



Clockwise from left: The family relax outside their Tuscan home; local craft; Rosie's bedroom; shelves well-stocked with Tuscan fare; the living room.



"From time to time, we both talked about coming home to Scotland but a particularly wet summer in Airdrie put that notion out of our heads. We had returned home for a few months during which time it rained horizontally non-stop, as much as we both love Scotland it was the fantastic weather and relaxed lifestyle of Italy that made us return."

Neither Fiona or Jim had really given much thought to long term careers whilst in Italy, until one day a friend asked them for advice on renting his newly restored farmhouse to tourists. "Our friend Paolo, a childhood neighbour of Sophia Loren near Naples before he moved to Tuscany, wanted us to help him market his property towards tourists," explains Jim. "If he hadn't asked us for advice our site, www.rent-a-villa-in-tuscany.com, would never have been started.

Online opportunity

"Like thousands of other people around the globe, we'd read all about the power of the web and how it was possible to run a totally flexible international business from a computer in your front room. Okay, we were creative and I had played around with some programmes designing a website with photos of our daughter Rosie, when she was a baby, but I didn't have a clue about how to start setting up a proper site.

"One evening, whilst surfing around on the net, I came across a product called *Site Build It!*, which provided everything I needed."

Meet the readers



Name: Jim Andrew and Fiona McCardle

Age: 46 and 44

Where: From London to Arezzo, Tuscany

Occupation: Co-founders of property business, www.rent-a-villa-in-tuscany.com