

Vintage travel

Handpicked villas with private pools

Hot springs and
heavenly soaks
in Italy

Istria's
truffle treasures

Sip, Snack, Repeat
The tastiest ways to explore
Northern Portugal

What to drink
in Spain

8 of our favourite
French markets

Our favourite
Greek water
experiences





Contents

- 04. **What makes a Vintage Travel villa?**
What makes our villas so special?
Why should you book with us?
- 06. **The joys of booking early**
2026 is set to be a huge year for holiday travel, make sure to book early.
- 07. **6 events in 2026**
What are some of the best events taking place in our destinations?

OUR DESTINATIONS

- 08. **France**
Provence, Cote d'Azur, Languedoc and South-West France. Take your pick!
- 22. **Spain**
Galicia, Catalunya, Costa Blanca and Andalucia. Where to next?
- 34. **Balearics**
Mallorca and Menorca.
Which island is right for you?
- 40. **Portugal**
Costa Verde & Minho and Algarve.
North or South, the choice is yours!
- 50. **Italy**
Tuscany, Umbria, Lazio and Puglia.
East or West, either way it's very special.
- 58. **Croatia**
Istria and Dubrovnik.
Once is never enough.
- 66. **Turkey**
The Lycian Coast, also known as the Turkish Riviera.
- 72. **Greece**
Ionian Islands, Crete and Mainland Greece. An exceptional selection.

STAY IN TOUCH

- 92. **Ask us anything**
Our team of travel experts love to hear from you, call us for a chat.
- 93. **Be the first to know**
Find us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube or email!



Steve Eccles - Cap de Formentor, Mallorca

Welcome

...to the first edition of our Vintage Travel magazine - a celebration of the destinations, authenticity and distinctive style that has defined Vintage Travel from the very beginning.

It is a pleasure to invite you to explore our unique properties and the beautiful destinations we are privileged to offer.

Our story began on the Costa Brava in Catalunya, Spain in 1990, when my parents-in-law, May and Tony Poole, set out to offer beautiful properties in places where the local way of life still prevailed.

From the very beginning, they believed that personal service matters. It still does. When you call us, we answer. No automated systems, no scripts - just one-to-one conversations, thoughtful advice, and the time to help you find a villa that truly suits you and your group.

Tony also insisted that every villa must be personally inspected by us - a principle we continue to uphold today. Each property is chosen for its character, charm and facilities. It is this passion for service, and for providing great holidays, that has made us a multi-award-winning company, including recipients of The Daily Telegraph's Best Villa Company

award (which we have retained since 2019) and the prestigious Feefo Platinum Award, to name but a few.

Our mission? To immerse you in the local culture, to offer an authentic flavour of your chosen region, and to help you unwind in your own space, in your own way.

Our team are always travelling to discover new properties in the best destinations so that we can share them with you. Whether it's a historic house hidden in the countryside or a contemporary villa just steps from the sea, each one must meet our exacting standard of being 'just right' - not simply available.

We've produced this magazine to give you a flavour of these wonderful places, alongside a selection of our properties, the finest experiences, and the hidden gems that define each unique destination. Many more properties are available online at vintagetravel.co.uk.

We will never take for granted the trust our clients place in us each year. We value your loyalty, your curiosity, and your wish for a holiday with character, comfort and sincerity.

Steve Eccles
Managing Director



What makes a Vintage Travel villa?



When you call us you will speak to a member of our helpful team who regularly visit all of our properties and can answer any question you might have.

Our Independence

Four decades in, we remain defiantly independent and still family-owned. No algorithms select our properties. No artificial intelligence systems handle your questions. When you ring, you speak to someone who has actually visited the villa you're considering and can tell you which bedroom gets morning sun or where the nearest proper bakery is located.

Our properties

A Vintage Travel property sits off the main tourist trails. Ancient stone houses in mountain villages where locals still gather in the square. Contemporary retreats steps from secluded beaches. Historic townhouses in market towns that haven't discovered Instagram yet. What connects them is authenticity. These are places where you discover local lifestyle rather

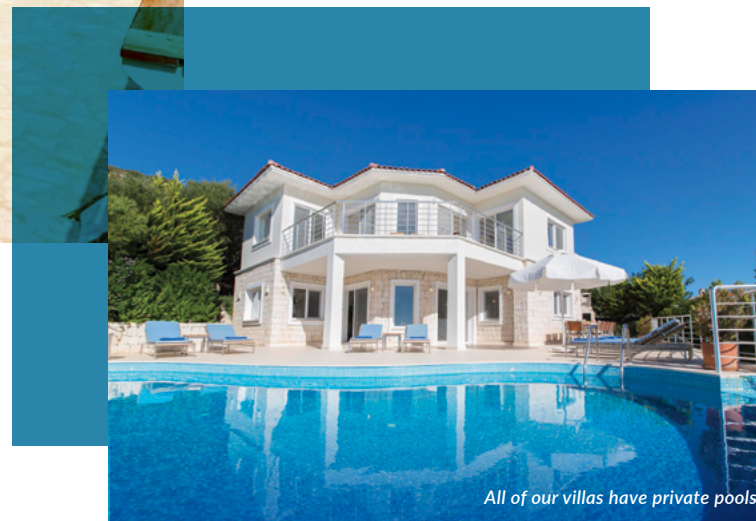
than resort programming, where the spirit and character of the region remain genuinely intact. From cottage hideaways for couples to villas accommodating several families, each property delivers complete freedom, privacy, and space to properly unwind.

Our local expertise

Our team know which restaurants locals actually use, where to hire boats, when festivals happen, which walks deliver the best views, and are full of genuine local knowledge. Our team visits regularly, knows the properties intimately, and can answer those detailed questions that matter when choosing where to spend your holiday. Most of our locations will have a local representative on-hand to assist you with any queries or issues you might have while on holiday.

“
Professional, knowledgeable, friendly and courteous. Always respond in a timely manner and nothing is too much trouble.”

– Feefo Review, October 2025



Our small party rates

Our small party rate offers something genuinely useful: stay in a larger villa for a reduced price when travelling as a couple or small group outside peak season. Extra space, complete privacy, exclusive pool use, lower cost. No occupancy supplements, ever.

Our Awards

The approach works. In 2025 we have won...

- The Condé Nast Traveller readers choice
- Telegraph Travel Awards Best Villa Operator
- 2026 Feefo Platinum for Constant Excellence
- British Travel Awards silver for best travel company for villa holidays

What's included in every Vintage Travel stay?



Personal, knowledgeable service and a 24 hour emergency helpline



Property freshly prepared and cleaned to a very high standard



All beds made up with freshly laundered linen



Fresh linen and pool towels provided every week



Pool/beach towels



Complimentary welcome pack



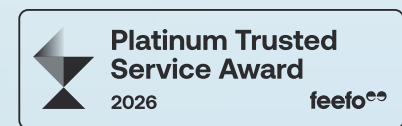
Cot and highchair available free at family houses when requested at booking



Free flight search service



Pre-holiday information pack with detailed directions and area guide





Vintage Travel Tip for 2026

The joys of booking early

Thinking about a holiday in 2026? Here's why it pays to plan ahead.

The best weeks at our most popular properties tend to book early, often by guests who've stayed before and know exactly what they want. That Provençal mas with the lavender views, the Tuscan farmhouse everyone returns to, the Kefalonia retreat looking out to Zakynthos... if a particular property has caught your eye, the sooner you book it, the sooner you can start planning everything around it.



It also means first pick of flights when schedules release, before prices climb and seat selection narrows. You're far more likely to get the departure times, airlines and seats you actually want, rather than settling for whatever happens to be left.

Then there's the simple pleasure of having months to plan. Time to research that perfect beach taverna in Greece, book the wine estate tour in Portugal, and get genuinely excited about your summer rather than stressed

about finding availability. Some of our clients tell us the anticipation is half the holiday... making plans, sharing ideas with friends and family, and looking forward to it all is part of the fun.

The best holidays rarely happen by accident.

6

Events in 2026

A small selection of events taking place around Europe.

A small selection of events worth experiencing

Here's the thing about Europe's best food, wine, and music festivals: they don't wait for you to sort your accommodation. And with 2026 shaping up to be an exceptional vintage year for cultural celebrations across the continent, the time to book your villa is decidedly now.



Bordeaux, France (June 5th - 7th)

Weekend des Grands Crus

Around 100 estates pour the 2023 vintage at Hangar 14 while local chefs create pairings that prove the French haven't lost their touch. Passion Dinners at châteaux sell out faster than you can say "santé."



Lucca, Italy (July 1st - 31st)

Summer Festival

A music festival that features a wide range of musical artists in various historical locations around Lucca. Jamiroquai, Katy Perry, and stellar food offerings within medieval walls.



Portimão, Portugal (Early August)

Sardine Festival

The Portimão Sardine Festival delivers grilled sardines, live music, and waterfront atmosphere with that particular Portuguese magic where simple becomes sublime.



Eglouvi, Lefkada (August 6th)

Lefkada Lentil Festival

A unique local food festival, celebrating the Eglouvi lentil that sees village women cooking the famous lentils in massive cauldrons before the community gathers for soup, sardines, wine, and traditional dancing.



Istria, Croatia (September onward)

Buzet and Motovun Truffle festivals

If you've never tasted fresh Croatian truffles you're missing out on one of the most magnificent culinary experiences Europe has to offer. If you consider yourself a true foodie, the Istrian truffle fairs in Buzet and Motovun are a must.



Ciudadella, Menorca (June 23rd)

Fiestas de Sant Joan

A celebration of Saint John the Baptist, featuring spectacular firework displays, bonfires and bustling parades with Menorca's famous 'Caixer' horse riders performing the Jaleo, where horses rear up and walk through a fervent crowd.

“

If you're looking for a quiet, rural retreat or stunning sea views, you can't go wrong with a French villa holiday.

France

There's always more to enjoy

France has mastered the art of joie de vivre, and it's contagious. Days slow down. Lunches become events. You develop strong opinions about cheese. It's impossible not to fall for it. Our villas span four regions: the vineyards of the southwest, Provence's lavender valleys, Languedoc's medieval villages, and the Côte d'Azur's coastline. Stone bastides with cypress-shaded pools. Converted farmhouses minutes from the village boulangerie. Places where the hardest decision is which market to visit first.



Sénanque Abbey, Provence



La Castille, South West France

Don't leave without...

1. **Cycling the Luberon's hilltop villages**
Bonnieux to Lourmarin via quiet back roads and lavender fields (Provence)
2. **A morning at Pézenas market**
Antiques, local produce, and Molière's old stomping ground (Languedoc)
3. **Relaxing on the Riviera**
Sandy beaches at Antibes, Saint-Raphaël and Saint-Tropez (Côte d'Azur)
4. **Canoeing the Dordogne River**
Paddle past châteaux and limestone cliffs (South West)

That joie de vivre we mentioned? It starts here...



Saint-Saturnin-lès-Apt

Provence

The France of your dreams – quaint village markets, rolling lavender fields, and long, languid hours by the pool.

Peter Mayle wasn't wrong. The light here really does turn everything golden. Stone villages balance on hilltops, the smell of wild thyme hits you on every walk, and chilled rosé at lunch becomes a habit you'll struggle to break back home.

Cycle through wine country with wine 'cave' stops along the way. Hunt for treasures at L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue's Sunday antiques market. Make a day of it at the Camargue beaches. Or simply master the art of doing very little at all.

Our villas put you right in the heart of it. Stone cottages in olive groves near Gordes. Village houses steps from restaurants in Roussillon and Eygalières. Renovated farmhouses within walking distance of Maussane-les-Alpilles' weekly markets and bistros.

Ready when you are.



01



02

Scan the QR codes with your phone to view the villa on our website.



03



04



Handpicked villas

01. LE GUSTAVE, Sleeps 4

Charming stone cottage with private pool, set among olive groves just 4km from hilltop Gordes.

02. MAS MAUSSANE, Sleeps 8

Renovated farmhouse with heated pool, five minutes' walk to Maussane's restaurants, cafés, and weekly markets.

03. MAS ST SIFFREIN, Sleeps 6

Restored village house with courtyard pool facing vineyards and Mont Ventoux views. Caromb's restaurants and shops 350m walk.

04. MAS LUBERON, Sleeps 10

Spacious farmhouse with pool and jacuzzi, set among vineyards near Apt and the Luberon National Park.

We always make time for...

- **Wine Tasting in Châteauneuf-du-Pape**
Serious reds with château views
- **Soaking up history in Saint-Rémy**
Discover Roman remains and the Van Gogh connection
- **The Lavender Route in late June**
Valensole plateau when it's particularly purple
- **The brocante (flea market) trail**
Village to village antique hunting
- **Palais des Papes, Avignon**
Wander the grand halls of Europe's largest Gothic palace
- **Canoe the Sorgue at Fontaine-de-Vaucluse**
Emerald water, easy paddling, postcard views
- **A long lunch in Ménerbes**
Provençal classics with vineyard views and zero rush



Villefranche-sur-Mer, with its colourful waterfront curving around one of the Riviera's loveliest bays.

Côte d'Azur

Where glamour drifts effortlessly from the harbours to the hills.

The Côte d'Azur doesn't do subtle. Cannes glitters with billionaire-owned yachts. St-Tropez is still the global catwalk for anyone who wants to be seen, while Nice's Promenade des Anglais stretches for 7km of pure Mediterranean swagger.

Our villas put you right where the magic happens – both on the legendary coastline and in the stunning countryside behind it. From a hilltop retreat near Vence with sea views to a pretty stone house in Collobrières. Villas overlooking Lake Saint-Cassien. Modern homes in Grimaud, 30 minutes from legendary Pampelonne beach. The joy is having both worlds within easy reach.



The city of Cannes by night, lit up along the Riviera coast.



VILLA JAUNE, Sleeps 6

Cheerful village house with pool, table tennis, and covered terrace, just a 10-minute walk from St Cézaire-sur-Siagne and its cafés, market, and panoramic countryside views.

A well stocked supermarket is handy for all your needs in the village and where you'll also find a bakery, pharmacy and a market on a Tuesday and Saturday.

Painted in warm yellow hues, and set in a private residential area, this unpretentious property will no doubt prove popular with small groups and families alike.

Handpicked villas

MAS DU VAL, Sleeps 8

Provençal villa with pool, boules pitch, and terraces, under a kilometre from the hilltop village of St Paul de Vence and within easy reach of Cannes, Antibes, and the beaches of the Côte d'Azur.

The flavours of the Mediterranean have never been so well captured as in this classic Provençal villa, whose sun yellow façade, olive green shutters and azure swimming pool provide a warm welcome to those visiting this charming corner of Provence.

MAS VIGNES, Sleeps 10

Stone mas with heated pool, pool house, boules, and multiple terraces, nestled among the Côtes de Provence vineyards, a short walk from Saint Antonin-du-Var and 10km from Lorgues' markets and restaurants.

We were thrilled to add Mas Vignes to our Provence portfolio, suitable for large families looking for somewhere special to escape. There are five ensuite bedrooms with air conditioning over three floors in an old stone building that has been lovingly modernised and adapted over the years.

VILLA ELOI, Sleeps 8

Elegant Biot villa with heated pool, enclosed jacuzzi, and sweeping terraces, just 6km from beaches, 10km from Antibes, and close to the galleries and glass workshops of the village. The far reaching vista can be enjoyed from the terraces and balconies as well as poolside.

Throughout, the quality of the furnishings, facilities and décor is high. The bedrooms all benefit from air conditioning and access to the outdoors, with the three first floor bedrooms enjoying a lovely curved balcony.



