CAPE SKINARI, ZAKYNTHOS

VILLA MERAKI

A luxuriously finished contemporary villa with a stunning infinity pool on the coast of northern Zakynthos, Villa Meraki is a true gem for those looking for modern style, space in abundance and myriad opportunities for al fresco living. Ravishing interiors spill out onto panoramic terraces, a pool house with kitchen and bar offers a natural gathering space for moments of conviviality, and extensive grounds guarantee privacy and seclusion.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Service

Features

Spellbinding sea views
A glorious 20m-long infinity pool
Wide-open terraces
Generously proportioned interiors
Chic contemporary style

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

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ABOUT THE VILLA

14 GUESTS 6 BEDROOMS 6 BATHROOMS

Inside: accommodation at Villa Meraki is laid out over a main house on three floors, an externally accessed guest bedroom and a pool house.

Airy, bright, serene, and generously proportioned, the ground floor of the main house flows with breeze-like ease thanks to a wide, sweeping corridor that runs for the full length of the property. Each space is united in perfect aesthetic harmony by smooth, pale grey flooring, white walls, blonde wood cladding, bags of built-in storage, moulded shelving, and fully integrated contemporary lighting. Walls of floor-to-ceiling picture windows and sliding glass doors open out onto the terraces at every opportunity, bringing in the fabulous sea views and creating an entirely barrier-free, indoor-outdoor lifestyle.

At the centre of the ground floor is a voluminous living area with a large desk, a double-sized contemporary sofa, a cluster of occasional tables, and an extremely large, wall-mounted TV. Sliding glass doors open out onto the central terrace. The open sea views are incredible.

Following the corridor to the left, and passing a triptych of floor-to-ceiling picture windows, one soon comes to the wonderfully spacious kitchen, which incorporates sleek wooden cabinetry, a large wine fridge, plenty of work space, and a large central island-bar that morphs into a dining table. Another of those floor-to-ceiling, wall-length picture windows brings in plenty of light and a sliding glass door provides access to the central terrace.

At the far end of the corridor, meanwhile, are the first three bedrooms:

• two large identical doubles with sea views, terrace access via a sliding glass door, a desk, and luxurious, open en-suite shower rooms with privacy curtains
• an even larger double with all the same attributes as the first two bedrooms, but with an open en-suite bathroom with both shower and separate tub

From the corridor outside these three bedrooms, a huge pane of glass screens two flights of stairs, one leading up to the first floor, the other down to the

lower ground floor.

The first floor is entirely given over to the master suite, which has a centrally positioned double bed backing onto a bespoke desk and a wall of wardrobes, and an en-suite bathroom with separate tub and shower. The views out over Zakynthos's northern coastline, the sparkling Ionian Sea, and the island of Kefalonia across the water are at their best from here. A sliding glass door opens out onto a private terrace, where there are a couple of loungers and an al fresco shower.

The lower floor of the main house hosts an elegantly presented wine cellar and another extremely generous double bedroom, complete with a sitting area and an open en-suite shower room.

The guest bedroom is located on the lower floor of the main house but accessed independently via a flight of steps leading to a little sunken courtyard. It comprises a large double bedroom with a centrally positioned bed, a luxurious en-suite bathroom with walk-in shower and circular tub, and a little wing with bespoke bunkbeds. It is perfect for a couple or for parents with younger children.

The pool house

The indoor-outdoor lifestyle offered by Villa Meraki is typified by the pool house, which is accessed from the pool terrace via a pair of gracious, wide arches with disappearing pocket windows. The style, quality and sense of space is equal to that of the property as a whole, and it is here that you will probably take most of your meals.

At the centre is a convivial dining table seating 12; to one side is a well-equipped kitchen area; to the other is an irresistible bar with four bar stools, a sink, a fridge, an ice-maker, and a wall of drinks. Two large corner glass doors open out onto a panoramic terrace to the side, where there is a barbecue and pizza oven.

Outside: at Villa Meraki, most al fresco living takes place on the sea-view side of the property, where there is an abundance of space for everyone to come together or find their own spot. No matter where you are, enchanting 180-degree panoramas pan out over vast swathes of the Ionian Sea and across to the neighbouring island of Kefalonia.

Accessed from both the living room and the kitchen is a central, recessed

terrace that's furnished with three curvaceous, contemporary sofas. This links up with a wide walkway running in front of the three bedrooms on the ground floor.

Wide, graceful steps lead down from the central terrace to the fantastic pool area. The infinity pool itself, which is almost 20m long, is a thing of beauty and includes a shallow area with a pair of partially submerged double daybeds.

Below the pool house, accessed via a sloping bath, is a well-cushioned semicircle of built-in seating surrounding a firepit. This is a lovely secluded spot for an aperitif as the sun begins its descent into the western sea.

As already mentioned above, the master suite on the first floor has its own uber-panoramic terrace.

All the outdoor areas have been beautifully illuminated, so as night falls, the property glows with a magical, suffused light.

Landscaped grounds wrap around the terraces, and there's a well-stocked kitchen garden planted with fresh herbs, tomatoes, aubergines, courgettes, and a variety of citrus trees.

CONSIDERATIONS

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

Villa Meraki features a fantastic infinity pool, offering swimmers stunning views while in the pool. There is a drop off the infinity side so we recommend children are supervised at all times. Please refer to our **general safety page** if you would like more information about infinity pools.

The sea access in front of this property is via rocks and so may not be possible to use if the sea is rough. We urge caution at all times. Please also note that the water at the sea access is immediately deep and therefore not ideal for less confident swimmers.

