SANTA-MARIA-FIGANIELLA, CORSICA

CASA FORTIFICATA

Perched in a superbly panoramic position, and with far-reaching views out over the mountains of southern Corsica and the Gulf of Valinco, Casa Fortificata is a character-filled modern take on a traditional *bergerie* (sheepfold) that oozes charm, warmth and soul. Largely built using reclaimed materials, this beautifully designed and lovingly furnished retreat induces guests to immerse themselves in a world of pure pastoral tranquillity.





PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Service

Features

Intoxicating views
Tempting heatable pool
Alluring interiors
Authentic charm
Al fresco poolside kitchen

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

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CASA FORTIFICATA

ABOUT THE VILLA

8 GUESTS 3 BEDROOMS 3 BATHROOMS

Inside: accommodation at Casa Fortificata is all on one level.

The main entrance leads into an impressive hallway with a barrel-vaulted ceiling in red brick.

To the right and left are the first two bedrooms, a pair of romantic double bedrooms with lofty, sloping, wood-beamed ceilings and beautifully finished en-suite shower rooms with separate WCs. One has gorgeous views across the hills and down to the Gulf of Valinco.

At the end of the entrance hall is the heart of the home, a wonderfully voluminous, open-concept communal area, which oozes charm and character. To one side, under more of those high wood-beamed ceilings, is the living area, which features a large sink-in sofa and a pair of classic leather armchairs gathered around a fireplace topped with a large gilt-framed mirror, wooden flooring, an early 19th-century chandelier, and, against one wall, a wide reclaimed piece of furniture with pigeon holes that functions as a console. On one side of the fireplace is a window looking out over the countryside and the sea, to the other is a door leading out to a flight of steps connecting the villa to the gardens.

To the other side of this communal space, through a wide, partially glazed opening, is the gorgeous kitchen-diner. At the centre, resting on traditional Corsican patterned floor tiles, sits a wooden dining table with retro chairs. Running along the full length of the main wall, meanwhile, is a line of bespoke wooden cabinetry, a large butler sink, SMEG appliances, and a few sections of locally produced, grey square tiles. A pair of windows bring in bright Corsican light, and a door at one end leads into the guest WC and laundry room.

Finally, accessed from the far end of the living area, is the third bedroom, an extremely spacious double-aspect quadruple, with four single beds, views out towards the Gulf of Valinco, and an en-suite shower room with double sinks and a separate WC.

Outside: the grounds of Casa Fortificata blend seamlessly into a landscape of hills, maquis, olives, holm oaks and mastic trees. This full immersion in nature, not to mention the sweeping views that take in forested mountains, mile upon mile of Corsica's south coast, and the sparkling blue waters of the Gulf of Valinco, allows guests to unwind in an atmosphere of utter tranquillity and beauty.

A door in the living room opens out onto some stone steps, which lead down to a terrace and another flight of steps that descend under a clutch of shady trees. At the bottom is the dreamy pool terrace, a multi-dimensional al fresco space where you will no doubt spend much of your time.

Surrounded on three sides by decking, ornamental grass, and well-cushioned teak furniture, is the lovely heatable pool.

Set back from the pool, and recessed under the shade of a terracotta-tiled roof, is the al fresco dining area and a well-equipped outdoor kitchen with plancha grill, stone sink, dishwasher and fridge. This is a fabulous place to cook, dine, and share convivial moments day and night.

A few more steps down to one side of the pool terrace, meanwhile, is a square sitting area offering more of those sensational views. A better spot for a sunset aperitif or a post-dinner drink under the stars it is hard to imagine.

Dotted around the grounds under the trees are various little hideouts, one of which has a shady hammock, perfect for an afternoon snooze.

CONSIDERATIONS

Our villas, **Casonu** and **Casalonga** are located near to each other. 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, the villas can be booked together.

Due to the nature of the property - 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)	8
Bedrooms	3
Double beds	2
Quad beds	1
Bathrooms	3
... of which en suite	3
Heatable infinity pool [2]	8x3m
Sea views	✓
Outdoor kitchen	✓

Plancha grill	✓
Daily maid service	✓
Private parking	✓
Optional cook [1]	–
Fibre Wi-Fi Internet	✓
Air conditioning [3]	✓
Fireplace	✓
Smart TV	✓
Bluetooth speakers	✓
Hairdryer	✓
Iron	✓
Washing machine	✓
Tumble dryer	✓
Dishwasher	✓

[1] the cook can provide dinners on request, depending on availability

[2] 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.

[3] in the living areas only

✓ = yes/present

– = optional/on request

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

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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, Casa Fortificata 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 Casa Fortificata, all of which are about a 30-minute drive away, are in and around Propriano (Plage de Baraci, Capu Laurosu 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-8.3mils-30mins; Propriano - 16km-10miles-25mins; Capu Laurosu - 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

Olmeto: 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



































