TAORMINA, SICILY

ALTAROCCA

Taormina has long been a magnet for travellers. Its unforgettable views of Mount Etna and Sicily's east coast, its ancient architectural wonders, and its labyrinth of pretty streets are hard to beat. The same can be said of AltaRocca, a beautifully restyled house with a pool, whose panoramic terraces gaze out over the town and the sea. Enjoy Taormina's numerous attractions when you're in the mood; retreat to the tranquil confines of AltaRocca when it's time for some R&R.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Service

Features

Ravishing views of Taormina and the sea

Contemporary interiors

Panoramic pool terrace

A few minutes' walk to shops and restaurants

Beach access via cable car

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

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ABOUT THE VILLA

8 GUESTS 4 BEDROOMS 4 BATHROOMS

Inside: accommodation at AltaRocca is spread over four floors.

The main entrance leads into a luminous, stylishly furnished open-plan communal space with parquet flooring, white walls and ceilings, integrated lighting, and a pair of French doors allow a seamless flow outside. Unforgettable views of Taormina, the sea, and even a glimpse of the renowned ancient Graeco-Roman theatre, make this a truly special spot. The atmosphere is at once welcoming, luminous and airy, all features, along with the overall design, that are echoed throughout.

To one side is a large sink-in sofa and TV, to the other an oval dining table. An opening near this latter leads into the well-equipped contemporary kitchen, whose white-and-green geometrically patterned tiles are a leitmotif of the property that is repeated in numerous variations. Accommodation on this floor is completed by a smart guest WC with more tile style.

A white spiral staircase in the corner of the open-plan communal space leads up to the first floor, where there are two bedrooms, both with wonderful views and access to a shared wrap-around balcony:

• a double with sea views and an en-suite shower room resplendent in shining olive-green tiles
• a double with sea views and a shower room featuring bottle-green tiles just across the corridor

The spiral staircase continues from the first floor up to the second floor, where there is another bedroom, a double-twin with en-suite shower room. Due to its lower ceilings, this room is most suitable for children.

The fourth and final bedroom at AltaRocca, a double-twin with en-suite shower room (blue and white geometrically patterned tiles this time), and a little kitchen area, is located below the main terrace and accessed via an external flight of steps. Again, due to the lower ceiling height, this bedroom may be

most suitable for independent teenagers.

Outside: al fresco life at AltaRocca is played out over a series of terraces, rising up below the spectacular rockface of Monte Tauro, on top of which sits the 10th-century Arab-Norman castle of Taormina.

The open-concept communal space on the main floor opens out on to two connecting terraces, both of which offer incredible views out over Taormina and the sea. To one side is the main al fresco dining area, which is served by a well-equipped outdoor kitchen, with barbecue, a sink and plenty of worktops. The motif of white and green tiles we encountered inside provides a colourful and striking backdrop.

Following this terrace around the front of the house one comes to the main al fresco sitting area, sink-in modular sofas and easy chairs sit beneath a shady canopy.

Steps lead from the al fresco dining area up to the magical pool area, which is furnished with sun loungers and a shaded sitting area, equipped with a small fridge and sink, and served by a nearby WC. The pool itself has a shallow beach area with a jet-massage system.

Steps on either side of the pool area lead up to a pair of fabulously panoramic terraces, both of which are furnished for sitting and lounging.

CONSIDERATIONS

There are low ceilings in the dependence (2.05m) and attic bedrooms (2m)

AltaRocca is located right in the centre of bustling Taormina and therefore has neighbours. Some areas of the property are overlooked from a couple of angles. If you're looking for seclusion and total peace, this is not the property for you. If you love being at the centre of a vibrant historic town, however, it's hard to beat.

The number of steps that must be negotiated to get into and around this property (including the internal spiral staircase) might make it unsuitable for people with mobility problems.

Please note that the centre of Taormina is virtually car-free and there is no private parking at AltaRocca. Taormina does get busy, especially in the summer months, so parking places can sometimes be difficult to find. This said,

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Amenities

Accommodates (max)	8
Bedrooms	4
Double beds	2
Flexible (double or twin)	2
Bathrooms	4
... of which en suite	3
Pool ^{2}	13x6m
Sea views	✓
Short walk to shop(s) / restaurant(s)	✓
Walking distance to restaurant(s)	✓
	✓

for everyday life at AltaRocca, you won't need a car, as everything you need is right on your doorstep. If you wish to make the occasional excursion, why not let us arrange a driver?

You may also wish to know that the pool has a single depth of 1.4m.

Walking distance to shop(s)	
Barbecue	✓
Optional cook [1]	–
Fibre Wi-Fi Internet	✓
Air conditioning	✓
Heating	✓
Smart TV	✓
Bluetooth speakers	✓
Hairdryer	✓
Iron	✓
Filtered drinking water	✓
Tumble dryer	✓
Washing machine	✓
Dishwasher	✓
Safe	✓

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

[2] salt-water pool

✓ = yes/present

– = optional/on request

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

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THINK ABOUT

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EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

AltaRocca occupies a fabulous position just a minute's walk from the centre of the ancient, glorious, beguiling and perfectly positioned town of **Taormina**. Its labyrinth of pretty streets, its panoramic *piazze*, its boutiques, its Michelin-starred restaurants and its chic bars are all on your doorstep, not to mention its myriad historical and architectural treasures.

