

◀ Lauren Santo Domingo

Age 34

Worth Don't be so vulgar. Her father-in-law is said to be worth \$6 billion. She is the daughter of Ronald Davis, a former executive at Poland Spring, the water company, and married to the Colombian beer heir Andrés Santo Domingo.

Profile Socialite, contributing editor to *Vogue*, and creator of a website allowing people to buy designer clothes just off the catwalk

The American socialite

▼ Alisher Usmanov

Age 57

Worth \$7.2 billion, from metals and media

Profile Uzbek-born Russian who owns 26 per cent of Arsenal. Paid £48 million for mansions near Hampstead Heath in 2008 to add to his 300-acre estate near Guildford. Paid more than £20 million in 2007 for the art collection of the cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, donating all 450 works to the Russian state. Bought rights to a collection of popular Soviet-era cartoons, donating the films to a new Russian children's TV channel

Leon Black

Age 59

Worth \$2.4 billion

Profile The chairman of Apollo Global Management is a self-made billionaire. Prodigious art collector; owns works by Old Masters, Impressionists and serves on board of Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York

David Koch

Age 70

Worth \$17.5 billion

Profile Co-owner of US energy company Koch Industries. Pledged \$100 million to MIT in 2009 for cancer research; and \$100 million to New York's Lincoln Center in 2008. Spent millions making sure Republicans took back Congress

Mikhail Prokhorov

Age 45

Worth \$13.4 billion

Profile Playboy; Russia's second richest man. Sold his 25 per cent of Norilsk Nickel just before the global meltdown. Paid \$250 million for 80 per cent of the New Jersey Nets. Lost £36 million deposit on world's most expensive house on French Riviera by pulling out of deal. Arrested in a French ski resort on suspicion of running a prostitution ring. Released without charge after four days

Mukesh Ambani

Age 52

Worth \$29 billion

Profile Reliance Industries' interests include telecoms, oil refining and textiles. Owns Mumbai Indians Premier League cricket team. Lives in a \$1 billion skyscraper in Mumbai modelled on Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Kalanithi Maran

Age 44

Worth \$2.9 billion

Profile Owns Indian budget airline SpiceJet. His Sun TV network has 20 channels and 46 FM radio stations

The Russian oligarch

Egyptians seek refuge in Belgravia and Mayfair

Anne Ashworth, Deirdre Hipwell

A boost to the property market in Central London is set to be one of the side effects of the unrest spreading in the Middle East.

An influx of buyers from the region has already begun, headed by Egyptians, with wealthy Lebanese expected to follow. They will join the Chinese, Russians, South Americans and Ukrainians who are already stalking the capital's most expensive real estate.

Some Egyptians are said to have at least £20 million to spend, but they will find a shortage of the spacious apartments they traditionally prefer to houses. Jeremy McGivern, of Mercury Homeseach, a buying agency, said that the current lack of supply could temporarily drive prices higher in Belgravia, Knightsbridge and Mayfair.

London combines the benefits of a political safe haven and a global

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David Wighton, page 45

financial centre. Liam Bailey, residential research director at the estate agent Knight Frank, said that growing political tensions elsewhere had become "a regular precursor to property demand in London".

Wealthy businessmen from Cairo and Suez will find an established Egyptian community around Belgravia. However, they can expect to face considerable competition from Russians.

Mr Bailey said: "Wealthy Russians and residents of the former CIS states have regularly averaged 7 to 10 per cent of all £2 million purchases in Central London since 2006, and there is no evidence that this process is slowing down."

There were fresh hopes that the wider housing market might be stabilising after new figures showed that average prices unexpectedly rose last month by 0.8 per cent.

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