PORTO PALO DI MENFI, SICILY

AL PROFONDO BLU

Set on a gorgeous, secluded stretch of golden sandy beach, Al Profondo Blu takes its name from the enticing colour of the sea that gently caresses the surf just beyond the garden gate. Sun-baked Mediterranean maquis, shady trees and succulent plants make up the 15 hectares of private nature reserve that envelope the house in a cocoon of fragrant tranquillity, providing the perfect retreat for those wishing to get away from the rigours of everyday life.





PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Service

Features

Private, 15-acre seafront nature reserve

Garden access to an idyllic sandy beach

Panoramic sea-view pool

Walking to a beachfront restaurant

Nearby

Menfi

Selinunte

Agrigento

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

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ABOUT THE VILLA

6 GUESTS 3 BEDROOMS 2 BATHROOMS

Inside: Accommodation at Al Profondo Blu is all on one level and is accessed from a shady, sheltered courtyard.

The first thing you'll notice on entering the house is the view straight out to sea from the large, luminous open-plan living and dining area. French windows bring in the sunlight and provide access to the delightful seafront terraces.

Next to the dining area is the the well-equipped, traditional Sicilian kitchen, which also opens onto the seafront terrace and the inviting al fresco dining area.

A corridor leads from the living area to the sleeping quarters, which comprise:

- a double with en-suite shower room
- a double
- a double-twin bedroom
- a shared shower room

Outside: The distinguishing feature of Al Profondo Blu - the thing that sets it apart from almost any other villa in Sicily - is its immersion in its very own 15-acre, seafront nature reserve. Arrival at the property, along a track, is like entering a new world. Towering Mediterranean pines, fragrant eucalyptus trees, giant cacti, exotic palms, colourful oleander bushes, and a host of other flora create an utterly private oasis of tranquillity, where guests can unwind, relax and wonder at their remarkable surroundings.

One of the focal points of al fresco life at Al Profondo Blu is without doubt the large panoramic sea-view terrace that runs along the sea-facing side of the house. Cushioned sofas are arranged to maximise the views from under shady a gazebo, and the al fresco dining area is served seamlessly by the indoor kitchen and a barbecue area.

Paths weave through the leafy surrounds, each one revealing something to

delight the senses. To one side of the house, flanked by a well-furnished, shady pergola with fridge, is the tempting sea-view infinity pool. Heading down towards the sea, meanwhile, one soon comes to another shady pergola, which gazes out tantalisingly over the irresistible blue waters of the Mediterranean.

From here, it's a quick stroll down past a guest WC to Al Profondo Blu's ace up the sleeve: a sea gate opening onto a divine sandy beach and the shallow, azure waters of the sea. Even in the height of summer you will find only a few people on 'your' stretch of sand.

Near the house's entrance, meanwhile, is a large sheltered courtyard terrace, offering an alternative dining and relaxing area, and a cool, shady expanse of woodland that's part of the 15 private hectares of pristine nature reserve. Paths lead around the grounds, making it perfect for anyone wishing to run off their pasta or stroll amongst the fascinating variety of indigenous Sicilian flora that flourishes unperturbed in the reserve. On your way, you may well come across the owners' delightful donkeys who are free to roam the reserve (though not near the house).

CONSIDERATIONS

Cycling in the Menfi area is a very pleasurable pastime, thanks to both the quiet back roads and the purpose-built cycle track along and around the old railway line between Menfi, Porto Palo and Sciacca. We'd be delighted to have bikes delivered to your villa and, if anyone in your group is an inveterate pedaller, arrange for a local guide to show them the best routes.

The final section of the access road to Al Profondo Blu is a little rough, so we recommend guests hire a 4x4 or one with high ground clearance.

The owners' donkeys are left free to roam the reserve. They are not dangerous and cannot get close to the house, which is surrounded by a wooden fence. Cats may also be seen in the villa grounds, where the staff provide food for them; they will not enter the house unless encouraged to do so, however we cannot guarantee that they will stay away from outdoor furniture.

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

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.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Amenities

Accommodates (max)	6
Bedrooms	3
Double beds	2
Flexible (double or twin)	1
Bathrooms	2
... of which en suite	1
Garden gate beach/sea access	✓
Infinity pool	5x5m
Sea views	✓
Walking distance to restaurant(s) [2]	✓
Barbecue	✓
Private parking	✓
Satellite Wi-Fi Internet	✓
Air conditioning [1]	✓
Fireplace	✓
Satellite TV	✓

Because of natural changes to the coastline from season to season, the sandy beach in front of this property may not look as it does in the photos.

Please note that a section of the beach near the property is sometimes used as an unofficial clothing-optional area.

Bluetooth speakers	✓
Shopping delivery service	–
Hairdryer	✓
Iron	✓
Washing machine	✓
Microwave	✓
Dishwasher	✓
Safe	✓

[1] in bedrooms and living area

[2] La Pineta, one of the area's best restaurants, is about a 3.5km walk away. Please note the walk is along the sandy beach, so appropriate footwear is necessary. There is no lighting in the evening, so we recommend the walk only during the day. Halfway along, the small Belice river meets the beach, so, depending on tide times, this could mean walking through knee-high water to the other side.

✓ = yes/present

– = optional/on request

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THINK ABOUT

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EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

The beauty and peace of your own personal nature reserve may make it difficult to get out and explore but you really should visit **Selinunte** and the **Cave di Cusa** and have a superb lunch or dinner at the seafront restaurant La Pineta. La Pineta is a 3.5km walk from the villa along the beach of the **Belice Nature Reserve**. Several of the towns nearby are also well worth a visit. **Sciacca** and **Mazara del Vallo** both have charming old centres, some great restaurants and working ports with large fishing fleets that work the Mediterranean daily. A little further afield but still in easy day-trip distance are **Marsala**, **Trapani** and **Erice**. Caltabellotta is spectacularly situated in the craggy hills overlooking both coast and interior, while **Menfi** itself is an up-and-coming centre of excellence for the wine trade.

The beaches in the area of Porto Palo-Menfi have received 20 consecutive "Blue Flags", attesting to the cleanliness of the water and their general ecological excellence.

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PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Distances

Trapani Airport: 100km-62miles-1hr20
Palermo Airport: 102km-63miles-1hr15
Catania Airport: 251km-156miles-3hr30
Comiso Airport: 200km-125miles-3hr5
Sandy beach: a 2-minute stroll down the path below the house or at Porto Palo (about 10mins drive)
Shops and amenities at Menfi (13km-7.5miles-20mins) or Castelvetrano (18km-11miles-25mins)
Nearest restaurants: La Pineta (about a 3.5km walk along the beach) or in Porto Palo, Menfi and the surrounding area (10-20mins drive)
Cycle path: 550m-3min to asphalted road. Then 8km-4.9miles-20-30mins to cycle path
Sciacca: 30km-19miles-35mins
Selinunte: 12km-8miles-20mins
Mazara del Vallo: 38km-23miles-35mins
Agrigento: 88km-55miles-1hr30





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GALLERY





















































