

Doors To Vacation Rental Homes Open Wider

(NAPS)—There's a new trend in vacations today—and that is staying home—in a vacation home rental, that is.

Many people love to travel but prefer the comforts of home instead of staying in hotels or motels. The trend is catching on and people are taking advantage of this. More families are traveling together than ever before; and baby boomer reunions, family get-togethers are increasingly being held in rental homes.

A growing number of travelers, especially second and third time visitors to Europe, are choosing to live "like natives" in exotic locales throughout "the continent."

"European vacation rentals are a very economical alternative to hotels for adventurous vacationers from the U.S. who want to experience the 'Old World' in a more intimate way," notes Tony Haeusler, North American president of Interhome, Europe's leader in vacation home rentals for the past three decades. "Our annual bookings nearly doubled since 1998—a clear indication that European vacation rentals are becoming increasingly popular among Americans traveling to Europe."

Because they are not bound by hotel meal plans, Interhome property guests can get the full benefit of the local culture by frequenting the village market for bread, fruits, vegetables and more, to be enjoyed in the privacy of their own home. Interhome's vacation consultants can even arrange for a cook to prepare meals and daily maid service to tidy up the house and make the beds.

The money-saving factor is another reason travelers are renting homes in chosen vacation spots. For example, an apartment for two to four people in a newly restored castle in the Chianti Classico region costs approxi-



Renting a vacation home in Europe is an opportunity to see the Old World in a new way.

mately \$1,200—or less than \$175 per day—to rent for one week during the summer or fall seasons.

Those who log onto the Interhome Web site can check prices and availability and book online from the comfort of their own home. Travelers can choose from more than 19,000 vacation villas, chalets, farmhouses, apartments and even castles and book online in real-time. The site also offers users the opportunity to take advantage of the current strength of the U.S. dollar in Europe by locking in a favorable exchange rate when they book.

Interhome, Inc. is a Swiss-based company with 19,000 properties in 16 countries, now including new destinations in Portugal and Ireland. The company reported \$100 million in sales for fiscal 1999. In 1998, the company acquired Solemar, a well-established specialist in Italian country homes, gaining more than 1,000 additional exclusive properties throughout Tuscany and Umbria, as well as various regions of Italy. Interhome is a member of the Hotelplan International Group, one of Europe's 10 largest tour operators.

For more information or to order a free catalog, go to www.interhome.com or call 1-800-882-6864.