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Carate Urio, Lake Como

With lake frontage, this stylish apartment is in a beautifully renovated period villa within easy reach of all three Milan airports. There's even the chance that you could bump into George Clooney who owns a property nearby! It has a large living room with dining area, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathrooms, a study, playroom, dressing room with walk in wardrobe and two balconies. Fitness fanatics will also be pleased to know that there is also the possibility of buying into a swimming pool and gym.

CONTACT

Price: £930,000 (€1,350,000)
Casa Travella: +44 (0)1322 660988

Viva in Moda Diverso

In English, this means 'live in a different way' and Jill Keene suggests that's exactly what a pre-renovated palazzo or a ruin ripe for restoration can offer – opportunity for change

Everyone has his or her own clear picture of what constitutes a dream home. Sometimes you can be fortunate enough to find exactly what you're looking for and move in immediately. At other times a little patience has to be exercised, either to broaden your search or find a property in need of modernisation and restoration that can be tailor made to match your ideal.

Established in 2001 by three British property entrepreneurs, Monteverdi offers bespoke private developments in Central Italy. The company involves its clients in the restoration process from start to finish in order to provide a property that

meets their exact needs, with prices starting at £850,000 (€1,235,399).

Recent research carried out by Monteverdi highlighted that most of the stress felt during any international development was caused by the fact that the client felt 'out of touch' with what was going on at the site on a day-to-day basis. This concern has been addressed by the company creating its ground breaking MonteverdiClient website. It has been designed to provide each client with a 'real-time' record of the proposed and subsequent completed work, as it happens, ensuring that the client feels empowered throughout the process. This interactive

website allows clients to liaise with the team and sign off on key decisions regardless of their location – whether on their yacht in the Caribbean or on 5th Avenue in New York. Monteverdi's current property portfolio includes the historic 12th century Castello di

Fiume, Aiola (featured below) and Rimbocca – all set in the most stunning of Tuscan and Umbrian scenery.

The company's design approach is driven by the needs and tastes of their buyers, sometimes blending the contemporary with the traditional

for customers ranging from some of the world's leading entrepreneurs to international barristers. Highly skilled Italian stone masons are selected to restore the structure of each property to ensure authenticity and sympathy with the local environment and planning regulations.



Here's one we prepared earlier

Aiola, Near Lisciano Niccone

An outstanding property looking down over the meadows of Pian di Marte and surrounded by pasture land, umbrella pines and cypress trees. It has breathtaking views of the majestic Castello di Fiume and its own mature olive and vine groves. The property is steeped in history and part of its ancient drive is even detailed on medieval Vatican maps. The proposed renovation scheme will include four en suite bedrooms, two living rooms, a study, dining room, two kitchens, larder, laundry and double height hall. Two loggias will extend the house into the garden and an infinity pool will be positioned to take in the valley views. Combining both traditional and modern features, it will have stone fireplaces, contemporary bathroom and kitchen fittings, underfloor heating, satellite links and high speed internet access.

CONTACT

Price: £1,272,011 (€1.85 million)
Monteverdi Estates: +44 (0)20 7661 9342



Martinozza di Sopra is an elegantly proportioned property that has been fully restored by Monteverdi to the client's exact requirements. It has four en suite bedrooms, a living room, study, dining room, kitchen, larder and laundry. The master bedroom has its own

private dressing room and terrace and the house extends out into the garden with a loggia for al fresco dining.

Although the exterior has been restored to its former traditional glory, the interior has every form of modern convenience such as underfloor heating, broadband internet access, satellite links and the latest in flat screen and hi-fi technology. However, a thorough renovation doesn't end with the actual building. The existing pasture and woodland around the property has also been sympathetically restored and an infinity pool with views across the Pian di Marte and Val di Rosa has been strategically placed within the grounds.



CONTACT

Total cost: £1,031,808 (€1.5 million)
Monteverdi Estates: +44 (0)20 7661 9342