In the summer months, Taormina's world-famous Graeco-Roman theatre hosts numerous concerts, operas and other events, so you'll never be short of things to do in the evening.

The idyllic beaches of Mazzarò and Isola Bella below Taormina are just a cable car ride away, making it wonderfully easy for those who wish to spend time by and in the Ionian Sea.

Sicily's Ionian Riviera has much to offer besides Taormina, including the huge attraction of **Mount Etna** and the villages and towns that populate its flanks.

Guests staying at AltaRocca are also within easy day trip range of **Catania** (a Baroque lava-stone city with vibrant streets markets and much more), ancient **Syracuse**, once the mightiest city in Magna Graecia, and the UNESCO World Heritage towns of **Noto**, **Modica**, **Ragusa** and **Scicli**.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Distances

Catania airport: 65km-41miles-45mins

Palermo airport: 290km-180miles-3hr15

Trapani airport: 370km-231miles-3hr55

Taormina centre (restaurants, cafés, shops, sights, etc): right outside the garden gate (via steps)

Nearest beaches: Isola Bella and Mazzarò - a 10-minute walk and a 5-minute cable car ride

Mount Etna cable car: 62km-38miles-1hr10

Catania centre: 52km-32miles-45mins

Syracuse: 120km-73miles-1hr30

Noto: 145km-90miles-1hr45

Modica: 175km-110miles-2hr10

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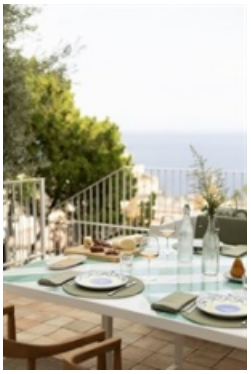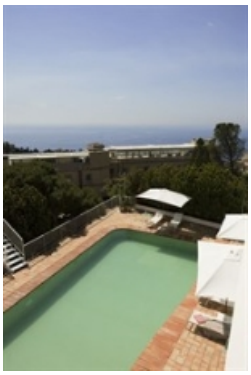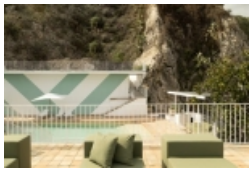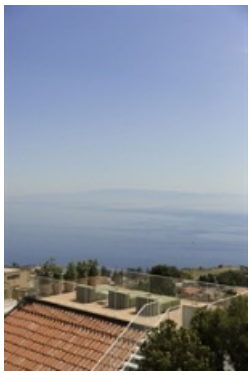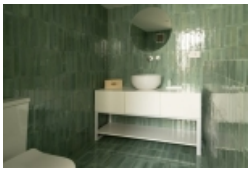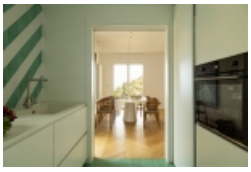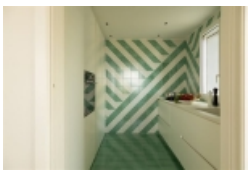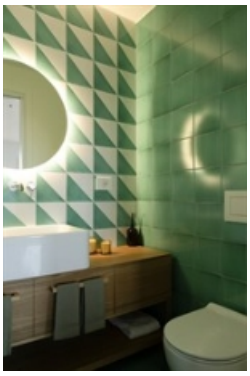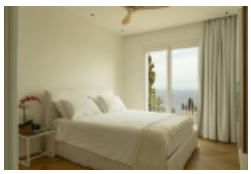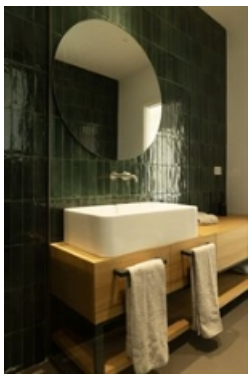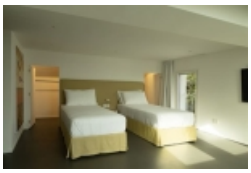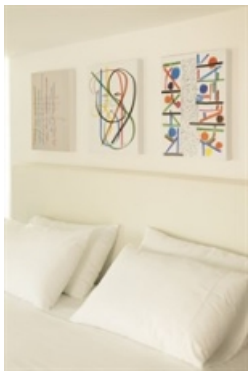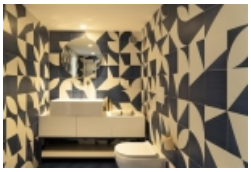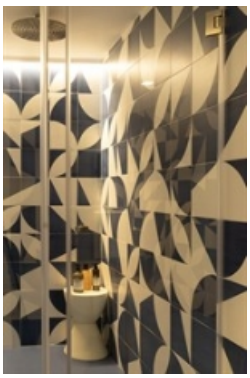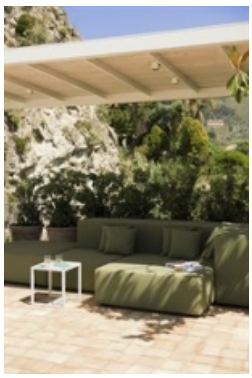
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