Promenade des Anglais, Nice

Spend mornings at local markets

...stocking up on plump olives, charcuterie, crusty, just-baked fougasse and jars of honey straight from the hills. Spend afternoons creating your own perfume in Grasse, driving the red-rock Estérel coastline, or just relaxing by the pool.

Picasso called the Riviera paradise. Secure your own slice before it's gone.

Worth the detour

- **St Paul de Vence gallery crawl**
Cobbled streets lined with art, finishing with a drink at La Colombe d'Or
- **Côtes de Provence vineyard tour**
The rosés around Grimaud and the Massif des Maures are the ones you'll be drinking all week
- **Lake Saint-Cassien**
Freshwater swimming, paddle boarding, and significantly fewer crowds
- **Îles de Lérins boat trip**
Escape Cannes' glitz for these tranquil islands, rare Mediterranean flora and fauna, and a wine-producing monastery
- **Hire an electric bike**
Explore forest trails and twisting back roads in the foothills of the Alps

For reservations call **01954 261 431**

Book online at vintagetravel.co.uk



Carcassonne and the Pont Vieux

Languedoc



01

Vineyards, villages and very little rush

Stretching from the shimmering shores of Sète to the vineyards of Minervois, Languedoc was shaped by the Romans and fortified by the Cathars. Amphitheatres still echo Nîmes' imperial past, hilltop castles whisper of medieval plots and intrigue, and village squares host Saturday markets that have thrived for centuries.

Our Languedoc homes are tucked among wine villages and along the Mediterranean fringe: terraced Minervois properties with private pools, townhouses in Pézenas with bougainvillea-wrapped courtyards, former wine domaines in Rieux Minervois, and hilltop retreats overlooking sprawling vineyards.

Slow lunches turn into late afternoons, bottles are opened without ceremony, and no one's in a hurry to be anywhere else. It's a region that rewards curiosity, encourages wandering, and makes doing very little feel like the best plan of all.

Languedoc invites you to explore, linger, and fall for its laidback, historic charm.



02



03

Worth abandoning your terrace for...

- **Pedal the Canal du Midi**
Drifting past plane trees, locks, and lazy riverside cafés, cycling at its dreamiest
- **Savour oysters in Bouzigues**
Sip Picpoul de Pinet where the vineyards meet the sea
- **Step back in time in Carcassonne**
A storybook citadel of towers, turrets, and troubadours
- **Lose yourself in Pézenas**
A honey-stoned maze of art galleries, antique shops, and summer festivals



04

- 01. **LE GRENIER, Sleeps 6**
Charming town house with walled garden and gated pool. Located in Rieux-Minervois, just a short walk to shops, cafés, and Minervois vineyards. Le Grenier spreads across the entire upper floor of a converted barn at a former wine Domaine built in 1882.
- 02. **VILLA BAILEY, Sleeps 8**
Bright villa with private pool, shaded terrace, and games area. A few minutes' walk from Pézenas' historic centre, markets, and restaurants. Whether you're seeking a cultural getaway, a relaxing family escape, or a base to explore the Languedoc region, this villa retreat delivers.
- 03. **LES CEDRES, Sleeps 12**
Restored 19th-century Maison de Maître with pool, sauna, and park-like gardens. Set in Caux, a short stroll from the village and close to Pézenas and Languedoc beaches. If you are looking for something a little different for your Languedoc holiday this year, we think Les Cèdres might just be what you're looking for.
- 04. **MAISON BELEZA, Sleeps 13**
Take a stylish interior renovation, add a walled garden designed with olive, lemon, plum and fig trees along with a private pool in the centre of Pézenas and the end result is Maison Beleza, a very welcome addition to our portfolio of properties in the Languedoc.



Saint-Cirq-Lapopie, one of the Lot Valley's most enchanting hilltop villages.

South West France

Come for the markets, the wine, and the scenery; stay because South West France has a way of feeling like home.

If you're after the real France, this is it. Between Bordeaux and Toulouse, South West France is a patchwork of vineyards, rivers, and storybook villages with names you'll struggle to pronounce but you'll never forget. Market squares brim with foie gras and figs, the air smells of wild herbs, and every meal tastes like someone's grandmother made it.

Our properties are scattered among bastide towns and valley vineyards. Stone cottages near Bergerac, manoirs hidden among

fruit orchards, and hilltop homes above the River Lot. From here, it's easy to slip into local life: a morning baguette run, a stroll through sunflower fields, a dip in the Dordogne before dinner.

This is the land of truffles and red wine, of medieval spires and long summer evenings. Somewhere between a memorable riverbank picnic and your second bottle of red, you realise this isn't a holiday, it's a full-blown love affair.



01



02



03



04



Bergerac, where medieval streets meet vineyard-covered hills.

Handpicked villas

- 01. LA MAISON FLEURIE, Sleeps 4**
Flower-filled stone cottage with heated pool, summer kitchen, and games room. Set in La Thèze, just 4km from Frayssinet-le-Gélat and nearby châteaux.
- 02. SOULAGES, Sleeps 8**
Expansive stone house with heated pool, terraces, and games room. Close to St André-de-Najac, with easy access to Najac and Villefranche-de-Rouergue.
- 03. LA CASTILLE, Sleeps 8**
Restored 18th-century bastide with fenced pool and open gardens. Close to Castillonès, vineyards, bastide villages, and lakes for swimming and canoeing.
- 04. LE MANOIR DU VIGNOBLE, Sleeps 14**
Grand country manoir with heated pool, billiards, and children's play area. Nestled among Bergerac vineyards and the Dordogne.

Simple pleasures, South West style

- **The Saturday market in Villeréal**
Where gossip comes free with the cheese
- **Canoeing the Dordogne**
Where every bend reveals another château
- **Wine tasting in Gaillac or Cahors**
Rich reds and easy conversation in equal measure
- **An afternoon in Albi**
Toulouse-Lautrec, red brick, and riverside cafés
- **A long table at a night market**
Duck confit, accordion music, and fairy lights overhead
- **Discover Najac**
Hilltop village with a medieval castle, winding streets, and views that make every photo look like a postcard
- **Truffle hunting near Sarlat**
Follow a local guide and their snuffing dogs through the oak woods for a true taste of luxury



Loaf at first sight

The Great Boulangerie Hunt

Hunt, queue, taste, savour:
uncover France's most irresistible
boulangeries just steps from your villa.

The best boulangeries aren't marked on maps... they're discovered.

Tucked down cobbled side streets, anchoring village squares you stumbled upon by accident, or whispered about by locals who've been queuing there for decades. Part treasure hunt, part delicious education, finding your perfect boulangerie becomes as essential to your French villa holiday as the villa itself.

Each village harbours its own (or if you're lucky, more than one), and the pleasure lies in discovering which produces the crispest croissants, the most perfectly glazed strawberry tarts, the baguette that actually lives up to the legend. Inside any respectable boulangerie, the classics await: macarons in every conceivable flavour, exceptional gâteaux displayed like edible architecture, the Paris-Brest with its praline cream and choux pastry ring, delicate mille-feuille with its precise thousand layers.

Savoury options hold their own:

Quiche Lorraine for lunch, exceptional baguettes still crackling from the oven, buttery brioche that makes toast elsewhere seem pointless. These are the standards, executed daily with the kind of precision the French refuse to compromise on.

The regions where our villas are based each claim their own specialities.

Provence has navettes de Marseille, boat-shaped orange blossom biscuits, and Aix-en-Provence's calissons, those diamond-shaped almond confections. The Côte d'Azur invented Tarte Tropézienne, a brioche filled with custard cream.

The Dordogne celebrates its famous walnuts with gâteaux aux noix and crunchy croquants aux noix, while around Montauban you'll find fénétra, a traditional lemon tart. Occitanie offers sweet fougasse bread scented with orange blossom and those addictive croquants almond biscuits.



Tarte Tropézienne

Boulangerie, Pâtisserie, Viennoiserie

In France, not all baked goods shops are created equal. A boulangerie is your go-to for crusty baguettes, pain de campagne, and other everyday breads. A pâtisserie specialises in sweet treats – think delicate mille-feuille, éclairs, macarons, and tarts.

And then there's the viennoiserie, where buttery, flaky delights like croissants, pain au chocolat, and brioches reign supreme. Many shops combine all three, but knowing the difference helps you queue like a local, grab the freshest breads, and identify where to indulge your sweet tooth without fear of disappointment.

Tip: morning visits are best – the smell of freshly baked baguettes and pastries drifting through cobbled streets is part of the French holiday magic.



Inside any respectable boulangerie, macarons, gâteaux, and the Paris-Brest await, each a miniature masterpiece of French patisserie.

The boulangeries we keep coming back for:

- **La Tarte Tropézienne**
Across Saint-Tropez, Nice, and Cannes – The original since 1955, that glorious brioche-cream hybrid.
- **Maison Bremond in Aix-en-Provence**
Historic calissons specialist, recipes from the 1830s.
- **Pâtisserie François in Bergerac**
Fabulous chocolates, gâteaux, macarons, frequently cited as the region's best.
- **La Troprovençale in L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue**
Light brioche with orange blossom and mousseline cream, though the town boasts several wonderful bakeries worth exploring.



8 of our favourite French markets



Sarlat-la-Canéda

- **Apt, Provence**
Saturday mornings get serious here. Candied fruits, sun-baked tomatoes, and pastries that will stop conversation mid-sentence.
- **Monpazier, South West**
A perfect medieval square with bread so good you'll eat half the loaf before you get home. Charcuterie and cheese to match.
- **L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, Provence**
Sunday antique heaven along the river. Vintage treasures, fresh flowers, and olive oil worth the luggage weight.

Sault, a tranquil village overlooking the heart of Provence's lavender country.



Fréjus

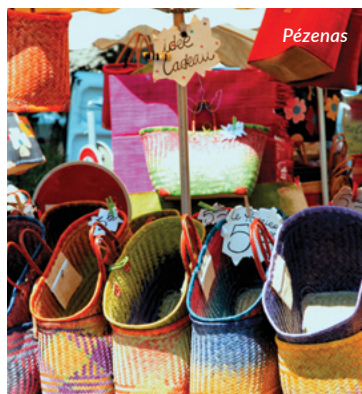
- **Pézenas, Languedoc**
Medieval lanes buzzing with locals. Artisan cheeses, quirky antiques, and wines you won't find at home.
- **Fréjus, Côte d'Azur**
Harbour-side stalls where the seafood's still cold from the boat. Oysters, olives, and herbs with the scent of summer.
- **Sarlat, South West**
Cobblestones and that unmistakable whiff of truffle. Foie gras, walnuts, and anything truffle-adjacent you can fit in your bag.
- **St Paul de Vence, Côte d'Azur**
Hilltop views, handcrafted olive wood, and rosé so good you'll buy three bottles. Artists and sun-seekers jostle at the same stalls.
- **Sault, Provence**
Lavender heaven. Stock up on honey, essential oils, and soap that'll remind you of this exact moment all winter.



Apt, where narrow streets and one of Provence's oldest markets come alive each week.



Saint-Paul-de-Vence, a fortified village famed for its galleries and golden light.



Pézenas



Monpazier



L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue, known for its canals, antiques, and bustling Sunday market.

“

Spain was where Vintage Travel began. We've since explored Europe far and wide, but Spain will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Spain

Where it all began

Some of our favourite things to do in Spain? Easy. Eat our body weight in seafood. Clap along (badly) to flamenco. Order a drink and receive free tapas. Wandering Moorish palaces at golden hour. Letting the kids stay up late because everyone else does.

Taking guilt-free siestas. And then there's snorkelling, paddleboarding, riding the flumes at waterparks we're technically too old for, sherry bodegas, glitzy beach clubs, and the vibrant night markets. Spain will give you memories you'll talk about for years.



Calella de Palafrugell beach, Costa Brava.



Cortijo Alcornosa, El Bosque, Andalusia

Worth missing your siesta for...

1. **Costa Brava cove swimming**
Tucked between pine-covered cliffs, accessed down rocky paths tourists skip, worth every careful step down
2. **Vigo's shellfish markets**
Galicia does seafood seriously, octopus fresh from Atlantic waters, percebes pulled from rocks, waterfront restaurants cooking your market haul
3. **Pueblo blanco wandering**
Think whitewashed Andalusian hilltop villages like El Gastor or Vejer de la Frontera, with terracotta pots spilling geraniums, maze-like streets designed to confuse invaders and tourists equally
4. **Guadalest mountain reservoir**
Spring-fresh water, dramatic mountain views, medieval castle perched impossibly on rock, well worth the winding drive up

Vamos!



Baiona beach and marina

Galicia

In Galicia, dramatic landscapes meet a way of life that hasn't been polished for show.

Tranquil, fjord-like inlets, golden beaches, and sleepy fishing villages that feel like they've been preserved just for you. This is Galicia. Cities like Santiago de Compostela and Pontevedra tempt with history, markets, and tapas, while the views – oh, the views – stop you mid-step. It's unpolished, authentic, and still gloriously undiscovered.

Our villas match the region's character. Stay in a converted mill, a nobleman's pazo, a designer farmhouse, or a seaside hideaway that was once the local Countess's house, all with private pools of course,

and many with breathtaking sea views thrown in. Some are a few steps from the sand, others tucked into rolling hills or charming hamlets, all designed with your total relaxation in mind.

Spend mornings wandering local markets, afternoons hiking sections of the Camino de Santiago or exploring secluded coves, and evenings dining on fresh seafood by the water. Swim, siesta, repeat.

Galicia with Vintage Travel is the holiday you didn't know you needed, but definitely deserve.



01



02



03



04



Cíes Islands

Handpicked villas

01. BELLAVISTA, *Sleeps 8*

Hillside family villa above Raxó with sea views across the Ría de Pontevedra. Terraced gardens, and covered terrace.

02. LA CASA DE LAS RANAS, *Sleeps 8*

Smart villa with pool surrounded by mature gardens and camellias. Set in peaceful Vilariño de Arriba.

03. CASA DO SEIXO, *Sleeps 7*

Coastal retreat metres from the water's edge with sea views on three sides. Lawned garden, 8m pool, games room with table tennis, fresh maritime interiors.

04. VEIGA DA AREA, *Sleeps 9*

It is hard to imagine a better location than this! Direct access onto the sandy beach of Chancelas and an impressive 16m swimming pool looking out across the sheltered waters of the Ría de Pontevedra.

Unmissable moments in Galicia

- **Beach-hopping through the Rías Baixas**
Uncrowded bays, soft sand, and Atlantic blues you won't forget
- **Lunch in Combarro**
Stone hórreos, salty air, and sensational shellfish
- **Chasing the sunset in O Grove**
Golden hour at its finest, preferably with a glass of local albariño in hand
- **A day on the Cíes Islands**
White-sand beaches that look and feel impossibly tropical
- **Exploring Vigo's Old Town**
Narrow streets, bustling plazas, and tapas bars alive with Galician energy
- **Santiago de Compostela Cathedral**
Medieval marvel, pilgrimage destination, and the heart of Galicia's history



Llafranc, Palafrugell

Catalunya

In Catalunya, the best places aren't advertised – they're discovered.

This is the Costa Brava before it got famous – or at least the bit that refused to sell out. Pine-covered cliffs plunge into turquoise coves. Medieval villages like Pals and Peratallada still have cobbles that predate tourism. And the beaches around Begur and Tamariu remain the kind of places where locals outnumber selfie sticks.

