Flights of Fancy
Super-affordable airfares are bringing new holiday homes well within Londoners’ budgets, reports Cathy Hawker.

ULLY 10 years on from the arrival of low-cost airlines to Europe, our travel expectations have changed. As well as the single long summer holiday on a foreign beach, we now add weekend breaks to anywhere and everywhere, from Amsterdam to Madrid to Dubrovnik. Cheaper flights and more routes also broaden the choice of holiday home destinations – here’s our pick of some of the hottest.

NEW: VIBRANT VALENCIA
BA starts flights this month from Gatwick to Valencia, Spain’s third-largest city. Costing £43 one way, the service will run three times a week in winter and six times a week in summer (ba.com).

The mild Mediterranean climate, vibrant culture mixed with international sporting events and an enthusiastic love of fiestas are all part of Valencia’s charm. Property prices remain 40 per cent below their pre-recession peaks, and modern seafront penthouses and historic country villas are on offer. Estefania Rigo of Lucas Fox (lucasfox.com) says: “A 3-bed bedroom apartment with sea views in Valencia will cost between €315,000 and €715,000, while a good size villa 10 minutes from the centre is between £177,000 and £226,000.”

NEW: SEE MORE OF ITALY
Brace yourself for that irritating Ryanair fare because the budget airline has announced two new routes from Stansted. From December, it will fly to Milan, Italy’s financial and fashion capital. From spring, it will fly three times a week to Verona, the gateway to Lake Garda. Prices from £88 one way (ryanair.com).

In Milan, 105 sleek one- to four-bedroom apartments at Poma Seluno, east of the centre, are nearing completion. The modern homes, many with roof gardens or balconies, will have an in-house gym and – unusually for Milan – a concierge and a rental management team. Prices start from £399,500 (pomaseluno.it).

NEW: SPEED TO THE SLOPES
Winter sports fans have even more options to reach the slopes this winter. EasyJet is flying from Luton to Innsbruck in Austria, ideal for the Arlberg ski region and its super-smart resorts of Lech and St Anton.“That International is selling Arlberg Apartments in St Anton priced from £215,000 for one to five-bedroom units, with guaranteed rental returns of up to £19 per cent (thatinternational.com). Meanwhile, from next month to the end of March, British Airways will fly twice-weekly from Heathrow to Salzburg, with prices from £40 one way.

An hour from Salzburg, Saalfelden-Hinterglemm has just become Austria’s largest linked ski area with 170 miles of slopes. Adler Residences in upmarket Hinterglemm are 40 one- to four-bedroom fully furnished apartments attached to the family-run Adler Hotel, priced from £250,000 through Mark Warner Property (markwarnerproperty.com).

NEW: CANADA FOR £63 EACH WAY
Fancy a budget-balanced trip to the great outdoors? Low-cost carrier Westjet has announced new routes from Gatwick to six Canadian cities from May.

Westjet will fly daily to Toronto and to St John’s, Newfoundland, with up to six flights a week to Calgary, gateway to the Rockies, Vancouver, Edmonton and Winnipeg. Single fares start from £63, the lowest on offer across the Atlantic on lines, says Westjet, and include one piece of checked luggage. Additional baggage and hot meals on board cost extra (westjet.com).

Baltics, like London, Yorkshires and Toronto, have experienced property prices spiralling beyond the reach of local families, rising 11 per cent in the 12 months to July this year. Yet at the same time, the British pound buys more in Canada, as falling oil prices contribute to the Canadian dollar recently recording its strongest two-year fall on record.

Chestertons International is selling off-plan one- to three-bedroom apartments in central Toronto, priced from £249,000. Set in two landmark modern buildings with rooftop pools and saunas, these apartments appeal to investors and to parents with children at Toronto universities, says Stephanie Patterson of Chestertons (chestertons.com).

AUSTRIA: new easyJet flights to Innsbruck bring Arlberg Chalets, 20 minutes from Lech, within easier reach. From £400,200 (parinil.com)