

THE THINKING TRAVELLER

SYRACUSE, SICILY

ISOLA BLU

Gazing across the water to Ortigia, Syracuse's historic island heart, with Mount Etna rising in the background, Isola Blu occupies a panoramic position that is hard to match. Add to this a large seafront pool, extensive mature gardens and spacious, light-filled interiors, and one quickly realises that Isola Blu is a special place indeed.



**PRICES, AVAILABILITY
AND BOOKING**



Service

Mid-week clean and linen change

Features

Breathtaking views of Syracuse

Privileged seafront position

Fabulous 20m-long pool

Nearby

Syracuse

Noto

Sandy beaches

Vendicari Nature Reserve

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

Isola 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 3 BATHROOMS

Inside: accommodation at Isola Blu is spread over two floors. The welcoming main entrance leads into a large open-plan space that is home to a dining table and a comfortably furnished living area, complete with fireplace (decorative only) and large glass doors that both bring in the sea views and provide access to a shady terrace, the lawned gardens and the pool beyond.

A door near the dining table accesses the compact but well-equipped kitchen with breakfast table. The kitchen opens out onto a secluded, shaded dining area served by a barbecue and wood-fired oven.

Back in the living area, half a flight of stairs takes one to the first bedroom, an attractive double-twin with balcony overlooking the gardens and an adjacent bathroom with tub. Continuing up the stairs one soon arrives at the first floor proper, home to a double bedroom with en-suite shower room and panoramic terrace overlooking the gardens and the sea, and the generously proportioned suite with double bed, a large en-suite shower room and a superlative sea-view terrace accessed via a series of large glass doors.

Furnishings throughout are a high quality, characterful and colourful expression of Sicilian traditions with some contemporary touches and fittings, and the atmosphere is both welcoming and informal.

Outside: the gardens immediately surrounding Isola Blu host a wide and vibrant variety of mature, perfumed Mediterranean flora, including palm trees, giant cacti, bougainvillea, oleander and jasmine. This luxuriant, almost tropical abundance of greenery gives way to a large expanse of lawned garden, at the end of which are the enticing blue waters of the salt water seafront pool.

To one side of the pool is a cactus garden and a shaded area with dining table and barbecue. Most of your meals (and afternoon snoozes), however, will probably be taken in the large, fully-furnished and shady terrace accessed from the indoor living area.

Transfixing views of the sea, Syracuse and Mount Etna abound from all these areas, but possibly the best panorama of all is from the master suite's long terrace. A third, secluded dining area is accessed from the kitchen.

CONSIDERATIONS

There is a 5* hotel next door, which has a restaurant open to the public, perfect if you don't want to cook or drive into Syracuse.

Please note that there is a pond in the grounds that is not fenced.

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Amenities

Accommodates (max)	6
Bedrooms	3
Double beds	2
Flexible (double or twin)	1
Bathrooms	3
... of which en suite	2
Pool ¹	20x10m
Walkable to beach/sea	✓
Sea views	✓
Walking distance to restaurant(s)	✓
Barbecue	✓
Private parking	✓
Air conditioning ²	✓
ADSL Wi-Fi Internet	✓
Stereo	✓
Satellite TV	✓
Shopping delivery service	—
Hairdryer	✓
Iron	✓
Washing machine	✓
Safe	✓

¹ a salt water pool

² in the bedrooms

✓ = yes/present

— = optional/on request

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THINK ABOUT

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EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

Isola Blu sits just across the water from Ortygia, ancient Syracuse's beating heart. Following the defeat of the Athenians in 413 BC, **Syracuse** was arguably the most important city in the Mediterranean. Remains of that period are beautifully preserved in Ortigia, at Neapolis (including the stunning Greek theatre) and in the fabulous archaeological museum, all of which are within a few kilometres drive of Isola Blu. Syracuse is not just an Ancient Greek museum however. The old island centre of Ortygia offers an excellent choice of restaurants, bars and shops, beautiful piazzas and seafront promenades. In terms of beaches, Isola Blu is spoilt for choice: just a short stroll away is a lovely sandy beach, while a short drive south of Syracuse will get you to a great selection of white sandy beaches, including those at Fontane Bianche, the Lido di Noto and **Vendicari Nature Reserve**. The southeast of Sicily is home to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Val di Noto and its beautiful baroque towns such as **Noto, Modica, Ragusa** and **Scicli**. To the north, temptingly visible from Isola Blu, is the majestic mass of Europe's highest active volcano, **Mount Etna**.

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Distances

Catania airport: 67km-44miles-50mins

Palermo airport: 295km-183miles-3hr10

Trapani airport: 375km-233miles-4hr

Comiso airport: 112km-70miles-1hr35

Syracuse: 8km-5miles-15mins

Nearest shops: 15mins drive in Siracusa

Nearest beaches: Punta Carrozza - a 5-minute walk; Spiaggia del Minareto - a 5-minute walk; Fontane Bianche - 14km-8.5miles-20mins

Nearest restaurants: there are a couple of restaurants within a 5-to-20-minute walk. A larger selection can be found in Siracusa

Noto: 35km-23miles-40mins

Modica: 67km-42miles-1hr10

Ragusa: 85km-53miles-1hr30

Scicli: 76km-47miles-1hr20

I Monasteri golf course: 22km-14miles-33mins

Mount Etna: around 1hr40 depending on which part of the mountain you are heading for.



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GALLERY



