

atasteofturkey



Take a Blue Voyage

While boat day trips offer eye-opening views and inviting swimming holes, you can really take things further by getting together with friends or fellow holidaymakers to hire a yacht, which offers the pleasure of a *Blue Voyage* – the term used for recreational cruises along the Turkish Riviera, on Turkey's southwestern coast. So many old salts advertise tours that their yachts are practically bumping and grinding into one another on the docks. Compare prices, ask around and remember to negotiate!



Friends when it matters



“When we first heard about the Holiday Property Bond, it sounded good – but too good to be true, so we shelved the idea. But our friends who told us about HPB wouldn't be put off; and in the end we acquiesced. In retrospect I'm glad they persisted – and I'm delighted we gave in!” – **Marilyn Beswick**

Actually it wasn't just pester power that persuaded interior designer Marilyn and her late husband Peter to invest. “As the years wore on we found ourselves with a bit more time,” she recalls, “and some extra cash. But having two sets of friends who were already Bondholders and who, independently of each other, kept going on about how marvellous it was, probably helped tip the balance.”

Marilyn and Peter, a director at a builders' merchants, became Bondholders in 1990 – investing a fairly modest sum, but an amount, Marilyn says, that has continued to prove sufficient for her holiday requirements. “I've never topped up my Bond,” she says. “I can see why some folk do; but maybe because we invested relatively early, and thanks to



PROPERTYFACTS

Physkos

Dominated by the Arkdağ and Bey mountain ranges – and noted for its pine-studded shore, ancient ruins and glorious Mediterranean coastline – Physkos is the setting to HPB's Turkish home: an intimate cluster of villas and apartments, situated within easy walking distance of Turunç Bay. The site consists of 11 three and four-bed villas (of which 10 are available to Bondholders); all offer a private swimming pool and surrounding terrace. A further 22 studios, one, two and three-bed apartments and 10 three-bed townhouses complete our Turkish home. All bedrooms are air-conditioned.

HPB's inflation-protection policy, there have always been enough Holiday Points for our – and latterly my – needs.”

To date Marilyn, who lives in Solihull, has holidayed at Barnham Broom, the Bond's Norfolk home; Le Manoir du Hilguy, in Brittany; Tigh Mor Trossachs, in Perthshire; El Pueblito de Alfaix, in southern Spain; Braithwaite Court, in Cumbria; La Reserva de Biniorella, in Majorca; Constant, in the Dordogne (a much-loved site); and Stigliano in Tuscany, her absolute favourite. Why? “Well, what's not to love?” she asks. “An historic setting, an ancient (but beautifully converted) set of buildings, Siena close by, Lucca and Florence reachable – I mean, could it be any better?”

This picture, however, was taken in Turunç, Turkey, where Physkos, one of HPB's most popular sites, is located, and where Marilyn was holidaying with friends – not Bondholders this time.

“It's been lovely,” she says, “I like walking, art, scenery, architecture – this locale ticks all those boxes, as do most Bond locations. And my friends have really appreciated it. Actually they're kind-of ‘Bond beneficiaries’ – we go away a lot, on my Bond. But I've got the Points to cover it, so why not? We've got our eye on Viehhofen, HPB's Austrian home, next. And Coreggia, in Puglia.”

“With Peter gone, I'm delighted to have friends to holiday with,” Marilyn muses. “And I'm so pleased that those other friends, all those years ago, badgered us into becoming Bondholders.”

