SANTA MARIA, PAROS

SEMELI

Fashioned out of rare grey Paros stone and featuring lovingly designed, luminous interiors, Semeli is a joy to experience. Its fragrant gardens, sea views and shady terraces create a sense of serenity, while the accommodation exudes a warm, welcoming spirit that makes guests feel at home as soon as they step over the threshold. Once settled in you might never wish to leave, but it's good to know that there's plenty to see and do nearby.





PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Service

Features

Wide-open sea views
Beautiful pool
Stylish interiors
A 10-minute walk to beaches and tavernas

Nearby

Sandy beaches galore
Naoussa
The Mycenaean Acropolis
Parikia

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Semeli 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 Semeli is distributed over a main house on one level and an independent two-storey guesthouse.

From a secluded courtyard, one enters the centre of the main house, which is home to a generously proportioned, luminous, open-concept space, with whitewashed stone walls, lofty, honey-coloured wood-beamed ceilings, golden-brown floor tiles, and mustard yellow doors, window frames and shutters.

Divided in two by a grand central fireplace, this tranquil space has two distinct zones: to one side is a comfortable living area furnished with a triptych of sofas gathered around a large ottoman; to the other is a venerable wooden dining table and chairs. Two sets of French windows open out onto a shaded terrace looking out to sea.

A wide arch near the dining table allows the space to flow into a cool, well-equipped contemporary kitchen, which also serves the shady al fresco dining area just outside.

On three sides of this open-concept communal space, doors open into the main house's three bedrooms:

• off the living area is a double with en-suite shower room, sea views and access to the main terraces and gardens
• next to the main entrance is a double-twin with en-suite shower room and access to the secluded courtyard
• off the dining area (and a guest WC) is a double-twin with en-suite shower room, access to the main terraces and a mezzanine level study

All three bedrooms feature bespoke terrazzo floors.

The guesthouse is situated just a few metres from the main house and is accessed from the terraces. On the ground floor is a living area, a kitchenette and a guest WC. On the first floor is a sea-view double bedroom with en-suite

shower room and a wonderfully panoramic shaded terrace looking out to sea.

Outside: Semeli rises unobtrusively amongst a garden of Mediterranean shrubs, plants and trees, with the main al fresco areas running along the sea-facing side of the house.

Accessed from the open-concept communal space, the kitchen and the first bedroom is a long series of cane-shaded pergolas looking out over the pool to the sea. Variously furnished for lounging and dining, these sheltered, secluded zones are where guests spend much of their time.

A stretch of emerald lawn dotted with a couple of shady olive trees separates the living and dining terraces from the irresistible zero-edge pool.

A path leads from the main house, past a wonderfully conceived al fresco shower partially enclosed in a sculptural cylinder, to the guesthouse, which opens out onto a shaded terrace furnished for sitting and dining and equipped with a large built-in barbecue area.

Completing the outdoor areas at Semeli is a secluded walled courtyard at the entrance of the main house (and accessed from the second bedroom), and the private sea-view terrace of the guesthouse's bedroom.

CONSIDERATIONS

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

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.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Amenities	
Accommodates (max)	8
Bedrooms	4
Double beds	2
Flexible (double or twin)	2
Bathrooms	4
... of which en suite	4
Pool	12x3.5m
Sea views	✓
Walking distance to beach(es)/sea access [3]	✓
Walking distance to restaurant(s) [3]	✓
Daily maid service	✓
Barbecue	✓

Table tennis	✓
Gym equipment	✓
Private parking	✓
VDSL Wi-Fi Internet	✓
Optional cook [1]	–
Air conditioning [2]	✓
Outdoor sound system	✓
Sonos wireless music system	✓
Smart TV	✓
Bluetooth speakers	✓
Hairdryer	✓
Iron	✓
Tumble dryer	✓
Washing machine	✓
Dishwasher	✓
Microwave	✓
Safe	✓

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

[2] in all bedrooms and living room of the main house

[3] Mikri Santa Maria beach and tavernas are a 10-minute walk away

✓ = yes/present

– = optional/on request

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

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THINK ABOUT

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EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

Semeli sits on the northeasternmost headland of Paros just a 10-minute walk from the tavernas and beach of Mikri Santa Maria and within easy reach of the sandy bays of Santa Maria and Lageri. It is also extremely well located for exploring the north of the island, which has plenty to offer.

