

# CITY SLICKERS

Super-savvy financiers are moving their money into equally smart new developments in these modern metropolitan hubs

**Words:** Cheryl Markosky

Reaching for the skyline at London's Tower Bridge



Global wealth creation remains constant in 2019 – the year when the number of US dollar millionaires exceeded 20 million for the first time. And it’s good news for the UK, with London ranked number one in Knight Frank’s City Wealth Index, followed by New York and Hong Kong. Other urban powerhouses include Los Angeles, Tokyo, Berlin, Paris, Seoul, Washington DC and Amsterdam.

“London is safe, central, and has great museums, restaurants and hotels,” says property expert Merlin Dormer, a partner of Heaton & Partners. He’s been purchasing property in Battersea and also rates Chelsea, Paddington and South Kensington. “Many investors want somewhere convenient, with concierge service and good amenities.”

Knight Frank International’s Edward de Mallet Morgan says savvy investors are still finding romance in the city of love. As well as beautiful architecture and character in each of its diverse arrondissements, Paris has, he says, “plenty of apartments with potential and scope to improve floor plans and layout”.

Berlin, an important hub for start-up businesses and entrepreneurs, is attracting people from all around the world. “Berlin offers great opportunities to create the perfect home, if you’re willing to spend money. However, what’s considered luxury in Berlin may be considered good value elsewhere,” says Robert Green, managing director of Sphere Estates.

Hugo Thistlethwayte, head of residential at Savills International, advises heading to Los Angeles where a massive push to produce much-needed content for media firms is creating more money and opportunities. It’s a good time to buy, as “prices have flattened at the top end where there’s a lot of product and strong demand”.

LONDON | TOWER BRIDGE

A penthouse only 50m from the Tower of London, with a spacious roof terrace off the open-plan living room and panoramic river views is a sound prospect. Hotel-style extras include 24-hour concierge assistance, spa, gym, business suite, cinema room and residents’ lounge.

£10.75m  
barratthomes.co.uk



USA | LOS ANGELES

Get the movie mogul vibe in a seven-bedroom Brentwood estate, where guests can sample vintages from your 650-bottle cellar and fare from the chef-ready Gaggenau kitchen – when they’re not lounging by the infinity pool. And if you tire of viewing Oscar-winning films in the home theatre, enjoy knockout vistas from downtown LA to the Pacific.

\$42m (£33.27m)  
savills.com

FRANCE | PARIS

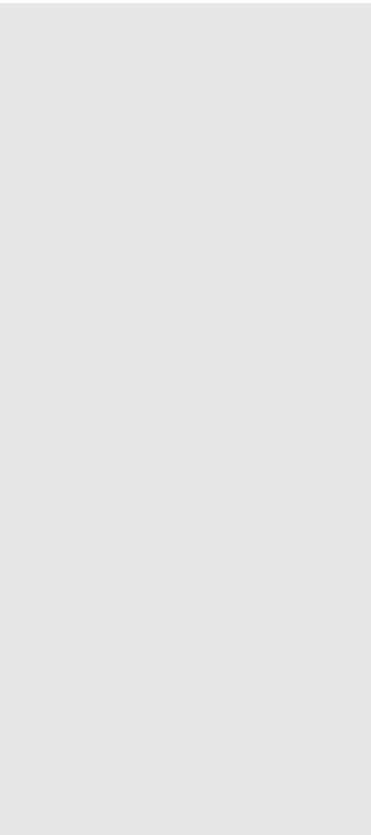
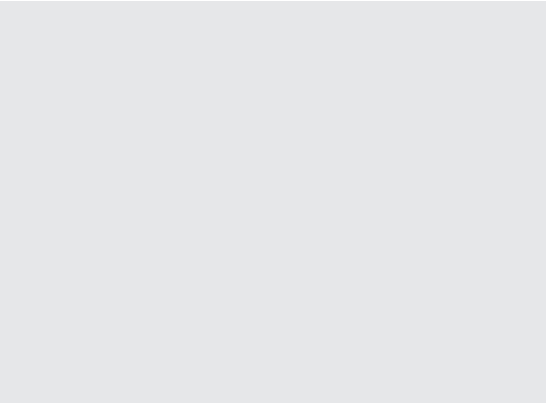
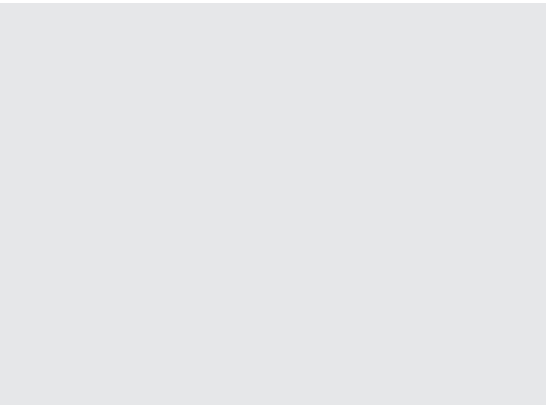
As Paris emerges as the favoured financial trading hub for continental Europe, it has become *de rigueur* to own a chic, four-bedroom mansion in the French capital. A lift, gym, wine cellar, terrace, private garage and air-conditioning are prime assets in this *soigné* space. »

€16m (£14.5m)  
knightfrank.com

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PROPERTY






JAPAN | TOKYO

Light-filled Zen-like spaces flow in a sleek, three-storey, concrete and steel house. The 545.08 sqm property boasts floor-to-ceiling windows and glass walls in its open entertaining spaces. Because commuting is a vital aspect of life in Japan, an added bonus is the reassuringly short seven-minute walk to Denenchofu station.

¥1.150m (£8.981m)  
sothebysrealty.com



GERMANY | BERLIN

The Torstrasse penthouse in Mitte offers five bedrooms, access to a rooftop swimming pool, indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool, massage and steam rooms and a gym Add to that a concierge, in-house coffee bar and six underground parking spaces for even more mod-cons. *Fantastisch.* 

€12m (£10.88m)  
sphereestates.com