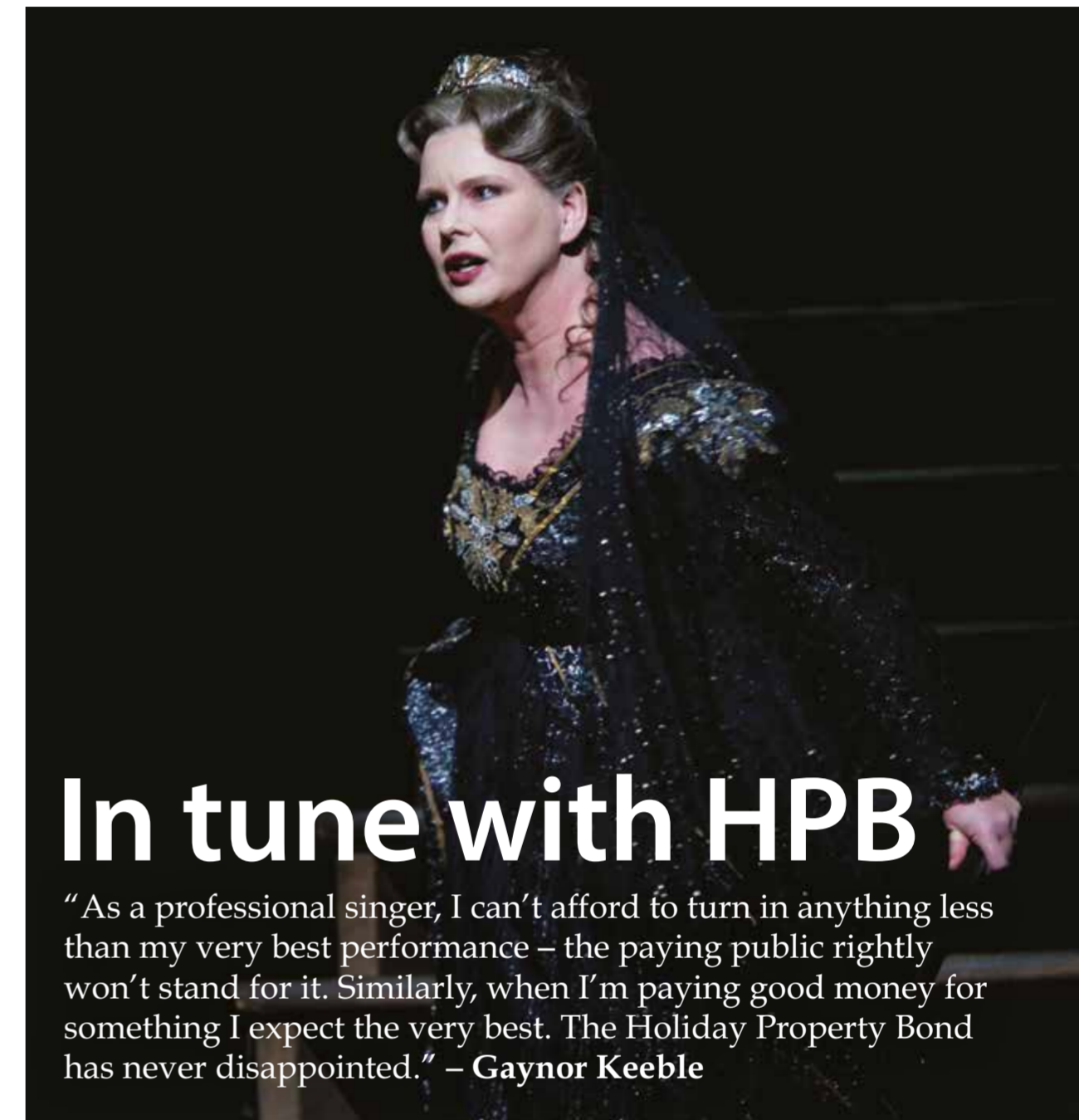
Freelance opera singer Gaynor Keeble won scholarships to the University of Warwick and the Royal Academy of Music. She was awarded a Countess of Munster Award and has been a semi-finalist in both the Kathleen Ferrier and the Belvedere International Opera Competition.

On leaving the Royal Academy Gaynor joined the Welsh National Opera where she performed and covered many roles. She has since worked with English National Opera, d'Oyly Carte Opera, the Royal Opera, Opera North, Mid-Wales Opera, European Chamber Opera, Opera Project, English Touring Opera, Longborough Festival Opera and Opera Interludes.

