

THE BEST IN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AND DECORATION

# HOUSE & GARDEN

March  
2016  
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**30**  
**BRILLIANT**  
**IDEAS**  
*for bedrooms  
that work*

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LIGHTS

*Plus*  
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BRAIDS AND  
BORDERS



# Be inspired

*The house that doubled in size and other clever transformations*

# VILLAS

ITALY | GREECE | SPAIN | FRANCE



HOUSE  
& GARDEN  
BESPOKE

THE VILLA HOLIDAY HAS COME OF AGE. THANKS TO A GROWING CHOICE OF VILLA STYLES AND SIZES IN BEAUTIFUL, UNFAMILIAR LOCATIONS. READ ON TO DISCOVER THE PERFECT ONE FOR YOU IN 2016

**H**omespun farmhouse, beachside hipster hangout, palatial country estate - these days, not only is there a huge choice of villa styles and sizes but they are cropping up in wonderfully unexpected locations, far from the madding crowds of the Riviera and the popular Mediterranean islands.

Italy is the place that particularly wins our hearts, say the villa specialists, but we no longer confine ourselves to a farmhouse in Tuscany or Umbria. Puglia, for example, in the rural, sun-bleached 'heel' of Italy's 'boot', is home to clusters of strange agricultural houses with beehive-shaped roofs known as *trulli*. Oliver's Travels offers a charming, design-conscious example, Villa Trullo (above), which sleeps eight and sits on its own beautifully tended estate, where you can pick your own fruit. For something grander, consider a *masseria*, an imposing fortified farmhouse that is unique to Puglia. These magnificent buildings are blessedly cool in the heat and are often only a 10-minute drive from the sea or the region's loveliest cities, such as Lecce. CV Villas and The Thinking

Traveller both offer a superb selection. You can even book an entire *borgo* (a small village or hamlet) in Italy these days - ideal for the kind of large 'multigenerational' gatherings that more of us are seeking, says Francis Torrella of CV Villas. And, when it comes to discovering the local region, if walking tours are a little old-hat for you, the team at Red Savannah has devised some more interesting ways to see Italy's great cities, from exploring Chianti by Harley Davidson to zipping around Florence by Segway.

Beyond Italy, more of us want villas in quiet locations and on smaller, lesser-known islands in the Mediterranean. Menorca in Spain, and Ithaca, Andros and Paxos in Greece typify this shift. And while some of us want absolute luxury and a complete break from domestic chores, we don't necessarily want to laze by the pool all day. Hence the emergence of the 'supervilla', which combines a dreamy location and five-star luxury, with a dedicated concierge service and an army of chefs, drivers, maids and nannies - and even nutritionists, tour guides, tennis coaches, Pilates instructors, personal trainers and tutors. No request is too outlandish.

The only drawback with the new villa holiday is returning the keys □

FOR MORE INSPIRATION VISIT [HOUSEANDGARDEN/TRAVEL.CO.UK](http://HOUSEANDGARDEN/TRAVEL.CO.UK)

## ARABIAN NIGHTS

Enchanting interiors by Philip Hooper from Sybil Colefax & John Fowler, incorporating Berber furniture and motifs and art by modern Moroccan artists, are a highlight of the new Villa Azzaytouna in Marrakech. The three-bedroom property sleeps six, is set in gardens and olive groves and comes complete with Berber tent, spa and hammam. *From £10,500 per week, with meals, transfers, chauffeur in Marrakech and unlimited beauty treatments. 00-212-661 221 714; ezzahra-morocco.com*



## SAIL AND STAY

Transform your holiday into a unique twin-centre escape with an itinerary combining a European villa stay with time on a fully staffed yacht. Villa specialist Scott Williams is the first to offer flexible itineraries incorporating yacht charter. Co-founder Victoria Hooberman says, 'We're encouraging guests to think of them as villas that float.' *From £6,380 for 14 nights, based on four sharing a villa in Paxos and yacht Icarus, includes villa maid service and an inclusive holiday at sea. 01749-812721; scottwilliams.co.uk*