Our villas cluster around Palafrugell, Begur, and the coast between them. Restored 18th-century masías with infinity pools overlooking the Med. Contemporary properties minutes from hidden calas. Romantic boltholes for couples, spacious family villas with sea views. Some are walking distance to beaches, others perched on hillsides. All within easy reach of Girona's restaurants and those legendary Palamós prawns sold straight from the harbour. Snorkel in crystalline coves that once hid smugglers. Hike coastal paths. Or just perfect the art of doing very little, exceptionally well.



Calella de Palafrugell



Handpicked villas

CASA VERITY, *Sleeps 6*

It is always a pleasure to discover a property that is within walking distance of the beach and good amenities.

Comfortable villa with heated pool on south-facing hillside. Direct rustic steps down to Tamariu village (490m), central heating for cooler months.



CASA AZUL, *Sleeps 7*

Casa Azul offers a very desirable combination of features often sought after yet seldom found: a smart and inviting Mediterranean residence ensconced in handsome mature gardens.

Beautifully furnished and tastefully decorated, it is impossible not to be seduced by the atmosphere and location of this elegant home.

Just 420m from Tamariu's beach and seafront restaurants, with sea views through the pines.



MAS NOGUER, *Sleeps 8*

Restored 18th-century masia with a fenced pool and mature grounds. In La Pera village, 250m from the restaurant, views to Dalí's Púbol castle.

Charm and character can be found in abundance within its ancient walls. Exposed timber beams, sloping ceilings, low doorways and battened clay under-roofing are just some of the many traditional features that the villa enjoys.



MONTMAR, *Sleeps 10*

Spacious villa with pool and covered outdoor kitchen. Just 290m to Tamariu's waterfront, with table tennis, garage parking.

Those seeking a well-appointed property just a short stroll from the waterfront of one of the most authentic fishing hamlets to be found along this stunning coastline will be hard-pressed to find a better location than this.



Girona

Catalunya's crown jewels

- **Palamós harbour at sunset**
Buy sweet, succulent gambas straight from the boats, then find a restaurant to cook them
- **The medieval triangle**
Pals, Peratallada, and Palau Sator for cobbled streets and (almost) zero tour buses
- **Girona's Old Town**
Roman walls you can walk, world-class Michelin dining, exceptional bakeries, gelaterias and chocolate shops around every medieval corner, it's culinary heaven
- **Market morning in Palafrugell**
Locals stocking up on cheeses, olives, and fruit, followed by a coffee in the square and no rush to be anywhere else
- **Wine tasting in the Empordà**
Underrated, windswept vineyards producing elegant reds and minerally whites, often served by the winemaker themselves
- **Snorkelling or kayaking around Begur's calas**
Paddle into caves and quiet inlets like Cala Aiguablava or Cala Sa Tuna, where the water is impossibly clear

For reservations call **01954 261 431**

Book online at vintagetravel.co.uk



Costa Blanca

Peñón de Ifach, Calpe



Palm-fringed beaches, whitewashed villages, orange groves, paella by the sea. That's Costa Blanca.



04

Spain's sunniest stretch

The Costa Blanca delivers sunshine with substance: turquoise coves, golden beaches watched over by Calpe's dramatic Peñón de Ifach rock, cliff-backed bays and coastal towns that blend charm with a touch of glamour.

From the sparkling marina at Moraira to the old streets of Xàbia (Jávea), this is the Spain that does slow living beautifully – long lunches featuring paella cooked in vast flat pans, late sunsets and every excuse to stay out just a little longer.

Our villas fit the mood perfectly. Infinity pools with sea-meets-sky views, Mediterranean

gardens scented with pine and bougainvillea, rooftops made for sundowners, and tucked-away terraces ideal for lazy breakfasts. Whether you're after modern glass-fronted design or a character-filled finca, each home offers style, comfort and the kind of spaces families love.

Spend days beach-hopping, market-wandering or dipping into the blue on snorkelling trips. Feast on seafood by the water, or simply stretch out by your private pool with the latest bestseller.



Guadalest

Our Costa Blanca hit list Handpicked villas

- **A morning dip at El Portet**
Calm water, soft sand, and shallow enough for toddlers without being boring for swimmers
- **Snorkelling off Xàbia's rocky coves**
Clear waters, hidden inlets, and fish unbothered enough to swim right past your mask
- **Marina wandering in Moraira**
Boutique browsing, yacht-spotting, and tapas so good you will start planning your retirement here
- **The climb down to Cala de Moraig**
Picturesque cliffs, turquoise water, and a natural cave that will make everyone feel like an explorer

- 01. **CASITA EIVISSA, Sleeps 4**
Stylish casita with heatable plunge pool and rooftop sea views. In exclusive El Portet, 650m from beach.
- 02. **CASA TOSCANA, Sleeps 6**
Country house with natural-form pool in Mediterranean gardens. In La Colina residential area, 4km from Jávea's beaches.
- 03. **VISTA PORTET, Sleeps 10**
Contemporary villa with heated pool and panoramic bay views. In El Portet, 650m from the beach, a 10-minute walk to Moraira's restaurants and Blue Flag beach.
- 04. **MAR DECUMBRE, Sleeps 10**
Ultra-modern villa with infinity pool and sea views from every room. Internal lift, on Cumbre del Sol, 2.5km from Cala de Moraig, between Xàbia and Moraira.



“

You haven't really tasted Alicante until you've tried the local rice dishes. Fresh, fragrant, and utterly unforgettable.

”



Ronda

Andalucía

Andalucía is where Spain turns up the volume. Moorish palaces, gypsy guitars and white villages clinging to hillsides.

This is the Spain of every cliché – and the clichés are generally true. Flamenco spills from bars at midnight. Pueblo blancos gleam white on hillsides. The sun shines 320+ days a year, sherry flows in Jerez, and Moorish palaces still stun in Granada. It's everything you imagined, which is why half of Europe arrives every summer.

Smart move? A villa with a private pool, somewhere you can disappear, sip something cold, and completely switch off. Our collection spans centuries-old cortijos with walls thick enough to beat the heat,

whitewashed haciendas in orange groves, contemporary fincas where infinity pools meet the horizon. Shaded patios for siestas. Roof terraces built for sundowners.

Mornings in Seville's markets. Afternoons tasting sherry. Evenings watching sunsets from your terrace.

Your villa is waiting. The only thing missing is you (and maybe a bottle of Rioja).



01



03



02



04

Handpicked villas

01. DOÑA JUANA, *Sleeps 4*

Amidst the stunningly picturesque countryside of rolling hills that encircles the charming 'pueblo blanco' of El Gastor, this attractive rural retreat sits upon what appears to be its own private viewpoint, enjoying an enchanting 360-degree vista of picture-postcard scenery.

02. CORTIJO ALCORNOCOSA, *Sleeps 8*

Sitting within the unspoilt Alcornocales National Park, reached via a private driveway that winds through cork oak groves. The grand white-walled estate enjoys a spectacular setting, with sweeping views across the turquoise waters of the Embalse de los Hurones reservoir to the peaks of the Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park beyond.

03. EL MOLINO DEL PILÓN, *Sleeps 10*

This beautifully converted mill house sits within 17 acres of grounds, where shady areas of mature woodland are interspersed with grassy open spaces. The former millstream that runs across the land falls into pretty waterfalls, whilst the large natural lake that lies on a raised plain behind the house is another of the many attractive features.

04. HACIENDA LA PARRILLA ALTA, *Sleeps 12*

Originally built in 1881 this unique and imposing property lies in the heart of the countryside near Arcos de la Frontera and has been in the family of one of the world's most famous and respected sherry producing dynasties for over two generations.



Mezquita Cathedral in Córdoba

Essential Andalucian experiences

- **The white village circuit**
Ronda's dramatic gorge, Grazalema's mountain backdrop, Arcos de la Frontera perched on cliffs
- **Sherry triangle tasting**
Jerez, Sanlúcar, and El Puerto produce the real stuff, not what's gathering dust in your parents' cupboard
- **Beach-hopping the Costa de la Luz**
Endless golden sand, Atlantic waves, and significantly fewer crowds than the Costa del Sol
- **Seville's Triana market on a Saturday**
Locals buying fish, ceramic stalls, and bars serving manzanilla by 11am
- **Córdoba's Mezquita at dusk**
The arches glow, the crowds thin, and the courtyard fills with the scent of orange blossom. Magical without trying

Our 4 Favourite Spanish Beaches



PLAYA DE PATOS – Galicia

Ocean-facing, wave-rich and surfer-loved. A long sweep of sand with views of the Cíes Islands and a surf school ready to turn beginners into wave-chasers.



FARO DE TRAFALGAR – Andalucía

A beautiful stretch of Atlantic sand where the lighthouse stands guard and the crowds never found the map. Bring a picnic and let the cool breeze do the rest.



PLATJA D'AIGUABLAVA – Catalunya

A tiny turquoise dream: soft sand, calm water, sublime seafood lunches at Toc Al Mar and pine-fringed cliffs. Feels like a secret, just you, the cove and the perfect Catalan blue.



CALA EL PORTET – Costa Blanca

A sheltered horseshoe of calm turquoise water tucked beneath Moraira's headland, with pines for shade and plenty to see underwater snorkelling.



What to drink in Spain

Order anything here and it arrives with a story, a tradition, or at the very least, a free tapa. Here's what to raise a glass to in each of our villa regions.



ANDALUCÍA Sunshine in a glass

Sherry (Jerez)

Forget everything you think you know. From bone-dry Fino to nutty Amontillado, sherry is one of Spain's great pleasures.

Tinto de Verano

Red wine + lemon soda, aka the cooler cousin of sangría, and what the locals actually drink.



CATALUNYA

For the sophisticated sipper

Cava

Spain's sparkling star, perfect for pre-dinner toasts (or breakfast, we're not judging).

Vermut de Reus

Aromatic, lightly bitter, served over ice with an orange slice. The Catalan aperitivo you'll miss the moment you go home.



GALICIA

For seafood lovers & night owls

Albariño

Crisp, coastal, and practically engineered for seafood.

Orujo

A potent post-dinner firecracker of a brandy.

Queimada

Orujo set alight with sugar and citrus, stirred while chanting a protective spell. Dramatic? Yes. Delicious? Also yes.



COSTA BLANCA

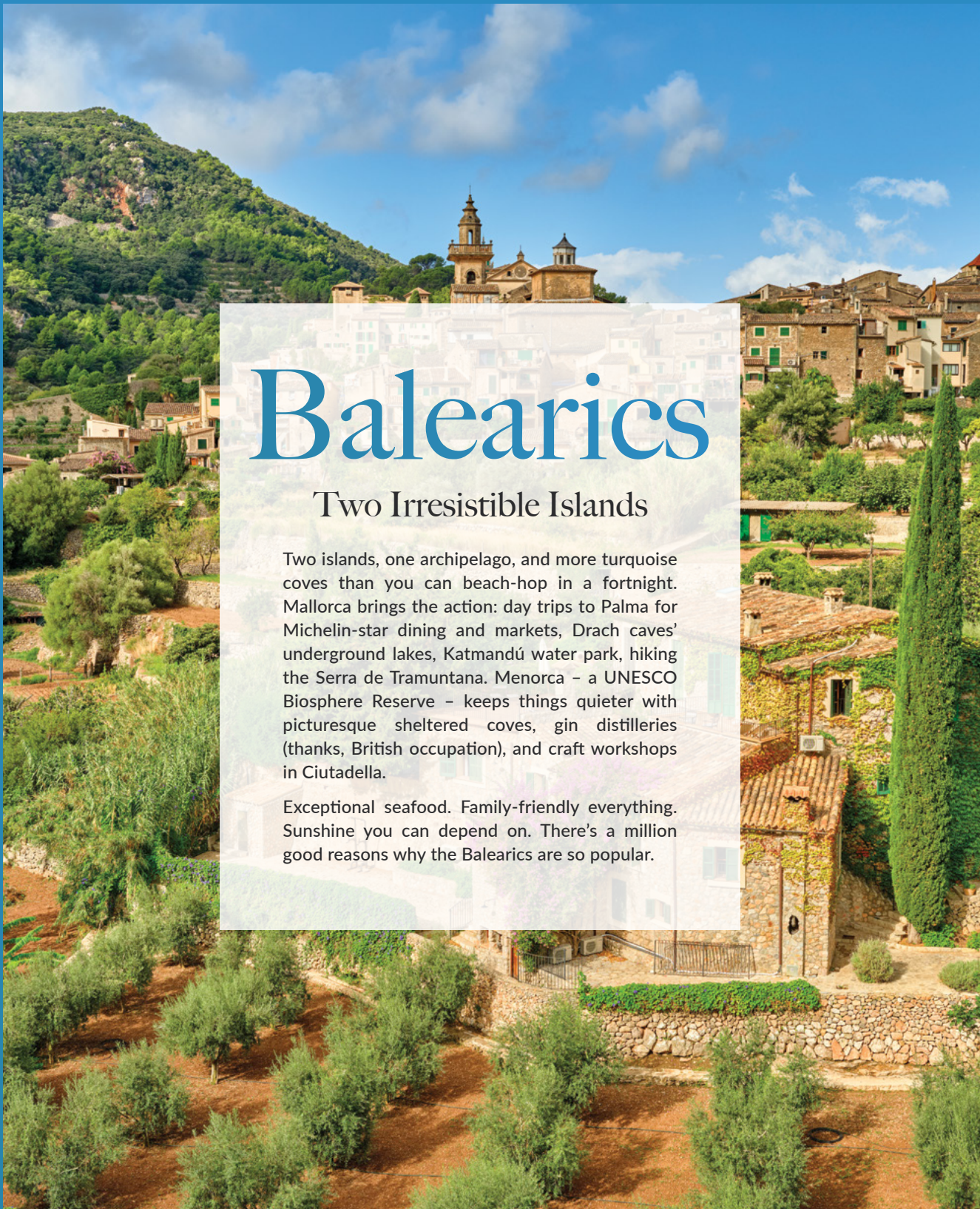
Beach drinks done properly

Horchata de Chufa

Valencian tiger-nut milk: refreshing, creamy, and ideal after a day at the beach.

Agua de Valencia

Cava, orange juice, gin and vodka. The beach cocktail that tastes like sunshine and questionable decisions.



Balearics

Two Irresistible Islands

Two islands, one archipelago, and more turquoise coves than you can beach-hop in a fortnight. Mallorca brings the action: day trips to Palma for Michelin-star dining and markets, Drach caves' underground lakes, Katmandú water park, hiking the Serra de Tramuntana. Menorca – a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve – keeps things quieter with picturesque sheltered coves, gin distilleries (thanks, British occupation), and craft workshops in Ciutadella.

Exceptional seafood. Family-friendly everything. Sunshine you can depend on. There's a million good reasons why the Balearics are so popular.

“

Mallorca moves, Menorca mellows and both will win you over before the week's half done.



Our collection spans both islands: delightful fincas with sea views, rural country houses with outdoor kitchens, contemporary villas minutes from hidden calas. Almost all have private pools, and all practically insist you live your life al fresco for the next seven days.



Can't pick? Do both.

Regular ferries run between Mallorca and Menorca in under 90 minutes. Book a fortnight, split it between islands, and get the best of both: Mallorca's buzz and mountain hikes, Menorca's picturesque beaches and craft markets. Two islands, one brilliant holiday.



Villa Llosia, Mallorca

Reasons to leave your villa...

