

THE THINKING TRAVELLER

PANAREA, AEOLIAN ISLANDS, SICILY

CASSIOPEA

Secluded by the greenery of Panarea's northern hills, and gazing out across the sea to Stromboli, Cassiopea is a pure Aeolian idyll. Keen cooks will adore the indoor and outdoor kitchens, lovers of al fresco living will delight in the shady and sun-soaked terraces, and those with a penchant for aquatic pleasures will never tire of the tempting pool and the pampering hydromassage tub.



PRICES, AVAILABILITY
AND BOOKING

→

Service

Features

Sublime views of Stromboli

Pool and hydromassage tub

Panoramic terraces

Character-filled interiors

Secluded hillside position

Nearby

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ABOUT THE VILLA

8 GUESTS 4 BEDROOMS 5 BATHROOMS

Inside: accommodation at Cassiopea is laid out over two floors.

The upper level is dedicated to conviviality and sociable moments. To one side is a wonderfully luminous, generously proportioned and well-equipped kitchen, whose walls of windows and glass doors bring in the enchanting sea views and allow an easy flow out onto the surrounding terraces. At once elegant and classic-country in style, it boasts traditional tiled floors (which run throughout the property), white-washed wood-beamed ceilings, bespoke wooden cabinetry, a full cast of pans hanging from a wall, a cream Sicilian dresser, a marble-topped preparation table serving as a central island, and a large dining table seating 10.

A sliding pocket door on one side of the kitchen opens to allow the space to connect with the living room, which features a classic Aeolian corner fireplace and an eclectic mix of sofas, easy chairs and other furniture that ranges from evocative antiques to more modern pieces. Double doors open out onto the shady sea-view terrace running along the front of the property.

Accommodation on the upper floor is completed by a shower room with WC and sink accessed from the living area.

Stairs lead down from the kitchen to the lower floor which is home to the four bedrooms. All have independent external access, and three of them open out onto a shady portico of graceful arches.

First is the spacious main bedroom, which may also be accessed from a door at the bottom of the stairs. A double with sea views, it comes with an en-suite bathroom with shower, separate tub, traditional Sicilian tiles, and a curvaceous rock intruding from the hill on which the house is built.

On the right of the first bedroom (with which it shares a lockable communicating door) is a smaller double-twin with sea views and an en-suite shower room.

At the centre of the lower floor, meanwhile, is a communal sitting area. Also accessed via a door at the bottom of the stairs, this space opens into to the third bedroom, a double-twin with en-suite bathroom with tub and separate shower.

Next comes the third double-twin bedroom, which may also be accessed from the lower floor's communal space. It has use of a bathroom with tub and separate shower accessed from an adjacent hallway.

Outside: whether you're spending time on the upper or the lower terrace, al fresco life at Cassiopea is dominated by the property's enchanting views. To the front of the house is a panorama of rare beauty: the glistening cobalt waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea stretch out as far as the eye can see, lapping the romantic islets of Le Guglie and Basiluzzo and embracing the perfect, smoking cone of Stromboli, whose volcanic rumblings and pyrotechnics are a spectacle to behold, night and day. Behind, Panarea's emerald hills rise up to the island's highest peak, Punta del Corvo, an enticing challenge for nature lovers and connoisseurs of spell-binding 360-degree views.

The upper terrace at Cassiopea is accessed from the kitchen-diner and the living room and wraps round three sides of the property. To one side, adjacent to the living room, is a shaded, secluded area with well-cushioned, built-in seating and a table and chairs. This gives way to a sun-kissed lounge area with a trio of ottomans looking out to sea (or up at the starry skies).

From here, the main section of terrace extends along the entire façade of the house. Shaded with cane and furnished with a day bed, a sofa and armchairs, and a long dining table seating 14, this convivial spot is where guests spend much of their time together.

The final section of the upper floor terrace is accessed from the kitchen and is home to a fabulous al fresco kitchen equipped with a sink, a wood-burning pizza oven, a barbecue and plenty of work space.

At either end of the upper terrace, steps lead down to the lower terrace, which is accessed from all of the bedrooms. Running along the front, immediately outside three of the bedrooms, is a shady, sea-view arcade furnished for sitting and lounging. Beyond this are the celeste, sun-kissed waters of the magical pool and its adjacent hydromassage tub.

