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LISBON

IN Lisbon, museums, castles and ancient trams rub shoulders with cool eateries and energetic nightspots. Portugal's dominance of medieval maritime exploration in The Age of Discovery is still celebrated and a visit to the impressive Belém Tower, a UNESCO world heritage site, provides a glimpse of what would have been the last sight for the thousands of

sailors setting off to cross the seven seas. Monks from the nearby Jerónimos Monastery are said to have created the Pastéis de Belém, the small custard tart (still cooked to the same recipe), that is now synonymous with Portuguese culture around the world from Brazil to Macau in China. But the beaches, golf courses and almost year-round sun are the things that attract buyers.



MARITIME GLORY: The impressive fortification and UNESCO world heritage site, Belém Tower, reminds visitors of the era when Portugal ruled the waves.



BELAS CLUBE DE CAMPO

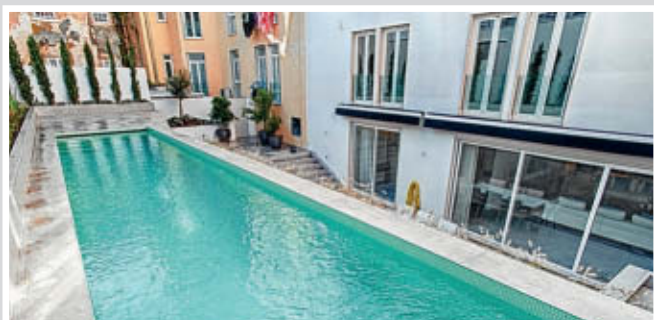
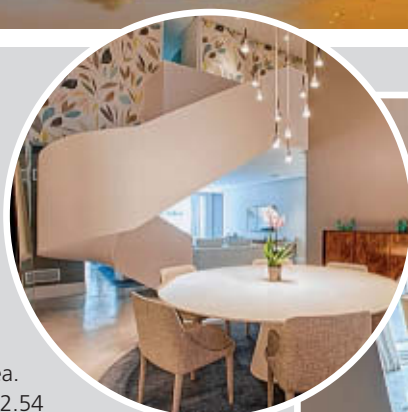
About 20 miles inland from Lisbon is Belas Clube de Campo, a planned low-density village attracting buyers from around the world. The new phase, named Lisbon Green Valley, is located in the midst of an extensive parkland with children's play areas and walking and mountain-biking trails. On site are a golf course, exclusive use swimming pools, a spa and several restaurants. The result is a real best-of-all-worlds community. Prices are from £302,000 for a one-bedroom apartment to £775,000 for a townhouse with three bedrooms and a private pool.

Check www.realestate.belasclubedecampo.pt



ESTRELA

A city apartment in the upmarket Estrela area close to Assembleia da República (Portuguese parliament) and the chic Lapa neighbourhood. This exclusive property has been totally refurbished. It has a magnificent living area with large private terrace with a swimming pool, a dining room and kitchen with a separate laundry area. Upstairs are three en-suite bedrooms. £2.54 million, check www.christiesrealestate.com



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