

# Daily Express – 24 July 2006

## Catherine seeks out new royal residence By Julie Carpenter



WHEN Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones buy their next holiday home, it will have a regal touch. The multi-millionaire Oscar-winners – who already own properties in New York, Los Angeles, Bermuda, Mallorca, Aspen and Wales – are house-hunting in Montenegro, the tiny independent state on the Adriatic.

But, according to locals, the couple are expected to enlist the help of heir to the throne Crown Prince Nicholas of Montenegro, who is a Paris-educated architect. He is already re-designing the nearby ultra-exclusive Smekija Palace Hotel and Spa, which has just been bought by a consortium led by Prince Michael of Kent's former private secretary, John Kennedy, and London private banker John James.

"The Crown Prince is helping to turn the area, which is full of baroque palaces and castles, into the next Monaco. As well as the Douglases, he is thought to be talking to Chelsea boss Roman Abramovich," says our source.

Michael, 62, and Catherine, 37, brought along Michael's dad, *Spartacus* star Kirk, 89, to help them choose their new pad.

As Catherine explained recently: "Like people collect art, we collect homes. We love architecture. It's like a passion."