

PROPERTY

John O'Keeffe
discovers a 'floury'
home in Portlaoise
P11

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MONACO POLE Page 2 BELLINGHAM BEAUTY Page 4 ADAMSTOWN CASTLE Page 6 CONTACT Johnokeffe@independent.ie Phone: 01 705 5100

An arresting opportunity in America's finest city



John O'Keeffe

WATCHING Crimecall the other night, I couldn't help but wonder where those really big garda who couldn't fit the screen in Garda Patrol had gone.

You may have only seen their blue nobbyed tie and great big chests, but what ties - and what chests.

With the arrival of the svelte TV super garda who are too sexy for their blue shirts, visitors would be forgiven for now believing that new Robo-Garda had banished crime from our shores.

By contrast, we believe that large cities, such as Chicago, are still run by mobsters where even grannies carry a piece.

Well here's one for you Missus - you are more likely to get a poke in the eye from a Mickey Mouse look-a-like in Orlando, Florida, than in Chicago, according to the most recent FBI statistics.

Chicago is now the place to live with the New York Times recently calling it "the quintessential American city" built for the pursuit of happiness. So very like Cork then. Not.

Castleroc Estates have been dealing in top-end properties for bottom-end dollar for a number of years now and this time they have

Where? 200 North Dearborn, The Loop, Chicago, USA
How much? From €195,000 (\$262,000) for large one-bed apartments

Who? Castleroc Estates
How? Offices open in Dublin today and bookings being taken. Irish selling agent has secured a limited amount of units before the launch on July 12 in Chicago.

Why buy? Having won the US Olympic bid for 2016, Chicago is now the hottest investor spot in the US. All apartments come with sitting tenants and investor packages include two years paid taxes and assessments

come up with a product that will be difficult for Irish investors to ignore.

After all, 200 North Dearborn is a seriously impressive 47-floor tower located in the Chicago Loop in the heart of the Financial District.

With the units come lake and river views, floor to ceiling windows and private balconies. North Dearborn is what the Yankee Doodles call a "full amenity residence".

That means it has everything - some 309 residential units and commercial space, along with the essential exercise room, indoor pool, sun deck, parking and doormen 24/7.

The real buzz in all of this



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is that the US Olympic bid for 2016 has been awarded to Chicago. Philip Hegarty, sales director of Castleroc Estates, is in no doubt of the benefits this will bring.

"With Chicago anticipated to win the Olympic Games, 200 North Dearborn is strategically located within the

heart of the financial district (Loop). Rents within this area have increased significantly, driven by the increasing population with a large number of multinationals relocating to Chicago instead of New York.

"This is due to the lower cost base and ever expanding infrastructure within Chicago, and 200 North Dearborn would be considered a sound investment, with unqualified upside."

I think that means you probably should buy one.

And while you might be right to get excited about North Dearborn itself as an

investment opportunity, as we know - it's all about location.

Damn it, even The Wall Street Journal recently said that Chicago was the "most balanced economy in the nation".

Indeed in a study comparing small and large North

American cities, Chicago ranked number one as the top major city of the future, the one with the best economic potential, the best development and investment promotion and the best infrastructure.

Not bad for a city built by us Irish. It may be your time

to live the dream.

Offices open today. For further information contact Castleroc Estates, Suite 1, No 10 Harecourt St, Dublin 2 on 01 478 9439 or email sales@castlerocestates.ie or visit www.castlerocestates.ie