PACECO, SICILY

AL JAFAR

THINK EXQUISITE

An intriguing, welcoming, refined and luxurious castle in a location that is central to all that is best of western Sicily, Al Jafar offers wonderful views of the sea, the Egadi Islands and Erice, an ancient walled garden with stunning pool, furnishings and fittings of the highest standard, and discreet, efficient service that is the hallmark of Sicilian hospitality.

Have a read of this article on **The Financial Times** featuring Al Jafar (subscription needed).





PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Service

Features

Historic castle
18m-long pool
Wide-open views
Intriguing architecture
Luxuriant walled gardens
Children's play area and pool

Nearby

Erice
Trapani
Egadi Islands
Salt pans

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
Al Jafar 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 Al Jafar is spread over three floors of the main castle and at the top of an independently accessed tower.

The main entrance leads from a large walled courtyard into a voluminous hallway, whose elegant furnishings, original features, frescoed beamed ceiling and honey-coloured stone walls set the tone for the rest of the property. Off the hallway is a well-equipped Sicilian kitchen with pantry, a guest bathroom, and a splendid living and dining room whose high vaulted ceiling and decorative fireplace make for a grand yet intimate atmosphere.

Steps lead from the hallway up to a mezzanine floor, home to a double-twin bedroom with en-suite shower room. A few more stairs take one up to the first floor proper, where there is a large comfortably furnished living area and library and a beautiful double bedroom with adjacent bathroom with tub, antique *maiolica* tiles and an elegant aristocratic ambience.

The final flight of stairs leads up from the first floor living area up to another large living space and the largest double bedroom, complete with en-suite shower room and an antechamber with a chaise longue. The second floor opens out onto a spectacularly panoramic terrace.

Exiting the main house and heading back across the central courtyard, one comes to a tower rising above the impressive entrance gate. Inside, up a 33-step spiral staircase, is the fourth bedroom, a comfortable self-contained double (a small double bed) with en-suite shower room. This little nest is most suitable for independent teenagers or those looking to appreciate the star-gazing skylight.

Outside: Al Jafar sits amidst a peaceful, gently whispering 15-acre olive estate. On the ground floor, accessed from the living and dining area and the hallway, is a large panoramic walled courtyard, furnished for relaxing and dining amongst the towers.

From there, a stone staircase leads down through the walls to an utterly private Arabic sunken garden. Once a quarry providing tuff stone for the construction of Trapani's baroque churches and palazzi, the garden now hosts an al fresco kitchen with barbecue and dining area, and an enchanting array of flowering plants, pomegranate and other fruit trees, exotic palms and a host of fragrant Mediterranean flora. At its centre sits the fabulous 18 metre-long pool with an advanced saline filtration system, a water feature and feature wall decorated with antique ceramic tiles.

Just across a country path in front of Al Jafar is a children's pool (6m x 2.3m and 0.6m deep) and a play area with swing, a little theatre, and other diversions to keep the youngest ones in your group happy.

The terrace accessed from the second floor landing is probably the best spot for an aperitif, a thesis supported by the presence of dumb waiter connecting it to the kitchen below. This is also where the views are at their best, with 360-degree vistas taking in the surrounding olive groves, the Egadi Islands, the sparkling sea and ancient Erice, perched atop its eponymous mountain.

Al Jafar wouldn't be complete without its delicious farm produce, which guests are encouraged to make use of. Its 180 olive trees, some of which are hundreds of years old, as is evident from the considerable girth of their trunks and their sheer height (reaching some 10m), produce a superb extra virgin olive oil. There are also around 40 citrus trees, including orange, mandarin, clementine, lemon, grapefruit and citron, whose *zagara* blossom perfumes the air at certain times of year.