- 1. Boat trip around the coast**
Turquoise coves, sea caves you can swim into, and snorkelling that makes you consider moving here permanently
- 2. A day in Palma**
Modernist architecture, La Seu cathedral, tapas in Santa Catalina by noon, shopping that justifies the extra suitcase fee
- 3. Deià and Valldemossa back-to-back**
Bohemian Mallorcan mountain villages where artists outnumber tourists, stone alleys, and views Chopin couldn't resist either
- 4. Sunset drinks at Cova d'en Xoroi, Menorca**
Cave bar carved into coastal cliffs, terraces overlooking the Mediterranean, touristy but the setting's genuinely extraordinary

The only real decision is, which island?



Cala Llobards beach

Mallorca

Consistently spectacular, effortlessly varied,
and made for every kind of holiday.

Mallorca gets the crowds because it consistently delivers. It's the best of the Med squeezed into 100km: the drama of the Serra de Tramuntana, romantic hilltop towns, turquoise coves, award-winning golf courses, water parks, and beach clubs that know what they're doing.

A vintage railway rattles through Sóller. Events fill the calendar year-round. And yes, the lechona (Mallorcan suckling pig) is as good as everyone says. And wherever you base yourself, Mallorca makes it easy to fill your days – or blissfully empty them. It's an island that delivers on variety without ever feeling complicated.

We've got 60+ villas here: stone fincas near Pollença and Alcúdia, townhouses a stroll from Cala d'Or's action, family homes with gated pools, and waterfront apartments made for sunrise coffees. Think outdoor kitchens, sunny terraces, and pools you'll struggle to tear yourself away from. Romantic escapes, multigenerational gatherings, family adventures, we've got you covered.

Everything you love about a Mediterranean holiday is within effortless reach here. Mallorca keeps the logistics simple, so the memories can be anything but.



Handpicked villas

- 01. CA NA REIETA, *Sleeps 2***
Romantic hideaway near Pollença with mezzanine bedroom, sunny pool terrace and bougainvillea-draped patios. Relaxed, intimate and a short drive to Cala San Vicenç and Port de Pollença.
- 02. SA COVA D'ES PUJOL, *Sleeps 8***
Classic Mallorcan country house with infinity-edge pool, shaded terraces, table tennis and fruit-filled gardens. Sant Salvador views, Felanitx market and Porto Colom nearby.
- 03. CAMP D'AVALL, *Sleeps 10***
Restored 1883 farmhouse with heated pool, citrus groves, table tennis and sun terraces. Val d'en March setting; Pollença and Cala Sant Vicenç are within easy reach.
- 04. LES ROQUES DE CA'N GUIXE, *Sleeps 10***
Spacious family villa with pool and whirlpool, generous terraces, table tennis and barbecue. Between Pollença and Alcúdia for beaches, markets and Tramuntana views.

Your Mallorcan hit list

- **Shop Palma's island specialties**
Flor de sal (we are obsessed with the olive blend) and hierbas de Mallorca (a local herbal drink) to bring the island home
- **Drach Caves in Portocolom**
Underground lakes, classical concerts on boats, touristy but genuinely spectacular
- **Beach day at Cala San Vicenç**
Clear water, easy swimming, postcard views
- **Child-approved thrills**
Waterpark and mini-golf at Port d'Alcúdia, Marineland at Costa d'en Blanes, aquariums and shows at Ca'n Pastilla
- **Hike the Boquer Valley**
A gentle, scenic trail from Pollença to a secluded pebble cove, with mountain views that make the effort feel minimal
- **Wine tasting in Binissalem**
Family-run bodegas pouring bold reds and crisp whites, plus vineyard terraces perfect for late-afternoon lingering



Menorca

Es Castell



01

01. CA'N S'OLIVA, Sleeps 6
Bougainvillea arches, palm-dotted gardens and a glimpse of the Med. A bright, easy villa near Son Bou's long sands, perfect for poolside lounging, lazy lunches and sunset strolls to nearby restaurants.

02. SAN FRANCISCO, Sleeps 6
A light, breezy home with generous terraces, a private pool and sea-view bedroom. Walk to Arenal d'en Castell's horseshoe bay for beach days, seafood lunches and easy, sun-soaked living.

03. LA CASA EL PINAR, Sleeps 10
Rustic stone villa with 12.5m pool set in extensive grounds of palms and wild olives. Traditional vaulted ceilings and beams meet floor-to-ceiling glass, five bedrooms, four bathrooms. Torret's renowned restaurant 100m, Sant Lluís 900m walk, Punta Prima beach 5 minutes. Small Party Rate available for up to 6 guests.

04. VILLA EBBA, Sleeps 10
Terraces on every level, sweeping sea views and a gated pool. Wander down to Son Bou's dunes and restaurants, then return for sundowners and starchy evenings on the veranda.

Your Menorcan hideaway is here

This is the Balearic island that kept things quiet. While Mallorca turned up the volume, Menorca doubled down on pine forests and protected coves. A UNESCO Biosphere Reserve with over 200km of coastline, it's earned its nickname 'Isla de Azul y Verde' – the island really is that blue and green.

Our villas here span the lot: traditional fincas minutes from turquoise calas, contemporary properties with pools overlooking the coast, family houses walking distance to Son Bou's endless sand. Some in quiet countryside where cicadas outnumber cars, others in coastal villages like Binibeca and Son Bou where dinner plans don't require driving. All have private pools. Most have outdoor spaces you'll use more than the interior.

Beach-hop between hidden coves. Cycle coastal paths. Sample gin that's been distilled here since British sailors demanded it in the 1700s.

Or simply master the art of reading by the pool while occasionally looking up at that lush view.



02



03

Menorcan musts

- **Beach-hopping by car**
Discover a different cove every day, from family-friendly Son Bou to hidden Cala Macarella
- **Xoriguer gin at Mahón port**
18th-century distillery still using copper stills, born from British naval occupation and local ingenuity
- **Ciudadella's old quarter at dusk**
Narrow streets, independent boutiques, café terraces where locals linger over gin and tonics
- **Night markets in summer**
July and August bring street theatre, concerts, local crafts, and the kind of fun atmosphere that will keep you out past midnight



04

Portugal

North to South, all wow

Our villas are in two very different corners of Portugal. Take your pick. The Algarve delivers 3,000 hours of annual sunshine, world-class golf, dramatic cliff beaches, and everything from fresh sardines at harbour bars to Michelin-starred dining. It's reliable, sophisticated, and utterly gorgeous.

Costa Verde is all green hillsides tumbling down to dune-backed Atlantic beaches, vinho verde country, and medieval market towns that tourism somehow bypassed. Stone villages where granite pergolas drip with grapes. Miles of golden sand where you'll actually find a spot. And seafood feasts that cost less than a supermarket shop back home, served in portions that suggest the chef's grandmother might be watching.

“
Few places balance beauty and ease like Portugal
– two coasts, two moods, one unforgettable summer.



Pastel de nata, Portuguese custard tarts.



Moledo beach



Casa do Prado, Costa Verde & Minho, Portugal.

Historic quintas and stone cottages with pools up north. Contemporary villas with pools and year-round sunshine down south. Start planning your Portuguese escape now.

Worth missing your siesta for...

1. **The Thursday market in Barcelos**
Portugal's biggest weekly market (Costa Verde)
2. **Benagil sea cave by kayak**
That famous golden grotto everyone photographs lives up to the hype (Algarve)
3. **A summer festa**
Boisterous village festivals with folk dancing, fireworks, and feasting (both regions, July-August)
4. **Castle ramparts in Tavira**
Roman history meets salt flats and old-world charm (Algarve)

Which will you choose?



Costa Verde & Minho countryside

Costa Verde & Minho

This is the real Portugal, unfiltered and all the better for it.

This stunning corner of Portugal remains wonderfully under the radar. Medieval Guimarães, where Portugal's first king was born. Braga and its 300 churches. Peneda-Gerês National Park with hiking trails past waterfalls and wild horses. And miles of Atlantic beaches where you'll find plenty of space to spread out. The food? Arroz de marisco, slow-cooked pork, grilled fresh catch of the day. Portions are generous, bills laughably small.

Our collection here is special. Traditional stone cottages tucked into peaceful villages. Restored manor houses, historic quintas and contemporary homes surrounded by vines and citrus groves, all with private pools, within easy reach of beautiful beaches. These are properties with character, in places where tourism hasn't flattened the charm. Where your neighbours might invite you to taste their homemade vinho verde.



Ponte de Lima charms with its medieval bridge, riverside promenades, and the gentle pace of Portugal's oldest village.



Handpicked villas

CASA DO PICASSO, *Sleeps 6*

Stone cottage charm near Vila Praia de Âncora, with beamed interiors, a pretty pool terrace and sweeping rural views. Close to golden beaches, seafood restaurants and the Afife surf scene.

The whitewashed fishing village of Vila Praia de Âncora is only 1.7km away. Here you will find fine fish restaurants, an essentially Portuguese atmosphere and a long golden beach that stretches southwards.



Moledo Beach, Caminha

Worth leaving your villa for

- **Monday market in Ponte de Lima**
One of Portugal's oldest towns, with market stalls right on the sandy riverbank
- **Diverlanhoso adventure park**
170 hectares of forest, 50+ activities from paintballing to paragliding
- **Waterfront wandering in Esposende**
Palm-lined boulevards, riverside cafés, and surf-worthy beaches
- **The fortified hilltop town of Valença**
Ancient walls, Spanish border views, and moat-side ramparts



CASA PICOLINO, *Sleeps 4*

Rustic village hideaway with flower-filled gardens and a generous pool.

The house is on two levels with the very comfortable lofty living room opening onto the pool terrace with pretty flower covered pergola, and picture windows framing the lovely hill and views across the river to Spain.

Charming interiors, local stone touches, and Moledo's beaches and cafés are all just moments away.



CASA DO PRADO, *Sleeps 8*

Contemporary coastal retreat with glass-fronted living spaces, heated pool and wide lawns. Stylish bedrooms open to the garden, while Moledo's dunes, cafés and riverside paths sit an easy wander away.

In the sought-after style so favoured by current architecture, the façade of Casa do Prado is almost entirely filled by wide floor-to-ceiling patio doors and windows that seamlessly connect the interior and exterior spaces.



QUINTA DO OURO, *Sleeps 10*

Elegant manor house with carved ceilings, grand verandas and extensive terraced gardens. Gated infinity pool, annexe rooms and Peneda-Gerês, local craft workshops and village cafés all within easy reach.

Owned for many generations by the family of goldsmiths whose craft has been carried out for centuries in a number of workshops throughout the village, this lovingly maintained residence and its spacious grounds invite guests to experience life in one of the region's noble homes.



What is Vinho Verde wine?

Vinho Verde is Portugal's famously fresh, lightly aromatic wine from the lush Minho region in the north. Despite the name, it isn't "green" but rather young—released early to capture its bright, zesty character.

Expect crisp citrus notes, gentle spritz, and low alcohol, making it the ideal warm-weather pour. It pairs effortlessly with seafood, salads, and anything grilled, and locals drink it as casually as water.



Benagil Cave

Algarve



Praia da Mesquita



01



03



02



Salgados Golf Club

Algarve essentials

- **Tavira morning market**
Arrive early before the best fish disappears, sample locally baked sweets, cobbled streets and castle ramparts nearby
- **Ria Formosa island hopping**
Ferry from Tavira to ten-kilometre dune-backed beaches, salt flats, birdlife, genuinely unspoiled Atlantic coast
- **Zoomarine near Carvoeiro**
Dolphin shows, aquarium, water slides. The kind of family day out where everyone enjoys themselves
- **Moorish Silves castle**
Old capital's red sandstone ramparts, archaeological museum, almond grove views from hilltop fortifications worth the inland drive



Handpicked villas

- 01. LARANJEIRA, sleeps 4-6**
Hillside country house with gated saline pool and views across olive-covered Algarve interior. Santa Catarina 2.3km for famous tile kilns.
- 02. VILLA DA PARRA, Sleeps 6**
Striking, light-filled hillside villa with marble floors, sea-view terraces and a cascade pool. Stylish interiors, huge bedrooms and Albufeira's beaches, seafood spots and Salgados Lagoon close by.
- 03. VISTA DA MONTANHA, Sleeps 6**
Single-storey villa with heated 9m pool and Serra de Monchique mountain views. Bougainvillea-covered terrace, three en suites with patio access. Set within exclusive Quinta do Rosal estate.
- 04. CASA DO SOL, Sleeps 12**
Expansive coastal retreat with heated pools, private tennis court and ocean-glimpsing terraces. Six en suites plus studio, lush gardens, games room and Olhos d'Água's beach and restaurants within walking distance.

“
In the Algarve,
world-class golf
comes with ocean
views as standard,
where immaculate
fairways, golden
light, and year-round
sunshine make
every round feel
exceptional.
”



04

Reliable, gorgeous, utterly unbeatable

The Algarve stretches from the Spanish border west to Cabo de São Vicente, continental Europe's land's end. Sandy cove beaches and traditional fishing villages dot the western stretch. Head east towards Faro for flatter beaches and island-hopping boat trips.

Inland, check out cobbled Tavira and its Roman ramparts, Moorish Silves and its almond groves, and Serra de Monchique's woodland walks. Golf fan? Find world-class championship courses at Vale do Lobo and Vilamoura.

Our Algarve villas all include private pools. Family properties with kids' play areas and tennis courts. Romantic cottages for two. Beach houses within walking distance of the sand. The kind of places where days stretch out, everyone's happy, and you remember why you came away together.

Make this year your Algarve adventure.

Sip Snack Repeat



The tastiest ways to explore Costa Verde & Minho

The food scene in northern Portugal is deliciously under the radar. Here are our favourite food-and-wine experiences to help you eat your way joyfully across the region.

Taste vinho verde at its source

Crisp, zesty and famously refreshing, Vinho Verde is the north's liquid sunshine. Visit local quintas for tastings, vineyard strolls and the joy of discovering your new favourite white.

Feast on fresh fish in Vila Praia de Âncora

Straight from the harbour to your plate, grilled, golden and probably enormous. Pair with chilled local wine and watch fishermen argue cheerfully about whose catch was biggest.

Snack your way through the Barcelos Market

Portugal's most famous market serves handicrafts, pastries, charcuterie and dangerously addictive local cheeses. Come hungry; leave carrying a chicken-shaped ceramic you absolutely did not plan to buy.

Cross to Spain for Galician seafood in A Guarda

A five-minute ferry ride delivers you to seafood nirvana: platters of octopus, razor clams and lobster eaten with Atlantic views. Passport not needed, just a hearty appetite.

Try the region's sweet specialities (resistance is futile)

From the silky Abade de Priscos pudding to almond pastries and honey cakes, Minho desserts are unapologetically indulgent. Perfect for restoring energy after... well, eating all day.

“

The Portuguese Sardine: humble enough for a fisherman's lunch, special enough to be wrapped in art.



Pulpo a Feira – a Galician dish of Octopus, olive oil, salt and paprika, popular in Portugal too!



Portuguese sweet treats and pastries.



Peneda-Geres National Park



Nature's own swimming pools, where locals have cooled off for centuries, far from the Atlantic coastal crowds.

Portuguese River Beaches

Where Portugal's rivers carve through granite hills and oak-shaded valleys, they leave behind secret beaches and crystalline pools.

If you think you know Portugal, the Minho and the verdant north will happily prove you wrong. Forget battling Atlantic waves. Inland, the locals cool off in freshwater rivers so clean and clear you can count the pebbles on the riverbed.

These praias fluviaias (river beaches) are the region's secret superpower: calm, family-friendly, shaded by oak and chestnut trees, and blessed with water that's warm enough to tempt even the most reluctant swimmer.

