

For immediate release

19th May 2009

Leading property website reveals Portugal's popularity among buyers

Statistics from the UK's fastest growing property portal have revealed that Portugal has overtaken France to become the second most popular location for overseas property purchases, second only to Spain.

Figures released today by Propertyindex.com show that between the start of January and the end of April this year, the word 'Portugal' featured in 17% more searches made on the website compared to the word 'France'.

The property portal's statistics for April also revealed an increase of over 90% in the number of buyer enquiries made into property for sale in Portugal compared to the same month last year, while enquiries into property in France fell by over 16% last month compared to April 2008.

"Our data shows that Spain is still holding onto the top spot but it's interesting to see that Portugal has overtaken France in the popularity stakes," comments Lee Bramzell, the CEO of PropertyIndex.com.

"Portugal certainly appears to be growing in popularity - our figures show that between February and March alone this year, the amount of enquiries into property for sale in Portugal shot up by almost 60%.

"Of course Portugal appeals to buyers on many levels; there's the favourable climate, range of golf courses, close proximity to the UK, low cost flights, friendly locals and the potential for rental returns on the back of the country's tourism industry."

The planned expansion of Faro airport in the Algarve which will enable the airport to operate an extra eight flights every hour and accommodate two million more passengers by 2013 has also been positive news for Portugal's buy-to-let property sector.

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Among those who have already purchased property in Portugal is the Manchester United and Portugal footballer Cristiano Ronaldo who reportedly spent £8 million in February this year on a hotel overlooking the sea on Porto Santo - an island near his native Madeira.

The famous winger already owns a villa and a flat near Portugal's capital city of Lisbon, and has invested in boutiques for his sister and purchased a house in Madeira for his mother. He is also set to build a £6.1m home in Portugal.

"Our latest figures clearly show that it's not just the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo who are being drawn to Portugal's property market; buyers are being won over in increasing numbers. It'll be interesting to see whether this trend continues over the year, and whether Portugal can overtake Spain in the popularity stakes," adds Mr. Bramzell.

PropertyIndex.com currently features a wide selection of holiday rentals, as well as over 7,000 properties for sale in Portugal, ranging from two bedroom homes priced at €16,500, through to five bedroom luxury villas costing €1,500,000.

To search or enquire about property for sale and/or rent in Portugal, in the UK, or anywhere else in the world, visit www.propertyindex.com

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Notes to Editors

Launched in 2007, PropertyIndex.com is the UK's leading *pay for results* global property portal.

The site currently provides access to 250,000 properties for sale or rent across the UK and overseas, serving over 1,300,000 listings views in January 2009 alone. There is no sign up fee and agents listing their properties on the site pay on a cost per lead basis only.

After becoming established as the leading overseas property portal, PropertyIndex.com launched into the UK residential sales and letting arena in September 2008.

The portal also acts as an information centre, providing a one-stop solution for consumers looking to buy, sell, rent or let their home anywhere in the world.

www.propertyindex.com

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