

Four Seasons Private Residences, Seychelles

# Golf International

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**G BUSINESS**

**PROPERTY ABROAD ROUND-UP**

**007 BOND TOP SECRET PROPERTY**

## Safe houses in the sun

**THE BAHAMAS**  
 The elegantly understated Albany House on New Providence Island where M debriefed you in *Casino Royale* is now at the heart of a new luxury development. Albany is backed by Tiger Woods, Ernie Els and the Tavistock group, who already own one of the best country clubs in America: Lake Nona and Isleworth in Florida. Due for completion in 2010, the 565-acre oceanfront resort is seven minutes from Nassau International airport and will have a boutique hotel, spa, mega-yacht marina, which can take 250-foot floating yachts, palaces, and 350 residential units ranging from beachfront apartments to Scarsdale-style five-bed villas. The big sales launch is starting this Christmas, but 85 properties priced between £2.5m and £25m have already been sold. With five par threes and five fives, Els is designing the 7,400-yard course, complete with first-class practice facilities and elegant clubhouse, for those post-game martinis. The shops, restaurants and beaches should keep the next Bond girl

*Memo from 007 to Moneypenny:* Take time off from a *Quantum of Solace* to find me a safe house to hole up in between assignments – discreet, stylish and with a good course for pre-prandial play  
*Moneypenny to 007:* James, after talking to Gi's property man, Peter Swain, here are some ideas – you know some of the locations already





happy for days. Like you, 007, Albany combines classic style and innovation, with just a dash of adventure. For details, [www.lighthousefranklin.co.uk/international](http://www.lighthousefranklin.co.uk/international)

**THAILAND**  
 Your heroics off the coast of Phuket in *The Man with the Golden Gun* made quite a splash – one of the tall, erect limestone rocks thrusting out of Phang Nga Bay is now called James Bond Island. Overlooking the very same stretch of water, The Yama will have a chic 69-room hotel and two villa developments. The 15

Philippe Starck-designed Club Villas, ready in November 2009, are very agent provocative: television sets rising out of bed ends, the bathtub in the bedroom, 24-hour butler service, and infinity pools on large terraces with uninterrupted views of the ocean. There is a wine and cigar room for you, and a chocolate room for me. Imagine!

The £1.25m price tag may look steep on your pay scale, but if you only use your getaway 45 days a year, you earn 45% of the gross rental on the other 320 days. There are six courses on Phuket – the two best are at Blue Canyon, one of the finest set-ups in Asia. Heavily bunkered, with water in play

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on 27 of the 36 holes, your biggest challenge, James, is the 450 caddies. They are all women, [www.theyama.com](http://www.theyama.com)

**CHAMONIX**

When you were dicing with death on the Chamonix ski slopes during the filming *The World is not Enough*, you probably weren't thinking about the French Alps as a perfect summer and winter sports destination. As well as world class off-piste skiing and rock climbing, Chamonix has a 6,645-yard Robert Treu Jones Sr. course with views of Mont Blanc.

Relatively flat for an alpine course, well-placed bunkers and water hazards provide a challenge even for a nine-handicapper like you. For something cheerful and relatively cheap, the fully furnished apartments in Les Terrasses de Verer in nearby Flaine give you five weeks usage a year if you join their rental scheme, which hopefully pays off a chunk of your investment. At £128,000, even an M16 underling could afford a one-bed apartment.

The next Electra King, though, might feel more at home in the upmarket Les Chalets de Belvoir in Combloux just down the road from nice Megeve. Less than an hour from Geneva airport, with a luxury spa, casino and Michelin-starred cuisine close by, the six exclusive chalets have indoor pools and private cinemas, good for reviewing past assignments. With either four or five bedrooms, the chalets are priced from £2.1m. For more information - [www.alpinchomesintl.com](http://www.alpinchomesintl.com)

**THE KEYS**

During the war, your alter ego, Ian Fleming, liked the Casino in Estoril, but the best Portuguese courses are down in the Algarve. With its rauc, angular design, the innovative Key development at Quinta do Lago is just perfect for you. The villas at Key Lago each

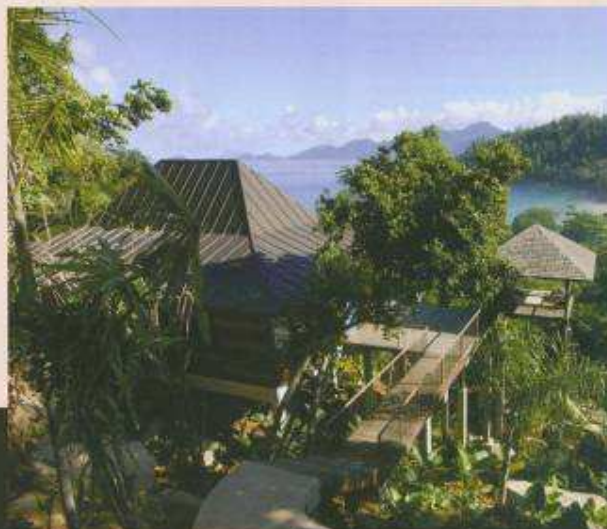
have their own private roof garden complete with bar, infinity pool to relax in after missions, hot tub and electric-canopy-topped rooftop bedroom where you can siesta, sleep or do whatever with whoever, under the stars, in perfect privacy. Q has installed hidden keyhole security cameras that can be programmed to take and email pictures so you can track intruders or staff within 20 seconds of their entering the premises.