And the best bit? Many are just a short hop from our villas.

North Portugal's river beaches blend the best parts of a day at the seaside with the tranquillity of a mountain lake. Expect grassy

lawns, sandy patches, wooden pontoons, and leafy picnic spots that feel made for long afternoons with a good book and a cold ginjinha.

Shallow water keeps parents relaxed, lifeguards appear in summer, and cafés serve everything from ice creams to grilled sardines. Kayaks and paddleboards drift past, dragonflies hover at water level, and the soundtrack is always the same: birdsong, laughter, plenty of splashing, and utter contentment.

This isn't a quirky alternative to the coast. It's a whole way of life, and once you've tried it, you'll wonder why everyone else isn't doing the same.



Island in Vila Nova de Cerveira

Our favourite river beaches

Praia Fluvial das Azenhas, Vilar de Mouros

Soft, shallow waters surrounded by greenery make this a perfect stop for families or anyone craving a riverside picnic or a gentle paddle in calm waters.

River beaches of the Homem – near Vila Verde

Slow-moving, clear waters wind through a landscape of emerald hills. Small beaches are perfect for sunbathing, swimming, or renting a canoe to explore this serene and peaceful corner of Minho.

Praia Fluvial do Alqueirão, Terras de Bouro

Clear, fresh water and gentle banks make this a scenic retreat. Ideal for paddling, sunbathing, or simply relaxing with a book and enjoying the tranquillity.



Portela do Homem Waterfall, Peneda-Geres National Park

Vila Nova de Cerveira – Praia da Lenta & River Paths

Combining a river beach with walking and cycling trails, parks, mini-golf, and sculptures, this spot is perfect for a full day outdoors with something for everyone.

River beaches of the Cávado – near Póvoa de Lanhoso

Dip into calm waters framed by grassy banks and shady trees. Wooden platforms and rental kayaks make it easy to swim, paddle, or drift gently while soaking up the Minho sun.



Lima River, Geres



Lima River, Geres



Kayaking on the Lima River

Did you know...

Roman soldiers believed the Lima was actually the Lethe (The River of Forgetfulness) from Greek mythology, and refused to cross it for fear of losing all memory of their homes and families.

More ways to dive in

River beaches are only the beginning. You can kayak along the Minho river with Spain drifting by on the opposite bank, paddleboard on the Lima at sunset, follow the 13km riverside eco-path from Vila Nova de Cerveira to Valença, or wander the wooden walkways of the Bertandos nature reserve for bird-spotting and shaded riverside loops. Fishermen will find excellent quiet stretches, while families can cycle, picnic or simply hop between river beaches all week long.

Make a splash then head home to your villa

Choose a villa close to the rivers and you unlock a different kind of holiday. Swims before breakfast, lazy afternoons under leafy canopies, canoe trips that start minutes from your doorstep, and the kind of natural beauty that stays with you long after you head home. Come and discover why our guests return here year after year.

“

Italy is the country that taught the world to take lunch seriously, and then added the art and the afternoon espresso just to show off.

Italy

Unhurried and unforgettable

Italy has mastered the art of living well. From Puglia's whitewashed trulli towns to Tuscany's cypress-lined hills, this is a country that turns everyday moments - lunch, a market visit, an evening walk - into something you'll remember forever. Handmade pasta, burrata, bistecca Fiorentina, truffles.

The wine flows generously and affordably. And those Renaissance cities and Baroque towns? Every bit as stunning as promised.



Our Italian villas span two exceptional corners. In Puglia, you'll find converted trulli and farmhouses in olive groves that put you near the Valle d'Itria's white towns.

In Central Italy, we offer traditional farmhouses in Chianti vineyards, Umbrian hideaways, and lakeside Lazio retreats, within reach of Florence, Rome, and medieval hilltop gems. All with pools, and that distinctly Italian sense of *bella vita*.



Roman Amphitheatre in Lecce, Puglia



Villa San Biagio

Worth leaving your villa for:

1. **The gardens of Villa Lante**
Superb Renaissance gardens with perfect parterres, sculpted fountains and ingeniously engineered cascades (Lazio)
2. **A boat trip on Lago di Trasimeno**
Enjoy a scenic tour around the islands in the lake, followed by a fresh fish lunch (Umbria).
3. **Lucca's iconic 16th century city walls**
Hire bicycles and pedal along the ramparts before rewarding yourself with gelato (Tuscany).
4. **Polignano a Mare at sunset**
Clifftop dining overlooking the Adriatic, picture-postcard white houses perched on rocks (Puglia)

La dolce vita awaits...



Vieste, a town on the rocks, Gargano Peninsula

Puglia

Italy's heel sits below the radar, for now, but word's getting out fast.

Puglia is what Tuscany was before everyone found it. Those Instagram-perfect trulli houses dotting the Valle d'Itria? They are real homes you can actually stay in. Then there's Lecce's Baroque architecture, earning it the 'Florence of the South' nickname.

And the food? Orecchiette pasta made by hand, burrata that ruins you for the supermarket version, and olive oil so good it's not an exaggeration to call it liquid gold. Forty percent of Italy's olive oil supply comes from here.

The wine's excellent too, Primitivo and Negroamaro at prices that easily persuade you to order another bottle.

Our villas include converted trulli, farmhouses in olive groves, and properties in famous white towns. You're minutes from weekly markets overflowing with local produce, and never far from a choice of beaches with crystal waters. Beach days, wine tastings, trullo-hopping—or just enjoying that villa pool while someone else makes lunch plans.

Escape to Puglia before everyone else catches on.



01



02



03



04



Matera before sunrise

Handpicked villas

01. TRULLO FIORITO, *Sleeps 4*

An enchanting trullo where the grapevines tumble over the terrace, pots brim with pretty flowers and you can help yourself to the fresh fruit from the trees.

02. TRULLI LAVANDA, *Sleeps 4*

Surrounded by centuries old olive groves, this is an elegant restoration. Two bedroom suites are located in the trulli with the living/dining areas across the courtyard.

03. VILLA DELLE PALME, *Sleeps 8*

A spacious, comfortably furnished villa set in enclosed gardens with a large pool terrace. Positioned just over 1.5km from the Ionian coast in southwest Puglia's beautiful Salento.

04. IL PASULO, *Sleeps 8*

Il Pasulo is an elegant villa set in spacious grounds. With three bedrooms in the main house and the fourth bedroom in the stone 'pajara', it is a great option for a group of friends or a family.

Worth closing your book for...

- **The Grotte di Castellana**
One of Italy's largest cave networks, 3km of underground chambers at a constant 16.5°C
- **A day trip to Matera**
UNESCO-listed cave city over the border, starred in the 007 film No Time To Die
- **Gargano Peninsula exploring**
Seaside Vieste and Peschici, plus the UNESCO-listed Foresta Umbra
- **Coffee 'alla Salentina'**
Iced glass, almond milk, hot espresso, five ice cubes, pure Puglian refreshment
- **Otranto's mosaic floor**
The cathedral hides a 12th-century Tree of Life underfoot, 600,000 tiles telling stories of heaven, hell, and everything between



Vineyards in Montefalco, Umbria

Tuscany, Umbria & Lazio

Tuscan vineyards and Roman ruins, Italy's quiet green heart.

Central Italy delivers on every cliché, and somehow exceeds them all. Tuscany's rolling hills, Umbrian olive groves, and Lazio's lakeside towns set the scene, while your villa becomes the stage for indulgence. Florence dazzles with Renaissance treasures, Cortona and Todi perch proudly on their hills, and Rome... well, it's Rome, it's endlessly fascinating.

Our villas are as irresistible as Italy itself. Stay in a charming farmhouse amid Tuscan vineyards, a modern lakeside retreat overlooking Lake Bolsena, or a rustic Umbrian hideaway surrounded by (what else?) olive groves. Pools sparkle in the sun, terraces are perfect for long, chatty lunches, and every property comes with space to unwind and relax.

Come for the villas, stay for the wine, and leave with stories worth bottling.



Todi, Umbria



Handpicked villas

VILLA SAN BIAGIO, *Sleeps 6*

Cypress-framed, sun-kissed, and effortlessly chic, San Biagio offers twin villas with private terraces and an aromatic garden pool. Perfect for leisurely lunches, lazing under lavender-scented skies, and exploring Tuscan gems nearby.

Each building has its own living and kitchen areas and en suite facilities for all bedrooms. Earthy pastels and the occasional bright splash of colour make the interior warm and inviting.



CA DI CICALA, *Sleeps 8*

Two interlinked stone cottages set in 7 acres of unspoiled Tuscan/Umbrian border woodland.

Sensitively restored with handcrafted local materials, deep blue pool, pizza oven, wildlife-filled forest walks from your doorstep.

San Leo Bastia is a 10 minute drive, Cortona 25km, hidden valley setting for nature lovers. Small Party Rate available for up to 4 guests.



LA CASA DI BIANCA, *Sleeps 9*

Welcoming villa set in spacious grounds with woodland and olive grove on Umbria/Lazio/Tuscany border. 10m pool, three floors with dual kitchens and living areas, air-conditioned bedrooms. Giove and Amelia 15 minutes, Orvieto and Lake Bolsena close, Rome one hour by train from Attigliano (12km).

Flowing over three floors, the interior is light and airy, with generously proportioned living accommodation. The main kitchen diner and living room are on the lower level, the place for groups to congregate.



CASA MILLY, *Sleeps 12*

Lucca is but a stone's throw from Casa Milly, a delightful property set in the hills above the town amongst the splendour of some of Tuscany's most beloved historic villas and gardens.

The beaches around Pisa and Viareggio are 30 minutes away, as is the summer Puccini Festival at Torre del Lago. Further afield Pistoia, Prato and Florence all make for some lovely days out from this fabulous Lucca home.



Etruscan Tomb in Tarquinia

Reasons to abandon your sun lounger

- **Wander Todi or Cortona's medieval streets**
Lose yourself among cobbled lanes, sun-dappled piazzas, and hilltop views
- **Paddle around Lago di Trasimeno**
Glide across calm waters, stop for lakeside gelato, and pretend you're in your own slow-motion Italian movie
- **Truffle hunting and wine tasting in Montefalco**
Sniff out Umbrian truffles with a local guide, then toast your finds with celebrated reds and crisp whites that taste of pure sunshine
- **Etruscan tombs and Roman ruins**
Marvel at ancient history in Tarquinia, then stroll the streets of Rome where every ruin has a story (and a photo opportunity)
- **Festivals and flower streets**
Cheer on medieval crossbow contests in Gubbio or wander Spello's streets awash with petals, where the whole town becomes a living artwork
- **Visit an enoteca or a vineyard**
Taste world class wines in towns like Montepulciano, Montalcino or Greve in Chianti
- **Civita di Bagnoregio day trip**
Cross a narrow footbridge to a tufa-topped village slowly crumbling into the valley below — the "dying town" that's stubbornly, beautifully alive

4 Città Bianche Worth The Detour

Lecce and Bari are brilliant, but some of Puglia's most charming experiences happen in the smaller white towns scattered across the Valle d'Itria.



LOCOROTONDO

Pristine white houses with flower-filled balconies and arguably the prettiest centro storico in the valley.



OSTUNI

Dazzling whitewashed buildings tumble down the hillside, the Saturday morning market fills the streets, and the views across olive groves go on forever.



MARTINA FRANCA

The largest of the white towns, with elegant Baroque palaces lining its streets and a sophisticated atmosphere that feels refreshingly low-key.



CISTERNINO

Winding medieval streets lead to family-run butcher shops that grill meat to order. Pick your meat, grab a table, and lunch is sorted.



Hot Springs & Heavenly Soaks

Central Italy is dotted with thermal baths, ancient springs, and natural pools, perfect for unwinding, rejuvenating, and embracing your inner hedonist. Here are some of our favourite spa experiences in the region:



SATURNIA HOT SPRINGS *Cascate del Mulino*

Wild, free-flowing sulphur baths in natural terraces. Soak under the sky, surrounded by warm, Etruscan-era waters. Total bliss.



GROTTA GIUSTI *Monsummano Terme*

Descend into a magical thermal cave where natural steam curls around stalactites. Detox, unwind, and pretend you're strolling in your own Italian fairytale.

CHIANCIANO TERME

Historic spa town with therapeutic thermal pools, mineral-rich muds, and wellness centres that make you forget your phone.



TERME DEI PAPI *Viterbo*

Medieval popes knew what they were doing when they chose Viterbo. Terme dei Papi offers historic grandeur with vast outdoor pools fed by naturally hot springs.



PISCINE CARLETTI *Viterbo*

For free soaking alongside locals, head to Piscine Carletti where stone-lined pools bubble up from below and the atmosphere's gloriously unpretentious.



Croatia

The Adriatic gem

Croatia gets it spectacularly right. Over a thousand islands dotting an indented Adriatic coastline, medieval towns that have stayed medieval, and food that holds its own against its Italian neighbour.

Our villas are located in two brilliant corners: Istria up north where truffle forests meet Venetian ports, and the Dubrovnik region down south where Byron's "Pearl of the Adriatic" presides over the fertile Konavle Valley. Both deliver crystal-clear waters, exceptional seafood, and wines that cost what they should.

“

Ancient stone cities, sapphire seas and fantastic food create the ultimate sun-soaked escape.



Stay in stone houses in medieval hilltop villages, contemporary valley retreats, or coastal properties with sea views, all with private pools and terraces built for long Croatian evenings.

Book for a fortnight, take a scenic boat trip along that spectacular coast between regions, and explore both. Or pick your corner and dig in deep.



The Limski Kanal or Lim Channel in Istria



Villa Rose

Don't leave without enjoying:

- 1. Trsteno Arboretum**
Centuries-old botanical gardens with trees from around the world, also moonlighting as a Game of Thrones filming location (King's Landing, if you're keeping track)
- 2. The Limski Kanal**
Dramatic fjord-like inlet where oysters and mussels thrive in clear waters
- 3. Pelješac Peninsula wine route**
Narrow mountainous peninsula producing Croatia's finest reds
- 4. Feasting on ispod peke**
Meat slow-cooked under an iron bell dome for hours until it surrenders, order a day ahead and prepare for succulence

Two unforgettable regions. One brilliant country. Your Croatia holiday starts here.



Dubrovnik

"If you want to see paradise on earth, come to Dubrovnik"
 – George Bernard Shaw

Dubrovnik earns every superlative. Byron called it the Pearl of the Adriatic (those eccentric romantics, always one for dramatic proclamations). The nickname stuck. Walk the 2km ramparts for views that'll have your camera working overtime, then head harbour-side for a lunch of langoustines and wine. South of the city, the Konavle Valley stays refreshingly rural: vineyards, cypress-dotted hillsides, and villages where traditional life carries on. The beaches are pebbly (bring shoes), but the water's crystal clear – European Environment Agency certified 'Excellent' if you need official proof.

Our villas sit in the valley with mountain and sea views, minutes from Gruda's restaurants and shops, close to beaches at Cavtat and Molunat. Traditional cottages or modern sanctuary? You decide. What they all have in common is private pools and terraces built for long, memorable evenings spent with loved ones.

