



# Beguiling Begur

Stone walls and pastel houses, secluded coves and emerald hills, plus a city stuffed with history – enjoy the Cap de Begur

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY VERNON BOYD GRANT

*Spanish Homes sample page*



Boat owners enjoy travelling along the craggy coast



Spanish Homes Sample Page



The charming town of Begur is surrounded by tree-carpeted hills



Houses here are often built of the warm-toned local stone

EXPERT OPINION

# Cap de Begur *Questions*

Marc Rewinkel and Adrian McGinley operate the A&M agency based in the seaside town of Calella



**What is the current state of the housing market in your area?**

**AM:** The Baix Empordà is hot. There are a lot of people who want a place in Barcelona's playground. You can compare this area with Tuscany in Italy – which explains why it's not the cheapest place to buy. It is, though, less expensive than Tuscany!

**Has there been an increase in demand for properties in your area in recent months?**

**MR:** Absolutely. More people are escaping from city life to the quiet areas. Last year we sold more houses to people from Barcelona.

**Do many British people buy property in this part of Spain?**

**AM:** We're seeing more people who fly from Girona with Ryanair to London for a week, and live here the rest of the time. I would say this area is comprised of 70 per cent Catalans, ten per cent British, ten per cent Dutch and ten per cent from elsewhere.

**What do British buyers want?**

**AM:** All sorts of things. We sold a castle in the countryside to some British and a week later a little flat on the beach to some others. That is the beauty of it. There truly is a property for every taste and price.

**Begur is not that well known by British buyers. What are the attractions of the place?**

**AM:** It is near some of the most beautiful bays on the Costa Brava. In the centre of the town there is something to do all year. Begur stays alive out of high season.

**What other factors tempt British buyers to your area?**

**AM:** Golf courses, beautiful beaches and great food. Don't forget that the best restaurant in the world, El Bulli, is only 40

kilometres away and that this area has more Michelin stars than the whole of London. We are only one hour away from Barcelona, quite possibly the most exciting city in the world.

**What price would someone have to pay for a flat within walking distance of a beach?**

**MR:** A good quality two-bedroom apartment at Playa de Pals would cost approximately €200,000. In Calella, where our offices are based, a similar property would be €300,000.

**In your experience, are British buyers made welcome here in Catalonia?**

**MR:** Catalans are very friendly but you must adapt and they love it if you learn to speak Catalan. Failing that they would rather you speak English than Spanish. They are proud of being Catalan and they are firm believers in hard work.

**What are the top three reasons for living in northern Catalonia?**

**MR:** That's easy. Wine, food and the quality of life – in that order!

**Finally, what advice would you offer a potential British buyer who is interested in buying in your region?**

**AM:** Forget about the way everything is done in Britain. Local planning laws and government work differently here. Get good advice from those who have bought here and those who know the rules and regulations.