

THE THINKING TRAVELLER

SANTA-MARIA-FIGANIELLA, CORSICA

CASONU

The mountains of southern Corsica are dotted with sturdy, stone-built sheep folds, *bergeries*, that once provided protection for shepherds and their flocks, and Casonu is a nostalgic, loving ode to this age-old architectural form. Designed with contemporary comforts in mind but entirely in-keeping with local heritage, it is a masterclass in how to combine reclaimed materials, traditional know-how, and superior craftsmanship to create an elegiac and evocative home for the 21st century.



PRICES, AVAILABILITY
AND BOOKING



Service

Features

Spellbinding panoramas
Lovingly designed interiors
Inviting heatable pool
Authentic atmosphere
Immersion in nature

Nearby

Email us: info@thethinkingtraveller.com

Or call us: +44 (0)20 7377 8518 or toll free in the US or Canada 1-800-490-1107

Casonu is exclusively available through The Thinking Traveller, you won't find it anywhere else.

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ABOUT THE VILLA

4 GUESTS 2 BEDROOMS 1 BATHROOMS

Inside: accommodation at Casonu is spread over two floors.

On entering Casonu, one is immediately struck by the character of the design, which has evidently been a labour of love for the owners. Corsican architectural traditions, locally sourced and reclaimed materials, and upcycled pieces blend finely with subtle contemporary detailing, and though each room has its own character and charm, there's a homogeneity of style that connects each space. The quality of the craftsmanship and finishing is evident wherever you look, and there's always something aesthetically appealing in your eyeline.

The double doors of the main entrance open into the living room, which has a warm, welcoming and cosy feel. Wood-beamed ceilings bring character, as do the traditionally patterned tile flooring. At the centre, flanked on one side by a sink-in sofa and on the other by a stylish accent chair, is a fireplace.

The living area, and its tiled flooring, flows into the beautiful kitchen, which features waved barrel-vaulted ceilings in soft creamy stone, olive-hued walls, and a green dresser. To one end is a round breakfast table and chairs and a door opening out onto the pool terrace. To the other is the main prep area, equipped with Smeg appliances and a fabulous double sink from which one may gaze out over the mountains.

Accommodation on the ground floor is completed by a WC and laundry room.

The first floor is home to two bedrooms, a double with gorgeous views out to the Gulf of Valinco, and a double-twin. Served by a good-sized shared shower room (please note the WC is downstairs), both bedrooms use reclaimed doors as headboards, a rustic element, which along with the wooden floors and ceilings, is gently contrasted by carefully chosen soft furnishings.

Outside: al fresco life at Casonu plays out on the lovely, decked pool terrace, which offers glorious vistas over the green hills and, in the distance, the sparkling sea of the Gulf of Valinco.

To one end is a comfortably furnished sitting area; in the centre is the tempting pool, flanked on its panoramic side by wild grasses; and at the far end, next to a double day-bed lounge, is a well-shaded outdoor kitchen and dining area served by a plancha grill and a sink.

CONSIDERATIONS

Two of our other villas, **Casa Fortificata** and **Casalonga** are located nearby. The villas belong to the same owners and share part of the access road but each enjoys total privacy. If you're travelling in a large group or with another family, why not take both of them.

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 the efficacy of the pool heating can be impacted by the external temperature and weather conditions in the area of your villa; as such as we cannot guarantee a minimum pool water temperature.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING



Amenities

Accommodates (max)	4
Bedrooms	2
Double beds	1
Flexible (double or twin)	1
Bathrooms	1
... of which en suite	0
Daily maid service	—
Optional cook	—
Heatable pool (LxW in m) ¹	8x3
Air conditioning ²	✓
Heating	✓
Fireplace/log burner	✓
Tumble dryer	✓
Washing machine	✓
Dishwasher	✓
Smart TV	✓
Bluetooth speakers	✓
Fibre Wi-Fi Internet connection	✓
Plancha grill	✓
Private parking	✓
Transfers	—
Shopping service	—
Sea views	✓
The Thinking Traveller local support	✓

¹ the pool heating is only available during the summer months (May to October). Please give us at least a week's notice if you would like the pool heated.