Byron swooned over it. George Bernard Shaw said it was paradise. **Now it's your turn to discover this corner of the Adriatic.**



Handpicked villas

- 01. DUKA, Sleeps 2**
 Rock-face retreat with Konavle Valley views. Mezzanine bedroom, hillside garden with waterfall pond, terraced pool area. Bar and shop 300m downhill.
- 02. LUCIANA, Sleeps 4**
 Panoramic valley views from your traditional stone cottage. Wood oven, dining terrace, bright en suite bedrooms, konoba restaurant 2.5km. Sister property to Ivana.
- 03. SELE, Sleeps 4**
 Modern Gruda townhouse, 600m from restaurants and shops. Enclosed garden, pergola dining, mature trees for shade. Dubrovnik 30 minutes, Montenegro similarly close.
- 04. BIJELA KUCA, Sleeps 6**
 Spacious modern retreat with children's play area. Multi-tiered terraces, 9.5m pool, shady pergola overlooking Konavle Valley. Gruda's cafes 600m away.

Beyond the villa walls

- **Walking Dubrovnik's city walls**
 2km rampart circuit offering Old Town rooftop views that make you understand why everyone invaded
- **Sunday morning in Čilipi**
 Locals in traditional dress performing folk dances, proof that some traditions survive tourism (and look brilliant doing it)
- **Sea kayaking from Cavtat**
 Paddle the archipelago, stop at islands for swims, pretend you're scouting invasion routes like the ancients
- **Boat trip to the Elafiti Islands**
 Lush vegetation, laid-back beaches, and the perfect excuse to take a break from Dubrovnik's summer crowds



Istria

Motovun, a stunning hilltop village



01

01. CASA DOBRILA, Sleeps 4
Bijou courtyard hideaway in Tinjan's cobbled heart. Stone cottage, pool, and village life on your doorstep. Sample the famous pršut at the local pizzeria.

02. ADRIANA, Sleeps 6
Vaulted stone ceilings, countryside views, preserved kažun summer kitchen. Višnjan's shops 230m away, Poreč's coast 12km, Motovun 20 minutes. Perfectly placed.

03. VILLA ROSE, Sleeps 6
Rose-pink retreat in green gardens. Countryside calm, coast 30 minutes away. Summer kitchen, terraces from every bedroom, neutral interiors for proper unwinding.

04. SCARLETT, Sleeps 8
Iconic Motovun views from your heated pool. Medieval citadel, vineyards, truffle forests spread before you. Award-winning Fakin Wines within walking distance.

Unearth your perfect Istrian villa

Croatia's heart-shaped peninsula feels like a miniature continent of its own. Medieval hilltop towns – Motovun, Grožnjan, Rovinj – tumble down slopes above truffle-rich forests and vineyards. Roman amphitheatres stand alongside Venetian architecture and Byzantine basilicas.

The Adriatic coast is all clear waters, pebbly coves, and harbour-side towns where fishing boats jostle with yachts. Then there is the food. The exquisite food! Award-winning truffles shaved over fuži pasta, pršut (smoked ham) that rivals Italian prosciutto, and seafood so fresh it was swimming this morning. Pair it with local wines that punch well above their price tag.

Our Istrian villas include traditional stone houses in medieval villages, contemporary retreats in countryside olive groves, and coastal properties minutes from beaches. All with private pools, outdoor dining terraces, and views that make you understand why the Venetians wanted this place so badly.



02



03

Istria's greatest hits

- **Oysters on the Limski Kanal**
Sample the freshest oysters right on the waterfront of the Limski Kanal
- **The Brijuni Islands**
Tito's former private playground boasts Roman ruins, dinosaur footprints, and a 1,600-year-old olive tree
- **Pula's Roman amphitheatre**
Prowl underground gladiator chambers, and catch summer concerts where Pavarotti and Foo Fighters have performed
- **Grožnjan's artist enclave**
Abandoned post-WWII, now a thriving hilltop town with musicians practising in doorways and artisans selling their wares



04



White Truffles

Istria's Truffle Treasures

Istria's white gold is a hidden aromatic treasure that quietly outshines every other truffle on earth.

What is a truffle?

Truffles are fungi that grow underground near tree roots, prized for centuries for their intense, earthy aroma and the way they transform simple dishes into something extraordinary. The French and Italians have long dominated the truffle conversation, but Istria holds a secret: Croatian truffles rival theirs.

Where can I find truffles in Croatia?

The Motovun forest, nearly a thousand hectares of dense oak woodland beside the Mirna River, harbours the largest concentration of truffles in the region. Both black and white varieties thrive here in the moist soil of the Mirna Valley slopes.

Autumn through early winter is prime hunting season when white truffles reach their peak, commanding serious prices on international markets.

What happens during a truffle hunt?

The hunt itself unfolds in the early morning. Trained dogs work methodically through the forest, noses to the ground, then freeze and paw frantically when they strike gold. What began in the 1930s as supplementary income now sustains entire villages, keeping young people rooted in the area.

What truffle dishes should I try in Istria?

Restaurants throughout the region serve these buried treasures shaved over fuži pasta, melted into local cheese, and layered with pršut (a type of dry-cured ham, similar to Italian prosciutto). A truffle-laden meal costs what a decent bottle does back home. Quality remains exceptional, portions generous, markup refreshingly civilized.

What are you waiting for?

Most of our Istrian villas remain available through late October, perfectly timed for truffle season. Book now and taste what the fuss is about.



Before the truffle boom locals in Istria didn't realise how valuable truffles were and referred to them as "smrdljivi krumpir" which translates to stinky potatoes!



Croatia with children: how to keep everyone happy

- **Baredine Caves (Istria)**

Descend 60 metres to meet resident salamanders. Kids love the underground lakes, parents appreciate the constant 16.5°C escape from summer heat

- **Dinopark Funtana (Istria)**

Life-size dinosaur models, skeletons, and playground. Educational enough to justify, fun enough that nobody complains about screen time withdrawal

- **Plat Beach (Dubrovnik region)**

Shallow waters, sand-pebble mix, blissfully undeveloped. Pack a picnic, claim your spot, achieve peak family relaxation mode

- **Ciro railway line (Dubrovnik region)**

Follow the old railway through Konavle Valley. Flat, scenic, nobody whining about hills. Cycling or walking, your choice entirely



“

The Turquoise Coast earned its name honestly – every bay looks like someone spilled a box of gemstones into the sea.

Turkey

The edge of the Med

Turkey's 8,333km of coastline means beaches for days. Ancient Lycian ruins perch on hillsides, turquoise bays cut into pine-forested peninsulas, and the Taurus Mountains provide a spectacular backdrop. The hospitality here is genuinely legendary, locals really mean it when they welcome you.

The food is wonderful too; platters of meze shared over raki, adana and shish kebabs grilled to order, and fresh fish baked in salt (tuzda balık), and local specialties like köfte and gözleme.



Our villas sit along the Lycian Coast: Kalkan's half-moon bay, cosmopolitan Kas, and peaceful Islamlar up in the mountains.

Think stone houses with infinity pools overlooking the Med. Contemporary retreats with hammams and saunas. Family-friendly spaces, some with beach club access and breakfast included, others have private cabanas with sea access.



View of the Blue Lagoon, Oludeniz, Muğla



Dalga Two

Worth making the journey for:

1. **Kekova sunken city boat trip**
Glass-bottomed boats glide over ancient Lycian ruins half-submerged in turquoise water, Byzantine castle on Simena island, dramatic coastal scenery throughout.
2. **Fethiye fish market**
Choose your seafood from traders, and take it to surrounding restaurants who'll cook it exactly how you want.
3. **Saklikent Gorge**
Spectacular limestone canyon cutting into the mountains, enjoy the dramatic views before lunch on cushions, Ottoman-style.
4. **Blue Lagoon at Olu Deniz**
That famous turquoise water everyone photographs, surrounded by pine forests and mountains.

Your Turkish summer starts here.



Fethiye port

Lycian Coast

There are two hundred restaurants in Kalkan alone. You may want to book for a fortnight.

Welcome to the Turkish Riviera. The vibrant town of Kalkan tumbles down to its half-moon bay with its white-washed houses draped in bougainvillea. Inland, Islamlar's trout restaurants sit beside mountain streams where the pace hasn't changed in generations. The coastline is studded with ancient Lycian sarcophagi, half-submerged ruins, and beaches that consistently make Mediterranean best-of lists.

Our Turkish villas range from couples' hideaways to family spaces sleeping twelve. Beach club access, hammams, infinity pools, sea-view terraces, indoor pools for cloudy days. Contemporary design meets Turkish tradition.



The seaside resort of Kalkan



Handpicked villas

MIRA, Sleeps 8-9
Mountain retreat in peaceful Islamlar. Sauna, jacuzzi, huge pool, sweeping coast-to-country views. Four en suites, trout restaurants 800m, stargazing included.

A world away from 21st Century hustle and bustle, the authentically Turkish hamlet of Islamlar is a restful rustic refuge. Set amidst this undulating, richly verdant landscape of gently babbling streams, with fabulous views over coast and country, Mira is perfectly suited to anyone seeking a comfortable, very well appointed rural retreat.



NAUTIC, Sleeps 8
Cinema room, games room, sauna, heated indoor pool, outdoor pool with Kalkan bay views. Contemporary family villa 1.8km from the beach.

The welcoming décor is fresh and light and an open plan layout makes for a convivial social space that leads out to the pool terrace and azur blue sea views. Nautic also benefits from having a good sized garden behind the house with a hammock for a lazy afternoon nap.



DALGA TWO, Sleeps 6
Breakfast included, hammam, sauna, indoor plunge pool, private sea-access cabana. Beach club 50m, contemporary style throughout, Kalkan 1.3km away.

There is an invitation to truly pamper yourselves at this property – in addition to the outdoor pool there is an indoor plunge pool, and also a hammam and a sauna. Imagine yourself alternating between these relaxing spaces! In addition, a private cabana with access to the sea is at your disposal.



VILLA CIVIT, Sleeps 10
Uninterrupted sea views, infinity pool and Jacuzzi. Crisp white decor creates a light and airy interior. The main house is for 6, the independent apartment for 4 - ideal for two families or multi-generational group.

The attractive town of Kaş is just 12 minutes by car, where narrow streets in the historic town centre are lined with small shops selling local products and colourful bougainvillea spills over the overhanging balconies. Meanwhile, the main square is lined with bars and restaurants and is the ideal place to enjoy a refreshing drink or delicious Turkish meze platter.



Canyon Saklikent entrance

Don't leave without

- **Exploring Patara beach and ruins**
17km of sand backed by UNESCO-listed Lycian archaeological sites, protected loggerhead turtle nesting ground
- **Chilling at Kaputas beach**
Aquamarine waters lapping pristine sand accessed via dramatic cliff steps, it's Instagram catnip
- **Wandering the Xanthos Valley**
Amphitheatres, an acropolis, ancient Lycian towns of Xanthos, Letoon, and mystical Pinara with its pine-scented tranquillity
- **Traditional gulet sailing from Kalkan**
Day trips exploring secluded bays with lunch onboard, or evening sunset cruises where the Lycian coast puts on a spectacular show
- **Kayaking over Kekova's sunken city**
Paddle directly above submerged Lycian ruins in crystal-clear water, ancient staircases and amphora fragments visible beneath your boat
- **Visiting Demre and St Nicholas Church**
Yes, that St Nicholas – the original Santa Claus was a 4th-century bishop here. Byzantine frescoes, ancient sarcophagi, and a rather surreal origin story

For reservations call **01954 261 431**

Book online at vintagetravel.co.uk



Above: A traditional Hammam.

Hammam etiquette

The traditional hammam can feel intimidating if you've never experienced one. Here's what actually happens: you'll be given a wrap and shown to a heated marble room where you sweat out the poolside sins.

Then comes the scrub - vigorous, thorough, removing skin you didn't know you had. It's not subtle. Next, a foam massage that involves being soaped up like a particularly pampered car. Finally, rinse, relax, emerge feeling remarkably human.

The best hammams smell of olive oil soap and eucalyptus. The marble stays warm beneath you. Time moves differently when you're horizontal, steam-softened, watching light filter through star-shaped vents in the ceiling. The Turks have been doing this for centuries, and the ritual hasn't changed because it doesn't need to.

Etiquette is straightforward. Keep your wrap on. Tip is expected but not obligatory. Book ahead in summer. Go before a big dinner - afterwards you'll be too relaxed to move. Some of our villas feature private hammams, perfect for nervous first-timers. For the authentic public experience, Kalkan and Kaş both have traditional hammams where locals go.

Fair warning: you'll either love it or find the whole thing baffling. Either way, you'll be extraordinarily clean.



Patara Ancient Ruins



Letoon, sanctuary of Leto

At Letoon and Patara, the Lycians left their story carved in stone – temple columns rising from wildflower meadows, a theatre facing the sea, and 2,500 years of history that somehow feels more alive than ancient.



Waterfall at Saklikent Gorge

Must-see ancient sites

- **Xanthos-Letoon (45 mins from Kalkan)**
UNESCO-listed amphitheatre and acropolis where Lycian civilization peaked. Globally significant, genuinely spectacular, surprisingly uncrowded
- **Patara ruins (30 mins from Kalkan)**
Birthplace of St Nicholas, Roman gateway still standing, ancient harbour now silted up. The 17km beach next door helps justify the visit
- **Pinara (1 hour from Kalkan)**
Untouched mountain setting with fragrant pines and mystical atmosphere. The climb's worth it - carved rock tombs and views that explain why ancients chose here
- **Kekova-Simena (boat trip from Kas)**
Half-submerged ruins you paddle over in kayaks, or take a glass bottomed boat. The castle was built by the Knights of Rhodes. History plus turquoise waters equals perfection
- **Saklikent Gorge (1 hour from Kalkan)**
Not technically ruins but dramatically ancient. Walk catwalks over gushing water, wade through the gorge, lunch on riverside cushions afterwards



Saklikent – 300 metres of limestone drama carved into the Taurus Mountains.

“

*Greece, where the light is softer,
the pace is slower, and every bay feels like your own discovery.*

Greece

Pure Mediterranean magic

Zeus chose Crete. Odysseus chose Ithaca. Now you get to choose from eight exceptional locations across the Ionian and beyond: Corfu, Crete, Kefalonia, Lefkada, Meganisi, Parga, the Peloponnese and our newest destination, Zakynthos.

Will you plump for a stone cottage or a contemporary retreat? Our villas in Greece are designed for families, couples, and groups who want a base to fully relax and unwind that also gives you a taste of authentic Greek life. Think nearby tavernas serving fresh seafood, villages where saints' day festivals are almost a weekly occurrence, backgammon games in the town square, and of course, that famous Greek hospitality.



Author Henry Miller said "It takes a lifetime for someone to discover Greece, but it only takes an instant to fall in love with her."

Kickstart your romance with Greece.



Melissani Cave, Kefalonia.



Horizon Blue

Greek adventures worthy of the Gods.

- Melissani Lake boat tour in Kefalonia**
 Underground lake where nymphs allegedly bathed, which makes sense once you see that supernatural blue-green light flooding through the collapsed cave roof
- Pilgrimage to ancient Olympia**
 Birthplace of the Olympic Games, and the Peloponnese's most significant archaeological site
- Traditional olive mill visits**
 Taste award-winning oils from family-run operations, who have been pressing liquid gold for generations
- Summer panegyri festivals**
 Authentic village celebrations honouring local saints' feast days, which double as name day parties for anyone sharing that saint's name (these days are more important to most Greeks than their actual birthday!). With live music, traditional dancing, grilled meats and free-flowing wine



The colourful village of Assos

Kefalonia

Kefalonia keeps its secrets well – sea caves, vineyard villages, and cliffs that fall away to impossible blues.

