LUXURY RESIDENTIAL MARKET INSIGHT MONACO Knight Frank

"Monaco was not immune from the credit crunch. But as 2010 progressed, a healthier property market emerged."

Where do buyers in Monaco come from?



UK	22%
Italy	20%
Other Europe/Eurozone	45%
Russia & CIS	5%
Asia	3%
Rest of the World	5%

Source: Knight Frank Residential Research

Market overview

The glamorous lifestyle Monaco affords its residents, coupled with its favourable tax regime, place it firmly at the top of the wish list for many of the world's wealthiest people. And current indicators show early signs of a return to health in the market.

Monaco felt the impact of the credit crunch later than most of its European counterparts and this time-lag is also evident in its recovery. While London benefited from the weak pound making property more attractive to international buyers, the comparatively strong euro has, until recently, restricted demand in Monaco.

But asking prices did not fall significantly in the sovereign city-state. This could be attributed, in part, to the fact that many potential sellers feel less pressure to sell.

There is a particular shortage of very high-quality new-build properties. Indeed, if a high-spec development were to come to the market soon, it would be very well-received.

The Port and Monte Carlo remain the most exclusive prime residential areas, and prices can vary. In the Carré d'Or area, for example, a three-bedroom apartment can range in size from 200 sq m to 400 sq m and the price can vary from $\leq 25,000/sq$ m to $\leq 60,000/sq$ m. But there is also a market for smaller, relatively basic properties here.

Larvotto, which sits at the foot of Avenue Des Spelugues – part of the world-famous Monaco F1 Grand Prix race track – is also highly sought-after. A duplex penthouse with a private pool on Avenue Princesse Grace was recently sold at €50,000/sq m.

In the west of Monaco, on the border with France's Cap-d'Ail, resides Fontvieille, where reclaimed land has provided much-needed extra space. Fontvieille also offers some other advantages over the more exclusive parts of Monaco – families in particular benefit from having a large park and those looking to get more for their money may be pleasantly surprised. A three-bedroom property with approximately 250 sq m could command around €6.5m in the current market. Luxurious properties facing the port of Cap d'Ail can sell for significantly more.

No.23 Boulevard de Belgique

Knight Frank and Pieter van Naeltwijck Real Estate Investments have been instructed to sell Monaco's newest residential development. No.23 Boulevard de Belgique is a new Belle Epoque-style building with design influences by Jacques Garcia. Of the 21 apartments, eight have already been sold. Asking prices start at €5.35m.



Paul Humphreys International Residential Department, Knight Frank

Expert insight

With its unparalleled situation nestled within the south-eastern corner of France and just 30 minutes from the Italian border, the Principality of Monaco continues to offer its residents a worldclass lifestyle.

The quality of life is perennially attractive: the annual Grand Prix, Monaco Yacht Show and Monte Carlo Masters Tennis are all calendar highlights, where luxury and leisure mix. Combined with its low-tax environment, economic stability and sophisticated city culture, Monaco firmly retains its international appeal.

The effects of the credit crunch were felt globally, and Monaco was not immune. However, as 2010 progressed, a healthier property market emerged, with the early signs of sales volumes starting to reflect returning confidence. Buyers are once again entering the market, albeit in a considered and welladvised manner, and recent transaction volume has recorded a small increase. Equally, vendors appreciate that correct pricing is a vital component in a successful marketing strategy for 2011/12.

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