

John Terry's holiday photo led to £400,000 raid on his mansion

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John Terry's house in Surrey was raided after he put this picture online

Burglars raided the empty house of John Terry, the footballer, stealing £400,000 worth of designer bags and jewellery after he posted a photograph online of him and his wife on holiday.

The thieves saw a picture of the Aston Villa player and his wife, Toni, 35, on the slopes of a ski resort in the French Alps and realised that their £5 million mansion in Surrey was likely to be empty. In the post seen by his 3.4 million Instagram followers, Terry, 36, posed in front of mountains boasting that he was having “a great few days skiing with the family”.

The thieves, armed with axes, broke in and spent hours ransacking the property in Oxshott on February 25.

Kingston crown court was told how an “eye-watering” collection of designer jewellery and handbags was stolen from Mrs Terry's “vast” collection. Unable to carry them all, the thieves selected the 28 most valuable items, including a £42,000 snakeskin Hermès bag and

Chanel bags worth £8,000. A collection of first edition signed Harry Potter books worth £18,000 and a trophy were also taken.

CCTV revealed two of the thieves entering the property at 10.30pm. They then spent 45 minutes taking £219,000 of Cartier jewellery, a £61,000 eternity ring and handfuls of designer watches. At about 2am they returned with a third man and spent nearly an hour trying to get into a safe, the footage shows.

Darren Eastaugh, 30, Joshua Sumer, 27, Roy Head, 28, and Oliver Hart, 25, admitted one charge of conspiracy to commit seven burglaries across Surrey and Sussex between February 1 and March 27 this year. A fifth man, Kye Hardy-King, 25, admitted one charge of handling stolen goods.

They are due to be sentenced today.