Kefalonia does drama well. Mountains rise to 1,628 metres, cloaked in rare Kefalonian fir, and roamed by wild ponies descended from horses once owned by Alexander the Great. Fifteen Blue Flag beaches fringe the coast, from white pebble coves in the north that can only be discovered on foot or by boat, to sweeping golden sands in the south.

Our villas span the island. Modern retreats with private pools, some with infinity edges looking out over olive groves. A rare Fiskardo property steps from the Venetian quayside. Modern family spaces near turtle-nesting beaches in the south. Each positioned to make the most of Kefalonia's compelling combination: exceptional beaches, mountain hikes, underground lakes, and celebrated wine regions.

This is the Ionian's most dramatic island.



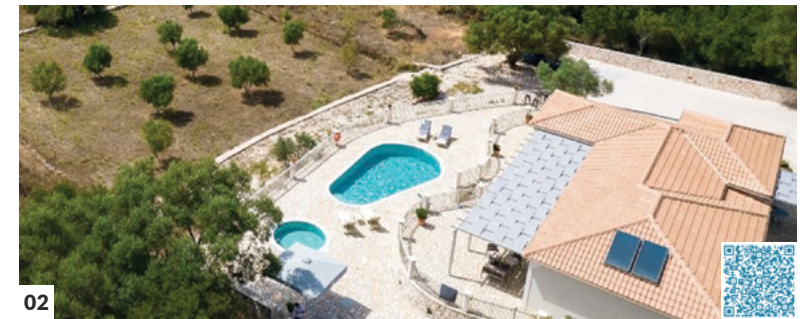
Fteri beach lagoon



Melissani Lake



01



02



03

Handpicked villas

01. AVATON, *Sleeps 4*

Contemporary hillside retreat with infinity pool, Ionian Sea views stretching to Ithaca, and sunken fire pit seating. Light-filled interiors, two en suites, multiple sun terraces.

02. IONIAN MANSION, *Sleeps 4*

Ionian Mansion has been built within an old olive grove in a peaceful location. Wonderful sea views can be enjoyed from the generous terrace which boasts not one but two private swimming pools, one suitable for younger guests.

03. ATHINA VILLA, *Sleeps 6*

Modern single-storey with olive grove views and glimpses of the Ionian, 800m from Agios Thomas bathing platforms and snorkelling. Two en suites, terrace access from all rooms.

Well worth exploring

- Fiskardo village exploration**
 The only Kefalonian village to survive the 1953 earthquake intact. Think Venetian architecture, boutique shopping, and harbour-side dining where yacht crews dock for lunch
- Mount Ainos National Park hike**
 Three-hour ascent through forests, with wild ponies at the summit, and jaw-dropping views across to Ithaca and Zakynthos
- Drogorati Cave**
 Spectacular stalactites and stalagmites in a vast hall with impressive acoustics
- Robola wine tasting in Omala Valley**
 Kefalonia is the only Ionian island with its own officially recognised wine region, and Robola is its star grape
- Antisamos Beach**
 The cove where they filmed Captain Corelli's Mandolin, backed by cypress-covered hills and quieter than Myrtos Beach



Spartochoi Village

Meganisi



01

Uncover your own Greek islands

Just four nautical miles off Lefkada's east coast, compact Meganisi is what happens when a Greek island stays off the radar. Three traditional villages: hilltop Spartochoi with its panoramic viewpoints, harbour town Vathy and its waterside tavernas, and pretty Katomeri dot the landscape of olive groves and wildflowers. The beaches are genuinely secluded: turquoise coves like Limonari for snorkelling, hidden Fanari for solitude, Spilia for families.

Our villas here are something special. Private pools, and those famous 270° panoramic views taking in Skorpios island, the peaks of mainland Greece, and Lefkada's rugged Mount Stavrata. Stone cottages with contemporary interiors, some with infinity edges overlooking the Ionian, spaces designed for doing absolutely nothing at a Greek island pace.

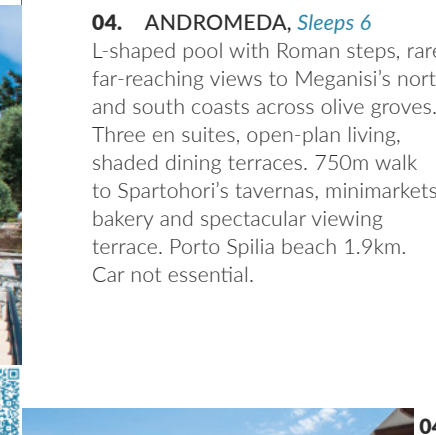
Getting here? Fly to Preveza, then a quick drive to the port, followed by a 15-minute sea taxi or ferry across (the ferry is cheaper). There's a touch more travel involved, but when you arrive, it really does feel like you've uncovered your own unspoiled corner of the Greek islands.



02



03



04

Our favourite Meganisi days out

- Explore Papanikolis sea cave**
 Greece's second-largest sea cave, it was also a WWII submarine hideout
- Cycle the island trails**
 Hillside routes with Ionian views, calm roads, and souvenir shopping in traditional villages
- Hire a boat from Vathy**
 Discover unspoiled beaches, and secret swimming spots independently, with or without a skipper
- Watch the sunset at Spartochoi viewpoint**
 Meganisi's hilltop village panorama, and former pirate lookout, now best enjoyed with a glass of local ouzo or a chilled Vertzami wine

01. KALLIA, Sleeps 4
 One of Meganisi's best views, offering a 270° panorama to Skorpios, mainland Greece, and the Lefkada coastline. Contemporary stone cottage above Vathy, sister to Stamatina. Shops and tavernas 2.5km.

02. KRISTI, Sleeps 6
 Infinity pool gazing toward Skorpios and Lefkada hills. Three en suites, shaded dining terrace, hilltop Spartochoi 500m walk. Sister to identical Tina (perfect for big groups) Car not essential.

03. PEGASUS, Sleeps 6
 L-shaped 13m pool with Roman steps, 750m walk to Spartochoi's tavernas and minimarket. Two en suites, sea glimpses through olive trees, upstairs master with balcony and separate sun terrace. Porto Spilia beach 1.9km, Vathy harbour 4km. Car not essential.

04. ANDROMEDA, Sleeps 6
 L-shaped pool with Roman steps, rare, far-reaching views to Meganisi's north and south coasts across olive groves. Three en suites, open-plan living, shaded dining terraces. 750m walk to Spartochoi's tavernas, minimarkets, bakery and spectacular viewing terrace. Porto Spilia beach 1.9km. Car not essential.



Falasarna beach in Chania

Crete

The cradle of Europe's first civilization, and quite possibly the perfect place for your next holiday.

Europe's first great civilization began here 3,500 years ago, and Crete has been turning heads ever since. Snow-capped mountains behind sun-drenched beaches? Tick. Over 100 Blue Flag stretches of sand, from Falasarna's white shimmer to Elafonissi's pink-coral glow? Also tick.

Our villas span western and central Crete. Restored stone cottages in mountain foothills with valley views. Contemporary retreats with 360° panoramas stretching coast to coast. Village houses designed by architects who studied abroad and brought home Italian flair. All with pools, terraces, and easy access to beaches, gorges, and traditional villages where the Cretan diet, renowned for its health benefits, tastes as good as it sounds.



Loutro Town



Handpicked villas

ILIADA, *Sleeps 8*

Contemporary villa with 11m infinity pool, spectacular Gulf of Chania views stretching from Akrotiri to Rodopos Peninsula. Three double bedrooms, one twin, mountain backdrop behind, olive groves all around. Maleme's sandy beach 1.7km, tavernas 1.4km, snorkelling and horse riding nearby.

Iliada's bright, attractive interior is decorated in muted tones combined with splashes of vibrant colour to create a pleasingly contemporary style, very much in keeping with the property's clean lines and modern architecture.



CAROB TREE COTTAGE, *Sleeps 2-4*

Restored stone cottage in the foothills of the White Mountains. Solar-heated pool, 800-year-old olive tree in garden, valley views where eagles soar. Taverna 400m walk.

Accessed from the spacious, air-conditioned double bedroom, the first floor balcony is the ideal spot from which to admire the valley view and will be equally enticing to anyone seeking a little 'me time' to soak up the sun, read, snooze or simply enjoy a glass of something refreshing!



VILLA KOUROUNI, *Sleeps 6*

Commanding 360° views, the best in Western Crete. Former WWII Resistance vantage point, now your heated pool terrace. Family-friendly beaches and coastal amenities 10-15 minutes by car, Chania is 20 minutes by car, Samaria Gorge is one hour away.

Just a few minutes' drive downhill brings you to the sleepy village of Apano Stalos where you will find three tavernas of excellent repute as well as a mini market for everyday essentials.



DIKTAMOS VILLA, *Sleeps 6*

Modern minimalist villa with infinity pool and sea views, 150m from beach and taverna. Two en suites, lower-ground TV room and table tennis. One of four sister properties (with Sage, Myrtle and Menta) sharing gated entrance.

The nearby coastline is pebbly with clear waters, making it suitable for swimming, sunbathing and snorkelling. It does not get as busy as some of the more well-known beaches on the island, meaning a peaceful day by the sea can be enjoyed even during the most popular times of the year.



Chania Town

Crete adventures

- **Samaria Gorge trek**
16km through one of Europe's deepest canyons, White Mountains towering either side, finish at the coast knowing that you have earned your taverna feast
- **Wander Chania's Old Town**
Venetian harbour perfection, with cobbled bazaars, and atmospheric waterfront dining
- **Village taverna hopping**
Tuck into Cretan meze, raise a glass of raki, and give that famed longevity-friendly diet a whirl
- **Elafonissi pink beach day**
Wander across shallow reefs to the protected islet, sink your toes into pink coral sand, and spot endangered Loggerhead turtles
- **Knossos Palace exploration**
Europe's oldest civilisation left its labyrinth here. Minoan frescoes, throne rooms, and the legend of the Minotaur lurking in every corridor
- **Spinalonga Island boat trip**
A Venetian fortress turned leper colony, now hauntingly beautiful. Stone ruins, turquoise waters, and a history that stays with you

For reservations call **01954 261 431**

Book online at vintagetravel.co.uk



Lefkada

Port Katsiki



Nidri Waterfalls



01



02



03



Nikiana beach

White cliffs, turquoise rewards

Lefkada has the unusual bonus of a bridge to mainland Greece, no ferry required. The island delivers famous beaches (Porto Katsiki regularly makes Europe's top ten), Venetian architecture in the capital's colourful lanes, and that quintessentially Greek combination of mountains meeting turquoise water.

Our properties span north, central and south Lefkada. In the south, our villas offer sweeping Ionian views to Kefalonia and Ithaca above Vasiliki's windsurfing bay or near Sivota Bay.

Further north, properties sit close to spectacular beaches and traditional villages. Contemporary retreats, traditional houses, all designed to help you lie back and enjoy Lefkada's relaxed island pace.

Meganisi sits just 15 minutes offshore by sea taxi from Nidri port. Many guests split a fortnight between both islands – one week exploring Lefkada's famous beaches and mountain villages, one week enjoying Meganisi's stunning views and chilled out vibes.

Don't leave without...

- **Exploring Agia Mavra Castle**
A 14th-century fortress that once protected Lefkada against pirates, with superb views across the causeway
- **Walking the Cape of Lefkada's white chalk cliffs**
Where Sappho once leapt, and a lighthouse built from Apollo's temple offers sweeping southern views
- **A refreshing dip in Nidri waterfalls**
Follow the riverside trail, amongst butterflies and fruit trees, that ends in a postcard-perfect cascade
- **Day trips to neighbouring islands**
Meganisi sits 15 minutes offshore by sea taxi from Nidri, or boat hop to Skorpis and other Ionian gems



“
Meganisi is just a boat ride from Lefkada – three villages, no crowds, and tavernas where lunch arrives fresh from the sea.
”

Handpicked villas

- 01. **SOLE, Sleeps 2**
Couples' retreat with vaulted beamed ceiling, infinity pool, and sweeping sea views. Tsoukalades tavernas 400m walk, Gialo Skala beach 2.8km,
- 02. **AZZURRO, Sleeps 4**
New-build perched high above Vasiliki bay, Lefkada's windsurfing capital. Uninterrupted Ionian views to Kefalonia and Ithaca, fresh sea breezes, pretty harbour with taverna 800m downhill. Ferry to Kefalonia for day trips departs from Vasiliki.
- 03. **MIRTO, Sleeps 6**
This is a privileged location enjoyed by only three properties (Dioni and Eratito sit in their own private grounds alongside) and equal care has obviously been taken by the owner to ensure each is the equal of the other in terms of facilities, comfort and quality whilst at the same time fully respecting the unspoilt environs of olive groves and indigenous shrubbery.
- 04. **CACTUS, Sleeps 6**
Contemporary infinity-pool retreat near Sivota fishing village. Three en suites, panoramic views to Kefalonia, Meganisi, Ithaca, mainland.



04



Voidokilia beach, Messenia

Peloponnese

It's the full Greek experience, but considerably more legendary.

Greece's most southerly peninsula is a history buff's dream. Ancient Olympia, Nestor's Mycenaean palace, Sparta itself, Helen's face that launched a thousand ships. Medieval Venetian castles. Ruins stacked upon ruins across millennia. But here's the thing: you also get the golden beaches, adrenaline-fuelled watersports, and waterfront tavernas. Everything you want from a holiday in Greece, with 3,000 years of epic history thrown in free.

Our villas span the peninsula's most compelling corners. Messinia's lush west with contemporary retreats, some with infinity pools

overlooking the Bay of Navarino. Stoupa and Agios Nikolaos where traditional fishing villages meet golden sand beaches and turquoise Messinian Gulf waters. Mikri Mantinea's Blue Flag beach, perfect for families. Properties near dramatic Mani landscapes of olive groves, Byzantine churches, and clifftop views. Each positioned to deliver both beach days and historical adventures, waterfront tavernas serving what was caught hours earlier, and that particularly Greek combination of ancient sites and excellent swimming.



01



02



03



04



Koroni town

Handpicked villas

01. GIALOVA KALIVI, *Sleeps 2*

Hillside cottage with sea views and valley panoramas, shaded pool terrace under olive trees. Contemporary open-plan living, double bedroom opening to terrace.

02. DAFNE, *Sleeps 4*

Single-storey hillside retreat with panoramic sea views, set amongst olive groves. Beamed ceilings, traditional tiles, open-plan living opening to pool terrace.

03. MILOS, *Sleeps 6*

Middle villa in a trio, elevated above Mikri Mantinea with sweeping Messinian Gulf views. Infinity pool, open-plan living, two ground-floor doubles (one en suite), first-floor twin with Juliet balcony.

04. PILOS, *Sleeps 6*

Contemporary hillside villa with Bay of Navarino views, shaded pool terrace, open-plan living opening to dining terrace.

Heroic pursuits you shouldn't miss

- **Diros Caves boat tour**
Underground lakes navigated by boat, spectacular stalactites and stalagmites, prehistoric evidence dating back millennia, genuinely spectacular
- **Palace of Nestor exploration**
Best-preserved Mycenaean site in Greece, mentioned in Homer's Odyssey, with informative museum bringing 3,000-year-old palace life alive
- **Kalogria Beach afternoon**
Stoupa's golden sand backed by tavernas, freshwater spring rippling offshore making the water refreshingly cool, turquoise shallows perfect for snorkelling
- **Kardamyli village wandering**
Picturesque at the Taygetos Mountains' foot, flower-filled lanes, maze of hillside trails, shaded village square ideal for long lunches
- **Ancient Sparta and Mystras day trip**
UNESCO World Heritage castle town, well-preserved Byzantine churches, massive Roman theatre, archaeological trails through hillside ruins where Greece's second most important ancient city once stood



Zakynthos Shipwreck beach

Zakynthos

Zakynthos may be famous for one beach, but it's exceptional for about a hundred other reasons.

