

BUYING YOUR own castle might be a pipe dream, so why not club together with friends and rent one instead?

LUXURIOUS LOIRE

TRY this mini-Versailles. The 17th-century French chateau has 52 acres of deer-filled parkland to frolic in and a private fishing pond — you can fish for a small fee.

INSIDER TIP: Spend an afternoon exploring the vineyards of Menetou-Salon and Pouilly around Sancerre, a 35-minute drive from the chateau.

DETAILS: Chateau Seiguier sleeps 12 and costs from £1,726 for a week's stay and from £863 for a two-night stay, *oliverstravels.com*

CASTELLATED CROATIA

THIS magical 15th-century castle is a 20-minute drive from Dubrovnik's Old Town, in coastal Zaton. There's a chapel in the garden, a pool, bar area and plenty of wonderful spots to dine outside.

INSIDER TIP: Take to your roof terrace with an aperitif.

DETAILS: Castle Voda sleeps 12 and costs from £10,681 per week (approx. £890 per person) including maid and butler service, akvillas.com

TUSCAN TREASURE

CASTELLO di Tizzano was once home to the noble Pandolfini family. Now, you can holiday here with your family and friends in grand style. There's an infinity pool, terrace and a jasmine-scented garden.

INSIDER TIP: It is only 30 minutes to Florence and the Uffizi, one of the world's finest art galleries.

DETAILS: Castello di Tizzano can sleep up to 18 and costs from £7,999 for a week's stay (approx. £445 per person) including maid and an arrival dinner, tuscanynowandmore.com

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