Solihull-based Gaynor, now in her late 40s, enjoys a busy life – teaching others to sing, or performing herself; the mezzo-soprano has just returned from an engagement at London's Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where she sang the role of Annina in the Royal Opera's recent production of Verdi's *La Traviata*.

But when she has downtime, Gaynor and husband Peter Marton (Gaynor kept her maiden name for professional purposes) like nothing more than to get away from it all – on an HPB holiday, naturally. Favourite sites include Tigh Mor Trossachs, Encosta Cabo Girão, Constant and El Balcón de Santa Ana, though La Reserva de Biniorella is at or near the top of the list: “We must have been three or four times,” says Gaynor. “It's lovely – and so easy to get to.” Just last month the couple went to Encosta Cabo Girão, the Bond's Madeiran home, with friends they had introduced to HPB, who have since become Bondholders themselves; and July sees a return visit to Tigh Mor, accompanied by Peter's daughter Kate, 24, and 22-year-old son Alex.

“Funnily enough, I have my profession to thank for introducing me to HPB,” Gaynor recalls. “In the early noughties when I was with the Welsh National Opera, also in the chorus was a chap called Michael Clifton-Thompson – a Bondholder, and very (pardon the pun) vocal about the joys of the Bond. We became friends, and I met Michael's then-wife, Alex. The couple have since separated, sadly; but Alex told me in detail about what HPB offered – I understand she was, and still is, not just a Bondholder but one of the Bond's most stellar representatives, and I can well believe it. Anyway, Peter and I went on holiday, renting a villa



In tune with HPB

“As a professional singer, I can't afford to turn in anything less than my very best performance – the paying public rightly won't stand for it. Similarly, when I'm paying good money for something I expect the very best. The Holiday Property Bond has never disappointed.” – **Gaynor Keeble**

in Menorca. It was fine, 90% of it – but it had the most awful kitchen. I knew by then that HPB offered a guaranteed high standard, across the board, so when we got back we went ahead and invested.”

That was some 10 years ago, “and we've never looked back,” says Peter, client director for a major ICT management company. “Wherever we've visited we've always been given the warmest of welcomes, the locations are superb, and the accommodation is, if not quite luxurious, certainly at the very top end

of comfortable.”

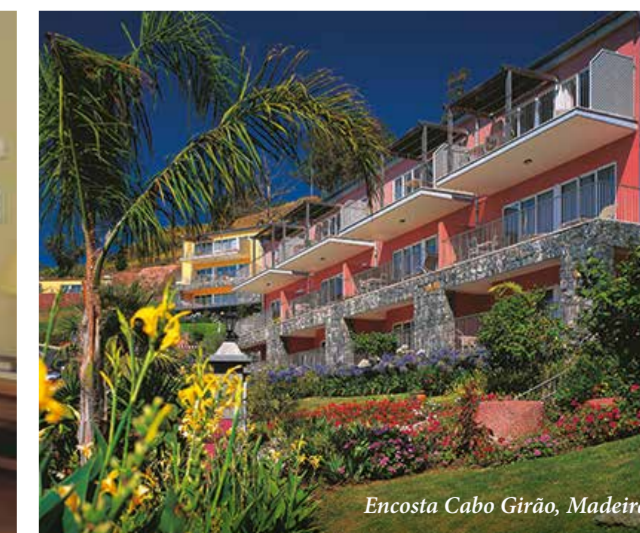
“I know a top performer when I see one,” adds Gaynor. “And I would say that HPB is up there with the very best.”

No regrets then? “Well, maybe just one. I'm a keen tennis player in my spare time. The Bond's tennis courts are superb; but I've never run into my fellow Bondholder Sue Barker. Do you think you could arrange something?”

We'll try, Gaynor, we'll try.



Constant, Dordogne



Encosta Cabo Girão, Madeira