# Winning an Omaze mansion often turns into a costly nightmare rather than a dream come true



We British have an enduring fascination with houses, frequently scrolling through property websites and tuning in to shows like "Location, Location, Location." The allure of owning a stunning home is tantalising, promising happiness and a touch of glamour. This infatuation is further fuelled by companies like Omaze, which host draw competitions for luxurious, fully furnished mansions, all for a good cause. The concept is intoxicating. Just recently, I found myself daydreaming about a £4 million house in Bath — I even spent an afternoon researching the local amenities, envisioning hosting lavish gatherings amidst marble-clad luxury.

But while the images of grandeur are captivating, the reality of living in such opulence can often resemble a living nightmare, as illustrated by my own experiences. After winning a lavish mansion seems like the ultimate dream, winners are often unprepared for the upkeep and unexpected realities of their new lives.

The recent draw for a £5 million mansion in the Cotswolds, complete with manicured gardens and a heated pool, comes with a significant caveat: the maintenance costs can reach £100,000 annually. This is a point that previous winners like June Smith, who sold her £4.5 million home in Cornwall after just a single visit, can affirm. The overwhelming burdens of managing these properties often force winners to sell, despite the allure of living in luxury. The financial reality of maintaining such properties can prove unsustainable, with many opting to convert their newfound wealth into more manageable investments.

Living in an expansive rural property may seem idyllic, but it often encompasses challenges that many do not foresee. When I traded the urban bustle of London for a farmhouse in Somerset, I was enchanted by the green expanses and tranquil surroundings. Yet, it didn't take long for the novelty to wear off. The realities of rural living soon set in: heating issues, unexpected outages, and gardening disasters overtook my dreams of pastoral bliss. For instance, I transformed my paddock into a wildflower meadow, only to find it decimated by unwelcome sheep, adding to the frustrations that countryside life frequently entails.

Furthermore, the lure of expansive gardens and outdoor spaces often comes with incessant maintenance. Many winners find themselves overwhelmed, not just by the physical upkeep, but also by local regulations and the hidden costs that come with owning a large property. An example is the planning difficulties encountered by another winner, who discovered her mansion was in breach of planning regulations, bringing with it a slew of unexpected financial burdens and responsibilities.

Across the board, many winners of Omaze houses have encountered similar setbacks. A staggering number have put their homes up for sale just months after winning. In fact, a recent survey revealed that only three out of 14 السابقة winners continued to reside in their prize properties. Increasingly, these situations spotlight the disparities between the fantasy of a dream home and the often harsh reality of maintaining such a property. One winner, Uttam Parmar, sold his £3 million mansion in Cornwall due to unaffordable upkeep, illuminating the financial pressures associated with such extravagant properties.

The experience of living in a mansion, originally envisioned as a slice of paradise, can morph into an expensive burden, filled with hidden expenses and a never-ending list of chores. The rural backdrop may seem picturesque, but the associated realities, like navigating overwhelming bills, unpredictable weather-related issues, and local scrutiny, quickly overshadow any initial allure.

