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January 25, 2007

Swapping Homes For Vacation



Kate Winslet swaps her house in England for one in Los Angeles and meets Jack Black in the movie "The Holiday."

Question from reader Nikko:

"I have spent the last 25 years traveling as if there were no tomorrow. Along the way I've managed to accumulate a motley bunch of vacation homes (like cheap souvenirs) in some hot and not-so-hot locales. I would like to put some of them to use. Is there such a thing as a villa swap? If so, can you please list some of these companies?"

Thank you, Expatriotically Homeless"

Dear Expatriotically:

The best-known company for house swapping is [HomeExchange](#). Have you seen [The Holiday](#), the movie that came out last month starring [Cameron Diaz](#) and [Kate Winslet](#)? Their characters use HomeExchange to swap houses. (Or so I'm told by HomeExchange's PR rep; the only movies I have time to see are on planes.)

I assume the house swap in the movie works out well because, according to [Contactmusic.com](#), Cameron Diaz has now invited her co-star to exchange homes for real.

Two other house-exchange organizations to consider: [Homelink](#) and [Intervac](#). Good luck! And let me know how it goes, since one of my beats here at *Condé Nast Traveler* is villas. In fact, if you're interested in seeing my audio slideshow on renting a villa, click [here](#).

Wendy Perrin

Posted at 06:09 AM in [Villa & Apartment Rentals](#) | [Permalink](#)
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Timely and practical travel advice and insights from *Condé Nast Traveler's* consumer news editor [Wendy Perrin](#) and associate editor [Brook Wilkinson](#).

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