AGIOS NIKOLAOS, ZAKYNTHOS

THINK EXQUISITE

ESSENCE

An impeccably finished contemporary home, Essence has been featured by Condé Nast Traveller as one of "The most beautiful villas in Greece". Wow-inducing vistas pan out over the northeast coast of Zakynthos, the bay of Agios Nikolaos and the sea, rivalled only by the two extraordinary infinity pools that make this property unique. Immaculate interiors flow outside at every opportunity allowing guests to truly embrace al fresco living with the minimum of fuss, and a hydromassage pool, gym and games room complete what is an irresistible proposition.





PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Service

Features

A pair of extraordinary infinity pools
Awe-inspiring sea views
Contemporary style and comfort
Hydromassage pool, gym and cinema room
Bewitching sunrises

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

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ABOUT THE VILLA

12 GUESTS 6 BEDROOMS 6 BATHROOMS

Inside: accommodation at Essence is laid out over three floors.

The impressive main entrance leads into a generously proportioned and fabulously luminous, open-concept communal area, where guests are introduced to the property's contemporary aesthetics.

Two walls of fully retractable floor-to-ceiling windows allow the space to flow outside while at the same time framing the awe-inspiring views over the bay of Agios Nikolaos and the ultramarine waters of the Ionian Sea. Four white pillars hold aloft expansive white ceilings dotted with integrated lighting, and sandy-hued floors add to the serene atmosphere. Partial feature walls in local white stone and honeyed wood combine with marble pieces and soft furnishings to bring textural diversity. Each of these design features reappear throughout the property, creating a pleasing stylistic homogeneity.

At the centre of the communal space is an extremely capacious, multi-dimensional modern sofa, while to the right, an uncluttered kitchen with a mix of white and soft-hued wooden cabinetry runs along two walls. Nestled behind the sofa, is a dark-grey metal dining table that's perfect for easy breakfasts.

An opening near the front door leads to a small landing, from where two flights of stairs lead up to the first floor and down to the lower level.

The first floor is home to four bedrooms, all accessed from a long corridor with a stone-clad wall running along one side:

• the principal bedroom, a double-aspect double with a walk-through shower room, separate WC, sea views and access to the swim-up pool, both to the front terrace and to the side, where there is a terrace with a panoramic, al fresco tub
• three double-twins with en-suite shower rooms, sea views and access to a private section of the unique swim-up infinity pool that runs along the entire façade of the first floor

Accommodation at Essence is completed on the lower floor, where an art-lined corridor leads to:

• two double-twin bedrooms with en-suite shower rooms
• a communal space with a pool table, a large, comfy sofa and a home cinema
• a wine cellar

There is also a well-equipped gym down a few stairs from the lower-floor corridor.

Outside: Essence's extensive al fresco areas provide plenty of opportunities for relaxation, lazy time, convivial fun, and solo moments. Divine views of the bay of Agios Nikolaos and the sparkling sea spread out in front of you, setting the scene for your holiday.

A series of glass doors in the communal, open-concept space on the ground floor open out onto a large L-shaped terrace that wraps around two sides of the house. Close to the kitchen, and secluded by stone walls, is a well-shaded dining area with a long metal table. A step down from here is a decked area hosting a sofa and a collection of easy chairs and sun loungers.

Delimiting this space is the sensational main infinity pool, which extends for over 21m along the front of the house. At the far end, four semi-submerged loungers provide an enticing solution for anyone wishing to cool off in style. Above the pool, partly shaded by a cantilevered extension of the ground floor's ceiling, is the second part of the L-shaped terrace, which is furnished with a selection of comfy chairs.

A little bridge at the end of this terrace leads over the pool and a shallow paddling area to a sunken, built-in sitting are with plenty of cushions and a central fire-pit. Finally, looking out to sea is a fabulous hydromassage pool.

The first-floor bedrooms all open out onto the property's most ingenious feature: instead of a terrace, there is a long, slender, 28m-long infinity swim-up pool with four "floating" islands furnished with comfy double daybeds, one for each bedroom. Anyone gazing out to sea from here while enjoying the sun can simply slip into the pool to cool off or have an impromptu swim.

The water from this swim-up infinity pool, which extends around the side of the house to join the main bedroom's private terrace with al fresco bathtub,

cascades down a tiled wall to a shallow pool, which in turn connects to the main pool (remember that little bridge mentioned above).

The extensive coastal grounds that surround three sides of Essence have been planted with local flora to create a naturalistic backdrop to the property.