The Venetians called it Fiore di Levante – Flower of the Orient – and you'll understand why the moment you see those olive groves. Greece's third-largest Ionian island is home to the famous Shipwreck Beach everyone photographs, but also lush mountain villages with stone houses, cypress-backed coastal towns, and protected beaches where endangered Loggerhead turtles nest. The Blue Caves glow ethereal turquoise. Secluded beaches require boat access. That 123km coastline shows every conceivable shade of blue.

Our villas sit in quieter corners: Vasilikos near turtle-nesting Gerakas, peaceful Kalipado between vineyards, and beachside Ammoudi. Traditional houses with heated pools and whirlpool jets, contemporary retreats with sea views, spaces that work for families wanting room to spread out, and couples seeking candlelit seclusion.



Cameo Island



Handpicked villas

LUNA, Sleeps 6
Moroccan-inspired warmth, 11m pool for proper swimming, seafront tavernas 650m walk. Sister to Sol and Gaia. Olive grove views, and sleek, earthy interiors.

Luna sits just beyond Ammoudi, a quiet village where life moves at the pace you want it to. A short stroll (650m) brings you to the beach, to tavernas where the owner knows your name after two visits, to a supermarket stocked with local honey and bread.



AURA, Sleeps 4
Contemporary elegance near turtle-nesting Gerakas beach. Sea views across olive groves, excellent taverna 350m, Marine Park protection means excellent visibility for snorkelling. Sister to two properties - Metis and Aquatic.

This elegant villa is perfectly placed for lazy beach days: mornings on golden sand, afternoons cooling off in clear water, and easy strolls home with the sound of the waves in your ears.



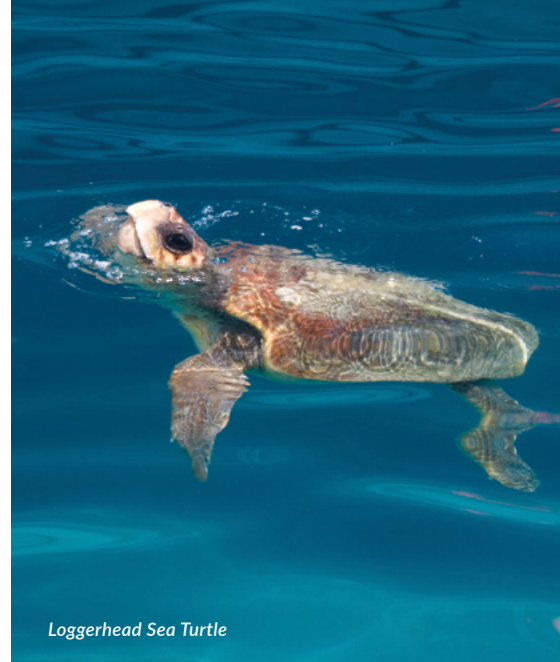
LA VITE, Sleeps 6
Stone villa between vineyards and olive groves, pool with separate whirlpool section. Bar area with Smart TV and barbecue, mountain views. Central island position, close to an award-winning winery and walking distance to a much loved taverna and coffee shop.

Whether your days are spent exploring or stretched out beside the pool, this is a place designed for slow, sunny living, where you can savour island life and make memories that linger long after you leave.



CASA DI PIETRA, Sleeps 8
Striking stone sanctuary with heated spa-jet pool, table tennis, three en suites. Fully fenced grounds, the owners' taverna nearby offers delivery.

The location makes exploring effortless. Zakynthos Town and the resort of Tsilivi are just 10 minutes' drive, with sandy beaches within 6km. Take a boat trip along the coastline to discover hidden coves, dramatic cliffs, sea caves, and the iconic Shipwreck Beach, truly a must-do.



Loggerhead Sea Turtle

Tear yourself away from the pool for

- **Blue Caves adventure**
Glowing turquoise grottos along the northern coastline, otherworldly light effects best seen by boat, or follow the coastal path down to the water's edge for swimming
- **Navagio Beach viewing**
That famous shipwreck photograph from the dramatic clifftop platform, arrive early before crowds descend, boat trips get you close to the wreck but landslides mean stepping on the sand isn't currently possible
- **Turtle spotting and island boat trips**
See endangered Loggerhead Turtles swimming in their Marine Park habitat, combine with Keri Caves, Marathonisi (Turtle) Island, and dramatic Myzithres rock formations rising from the sea
- **Venetian fort sunset at Bochali**
Sweeping 360° panoramic views over Zakynthos Town, surrounding countryside and both island coasts, perfect spot for romantic evening cocktails as the sun sets

For reservations call **01954 261 431**

Book online at vintagetravel.co.uk



Corfu

Paleokastritsa Village



The Achilleion Palace



01

02

04



03

Venetian elegance, Greek hospitality, Italian food

Sixteen Blue Flag beaches in 2025. A Venetian capital so pretty it makes other Greek towns look underdressed. Italian culinary influence that blessed the island with bourdetto fish stew, seafood pasta, and ice cream worth abandoning your diet for. The Ionian's most popular island has earned every visitor.

West coast beaches deliver virgin sand and sunset theatrics. East coast pebbly coves reward boat-only access with crystalline swimming. Inland, olive groves climb mountains to hamlets built from honey-coloured stone. Corfu Town's French-style arcade cafés mirror Paris's Rue de Rivoli, because apparently regular Venetian architecture wasn't showing off enough.

Our collection spans a 200-year-old mansion where prime ministers once plotted, contemporary villas near fishing villages serving the island's best seafood, and family properties beside Corfu's largest water park. Each positioned near excellent tavernas, swimming spots, and the kind of traditional villages where locals still gather in the square.

Venetian elegance, Greek hospitality, Italian food. Corfu captures the very best of the Mediterranean.

Corfu's greatest hits

- Achilleion Palace gardens**
 Empress Sissi of Austria's 19th-century hilltop palace, featuring Greek mythology statues, breathtaking views, and the casino from 'For Your Eyes Only'
- Lake Korission birdwatching**
 Saltwater lagoon separated by sand dunes, with rare species including flamingoes, white egrets and curlews
- The Durrell's Kalami**
 The White House taverna where Lawrence wrote 'Prospero's Cell', and Gerald found inspiration for 'My Family and Other Animals'
- Ouzeris meze crawl**
 Harbour bars serving traditional small plates from olives and feta to octopus platters, paired with locally made ouzo, hilltop fortifications worth the inland drive
- Corfu Old Town backstreets**
 UNESCO-listed Venetian alleyways with crumbling palazzo facades, hidden piazzas, and the cricket pitch at the Spianada where locals still play the British-imported game

Handpicked villas

- 01. ELAIA, Sleeps 4**
 Perched above a coastal lane toward fishing villages. Infinity pool, sister to Uranos and Gaia. Famous Boukari seafood tavernas 2.6km, vibrant Messonghi 10 minute drive.
- 02. MICHAEL, Sleeps 8**
 Tranquil hills retreat, 11m pool, quintessential Greek village setting. Corfu Golf Club 10 minutes, Glyfada's golden sands 15, Aqualand Waterpark 2.5km.
- 03. ZERVOS, Sleeps 6**
 A peaceful retreat for those seeking elegance and comfort. The interiors are stylishly decorated with a blend of traditional and contemporary design and large windows throughout gives beautiful views of the surrounding mountains and wooded landscape from all rooms and terraces.
- 04. ARHONDIKO, Sleeps 9**
 Distinguished 200-year-old aristocratic mansion, former PM Karamanlis connection. 14m pool, wisteria-covered terrace, Ropa Valley views. Ermones golf course 10 minutes, sandy beaches 1.5km.



“

A Venetian capital so pretty it makes other Greek towns look underdressed.

”



Parga

Underrated, unspoiled, and waiting for you

Northwest Greece's prettiest secret sits where pastel-painted houses cascade toward a harbour that could sell postcards by the thousand. An 11th-century Venetian Castle presides over cobbled lanes, flower-draped balconies, and tavernas where menus change based on what the fishing boats have brought in. Long sandy Valtos Beach stretches in one direction, peaceful Lichnos Bay lies in the other, and boats depart daily for Paxos and Antipaxos. The Acheron River flows inland, where ancient Greeks believed souls crossed to the underworld. These days the only crossing involves considerably more laughter and considerably less mythology.

Our villas span contemporary retreats with infinity pools and Ionian views to traditional town houses walking distance from Parga's cobbled centre. Some with barbecue houses, and terraces built for long Greek evenings. Others close enough to the harbour that you can abandon the car keys all week.

Underrated, unspoiled, and absolutely ready and waiting for you.



02

Adventures fit for Odysseus

- Venetian Castle exploration**
 11th-century fortress offering coastal panoramas, Valtos Beach one side, Parga coastline the other. Explore on your own or with a guide
- Boat trip to Paxos and Antipaxos**
 Day excursions with swimming stops, Blue Caves exploration, visits to quaint Lakka and Gaios villages, turquoise water throughout
- Acheron River adventure**
 Kayaking, hiking or rafting the mythological river where Greeks believed souls crossed to the underworld, Necromanteion Oracle nearby
- Swimming to Panagia Island**
 Short swim from Krioneri Beach to this tiny island, bring beach shoes for exploring, locals do it regularly



03



04



01

- 01. FELICITY, Sleeps 4**
 Contemporary single-storey town house with 7m pool, one double en suite, open-plan living opening to terrace. Parga centre 200m walk, Krioneri Beach 700m, Valtos 800m. Sister to Smaragda, tavernas and shops on your doorstep.
- 02. INFINITY BLUE, Sleeps 6**
 Contemporary retreat above Lichnos Bay with 12m infinity pool and uninterrupted Ionian views. Three en suites, floor-to-ceiling glass, barbecue terrace. Lichnos Beach 2.5km, traditional taverna 500m walk, Parga 6km.
- 03. SMARAGDA, Sleeps 6**
 Paxos stone town house with 7m pool, two doubles, one twin across two floors. Balcony views to Venetian Castle, 200m to tavernas, Krioneri Beach 700m. Sister to Felicity, car not essential for this location.
- 04. WHITE VILLA, Sleeps 10**
 Stone sanctuary across three levels with TWO infinity pools, gym, barbecue house with pizza oven. Five en suites, sea views to Parga Castle, split-level terraces. Anthousa village 400m, Valtos Beach 2.7km, Parga 3.5km.



Elafonissi Beach, Crete

Our Favourite Greek Water Experiences

Crystal-clear coves, hidden caves, and reasons to pack a second swimsuit.

Greece delivers 13,676 kilometres of coastline, and the smartest way to experience it involves getting soaking wet. Our villas sit near the country's best water experiences: protected turtle beaches, underground lake systems, and sailing centres that have launched countless yacht obsessions.

Best beaches

For families:

Almyrida in Crete offers shallow waters perfect for confident paddlers and nervous parents alike. Golden Beach near Gialova in the Peloponnese delivers calm, safe swimming with the bonus of lagoon birdwatching behind the dunes.

For beauty:

Myrtos in Kefalonia regularly ranks in Europe's top five, white pebbles meeting impossibly turquoise water beneath dramatic cliffs. Elafonissi in Crete counters with pink coral sand and Natura 2000 protection.

For seclusion:

Limonari on Meganisi rewards the boat journey it takes to get here with a memorable snorkelling experience. Foki Bay in Kefalonia hides its pebbled perfection where few bother looking.

For the experience:

Three excellent waterfront tavernas line the shore of pebbly Agni beach in Corfu, their wooden jetties busy throughout the day with motor boats docking for lunch. The crystal-clear water here makes for exceptional snorkelling.

For the snorkelling:

Zakynthos Marine Park beaches like Gerakas ban fishing, meaning abundant sea life and visibility that actually delivers. Agios Thomas in Kefalonia famed for clear waters ideal for amateur snorkellers. Porto Zoro's natural rock formations in Zakynthos shelter surprising underwater discoveries.



Snorkelling in Elafonissi, Crete

For the boat trips:

Melissani Lake in Kefalonia offers tours through collapsed cave openings that create magical blue-green light.

Meganisi's Papanikolis Sea Cave, Greece's second-largest and former WWII submarine hideout, requires boat access but rewards with ethereal turquoise water.

Day trips range from Spinalonga's leper colony history off Crete to turtle spotting expeditions in Zakynthos, where Caretta caretta swim in protected waters.

For the sailing:

Vasiliki, Nydri and Sivota in Lefkada cater to serious sailors with comprehensive facilities and that famous katabatic breeze. Boat hire from Fiscardo, and Vathy lets amateurs captain their own coastal discoveries without the commitment.

For the watersports:

Vasiliki's bay in Lefkada creates dream conditions for windsurfing and kitesurfing. Kayaking is available all over Greece, but the seven-hour route from Agios Kiriaki bay in Kefalonia which explores sea caves and deserted beaches is particularly spectacular. Scuba diving reaches its peak along Crete's south coast where underwater rock formations shelter octopus and grouper.

For the freshwater experiences:

Lake Korission in Corfu, a saltwater lagoon separated from the Ionian by sand dunes, hosts over 100 bird species. Acheron River near Parga offers kayaking and swimming in mythologically significant waters where ancient Greeks believed the dead crossed into the underworld.

For the waterparks:

Aqualand near Corfu Town is one of Europe's largest water parks with slides, flumes, and dedicated areas for different ages. Zakynthos counters with Zante Water Village near Sarakinado, centrally located for most of the island's villas. Both deliver the chlorinated thrills that sometimes beat another afternoon at the beach.

The Greek islands essentially demand aquatic exploration. Don't forget your swimwear!



Melissani underground cave lake, Kefalonia



Ask us anything

When we say we visit all our villas, we really mean it. If you have any questions about any of the locations or the villas you've seen call our travel experts on **01954 261 431**

Be the first to know

We're always adding new villas, new destinations and bringing you up-to-date information about our destinations.

Last year we added Zakynthos to our destinations, which proved to be very popular and this year we've added Parga. If you're following us on social media, or subscribed to our email newsletters, you'll always be first to find out what's new.

Beyond new destinations, our social feeds are where you'll find the insider tips that don't always make it onto the website: the beach taverna our rep discovered last Tuesday, the vineyard that's just started offering tastings, the festival dates that have finally been confirmed.

Subscribe to our newsletter or follow us on Instagram and Facebook, and you'll be first in line when new properties launch, often before they appear on the website. You'll also get early access to seasonal offers and the occasional price drop on those villas that book out fastest. Consider it your unfair advantage in the annual race for peak-summer availability.

 /vintagetravel

 /vintage_travel_villas

Cortijo Alcornocosa



Villa da Parra



Mira

We're offering more flexible booking dates than ever before. If you like the look of one of our villas but you'd rather book 10 nights, fly out on a Tuesday or book a long weekend we will always do what we can to accommodate your requests. The best way to book the right villa on the right dates is to call us.

With flight prices during half-terms and peak summer months more expensive than ever, the cost of booking extra nights to fly on the cheapest days of the week can sometimes work out to be cheaper than booking a seven night stay.

We would love to hear from you and help you book the perfect villa holiday this year so please call us, visit vintagetravel.co.uk or email us at holidays@vintagetravel.co.uk.



Veiga da Area



Mar Decembre

Vintage travel



Call us
01954 261 431

Email us
holidays@vintagetrip.co.uk

Book now
vintagetrip.co.uk