ANYONE FOR VENICE?

What happened when Milan's most fashionable design house was allowed to reinvent a 15th-century palazzo in the heart of Venice? The answer is the Palazzo Molin del Cordier, near the Bacaroli and Fusari Canali, whose listed façade conceals 18 prestigious apartments designed by Cukli. All have serene, contemporary interiors that enhance the original architectural features. A central lobby opens onto a lush, secret courtyard with a water feature, while a viewing deck on the top floor of the Palazzo overlooks the fabulously built and waterways of the city. Prices start from £750,000 for a ground-floor apartment.

For more details, please contact Victor Satchwell Reality on 020 39 641 522 001 (or by emailing sales@veniceproperty.com). Visit www.veniceproperty.com.

Heaven sent

The White Angel on Briza is not the Balinese island's latest club night but a gorgeous and affordable new development right in the heart of Bali Town, with exciting rental opportunities. Within easy reach of the marina and nightlife area such as Pacha, as well as secluded beaches and quiet fishing villages, the White Angel comprises 67 two- and three-bedroom apartments, all designed with cool, minimal decor and hi-tech kitchens. Owners will also enjoy access to the communal gardens, pool and roof-top lounge, as well as a concierge service. Completion is expected in spring 2014: at the moment, prices start at £670,000. Contact Smith on 020 7015 3740; www.smith.co.uk (internationally); www.dev.intergetto.com

To the manor reborn

"The sturdy houses of England, how beautiful they stand, to prove the upper classes, how blithely they have built," said Niel Coward in 1929. Think of an English country house and what usually comes to mind is a neoclassical mansion with a front drive as long as its history and gardens landscaped by Capability Brown. Something straight out of Brideshead Revisited, perhaps, or Downton Abbey. But there are modern country houses, too, which combine the classical tradition in an modern idiom, such as Woodfall Hall in Staffordshire, or reinvent the idea completely.

For many years, new luxury developments in prime central London have commanded a substantial premium of as much as £3,000 per square foot over the very best period housing stock. Historically, in the country the norm has been true: an original Georgian country house with the perfect setting has outshone the finest modern interpretation. But the times are changing, according to Hugo Thadeuszuk of prime property agents Prime Purchase, and the contemporary manor house is on the rise. We are noticing a change in attitude, as buyers of country houses are drawn to the contemporary feel, a good flow of rooms and the low running costs that a newly constructed house can offer. Also, an architect has worked closely with the owner to create a stunning house, which also feels like home, the whole is now justified by the lack of the period equivalent." For further information, please call Hugo Thadeuszuk on 01962 795635 or visit www.prime-purchase.com

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