FILITZI, PAROS

# *VERENA*

Looking out across the sparkling blue waters of the Aegean towards Naxos, Verena is an immaculately presented, beautifully appointed villa that perfectly blends island traditions and 21st-century style. Its versatile accommodation and abundant space make it ideal for gatherings of extended family and friends, as does the extensive, thoughtfully designed pool area, which effortlessly caters for al fresco pleasures of all kinds.





PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

**Service**

**Features**

Beautifully finished interiors
Wide-open sea views
Zero-edge pool
Fabulous al fresco areas
10 minutes drive to Naousa
Short drive to Santa Maria Beach

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

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## ABOUT THE VILLA

12 GUESTS 6 BEDROOMS 6 BATHROOMS

**Inside:** accommodation at Verena is spread out over a main house on three levels and two independent guesthouses.

The entrance to the main house opens into a wonderfully proportioned open-plan communal space, whose polished stone-flagged flooring, pristine white walls, lofty, grey wood-beamed ceilings, and dove grey door and window frames work together to create a luminous, airy and tranquil atmosphere. The palette, style and chic furnishings of this space set the tone for the rest of the property.

In the centre is a large wooden dining table flanked by three glass doors, which open out onto a shady terrace and bring in the sea views. At the far end, meanwhile, is an L-shaped living area, with fireplace, an armchair and a trio of white sofas surrounding a coffee table. A door from this area leads out to the pool terrace.

Back near the dining area, an opening and a couple of steps allows the space to flow past a guest WC and into the extremely well-equipped and spacious kitchen, whose grey cabinetry, white marble worktops and honeyed wooden table and dresser echo the colours of the living area. Five windows bring in plenty of light.

Back in the open-plan communal area, on the left of the main entrance, a door opens into the principal bedroom, a split level double with an en-suite shower room and dressing area below, and a fabulously panoramic double bedroom with private sea-view terrace upstairs.

The remaining accommodation in the main house is located on the lower ground floor, which is accessed via a flight of stairs between the kitchen and the principal bedroom's door. Here there is:

• a living area with sofa, a couple of built-in daybeds and a TV
• a twin bedroom with en-suite shower room

• a twin bedroom with dressing area and shower room on the opposite side of a corridor

Both of the lower floor bedrooms open out onto a shaded terrace, from where steps lead up to the pool area.

The lower floor is also home to the staff's quarters.

The two guesthouses at Verena (which are the same in terms of style, quality and finish as the main house) are accessed from and open out onto the pool terrace:

• the first has a sea-view double bedroom with a little kitchen corner and an en-suite shower room
• the second has a sea-view double bedroom with a little kitchen corner and an en-suite shower room, and a twin bedroom (also with sea views) with built-in beds, and an en-suite shower room. Both open out onto a shady extension of the pool terrace. Please note that the twin bedroom is accessed via the double or from outside.

**Outside:** al fresco life at Verena revolves around the fabulous pool area, which is accessed via steps from the main house's living area and from a shaded terrace outside the main house's lower floor bedrooms. There's an abundance of space for living, lounging, cooking, dining, sunbathing and gazing out to sea.

A slatted wooden structure supported by concrete pillars sweeps along two sides of the pool, providing mottled shade and incorporating the two guesthouses. Closest to the house is a large, convivial dining area with well-cushioned, built-in seating, chairs and two concrete tables. Nearby is a guest WC.

Following the white curtains rippling in the sea breeze, one next comes to a sociable and well-equipped al fresco kitchen with a fridge, a dishwasher, a pair of portable electric hobs, a sink, work surfaces and a barbecue. Extending around the second guesthouse at the far end of the pool, this wonderful expanse of shade is also home to a variety of sitting area furnished with easy chairs and sofas.

The irresistible zero-edge pool sits at the centre, flanked by a good selection of sun loungers strategically placed to take in the sea views.

A variety of other terraces around the property offer yet more options: already mentioned is the shaded terrace accessed from the lower floor bedrooms; there is also a lovely sea-view terrace outside the open-plan communal space and the kitchen furnished with a breakfast table. Although not accessed from the kitchen itself, a handy window means that breakfast can be served here with no fuss.

The final flourish is the terrace of the principal bedroom on the first floor of the main house. Well furnished, and featuring more wood-slatted shade, this private spot offers wonderful panoramas out over the coastline of northeastern Paros.

## CONSIDERATIONS

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

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) | 12 |
| Bedrooms | 6 |
| Double beds | 3 |
| Twin beds | 3 |
| Bathrooms | 6 |
| ... of which en suite | 5 |
| Pool | 12x5m |
| Sea views | ✓ |
| Outdoor kitchen | ✓ |
| Daily maid service | ✓ |
| Barbecue | ✓ |
| Private parking | ✓ |
| Optional cook [1] | – |
| Air conditioning | ✓ |
| Starlink High-Speed Wi-Fi | ✓ |
| Smart TV | ✓ |
| Bluetooth speakers | ✓ |
| Laundry service [3] | ✓ |
| Hairdryer | ✓ |
| Iron | ✓ |
| Staff on the grounds [2] | ✓ |
| Safe | ✓ |
| Dishwasher | ✓ |
| Microwave | ✓ |

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

[2] the staff quarters are on the lower ground floor of the main house. Their discreet presence ensures that guests are able to enjoy the property to the full.

[3] the laundry is exclusively done by the housekeeper and the laundry room is not accessible to clients. There is an additional cost for washing and ironing.

✓ = yes/present

– = optional/on request

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

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THINK ABOUT

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## EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

Verena is located on the northeast coast of Paros in the area of Filitzi. It is well placed for exploring the north of the island, which has plenty to offer.

Nearby beaches include those of Xifara, Aspros Gremos, Filitzi and Santa Maria, all of which are between 3 and 8 minutes' drive.

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 10-, 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

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

**Distances**

Paros Airport: 24km-15miles-40mins
Athens Airport: 40-50mins to Piraeus Port, 3-5h (approx) ferry crossing to Paros Port + 25mins from Paros Port to villa
Nearest beaches: Xifara - 1.3km-0.8miles-3mins; Filitzi- 1.7km-1mile-6mins; Santa Maria - 3km-1.8miles-8mins; Aspros Gremos- 4.7km-2.9miles-10mins
Nearest tavernas: in Ampelas - 4.7km-2.9miles-10mins; Mikri Santa Maria - 4.4km-2.7miles-10mins; or Naousa - 4.2km-2.6miles-10mins
Nearest shops and amenities: in Naousa - see above
Parikia (the capital and port of Paros): 14.2km-8.8miles-25mins
The Mycenean Acropolis: 8km-5miles-15mins
Marpissa: 13.3km-8.6miles-20mins

transparent waters and fascinating rock formations, while for those with an 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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## GALLERY
















































