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Affordable Luxury Travel on HomeExchange.com

Monday Apr 30, 2007

In the motion picture "The Holiday" Amanda Woods (Cameron Diaz) and Iris Simkins (Kate Winslet), swap homes in England and Los Angeles as a way to get a break from the men in their lives. Both Diaz and Winslet's characters discover what thousands of families already know: home exchange can be the best way to take a vacation. The leading online destination for the exchange of vacation homes anywhere in the world,



(Source: HomeExchange.com)

[HomeExchange.com](#) plays a prominent role not only in the romantic comedy, but also in the lives of thousands of families worldwide.

Nancy Meyers, the movie's writer/director, says the initial spark for "The Holiday" was ignited when planning her own vacation and serendipitously finding HomeExchange.com. "I had no idea this kind of thing ever existed," Meyers admitted. "On the website, I saw all these gorgeous homes and thought it would be a wonderful starting point for two women both running away from something. Swapping houses becomes the first step in taking their lives back."

According to Ed Kushins, President of HomeExchange.com, the concept for vacation home swapping is simplicity. "You stay in my place while I stay in yours," said Kushins. "HomeExchange makes it tremendously easy to plan and enjoy a vacation. With just a few clicks on your computer, one can Search, Select and Contact a home swap listing in almost any country, city or area of interest."

Will 'The Holiday' do for home exchanges what 'You've Got Mail' did for Internet dating?

Experienced exchangers have found that other than the cost of getting there, a home exchange vacation almost anywhere in the world doesn't cost much more than staying at your own home. You get to live like a local, not a tourist, shopping for ingredients

at local markets and preparing meals in your own kitchen, getting personal recommendations of places to eat and visit, meeting friendly neighbors, all-the-while enjoying the excitement of a new locale. And when traveling with kids, everyone can have their own room. The kids have their own space and so do you. There is always a kitchen saving you from having to expense meals in the hotel coffee shop or at pricey restaurants.

A growing trend in home exchange, according to Mr. Kushins, is using them for weekend getaways, to visit kids in college, to attend weddings, and family reunions. He reports that many members take four, five, even more exchanges per year.

"People considering home exchange for the first time often wonder how wise it is to have a 'stranger' stay in their home," states Kushins. "But members swear that the site provides so much information about the home, neighborhood and people, including photos, that this fear is unwarranted and disappears during the inquiry process. People soon realize that folks staying in their homes are just as concerned with how well you will keep up their home."

"Will 'The Holiday' do for home exchanges what 'You've Got Mail' did for Internet dating? Hollywood says 'yes' according to Mr. Kushins. "I just want vacationers to know about this great resource that exists for families and individuals to experience some of the most desirable and preferred locations in the world at a fraction of what they would normally pay."

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