

Affordable villas near swish new golf courses along the Turkish coast are luring Britons who want a home outside the eurozone, discovers LIZ GILL

IF YOU are a golf pro then buying a second home in a place with more than a dozen courses might seem like a bit of a busman's holiday but Bryn Morris, 43, doesn't see it that way. Not only does he never want to take a break from playing, he also knows just how compulsive it can be and that translates, he believes, into income from a property.

Bryn and his wife Kim, from Market Harborough in Leicestershire, spent £104,000 on a three-bedroomed, semi-detached villa in Colakli on Turkey's southern coast last year. The villa, which has a balcony, terrace and garden with olive and lemon trees, is set in a gated complex of 54 properties with swimming pool, tennis courts, sauna, gym, internet café and bar.

"We had never been very interested in Turkey before but a member of Bryn's club who had bought here told him about it so we came over to look," says Kim, 49, a health care assistant. "We fell in love with it. The people are lovely and we couldn't believe how cheap it is."

The couple, who have four children between them, paid for the villa in four instalments, raising a mortgage against their UK home and have since been out half a dozen times, getting flights to Antalya, about 20 miles away. "I don't play golf but there are lots of other things to do," says Kim. Attractions include the classical ruins of Perge and Side, skiing in the Taurus mountains, plus horse-riding and water sports.

It is the combination of value for money, accessibility and the growth of tourism that is drawing an increasing number of British buyers to the Turkish coast in general but in Belek it is golf that is the icing on the cake.

The International Association of Golf Tour Operators picked it as their top place to play last year and it has been chosen as the venue for the 2012 World Amateur Golf Championship, often known as the Olympics of golf.

David Richardson, sales director of Seda Consulting, a UK-based agency, says: "Golf is the big draw here. About 80 per cent of buyers have golfing interests. It is a year-round resort. A lot of people still think Turkey is just cheap and cheerful but in somewhere like Belek there is a lot of quality property. Because it's outside the eurozone you get very good value for money."

Prices start at about £60,000 for a good one-bedroomed apartment rising to about three times that for something more spacious and with more on-site amenities. Villas range from £150,000 to £300,000.

Most buyers are British although there is a sprinkling of other nationalities including French, Dutch and Russian. A typical buyer, says Richardson, would be lower middle to middle class. There is also a growing number of retirees drawn by the climate, the low cost