² In the stairwell between the living

room and bedrooms

✓ = yes/present

— = optional/on request

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THINK ABOUT

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EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

Located at around 600m above sea level in the mountains to the northeast of Propriano, Casonu is immersed in nature. Forested peaks and rocky outcrops provide a real sense of being off the beaten track, birds of prey wheel in the sky above, and splendid panoramas pan out to take in the south coast of Corsica, the Gulf of Valinco, and the sparkling Tyrrhenian Sea.

The surrounding countryside is a real paradise for those who enjoy hiking, mountain biking and other outdoor activities, and there are a multitude of trails to choose from.

The Gulf of Valinco is home to a seemingly endless variety of sandy beaches. The closest to Casonu, all of which are about a 30-minute drive away, are in and around Propriano (Plage de Baraci, Capu Laurosù and Capicciolo).

There is a restaurant nearby, in the village of Fozzano (5mins), but for a wider choice of amenities, including restaurants, cafés, bars, shops and water sports, Propriano is the place to be (25mins). Its marina is a pleasant spot in which to while away an hour or two, sipping a coffee or dining by the water.

Just a few kilometres from Propriano, at the southwestern tip of the Gulf of Valinco, is Campomoro. Surveyed from on high by a Genoese tower, the little village boasts an elegant arc of golden sand, electric blue waters, and a cluster of bars, cafés and restaurants. It is also a great spot for walkers, with numerous trails crisscrossing the unspoilt verdant hills that rise up to create a headland some 4500m above the sea. The coastline running west and south from the village, meanwhile, is home to numerous idyllic little bays and tiny beaches, most of which are only accessible by boat. A day spent sailing from one to another, dropping anchor and diving into the irresistible waters is time well spent indeed.

For a sense of Corsica's multi-millennial history, a visit to the nearby megalithic site of **Filitosa** is not to be missed. Inhabited more or less continuously from the 9th millennium BCE until the 3rd century BCE, the site's olive groves,

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING



Distances

Ajaccio Airport: 78km-48.5miles-1hr30

Figari Sud-Corse Airport: 64km-42miles-1hr15

Bastia Airport: 163km-101miles-3hr10

Nearest beaches: Plage de Baraci - 13.3km-8.3miles-30mins; Propriano - 16km-10miles-25mins; Capu Laurosù - 18.5km-11.5miles-30mins; Capicciolo - 23km-14miles-35mins

Nearest restaurant: Fozzano - 2.2km-1.4miles-5mins

Propriano (nearest good selection of shops, bars, restaurants and amenities): 16km-10miles-25mins

Olimeto: 24km-15miles-35mins

Campomoro: 30km-19miles-45mins

Filitosa archaeological site: 35km-22miles-45mins

Sartène: 23.5km-13.5miles-30mins

Ajaccio: 83km-52miles-1hr40

Bonifacio: 73km-45.5miles-1hr25

woodland and open countryside host a wide variety of archaeological finds from carved menhir statues to Bronze Age stone towers and much more besides.

Some 30 minutes away to the south, meanwhile, is the panoramically positioned, mediaeval town of Sartène, whose pretty labyrinth of streets gives an idea of Corsican life away from the coastline. Similarly interesting is the village of Olmeto, whose coloured houses and setting on a steep forested hill make for an evocative atmosphere.

Just over an hour and a half's drive northwest will take you Corsica's capital, **Ajaccio**. The town is well worth a visit, not least so you can say that you've been to the birthplace of the great Napoleon.

About 75km to the southeast, meanwhile, is **Bonifacio**, one of Corsica's most dramatically positioned and striking towns. Teetering perilously on a high cliff above the sea, it offers sublime views over to Sardinia and a great selection of restaurants and bars.



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GALLERY



