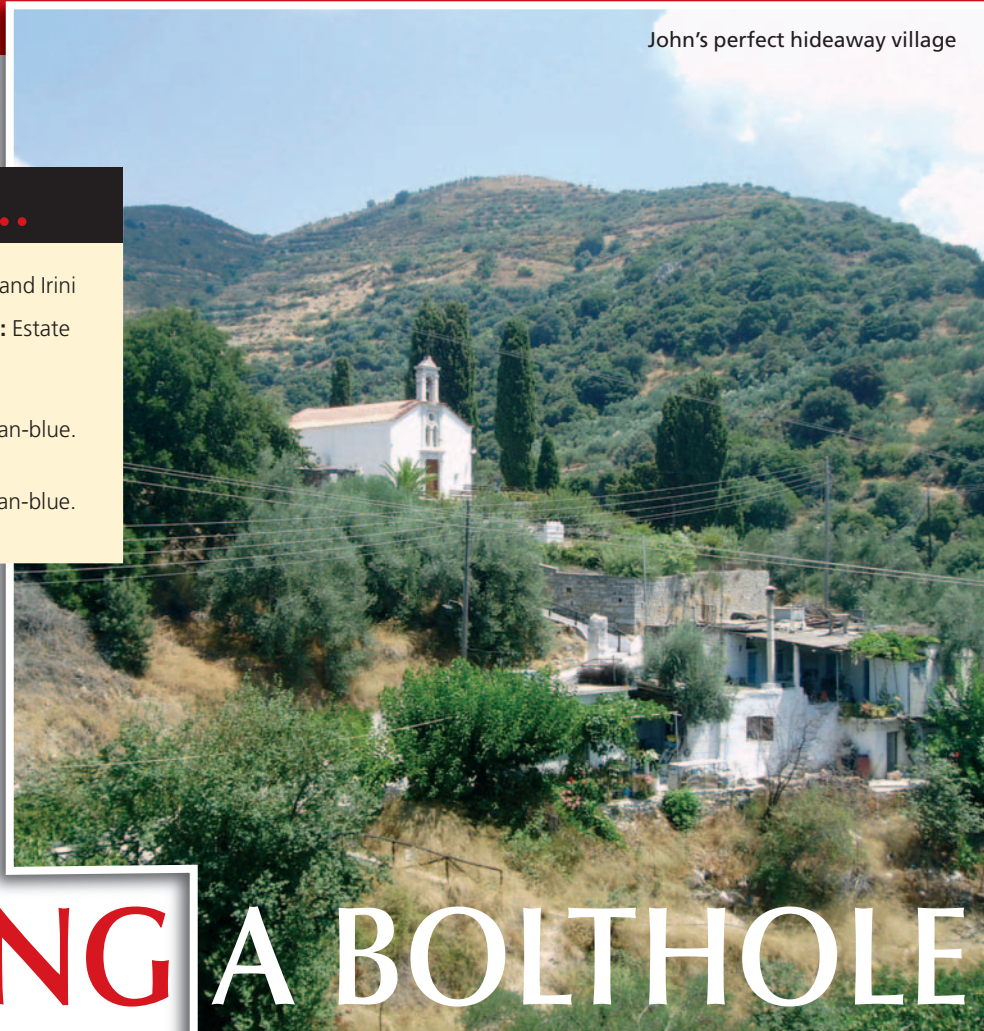


Meet

THE BUYERS...



Name: John and Irini
Occupation: Estate agent
Contact:
 John@aegean-blue.com
 www.aegean-blue.com



MOVING TO CRETE

BUILDING A BOLTHOLE

John has been in love with Crete since he first visited the island in 1977. He has dreamed for many years of building a rural 'sanctuary' of peace and solitude...

"My heart had long been set on having my own little retreat: a haven to which I could escape when either the temperature, the tourists or the in-laws became intolerable"

IT DIDN'T TAKE JOHN AND IRINI LONG TO FIND the perfect place for their rural retreat: a rundown old house in a tiny hillside village where the road ends. But then they discovered that different parts of the house were owned by seven different people...

Q: Why did you decide to buy a house in Crete?

A: My wife and I are planning to move to Crete at some point in the next couple of years. For Irini, who was born in a small village in the Messara area of central Crete, it will be a return home to her family after 25 years living and working in the UK. For me, although I am English, it will be the culmination of a love affair which started in 1977 when I first visited the island and which has intensified in the last 10 years that Irini and I have been together.

Q: Where is your property located?

A: We own some land in the coastal resort of Gouves which is about 10 miles east of Iraklio,

the island's capital. In due course we intend to build our main house there, to be close to Irini's family. Gouves is a pleasant resort but it can become a little too hot and busy during the height of summer, and having one's extended family nearby isn't always the perfect domestic arrangement! So my heart had long been set on having my own little retreat – a haven to which I could escape when either the temperature, the tourists or the in-laws became intolerable.

Q: What did you want from your bolthole?

A: The blueprint for this sanctuary already existed, based on cousin Giorgios' place, which exudes rustic charm and is set in an olive grove outside Iraklio. It was a basic stone-built structure with no power or water, the result of a deliberate decision to get back to basics. Cooking takes place over an open fire and cold drinks retain their chill by being stored in a cellar dug into the bedrock. The thick stone walls help keep the interior cool during the summer and warm in winter, and it only cost him about €15,000.