A bespoke concierge service caters for all tastes, even yours. Prices start at £784,000, but these are the last properties being built at Quinta do Lago, so M thinks they're a good investment. Membership of the exclusive golf club and play on its two championship courses is guaranteed. Pinheiros Altos as well as Vale do Lobo and Vilamoura are only a short DB5 drive away. For more details, go to [www.thekeysatquinta.com](http://www.thekeysatquinta.com)

**SEYCHELLES**

Ian Fleming also stayed on Mahé in 1958, and featured the Indian Ocean island in *For Your Eyes Only*. The Four Seasons Private Residences, 28 individually designed villas on the southwest side of Mahé at Petite Anse, would give a Special Agent secluded luxury - a quantum of solace, you might almost say.

Perched up on the granite landscape above a sheltered bay, where you can clearly eyeball an approaching Elliott Carver-style stealth ship, each property has spacious terraces and large verandas that open onto wide decks, framing infinity pools. The bedroom suites should appeal to you, James - for extra privacy, they are set apart from the main living area and from each other. If you need some outdoor exercise, the resort hotel can arrange snorkelling, sailing and deep-sea fishing excursions, as well as fine dining. It also has a heli-



(Clockwise from far left) You'll recognise this view as the setting for Scaranungui's hideaway in *The Man with the Golden Gun*; Tiger Woods and Ernie Els are among the investors in Albany House, due to open in 2006; Les Chalets de Belvoir, less than an hour from Geneva airport, may well be the ultimate address in the French Alps



(Above) The Four Seasons Private Residences on the Indian Ocean island of Mahé (featured in the film *For Your Eyes Only*) offer spacious terraces and total privacy (Left) With many of Portugal's finest golf courses in the Algarve, The Keys at Quinta do Lago are especially appealing. The villas at Key Lago each have their own private roof terrace, complete with infinity pool

**G BUSINESS**

## ROUND-UP



(Above) The Pacific Ocean-side course at La Serena, 300 miles north of Santiago, is world class, and apartments start at €85,000 for a two-bed.

(Left) A fractional ownership scheme at the Reef's Club, Bermuda, will buy you a tenth share and five weeks' annual usage from £38,000.

(Below) The Colony at Half Moon Bay is a prime beachfront development on Fleming's adapted island of Jamaica. There's great golf at the White Witch and Cinnamon Hill.

pod to which you over to the Lemuria Resort at Praslin, 20 minutes away, where the front nine of the 6,112-yard, par-70 course winds through an ocean-side, coconut plantation. Pure indulgence has a price, £4.5m per residence to be precise, but remember, you only live once. [www.seychellesresidences.com](http://www.seychellesresidences.com)

### CHILE

The desert demount in *Quantum of Solace*, supposedly in Bolivia, was actually filmed at the Astronomical Research centre in northern Chile. Your biggest mistake, 007, was not to take your clubs. The Pacific Ocean-side USGA spec course at La Serena, a 50-minute flight 300 miles north of Santiago, is world class. The 7,097-yard links, designed by the American architect Kelly Blake Moran, plays all year round with temperatures up to 25°C in summer (October to March) and 10°C in winter (May to September).

Spread over 500 hectares with five miles of pristine beach, there are currently 22 apartment buildings with 234 apartments, and even a civil servant like you can afford to buy here. Prices start at just €85,000 for a two-bed flat, rather less than the Aston Martin DBS you wrecked in the opening scene. You like anonymity, so mixing with American, Canadian and Australian buyers shouldn't be a problem. [www.laseras.com](http://www.laseras.com)

### BERMUDA

British history, American money and the spectre of piracy make this Commonwealth tax haven in the Atlantic ideal for a golfing and like you seeking a low-profile. Bermuda's Mid-Ocean Golf Club features in the original *Quantum of Solace* short story, and with eight other good courses, the island has impeccable 007 credentials. Designed by Charles Blair Macdonald and revised by Robert Trent Jones Sr., the



Mid-Ocean may only be 6,548 yards long, but a slope rating of 135 suggests a stiff challenge even for a mid handicap bandit. Property ownership on the island is difficult for non-residents, but developments like the elegant oceanfront Reef Club use a fractional scheme to bypass the problem. £178,000 gets you a tenth share of a two-bedroom residence, £208,000 the same for a three-bedroom one. For that, the busy executive or recovering spook gets five weeks usage a year and extra free nights subject to availability, with preferential rates at the Mid-Ocean and other courses currently being negotiated. You can also use the hotel's three gourmet restaurants, bar, tennis court, fitness centre and spa, not to mention the rooftop putting green. [www.thereefclub.com](http://www.thereefclub.com)

### JAMAICA

Your life, James, started in Jamaica at Goldeneye. Fleming wrote all 14 books detailing your exploits at his Caribbean retreat, where he stayed every year between

January and March. The island also featured in two of your cinematic assignments *Live and Let Die* and *Dr No*, in which Jamaican shell diver Honey Rider, AKC Ursula Andrews, made such an impression on you, and the rest of us.

To rekindle romance with her and any other old flames, a villa in The Colony at Half Moon, a prime oceanfront site at Rose Hill near Monnegro Bay due to open in 2010, would be perfect. The Robert Trent Jones-designed 7,119-yard Half Moon Golf Course is at the heart of Caribbean World Magazine's Best Caribbean Golf Resort.

You gain automatic membership of the club when you buy, as well as certain playing rights at nearby Cinnamon Hill and White Witch. Starting at £1.5m, the three four- or five-bedroom villas might just provide the elegant luxury, sporting facilities and security you need to hang up the Walther PPK for good.

For further details, you can go and visit [www.thecolonyathalfmoon.com](http://www.thecolonyathalfmoon.com)