

AIM FOR THE SKIES

First-class travel with first-class residences

Words: Cheryl Markosky

Private helicopter pads are outclassing airstrips these days. As helicopter pads require less space and less cost, they're becoming more popular than land-hungry airfields for UHNW property owners.

"They're an absolute must for a house this size and at this price," declares Quada's Richard Bellman, who's supplying a helicopter landing zone with his upper-scale, £30m Berkshire estate.

Home Hunts' Tim Swannie says hedge fund owners like to fly by helicopter direct to their villas in the south of France,

"particularly when there's heavy traffic during the busy season".

Daniela Sprea in Sotheby's International Realty's Florence office is selling a Tuscan olive estate with its own helicopter pad. She says that unusually, there are no time restrictions, "as it's not something used all that often compared to a hotel".

Like most of his clients, Farhad Vladi of Vladi Private Islands travels by private jet and then helicopter to his New Zealand island. "Airstrips can prove difficult, because of maintenance, security and weather issues, while helicopter pilots can

easily see and monitor where they land," he explains.

Sphere Estates' Rob Green says that one client buying a chalet with helipad in Verbier is proud of the fact that "since starting his business, now worth billions, he's never borrowed anything and owns things outright – even if it doesn't always make financial sense."

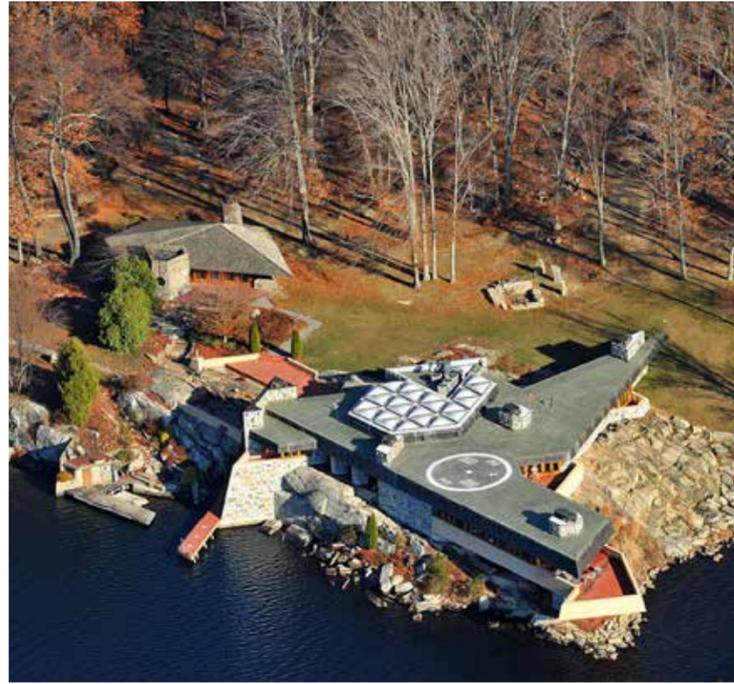
And while "no one says they won't buy a beautiful house if there isn't an airstrip or helicopter pad – it certainly makes it more exclusive if there is one", adds Anthony Lassman of Nota Bene Global. »



Petra Island, US

Only 15 minutes from the skyscrapers of Manhattan, touch down on the rooftop helicopter pad of this Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house on a private island in the middle of New York State's Lake Mahopac. There are also two guesthouses, a teahouse and dock set in 11 secluded acres.

\$14.9m (£10.5m)
vladi-private-islands.de



Grosseto, Italy

You'll never run out of olive oil on your own Tuscan olive grove estate, comprised of nine bedrooms, eight Carrara marble bathrooms, fitness area, home cinema and private helipad between the modern, principal residence and caretaker's house.

£5.2m (£4.5m)
sothebysrealty.com



Nandana, Bahamas

Hit the 6,000-foot runway and clear customs at your own airport at Nandana, which means 'Paradise' in Sanskrit. You can also reach the Asian-inspired beachfront estate on Grand Bahama Island in a yacht of up to 115 feet at the private dock. »

\$14.9m (£10.5m)
srbahamas.com



“ HIT THE 6,000-FOOT RUNWAY AND CLEAR CUSTOMS AT YOUR OWN AIRPORT AT NANDANA ”



PROPERTY



**Domaine de Provence,
France**

Garbo-like solitude on a Saint-Jean estate with three five-bed villas, two-bed guesthouse and accommodation for six staff. Resting in 75-acres of olive groves, lavender fields and meadows, extras include a fitness trail, tennis court, three heated pools, spa and helipad to whisk you over to Cannes' La Croisette in two minutes.

€53m (£46.4m)
spherestates.com



Harford Manor, UK

Be the king of your castle on a contemporary, 40-acre estate near Windsor that redefines the English country house. As well as six bedrooms with marble bathrooms, two kitchens, a spa with 12-metre pool and a 1,000-bottle wine cellar, there's a private helicopter landing area. 📍

£30m
quada.co.uk

