

THE THINKING TRAVELLER

NOTO, SICILY

TULA

Ideal for one or two couples or a small family, Tula is a tranquil retreat with a scenic 18m-long swimming pool overlooking a valley of olive groves and fruit orchards. And yet, in about 15 minutes you could be lying on the golden sandy beaches that flank the southeast coast of Sicily, strolling around the enchanting baroque centre of Noto, or dining in a seafront restaurant in a nearby fishing village. For many, the perfect combination of relaxation and inspiration.



PRICES, AVAILABILITY
AND BOOKING →

Service
Features
Clean contemporary lines
18m-long pool
Gentle pastoral views
Abundant terraces
Nearby

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ABOUT THE VILLA

4 GUESTS 2 BEDROOMS 2 BATHROOMS

Inside: accommodation at Tula is all on one floor and the layout is simple and practical.

At the centre of the house is an open-plan communal space with a tranquil, laid-back atmosphere. The sandy-hued walls and ceilings are perfectly complemented by floors of *pietra di Modica*, a local buttery stone. Looking out over the Arcadian valley of olive groves and orchards via a wall of glass is a blue, L-shaped sofa and a dining table. To the back of this space, meanwhile, is the well-equipped kitchen with a sliding glass window opening up to serve a bar area with stools on the shady rear terrace.

Two bedrooms, one on either side of the open-concept communal space, complete the accommodation:

- the first is a double-twin with countryside views and access to a section of the terrace running across the front of the property and a shower room next door. A glass door opens out to an al fresco shower.
- the second is a double with more of those calming views and terrace access. A beautifully crafted wooden semi-partition wall acts as a headboard on one side and a walk-through wardrobe with desk space on the other. Behind this is the luminous en-suite shower room.

Outside: Tula is surrounded by wraparound terraces on several levels, linked by steps and walkways, and interspersed with walled flower beds, shady olive trees, lawns and other greenery. There is a variety of spots for sitting and lounging at different times of the day, and plenty of space for guests to spread out and come together for convivial moments.

Most al fresco life takes place along the front of the property looking out over the surrounding olive groves and orchards. At the centre, accessed from the communal space, is a large shaded area with a dining table and a couple of easy chairs.

On either side of, and connecting with, this central space, the bedrooms open out onto their own areas of terrace, one furnished with a sitting area, the other with a pair of loungers.

Steps lead down from these terraces to Tula's pièce de résistance, the irresistible cobalt-watered, 18m-long pool, which enjoys the same country views.

One particularly pleasing design element of the al fresco areas is found on the terrace to the rear of the house, where, looking into the kitchen via a sliding glass window, is a shaded bar area with stools. This sociable addition allows whoever is on cooking duties to chat to their fellow guests while sharing an aperitif.

CONSIDERATIONS

For larger groups that require more than two bedrooms, Tula can be booked in combination with its sister villa, **Saia**.

Due to the nature of the property including terraces low walls and several drops around the grounds, children must be supervised at all times.

Please note that there is no real shallow end in the pool, whose minimum depth is 1.5m.

Parts of the route to this property are unpaved and a little rough. We therefore recommend guests hire a 4-wheel drive car or one with high ground clearance.

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Amenities		
Accommodates (max)	4	
Bedrooms	2	
Flexible doubles/twins	2	
Bathrooms	2	
... of which en suite	1	
Daily maid service		✓
Cook		—
Pool (LxW in m)	18x4.5	
Air conditioning		✓
Safe(s)		✓
Washing machine		✓
Dishwasher		✓
Microwave oven		✓
USB wall sockets		✓
Smart TV		✓
4G Wi-Fi Internet [i]		✓
Barbecue		✓
Private Parking		✓
Yoga mats		✓
The Thinking Traveller local support		✓
✓ = yes/present		
— = optional/on request		

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THINK ABOUT

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EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

Tula is set above a fertile plain between the fascinating Baroque town of **Noto** and the beautiful natural reserve of **Vendicari**.

Noto is the most easterly of a chain of baroque towns, including **Modica**, **Ragusa**, and **Scicli**. All were all rebuilt in flamboyant style following a major earthquake in 1693, and today they are protected as part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Val di Noto.

Vendicari Nature Reserve, meanwhile, boasts some of the finest sandy beaches in Sicily, which are pleasingly under populated even in the height of summer. Vendicari is also home to thousands of migrating flamingos and other species of bird, not to mention the sea turtles that nest on its beaches. Just to the west of Vendicari are the remains and superb mosaics of Villa Romana del TELLARO, a 4th century Roman villa.

If hiking in the hills is your thing, then there is some spectacular scenery in the rushing streams and waterfalls of Cassibile and at the Paleolithic burial sites in the dramatic valley of **Pantalica**, which, along with fascinating, historic **Syracuse** form another UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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Distances

Catania airport: 90km-56miles-1hr

Palermo airport: 320km-200miles-3hr20

Trapani airport: 40km-250miles-4hr10

Comiso airport: 78km-49miles-1hr25

Nearest beaches at Vendicari Nature Reserve: 8km-5miles-10/15mins

Nearest supermarket: 10mins drive

Noto (nearest shops, bars and restaurants): 10km-6miles-15mins

Syracuse: 40km-20miles-40mins

Modica: 38km-23miles-50mins

Ragusa: 55km-34miles-1hr5



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GALLERY