Where the terraces end, the Cassiopea's grounds merge with the fertile verdant hills of Panarea.

CONSIDERATIONS

Panarea is a car-free island but golf cart taxis are available to get around.

Please note that the path to the villa is quite rough and steep, which might make it unsuitable for people with reduced mobility. We also recommend using comfortable shoes when venturing in and out of the property and that children are closely supervised.

Due to its location, the internet network at this villa is slower than in many of our properties. While it does allow standard browsing, it is not adequate for online streaming or remote working.

This property is surrounded by countryside, some of which is unfenced and may include drops or steep slopes. There are also terraces with low walls and drops within the property. We therefore recommend that younger children are supervised by an adult when exploring the grounds.

As this villa is located on an island, we recommend extra caution when booking your flights to avoid problems or delays with ferries and hydrofoils. It may be advisable to arrive a day earlier and depart a day later. Please contact us for any information or advice.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING		→
Amenities		
Accommodates (max)	8	
Bedrooms	4	
Flexible doubles/twins	4	
Bathrooms	5	
... of which en suite	3	
Pool (LxW in m)	13.5x6.5	
Hydromassage pool		✓
Air conditioning ¹		✓
Fireplace/log burner		✓
Safe(s)		✓
Tumble dryer		✓
Washing machine		✓
Dishwasher		✓
Stereo		✓
Bluetooth speakers		✓
ADSL WI-FI Internet ²		✓
Outdoor kitchen		✓
Barbecue		✓
Wood-burning pizza oven		✓
Private Parking		✓
Transfers ³		✓
Sea views		✓
Walking distance to restaurant(s) ⁴		✓
Walking distance to shop(s) ⁴		✓
Walking distance to beach(es)/sea access ⁴		✓
The Thinking Traveller local support		✓
¹ in the bedrooms		
² on the upper level		
³ return taxi transfer from the port coordinated by the villa staff		

⁴ via quite a steep path it is possible to reach the village of Ditella in about 10 minutes, the beach of Calcara in about 15 minutes, and San Pietro (main town and port) in about 20 minutes

✓ = yes/present

— = optional/on request

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THINK ABOUT

Find out more about **getting to the Aeolian Islands**

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EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

Cassiopea is located in the northern hills of Panarea, above the village of Ditella, which has a restaurant and a boat rental supplier. The village, the nearest beach (Spiaggia della Calcara) and the main town and port, San Pietro, are approximately 10, 15 and 20 minutes' walk away respectively. Please note, however, that the path is quite steep and there is no illumination at night. Alternatively, you can book golf buggy taxis to get around.

The Spiaggia della Calcara is worth a trip just to experience swimming in the warm jets of water that rise from the volcanic fumaroles on the sea bed.

San Pietro, with its restaurants, shops, cafés and port, is around 30 minutes' walk from the villa (or 20 minutes by taxi). While there are no cars allowed on Panarea, electric taxis and golf buggies are available for journeys around the island.

If you wish to go for a good hike (and we recommend you do), a path leads from the property up to Panarea's highest peak, Punta del Corvo, which, at 421m, offers sublime views across the archipelago and the Tyrrhenian. It's quite a trek, especially in the high summer months, but worth the effort in our opinion.

Panarea is the second smallest and the most fashionable of **Aeolian Islands**, and it is an ideal point from which to discover the entire archipelago, be it by boat, hydrofoil or helicopter.

In the summer months, the island offers a selection of good restaurants, bars with stunning terraces, discos and chic boutiques. Diving, walking and fishing are amongst the most popular pursuits.

Regular hydrofoil and ferry services link Panarea to Palermo, Milazzo and Naples, but the most exciting and speediest way to reach the island is by **helicopter**.

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Distances

Arrive by hydrofoil from Milazzo (2hrs) or Palermo (5hrs), private boat, helicopter or ferry.

Nearest beaches: Spiaggia della Calcara - 15mins walk (approx. - uphill on the way back) or 5mins if you take a golf buggy taxi; Cala Zimmari - 20mins by golf buggy taxi

Ditella (nearest restaurants and boat hire): 10mins walk (approx. - uphill on the way back)

San Pietro (port and a good selection of cafés, shops, bars and restaurants): 20mins walk (approx. - uphill on the way back) or 5/10mins by golf buggy taxi



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GALLERY