If that weren't enough, there are also plum, apricot, fig, mulberry, pear, quince, medlar and almond trees, free range hens for delicious eggs, and a vegetable garden where heirloom varieties of tomatoes, aubergines, courgettes, artichokes, bell peppers, fava beans, peas and even chick peas are cultivated. Everything is grown without pesticides and no matter the time of year you visit, there'll always be something delicious to use in your cooking.

CONSIDERATIONS

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

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

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Amenities

Accommodates (max)	8
Bedrooms	4
Double beds	3

This property is surrounded by countryside, some of which is unfenced and may include drops or steep slopes. We therefore recommend that younger children are supervised by an adult when exploring the grounds.

The villa has a few resident cats, who may be seen in the villa grounds; they will not enter the house unless encouraged to do so, however we cannot guarantee that they will stay away from outdoor furniture.

Flexible (double or twin)	1
Bathrooms	4
... of which en suite	3
Gated pool [2]	18x4m
Outdoor kitchen	✓
Library	✓
Breakfast (incl. ingredients) [4]	✓
Daily maid service	✓
Barbecue	✓
Children's pool [1]	6x2.3m
Children's play area	✓
Outdoor fireplace/fire pit	✓
Private parking	✓
Air conditioning	✓
ADSL Wi-Fi Internet	✓
Optional cook	–
Piano	✓
Heating	✓
Shopping delivery service	–
Laundry service	–
Stereo	✓
Smart TV [3]	✓
Bluetooth speakers	✓
Hairdryer	✓
Iron	✓
Washing machine	✓
Tumble dryer	✓
Dishwasher	✓
Microwave	✓
Safe	✓

[1] the children's pool and play area are located on a separate plot of land accessed by crossing the small country lane outside the villa

[2] Pool open from Easter to end of October

[3] includes Sky Movies and sports

[4] Every day (excluding Sundays and bank holidays) the villa staff is responsible for the preparation of

breakfast which is served at 9.00am. This service includes grocery shopping for breakfast items, preparing the table for breakfast and cleaning up afterwards. The breakfast usually includes a wonderful spread of fresh bread, croissants, local pastries, brioches, yoghurt, muesli, cornflakes, fruit juices, fresh milk, butter, ham, cheese, seasonal fruit, tea selection, coffee and local jams. All food costs are included and offered by the villa. Please kindly let us know your preferences for a sweet or savoury breakfast, any special requests, and kindly advise in advance of any allergies or dietary requirements.

✓ = yes/present

– = optional/on request

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

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THINK ABOUT

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EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

Al Jafar is ideally situated for an exploration of Western Sicily. The nearby towns of **Trapani**, **Erice** and **Marsala** all boast beautifully restored centres with fascinating histories and some great restaurants. The Phoenecian island of **Mozia** is just a few km away, as are the beautiful **salt pans** where migrating flamingoes nest. There are a couple of beaches in and around Trapani itself while the one at nearby San Vito Lo Capo is one of the finest anywhere in the Med. A day trip or two to beautiful Favignana and the **Egadi Islands** is a must: a 15-minute hydrofoil trip and you'll be in an island paradise of beaches, idyllic coves and transparent waters! If all that weren't enough, the dramatic Greek sites of **Segesta** and **Selinunte** are within easy striking distance too.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Distances

Palermo airport: 85km-53miles-50mins
Trapani airport : 16km-10miles-16mins
Catania airport: 313km-194miles-3hr30
Comiso airport: 337km-209miles-4hrs
Nearest sandy beaches: a 15-minute drive away in Trapani or Lido Marausa
Nearest shops and amenities: Paceco, 5mins drive, or Trapani, 7km-4miles-20mins
Nearest restaurants: in Trapani (20 mins)
Erice: 19km-12miles-25mins
Segesta: 32km-20miles-20mins
Marsala: 25km-15miles-35mins
San Vito Lo Capo: 42km-26miles-1hr
The Egadi Islands: 20mins (Favignana and Levanzo) to 1hr (Marettimo) via a regular and cheap hydrofoil service from the port of Trapani.





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GALLERY























































