HYDRA TOWN, HYDRA

# *VILLA COLBERT*

Rising in a panoramic position above Hydra Town and the sea, Villa Colbert is a grand, supremely spacious mansion that recalls the time when the island was home to shipping magnates and wealthy traders. Today, its lovingly refurbished original features, elegant salons and leafy terraces provide a harmonious backdrop for the inimitable creativity and sense of fun of the property's current owners, renowned artists Philip and Charlotte Colbert.

**Vogue's article on the Colberts' London home**





PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

**Service**

**Features**

Grand, light-filled interiors
Original features and contemporary art
An irresistible pool
Leafy, wrap-around terraces
Fabulous views of Hydra Town and the sea

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

HYDRA TOWN, HYDRA

# *VILLA COLBERT*

## ABOUT THE VILLA

16 GUESTS 7 BEDROOMS 5 BATHROOMS

**Inside:** accommodation at Villa Colbert is arranged over two floors of a main house and two separate guest rooms accessed from the terraces.

*The main house*

From a chequerboard-tiled terrace, an entrance leads into the upper floor of the main house and a voluminous, welcoming reception room that encapsulates the property's architectural pedigree and its eclectic interior design.

Stone-flagged flooring, a lofty, ornately carved wooden ceiling, a Murano chandelier, and pitch-pine double doors with raised pyramidic panels give a sense of the property's grandeur and heritage, while a large, vibrantly coloured geometric painting and a pair of snazzily upholstered easy chairs hint at the owners' sense of fun and creative vivacity. This juxtaposition of traditional craftsmanship and contemporary theatrical flair continues throughout, providing an endless source of delight.

At the centre of this first reception room is a round glass dining table; to the left is a vintage Bechstein baby grand piano; at the far end are a pair of life-sized antique wooden statues that recall ancient Greek caryatids. Echoes of classical antiquity is a recurring theme throughout.

Straight on, through some double doors, is an elegantly proportioned salon with white walls, a white fireplace, white marble flooring, and two sets of floor-to-ceiling French doors accessing a balcony with views out towards Hydra Town and the sea. At the centre of this room, sitting on a buttery-yellow Persian rug, are a pair of curvaceous, white, lobster-claw sofas and a bespoke coffee table adorned with a painted eye (a motif will make a reappearance here and there as we continue our tour).

On the right of the salon, more double doors open into the airy, luminous master suite. A pair of Ionic-column bedside tables flank the double bed, a decorative marble fireplace occupies a corner of the room, and a window seat

gazes out at the views. French doors open out onto a private panoramic terrace.

The master suite's bathroom is wonderfully theatrical, with a large marble vanity and sink surrounded on three sides by mirrors, and a trove of opulent golden fixtures and fittings, including taps, wall sconces and a double-height, bespoke wall cupboard. A free-standing tub, hewn out of grey marble sits in its own glazed pavilion.

The en-suite bathroom flows into a large dressing room, with plenty of fitted wardrobes, and access to the terrace outside the main entrance.

Heading back to the first reception room, double doors open into a sitting room with bookshelves and comfy contemporary armchairs. This in turn communicates with the kitchen, which features beautifully restored, pitch-pine cabinetry, a central island with bar stools, and a kiln-like, brick alcove fitted with hobs and a pair of ovens. French doors open out to the main al fresco dining area on one side and to a vine-covered terrace on the other.

The second bedroom on the upper floor, another spacious double with starry-night ceilings, double-aspect views of Hydra Town, the sea and the surrounding hills, is situated just off the first reception room.

An elegant staircase between the first reception room and the second bedroom leads down to the lower floor, where the inimitable mix of old-school elegance and artistic panache continues.

On one side of the lower level is another gorgeously bright double bedroom, a guest WC, and a shared bathroom with tub.

At the centre is an extremely large and impressive reception room with peach and grey chequerboard marble flooring, a series of wide arches, and cane and wood-beamed ceilings. To the right is an extremely convivial sitting area with a massive L-shaped sofa, a crescent moon coffee table, and a fireplace with a wide, curvaceous hood. To the left of this space, meanwhile, is a blue-and-white-striped sofa and a round table and chairs. The décor is a mix of venerable antique pieces, contemporary art, and cartoonesque sculptures. French windows open out onto a panoramic terrace that runs along the entire façade of the lower floor.

On the far side of the lower level, accessed from the central reception room, is

a multi-dimensional space that can serve several purposes depending on your group. It begins with a sitting area with a large stripey sofa and a circular table and chairs, and then evolves into a long children's bedroom with two bespoke bunk beds and a single bed served by an en-suite bathroom with tub.

*The guest bedrooms*

The guest rooms, which are accessed from the terraces below the main house, comprise:

• a double bedroom with en-suite shower room and a small interconnecting single bedroom
• a double bedroom with en-suite shower room

For photos of Villa Colbert's interiors, please contact our Villas Specialists.

**Outside:** Villa Colbert's glorious al fresco areas are a perfect match for its interiors, which flow out onto the surrounding terraces at every opportunity. The grounds are secluded by a leafy, aromatic cocoon of mature trees and flourishing plants that endow the property with both a sense of privacy and an exquisitely Mediterranean atmosphere.

