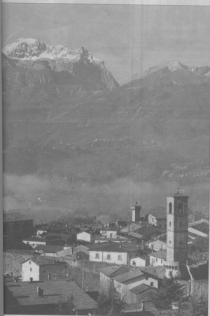


Another Tuscany

Garfagnana throws up some surprising property bargains. By Graham



by Charles McDonald, a former Royal Bank of Scotland director who now divides his time between Glasgow and Garfagnana. Valued at €645,000, it is a 3,000 sq ft, four-bedroom rustic farmhouse dating back 200 years but now restored. Some beams and floors have been replaced with local chestnut wood and it has permission for a swimming pool in its seven acres.

McDonald uses the land to the full already, making preserves from home-grown fruit and producing 200 bottles of Nebbiolo and Pinot Grigio from his vines each year. Even his cypress trees provide enough wood for the stoves during winter. Those less inclined to work on the land could simply look around and marvel. To one side are the marble Apennine Alps; to the other are the Apennines.

"I chose this house for two simple reasons — its uniqueness and its views. There are no identical new homes in nearby parks next to golf courses in the Garfagnana. You're not surrounded by ex-pats from other countries, so as soon as you buy you're part of

idge of Vercelli, on the edge of Lucca, is on sale for €10m through Aynsford International. But the region has something for everyone.

"This is an area of Tuscany where you can find a property to restore for under €100,000," says Linda Travella of Casa Travella, a UK-based estate agency specialising in Italian holiday homes. She acknowledges that "these are few and far between" but says there is still much on offer for less than €500,000.

Not far from Vercelli is Casa Debbia, owned

Garfagnana
Glorious mountain scenery, simple unspoilt hill towns and surprisingly good value properties

Photography

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