

Love at first bid

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By MAX GROSS

Now that auctions have become an accepted way to nab a Manhattan condo or a Jersey loft, why not a summer rental?

At least that's Bid on the City's thinking; it will host its first-ever Hamptons summer rental auction March 20 for nine properties.

It will be what's called a Dutch auction, in which prices start high and go lower until there is a bidder. Meaning: The first bid on a property is the highest bid. If you can keep quiet (and if everyone else does, too), you could have your vacation home for a low price.

The auction might be a bit of a gimmick, however. Even though there is no minimum "reserve" price, bids are "subject to a two-hour approval window by the owner," according to Bid on the City's managing director, Raymond Villani. Super-low bids will no doubt be rejected.

The properties (listed at bidonthecity.com) range from a three-bedroom, two-bathroom waterfront house in Hampton Bays starting at \$159,000, to a five-bedroom, four-bathroom house (also in Hampton Bays) starting at \$42,000. All properties are available from Memorial Day to Labor Day. The auction starts at noon and broadcasts on PlumTV (plumtv.com); you can bid in the showroom at 226 Fifth Ave., online or via phone.

Just try to control yourselves.



10 MURPHY DRIVE, HAMPTON BAYS: STARTS AT \$159K