On the upper floor, accessed from the kitchen, the smaller sitting room and the first reception area, is a divine terrace with black-and-white chequerboard tiles, high walls, row of oleanders, cascading creepers and bountiful, blushing bougainvillea. This is a most serene spot in which to relax to the gentle rhythms of island life. At the midway point is a semi-circular, built-in sitting area and a round table and chairs, while at the far end, just outside the kitchen, is a spacious, cane- and vine-topped pergola hosting a convivial al fresco dining area.

A long balcony offering views of Hydra Town and the sea runs outside the main living area on the upper floor, while the master bedroom has its very own private terrace, furnished with well-cushioned, built-in seating.

On the opposite side of the kitchen to the main al fresco dining area is a shady terrace with a small table, a couple of chairs, and steps leading down to the stone-flagged terrace of the lower floor, which extends in a continuous sweep around three sides of the property.

First is a large shaded area with a couple of wicker chairs (also accessed from

the lower-floor hallway), while a few metres further on is another sheltered haven, complete with built-in, cushioned seating and a decorative fireplace.

A long expanse of sun-kissed terrace runs along the sea-facing side of the house, and here, accessed from the central living area of the lower floor, is a dining table and a sitting area with comfortable sofas and easy chairs. A low wall crowded with colourful flowers frames the views out over Hydra Town and the sea.

Continuing along the front, the terrace morphs into wide area at the side of the house, and it is here that you may well end up spending much of your time. Sitting in pride of place is the wonderful pool, whose graceful, curvaceous corners, wide steps and eye motif bring no little originality to the scene. Sun loungers flank the water on two sides, a shaded sitting area occupies one corner, and, hidden away behind arcing, louvered doors, is a bar.

Surveying this magical scene is a secluded portico furnished with another sitting area and a dining table and chairs. This space is also accessed from the children's room.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Hydra is a car-free island, so for a more comfortable trip from the port to Villa Colbert on your arrival (it's about a 10-minute walk with an incline at the end), you could "rent" a mule or two to help with your luggage (the traditional way of getting around on this island without motorised vehicles). This option is great if you're looking to add a bit of authenticity to your stay. If no mules are available, please note that the only way is on foot.

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

As this villa is located on an island, we recommend extra caution when booking your flights to avoid problems or delays with ferries and hydrofoils. It may be advisable to arrive a day earlier and depart a day later. Please contact us for any information or advice.

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

Please note that this property is located in a residential area and therefore has a few neighbours.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

**Amenities**

| | |
|---|---|
| Accommodates (max) | 16 |
| Bedrooms | 7 |
| Double beds | 5 |
| Single beds | 1 |
| Five beds | 1 |
| Bathrooms | 5 |
| ... of which en suite | 4 |
| Pool | 11x6m |
| Walkable to beach/sea | ✓ |
| Sea views | ✓ |
| Walking distance to beach(es)/sea access | ✓ |
| Walking distance to restaurant(s) | ✓ |
| Poolside bar | ✓ |
| Walking distance to shop(s) | ✓ |
| Daily maid service | ✓ |
| | ✓ |

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.

For photos of Villa Colbert's interiors, please contact our Villas Specialists.

| | |
|---|---|
| Air conditioning [1] | |
| Fast Internet connection | ✓ |
| Heating | ✓ |
| Bluetooth speakers | ✓ |
| Hairdryer | ✓ |
| Iron | ✓ |
| Ice maker | ✓ |
| Washing machine | ✓ |
| Dishwasher | ✓ |

[1] in the bedrooms and the lower-floor living room

[2] in the kitchen and the bedrooms

✓ = yes/present

– = optional/on request

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

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# *VILLA COLBERT*

THINK ABOUT

HYDRA TOWN, HYDRA

# *VILLA COLBERT*

## EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

Villa Colbert rises at the eastern edge of Hydra Town, whose historic harbour is about a 10-minute stroll away. It's a pretty, unspoilt town that's enjoyable to spend time in. Its tavernas and bars rub shoulders with grand mansions built by 19th-century shipping magnates, and there are plenty of independent boutiques and a few museums and galleries to explore.

Hydra is the most southerly of the Saronic Islands after Spetses, and is located off the eastern tip of the Peloponnese. Measuring just 20km (west to east) by 5km (north to south), it is easy to discover in a week, as long as you rent a boat or travel by sea taxi - cars are not allowed on Hydra and there are very few roads.

The island boasts a good selection of beaches and idyllic bays, including those of Mandraki, Avlaki, Vlichos, Plakes and Molos on the west coast around Hydra Port, Bisti, Mpisti and Agios Nikolaos in the south, and Limnioniza in the southeast. The best way to enjoy these, as mentioned above, is by hiring a boat for a few days or taking water taxis.

The island's mountainous hinterland is scattered with monasteries and crisscrossed by ancient mule tracks, making hiking an interesting proposition in the spring and autumn. One such leads straight out of Hydra Port up to the impressive Monastery of the Prophet Elias. Peaks rise up to over 500m before plummeting precipitously into the sea, especially on the south and east coast, creating a spectacular coastline.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

**Distances**

Athens Airport: 1h30 by ferry (or 3h drive) and 15 mins by sea taxi

Nearest shops, tavernas and amenities: Hydra Port - 10 minutes' walk or less

Nearest beaches: there area few small coves and sea access points between 15 and 20 minutes away

Spetses: 1hr by hydrofoil

Porto Heli: 1h20 by hydrofoil





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## GALLERY


























