroom holiday home in the Cotswolds. They have been a member of 3rd HOME since 2011 and have holidayed through the club in New York and the Caribbean. "We have three children and as a family, it makes a great deal of sense. You get more space and owners pass on useful knowledge" he says. They rent their cottage commercially as

well as making weeks available for 3rd HOME members.

Another option is to put your money into a lifestyle investment 'club' such as The Hideaways Club or Rocksure. This enables you to invest in a portfolio of properties, rather than a single overseas property. Both clubs use a points systems for members to use their luxury, fully maintained, homes spread around the world, and members receive a certain number of points each year based on their investment or membership level. Investors can choose between villa funds or city apartment funds and the main difference between the two is The Hideaways Club's funds are open ended and at Rocksure the funds have a pre-determined lifetime of 7-10 years.



John and Sheena Quinn, who live in Hampshire, purchased a share in the Rocksure Bravo fund in 2010 for £189,000 and then a share in its Capital fund for £94,000 the following year. "We liked the

idea because the company has great destinations that we would be happy to visit more than once and it would make us take holidays. Over the last four years we have had more holidays than ever before. I also liked the tax efficient nature of the funds. Instead of receiving taxed dividends we enjoy tax free accommodation". The couple have enjoyed holidays in Thailand, Croatia and Portugal and several short city centre trips.



An investment in Rocksure's Capital fund, which offers a selection of two bedroom apartments and townhouses in a variety of Europe's cities, could cost as little as £45,000 for one to two weeks a year. Or, for a £115,000 investment in its Crystal Villa Fund, you could stay in a family villa in different locations around the world for two to three weeks a year.

With The Hideaways Club, which has more properties to choose from, the Classic Collection entry level prices start with a Lifestyle Associate membership at £88,000. For the City Collection, entry level price for an Associate membership starts at £69,500. Both funds charge annual fees.

For more information visit:
www.3rdhome.com / www.rocksure.com
or www.thehideawaysclub.com