## HOW TO...

### PICK THE RIGHT VILLA

#### LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

'Without exception, villas within walking distance of beaches sell out first; so if this is on your list of non-negotiables, book early.' *Graham Simpson, chairman of Simpson Travel*

#### CHECK THE FAMILY-FRIENDLINESS

'If you are travelling with family, understand the child friendliness of the property. Many villas offer everything from baby monitors to games rooms for teens. A gated or secure pool may also be a consideration if you're travelling with small children.' *Adam Coates, general manager, Abercrombie & Kent Villas*

#### DON'T SCRIMP ON STAFF

'Staff can make or break a holiday. A lovely, friendly and efficient housekeeper, cook or villa manager can make a less sophisticated house seem like a palace.' *Judy Menier, co-founder, SJ Villas*

#### PLAN YOUR ACTIVITIES

'Think about the day-to-day; the places you would like to visit, what you are expecting from the food and local markets and what entertainment is essential to your enjoyment.' *Simon Ball, founder, Tuscany Now & More*

#### APPRECIATE THE VALUE

'The luxury that villas offer, combined with high-quality facilities, can make them seem more expensive than a hotel. But as most accommodate more than two adults, you'll pay the same or less than in a hotel of a similar class.' *Sarah Morgan, Elegant Resorts Villa Resorts and Private Islands*

## Everyone's invited

Hidden in a discreet resort high above the Cote d'Azur, La Bergerie offers a tranquil stay for family and friends but with added wow factor. With its own cinema and wine cellar, an 18-metre pool and shaded outdoor living area, its added extras offer real finesse. Sleeping up to 12 in six spacious suites, each is decorated in exquisite detail while a superb chef and other welcoming staff are on site to ensure you're completely cared for. The nearby spa, golf course and kids' club provide relaxation and entertainment for everyone and, with views out over the mountains, you cannot help but switch off. *From £19,500 per week including staff. 020-8878 5333; bergerieterreblanche.com*



## Ten new villas for 2016

BE ONE OF THE FIRST TO STAY IN THESE EYE-CATCHING EUROPEAN PROPERTIES NEWLY AVAILABLE THIS YEAR

### FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT

#### RAY RESIDENCE, DUBROVNIK, CROATIA

Perfect for those who want a beautiful city of culture on their doorstep, Ray Residence sits on a low cliff overlooking the Mediterranean and the city of Dubrovnik, which is just 15 minutes away on foot. It's a very private hideaway for a larger group, offering extensive, terraced gardens crammed with palm trees and bougainvillea climbing over the romantic balustraded walkways. Dine underneath the pretty pergola, and relax in the sauna and outdoor pool. There are six well-appointed white, modern bedrooms in the villa - a beautiful 200-year-old building. *Six bedrooms, sleeps 12. From £32,298 per week, including daily maid service. 01242-547705; akvillas.com*



### FOR OENOPHILES

#### VINEYARD HOUSE, DOURO VALLEY, PORTUGAL

Streamlined, uncluttered luxury is the hallmark of this villa on the edge of a hamlet, with broad views of the Douro Valley vineyards. The sense of space is immense, while the modernist simplicity and bright interiors are a welcome change from tradition. A pool overlooks the choicest views, there is al-fresco dining and a balcony or terrace with each bedroom. *Four bedrooms, sleeps eight. From £2,323 per week, including breakfast, museum and winery visits and boat ride. 020-7563 7905; cvvillas.com*



### FOR A GRAND STATEMENT

#### VILLA NO.10, PELOPONNESE, GREECE

This modernist masterpiece, in a sheltered bay two and a half hours by car from Athens, is a dramatic departure from the typical Greek villa. With enviable space and views, it is a short walk to the beach and taverna at Lepitsa and guests may also use the facilities at nearby Amanzoe. *Four bedrooms, sleeps eight. From €7,350 per week, with daily housekeeping and wifi. 00-30-694754541; villa10greece.com*