The last kilometre of the access road to Villa Meraki is unpaved.

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

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Amenities

Accommodates (max)	14
Bedrooms	6
Double beds	5
Quad beds	1
Bathrooms	6
... of which en suite	6
Infinity pool	19.7x5m
Sea views	✓
Wine cellar	✓
Outdoor kitchen	✓
Poolside bar	✓
Pizza oven [3]	✓
Breakfast (incl. ingredients)	✓
Daily maid service	✓

particularly common in July and August. More information will be provided in your House Guide and via your local specialist.

Barbecue	✓
Petanque	✓
Vegetable garden	✓
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	✓
Ice maker	✓
Dishwasher	✓

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

[2] in the master bedroom and the lower floor bedroom

[3] this is a self-operated pizza oven

✓ = yes/present

– = optional/on request

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

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THINK ABOUT

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EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

Sitting right above the sea at the northern tip of **Zakynthos**, Villa Meraki is wonderfully off the beaten track, yet well-placed for those who wish to explore picturesque villages and towns or bask on glorious **beaches** (though of course the property has its own private sea access).

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 in close proximity to Villa Meraki.

A 10-minute drive will take you down to the little harbour village of Agios Nikolaos, which offers most of what you will need on a day-to-day basis, including a beach, a minimarket, boat rental and a few tavernas and bars. There is also a couple of tavernas a 5-minute drive east.

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 (20mins) and Alykes (35mins).

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.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Distances

Zakynthos International Airport: 37km-23miles-55mins

Agios Nikolaos (beach, tavernas, a minimarket and boat hire): 4.7km-2.9miles-10mins

Makris Gialos beach: 9.3km-5.8miles-20mins

Xigia beach: 12km-7.4miles-22mins

Alykes beach: 21km-13miles-35mins

Navagio beach: 14.8km-9.2miles-25mins

Volimes village: 11.2km-7miles-22mins

Zakynthos Town: 34.5km-21.5miles-55mins

The Blue Caves: 2.5km-1.5miles-5mins

There are also a few eateries, should you get peckish while exploring.

Slightly further afield, though still just a 55-minute drive down the coast, is the 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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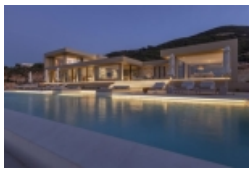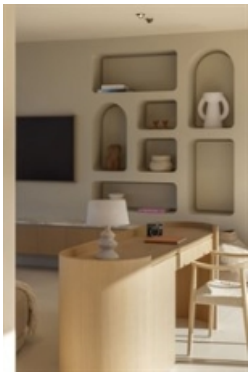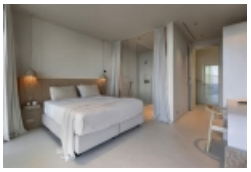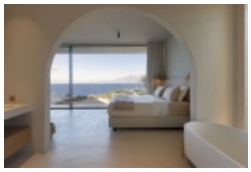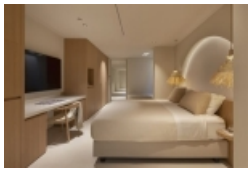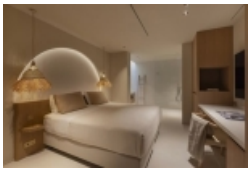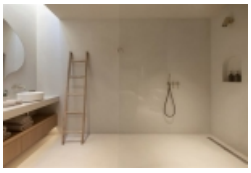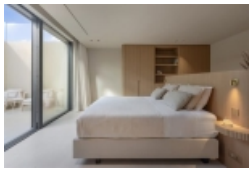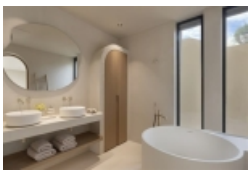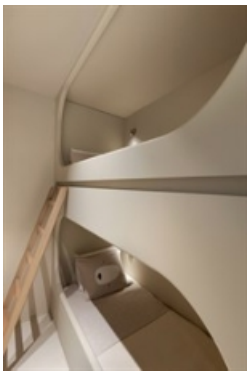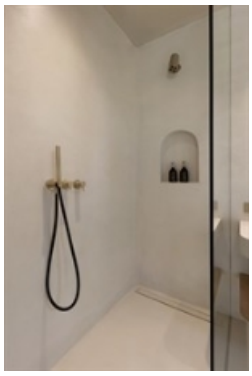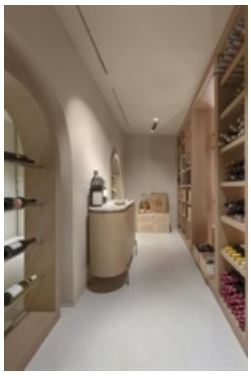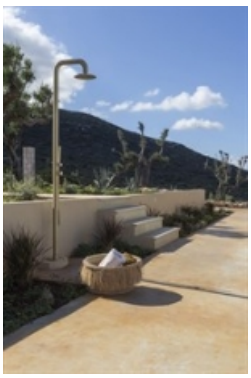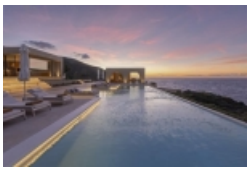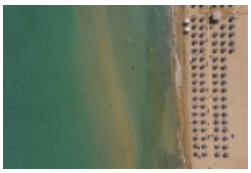
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