As my story and those of many others have shown, owning a large house may not fulfil the dreams we construct around it. In fact, it presents a multitude of challenges that many find unmanageable. It turns out, without deep pockets and a support network, the mansion one dreams of can quickly transform into a costly prison, reminding us that sometimes it is wiser to wish for a cozier, more manageable dwelling.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14752957/winners-Omaze-Cotswolds-house-living-nightmare-lurking-LIZ-JONES.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[2]](https://www.lancs.live/news/uk-world-news/curse-omaze-expert-explains-most-28368145)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14752957/winners-Omaze-Cotswolds-house-living-nightmare-lurking-LIZ-JONES.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[4]](https://stories.jobaaj.com/news-updates/lifestyle/omaze-mansion-wins-dream-home-or-nightmare)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2025-02-28/omaze-prize-draw-mansion-worth-6m-is-in-breach-of-planning-rules), [[7]](https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/curse-omaze-house-raffle-expert-31753588)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://homemovehero.com/omaze-dream-house-prize-draw-problems-and-costs/), [[5]](https://metro.co.uk/2023/10/20/why-has-almost-every-omaze-dream-home-been-put-up-for-sale-19406184/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[2]](https://www.lancs.live/news/uk-world-news/curse-omaze-expert-explains-most-28368145), [[4]](https://stories.jobaaj.com/news-updates/lifestyle/omaze-mansion-wins-dream-home-or-nightmare)
* Paragraph 6 – [[5]](https://metro.co.uk/2023/10/20/why-has-almost-every-omaze-dream-home-been-put-up-for-sale-19406184/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14752957/winners-Omaze-Cotswolds-house-living-nightmare-lurking-LIZ-JONES.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490), [[3]](https://homemovehero.com/omaze-dream-house-prize-draw-problems-and-costs/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-14752957/winners-Omaze-Cotswolds-house-living-nightmare-lurking-LIZ-JONES.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.lancs.live/news/uk-world-news/curse-omaze-expert-explains-most-28368145> - An expert explains why most winners of Omaze house raffles sell their mansions within a year. The high running costs, which can reach £100,000 annually, often make it unsustainable for winners. For instance, June Smith won a £4.5 million mansion in Cornwall but sold it after just one visit, opting to support her family with the proceeds. Similarly, Uttam Parmar sold his £3 million Cornish mansion due to unaffordable upkeep costs. These cases highlight the financial challenges associated with maintaining luxury properties won through Omaze raffles.
3. <https://homemovehero.com/omaze-dream-house-prize-draw-problems-and-costs/> - This article discusses the challenges faced by winners of Omaze's luxury house raffles. Issues include properties being built in flood-prone areas, leading to significant maintenance costs. For example, Willowbrook House in Oxfordshire, won in 2021, was located in a valley known for flooding, causing the new owners to sell the property. The article also highlights the high running costs of these properties, which can be around £100,000 per year, making them unaffordable for many winners.
4. <https://stories.jobaaj.com/news-updates/lifestyle/omaze-mansion-wins-dream-home-or-nightmare> - This piece explores the unexpected problems faced by winners of Omaze mansion raffles. Issues such as coastal erosion, flooding, and unaffordable upkeep costs have led many winners to sell their properties shortly after winning. For instance, a Devon mansion winner returned the keys within three days due to concerns about coastal erosion. The article also discusses the high running costs of these luxury homes, which can be a financial burden for winners.
5. <https://metro.co.uk/2023/10/20/why-has-almost-every-omaze-dream-home-been-put-up-for-sale-19406184/> - This article examines why many winners of Omaze's dream homes choose to sell their properties. Factors include high maintenance costs, unexpected issues like flooding and coastal erosion, and the financial burden of upkeep. For example, a £2.5 million mansion in Oxfordshire was sold after seven months due to flooding concerns. The article also highlights that out of 14 Omaze winners, only three still lived in the homes they won, with others opting to sell or rent them out.
6. <https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2025-02-28/omaze-prize-draw-mansion-worth-6m-is-in-breach-of-planning-rules> - This report reveals that a £6 million mansion offered as a prize in an Omaze house draw has breached planning regulations. The property, located in Blakeney on the North Norfolk coast, was found to have been built differently from the approved plans, with additional structures like a tennis court and swimming pool not subject to planning applications. Omaze has stated that the winner will not incur any costs to rectify these issues, but the situation raises concerns about planning compliance in such competitions.
7. <https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/curse-omaze-house-raffle-expert-31753588> - An expert discusses why winners of Omaze house raffles often sell their mansions shortly after winning. The high running costs, which can be around £100,000 per year, are a significant factor. For instance, June Smith sold her £4.5 million mansion in Cornwall after just one visit, opting to support her family with the proceeds. Similarly, Uttam Parmar sold his £3 million Cornish mansion due to unaffordable upkeep costs. These cases highlight the financial challenges associated with maintaining luxury properties won through Omaze raffles.