CONSIDERATIONS

Due to the nature of the property, which includes terraces, low walls, several drops around the grounds, and direct access to one of the infinity pools from the first-floor bedrooms, children must be supervised at all times.

Essence features two fantastic infinity pools. There is a drop off the infinity sides so we recommend children are supervised at all times when using the pools. Please refer to our **general safety page** if you would like more information about infinity pools.

The pools have a single depth of 1.4m

The number of steps that must be negotiated to get into and/or around this property might make it unsuitable for people with limited mobility.

Please note that due to the risk of wildfires, the use of fire pits and barbecues is restricted when the weather is windy or temperatures are high. This is particularly common in July and August. More information will be provided in your House Guide and via your local specialist.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Amenities

Accommodates (max)	12
Bedrooms	6
Double beds	5
Flexible (double or twin)	1
Bathrooms	6
... of which en suite	6
Infinity pool	21x3m
Infinity pool #2	29x1.2m
Sea views	✓
Hydromassage pool	4x3m
Walking distance to beach(es)/sea access [2]	✓
Short walk to shop(s) / restaurant(s)	✓
Gym	✓
Walking distance to restaurant(s) [2]	✓
Home cinema	✓
Wine cellar	✓
Walking distance to shop(s) [2]	✓
Breakfast (incl. ingredients)	✓
Daily maid service	✓
Barbecue	✓
Pool table	✓
Outdoor fireplace/fire pit	✓
Private parking	✓
Air conditioning	✓
Optional cook [1]	–
Starlink High-Speed Wi-Fi	✓

Smart TV	✓
Bluetooth speakers	✓
Hairdryer	✓
Iron	✓
Washing machine	✓
Tumble dryer	✓
Dishwasher	✓

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

[2] Agios Nikolaos, with its tavernas, minimarkets, beach and boat hire, is 1.5km away (a 20-minute walk). Please note, however, that the road does not have pavements or illumination.

✓ = yes/present

– = optional/on request

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

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THINK ABOUT

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EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

Rising in an uber-panoramic, cliff-top position on the northeast coast of **Zakynthos**, Essence is well-placed for those who love the sea, **beaches**, and exploring picturesque villages and towns. At just over 30km long and 20km wide, Zakynthos, also known as Zante, is easy to get around and many of the island's best spots are close to Essence.

A 20-minute walk from Essence is the little harbour village of Agios Nikolaos. It may be small, but it offers most of what you will need on a day-to-day basis, including a beach, crystal clear waters, a minimarket, boat rental and a few tavernas and bars.

A few minutes' boat ride up the coast from Agios Nikolaos are the Blue Caves, a series of sea grottoes that are particularly well worth exploring in the morning when the eastern sun illuminates them with the sapphire colours of the sea. It's also a great spot for scuba diving and snorkelling.

Numerous lovely sandy beaches line the east coast, including those at Makris Gialos and Xigia (10-15mins) and Alykes (just over 25mins).

Heading west across the island, meanwhile, you will soon come to Zakynthos's most popular, most spectacular and most photographed beach: Navagio. Taking its name from the shipwreck that has lain on its sand since the early 1980s, the sandy bay is surrounded on three sides by spectacular tree-topped white cliffs and is only accessible by boat. This sublime setting and the bay's transparent, electric blue waters attract the crowds in high summer, but it's most certainly a sight to behold, both from above and below.

In terms of villages and towns in the area, the unspoilt twin villages of Volimes (upper and lower) have some interesting buildings, including traditional stone-built houses, a windmill, a couple of churches and a 400-year-old monastery. There are also a few eateries, should you get peckish while exploring.

Slightly further afield, though still just a 45-minute drive down the coast, is the

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Distances

Zakynthos International Airport: 35km-22miles-50mins

Agios Nikolaos (beach, tavernas, a minimarket and boat hire): 1.5km-1mile-2mins (or a 20-minute walk)

Makris Gialos beach: 6.7km-4.3miles-12mins

Xigia beach: 8.7km-5.4miles-15mins

Alykes beach: 16.2km-10miles-27mins

Navagio beach: 13km-8miles-25mins

Volimes village: 9.5km-6miles-17mins

Zakynthos town: 31km-19miles-40mins

The Blue Caves: 1.5km-2.4miles-7mins

capital of Zakynthos, Chora (or Zakynthos Town). A few fascinating Venetian buildings survive, and its museums and galleries, vibrant summery atmosphere, and host of bars, cafés and tavernas make it an attractive proposition for a day out.





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GALLERY































































