# The costly reality behind winning an Omaze mansion dream



We British have a well-documented obsession with houses, frequently indulging in dreamy browsing sessions on platforms like Rightmove and tuning into property shows such as *Location, Location, Location* and *Britain’s Most Expensive Houses*. The allure of luxurious living is further amplified by the Omaze company, which offers opportunities to win stunning fully furnished mansions through charitable raffles. Reflecting on this seductive concept, Liz Jones recounts her own fervent dreams of owning an extravagant £4 million house in Bath, envisioning hosting glamorous gatherings in elaborate settings. Yet, she grapples with the stark reality that often accompanies such aspirations, posing a challenging question: can the dream of a magnificent home coexist with the potential nightmare of its upkeep?

Omaze's current offering of a £5 million Cotswolds mansion, replete with every luxury imaginable—including a heated pool and a cottage annexe—has drawn significant attention. However, many past winners have experienced rapid disillusionment once the initial excitement fades. Reports indicate that numerous winners have had to sell their properties within weeks of winning, burdened by high maintenance costs and upcoming renovation projects. The financial implications can be astronomical, with upkeep of these luxury homes often exceeding £100,000 a year. Moreover, the unforeseen realities such as flooding risks, issues related to coastal erosion, and exorbitant energy bills have led some winners, like one who abandoned their £3 million Devon mansion after just three days, to rethink their prize, highlighting that winning a mansion can quickly morph from boon to burden.

In her reflections, Jones captures the essence of this duality, delving into her own experiences after moving to the countryside in 2007. The pastoral dream, once painted in idyllic hues, rapidly came to resemble a living nightmare as she navigated the many challenges of rural life. From the overwhelming maintenance of a large property to the sometimes hostile interactions with locals, she explores how challenges accumulate, ultimately leading to her departure from a once-coveted home. After a series of unfortunate events that included a mishap with her dog and a stalker neighbour, she found herself longing for the simplicity of urban living. As she succinctly puts it, “You will find yourself living not in a mansion at all but a very expensive prison.”

This sentiment resonates with the experiences shared by other Omaze winners, who have found lofty dreams turning into daunting responsibilities. For some, the maintenance burden has justified the quick sale of their prize properties, illustrating that the fantasies woven around these luxurious homes are often built on fragile foundations. Many winners cite ongoing challenges that pile up after the initial thrill of victory, including the need for extensive renovations and the costs associated with maintaining vast estates. With issues like rising utility costs and unpredictable repairs, it's become increasingly clear that winning a mansion requires not just emotional readiness but also significant financial resources.

In the wake of these realities, there remains an undeniable charm associated with the romantic notion of countryside living. Yet, as Liz Jones and other winners have discovered, the harsh truths often overshadow the wistful dreams. The dream of living in a grand mansion can quickly become fraught with complications that far exceed the imaginations of those who dream of such lifestyles. One cannot overlook the pragmatic considerations: the dreams of grandeur should come with an awareness of the accompanying challenges. In a world where many chase the allure of luxury homes, it serves as a poignant reminder that sometimes, the grass isn’t necessarily greener on the other side.

## 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), [[5]](https://cashinsight.co.uk/uk-property/did-previous-omaze-prize-draw-winners-stay-sell-or-rent-out-their-properties/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[2]](https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/curse-omaze-house-raffle-expert-31753588), [[3]](https://adviceforrenters.org/a4r-blog/omaze), [[6]](https://homemovehero.com/omaze-dream-house-prize-draw-problems-and-costs/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[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), [[7]](https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/apr/04/too-good-to-be-true-what-it-is-really-like-to-win-a-3m-dream-home)

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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.dailystar.co.uk/news/latest-news/curse-omaze-house-raffle-expert-31753588> - An expert explains why winners of Omaze house raffles often sell their multi-million-pound mansions within weeks. The high running costs, maintenance expenses, and unexpected issues like coastal erosion or flooding make it financially unfeasible for many winners to keep the properties. For instance, a £3 million Devon mansion was abandoned by its winner after just three days due to concerns about coastal erosion. The article highlights that maintaining such luxury properties can cost up to £100,000 per year, leading many winners to sell their prizes shortly after winning.
3. <https://adviceforrenters.org/a4r-blog/omaze> - This article discusses the challenges faced by winners of Omaze house raffles. It highlights that many winners find the properties uninhabitable or too costly to maintain, leading them to sell the homes shortly after winning. Issues such as flooding, coastal erosion, and high utility bills are common. The piece also points out that Omaze does not disclose the odds of winning, and winners often struggle with the unexpected realities of owning a luxury home, resulting in many properties being sold or left unoccupied.
4. <https://stories.jobaaj.com/news-updates/lifestyle/omaze-mansion-wins-dream-home-or-nightmare> - This article examines the experiences of Omaze house raffle winners, revealing that many face unexpected problems with their prize properties. Issues include concerns about coastal erosion, flooding risks, and unaffordable upkeep costs. For example, a winner of a £3 million Devon mansion requested a refund just three days after winning due to fears about coastal erosion. The piece also discusses how some winners have sold their properties shortly after winning, highlighting the challenges of maintaining such luxury homes.
5. <https://cashinsight.co.uk/uk-property/did-previous-omaze-prize-draw-winners-stay-sell-or-rent-out-their-properties/> - This article provides an overview of how previous Omaze prize draw winners have handled their properties. It details several cases where winners have sold their prize homes shortly after winning, citing reasons such as high maintenance costs and the impracticality of living in the properties. For instance, a winner of a £4.5 million waterside mansion in Cornwall listed the property for sale after just one visit. The piece also discusses the financial implications of maintaining such luxury homes and the challenges winners face in deciding whether to keep or sell their prizes.
6. <https://homemovehero.com/omaze-dream-house-prize-draw-problems-and-costs/> - This article delves into the problems and costs associated with winning an Omaze dream house. It highlights issues such as the proximity of prize properties to industrial sites, leading to noise and traffic disturbances. The piece also discusses the high maintenance costs of luxury homes, including security, heating, and air conditioning, which can be financially burdensome for winners. Additionally, it covers cases where winners have sold their properties shortly after winning due to these challenges.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2023/apr/04/too-good-to-be-true-what-it-is-really-like-to-win-a-3m-dream-home> - This article explores the reality of winning a £3 million dream home through Omaze. It discusses the initial excitement and the financial implications of owning such a property, including maintenance costs and the challenges of adapting to a new lifestyle. The piece also touches on the experiences of winners who have chosen to sell their prize homes, highlighting the complexities and unexpected challenges that come with owning a luxury property.