### FOR THE VIEWS

#### VILLA DI CHIESA NUOVA, TUSCANY, ITALY

In the heart of Chianti, this comfortable Renaissance-style villa boasts 360-degree views of olive groves and vineyards all the way to Giotto's bell tower in Florence, eight kilometres away. Guests can make the most of the views over meals (by a cook with royal credentials) on the terrace or in the Italian-style garden. *Eight bedrooms, sleeps 15. From £12,290 per week. ultravilla.com/unique-properties-and-events ▷*



### FOR CULTURED COUPLES

#### LE GROTTA, MODICA, SICILY

Tucked away in the Baroque town of Modica, this is a very special base from which to explore Sicily. A simple townhouse exterior conceals a magical interior hewn from the rock, with vaulted ceilings and a cave-like bathroom from which it takes its name. *One bedroom, sleeps two. From £481 per week, including wifi and a welcome food pack. 020-3529 8013; massimovillas.com*





**◀ FOR CONTEMPORARY LUXURY**

**CALA COMTE, IBIZA**

A steam room and private cinema are the icing on the cake at this spacious, light-filled contemporary villa in a discreet and secure development on Ibiza's west coast. Open-plan living areas are finished to the highest spec and all open out onto expansive lawns, with views of Illa des Bosc and Conillera on the horizon. *Six bedrooms, sleeps 12.*

*From £9,524 per week, daily housekeeping, concierge, laundry service and access to a new spa on the estate from this summer. 01242-787800; redsavannah.com*



**▲ FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**  
**MASSERIA TRAPANA, PUGLIA, ITALY**

Recently - and lovingly - restored, this sixteenth-century *masseria* on the outskirts of Lecce is an extraordinary private haven, ideal for a special occasion. There is ample space for relaxation: all but one of the rooms have private courtyards, while there are six gardens, tranquil fruit orchards and olive groves and even a chapel to explore. Or bag one of the ample day beds under the plum trees beside the enormous pool. *Nine bedrooms, sleeps 18. From £20,500 per week. 020-7602 7602; bellinitravel.com*

**FOR WILD SWIMMING▶**  
**KIPOS BEACH HOUSE, PAXOS, GREECE**

The beautiful olive-lined bay of Kipos Beach is the enviable setting for this contemporary villa designed to embrace the outdoors at every opportunity. Enormous sliding doors open onto an extensive terrace with an 11-metre infinity pool below. The star, though, is the view - manicured gardens, Cypress forests and the bay - a 60-metre walk down the steps - and perfect for a daily swim.

*Six bedrooms, sleeps 12. From £10,000 per week, with daily maid service. 01749-812721; scottwilliams.co.uk*

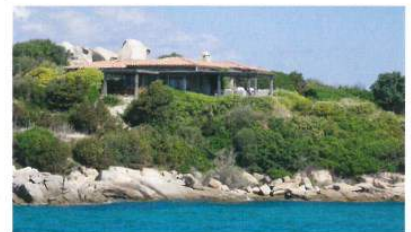


**◀ FOR RURAL RELAXATION**

**LES PRES FLEURIS, LUBERON, FRANCE**

Truffles, fruit orchards and olive groves, lavender and roses - this villa, close to the medieval village of St Saturin, may be off the beaten track but it captures all the very best of Provence. Three bedrooms are inside the main house, plus one bedroom in a guesthouse.

*Four bedrooms, sleeps eight. From £5,932 per week, including mid-week housekeeping and wifi. 01242-787800; redsavannah.com*



**▲ FOR ABSOLUTE PRIVACY**  
**VILLA ZERI, CAVALLO, CORSICA**

European beachside glamour meets barefoot luxury at this property on the private, car-free island of Cavallo, where swimming, boating and relaxing on Zeri Beach are the order of the day.

*Four bedrooms, sleeps eight. From £7,624 per week, with flights, transfers and mainland car hire. 020-8803 6557; simpsonstravel.com*