For many people, Paros is the most authentic of the Cyclades. One of the larger islands, it has something for everyone, young or old, party-goers or culture-seekers, bourgeois or bohemian. Amongst its many attractions are buzzing little towns, myriad beaches, world-famous windsurfing conditions, gourmet restaurants, sleepy traditional villages with waterfront fish tavernas, religious, cultural and historical sites, and a vibrant nightlife scene.

Thanks to the relatively limited distances involved - the island measures less than 25km from north to south - it is easy to explore in full in a week or two, no matter where you're staying. Its mountainous hinterland, with peaks rising up to around 700m, is dotted with the occasional monastery and crisscrossed by old mule tracks. Down on the coast, meanwhile, there is an array of beautiful sandy beaches and idyllic coves, and a day or two spent on a boat exploring these is heartily recommended.

In terms of towns and villages, picturesque Naousa, sleepy Marpissa, and buzzing Parikia (the capital and main port) are just a 15-, 20- and 25-minute drive away respectively. The former boasts a little harbour, a web of narrow streets flanked by shops and tavernas, and the remains of a Venetian castle. The second is a white-washed beauty that appears unchanged for centuries. It’s a pleasure to amble round its narrow streets, while a walk up to the monastery of St Anthony on the hill above offers spectacular views of the island. The third, meanwhile, is a vibrant little town gathered around a semi-enclosed bay that woos visitors with its sandy beaches, its many bars and tavernas, its archaeological museum, and its impressive Byzantine Church.

Just across the bay from Naousa is idyllic Kolimpithres beach, renowned for its transparent waters and fascinating rock formations, while for those with an

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Distances

Paros Airport: 25km-15.5miles-35mins
Nearest beaches: Mikri Santa Maria - 1km-0.6miles-3mins (or 10mins on foot); Santa Maria - 1.6km-1mile-3mins (or 20mins on foot); Lageri - 3.5km-1.5miles-12mins
Nearest tavernas: at Mikri Santa Maria beach - 1km-0.6miles-3mins (or 10mins on foot)
Nearest shops and amenities: in Naousa - 7km-4.5miles-15mins
Parikia (the capital of Paros): 16km-10miles-25mins
The Mycenean Acropolis: 9km-5.7miles-15mins
Monastiri Park: 12km-7.5miles-20mins
Marpissa: 15km-9miles-20mins

interest in history, a visit to the Mycenaean Acropolis is called for. Sitting atop a rocky scarp high above Kolimpithres, it was built way back in the 13th century BCE and offers not only insights into Paros's long history but also stunning views. It’s quite a walk to get up there, so you may wish to tackle it in the early morning or late afternoon when it’s not so hot.

Paros's most northerly tip, the Monastiri peninsula is also close by. A protected park covering some 80 hectares of rocky, element-sculpted hills, hidden sandy beaches, walking trails, and undisturbed flora and fauna, it’s a great day out for nature lovers and hikers with the added bonus of an end-of-excursion swim in the sea.

Cultural tours are readily available on Paros, so not matter whether you wish to learn about Parikia's old town centre, the ancient marble quarries, or the unique island of Despotiko, you'll be able to delve into the island's history with ease. Children are well catered for too, and a trip to the butterfly nature reserve just north of the airport is good fun.

If all that wasn't enough, Paros's little sister, Antiparos, is just a 10-minute ferry ride across the water from nearby Pounta, making a little island hopping eminently possible.





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SEMELI

GALLERY











































