

La Dolce Vita

Region: Sicily Sleeps: 16

Overview

Capture the essence of southern Sicily at this wonderfully restored 19th century farmhouse for up to 16 guests, close to the exquisite Baroque towns of Ragusa, Modica and Montalbano's Scicli.

Staying at La Dolce Vita is a step back in time – wander up to the vast terrace and gaze out to Sicilian countryside which has barely changed for over a century. Belonging to the same family over the generations, its current owner has taken considerable time and care in bringing La Dolce Vita back to life, always preserving its authenticity and character whilst adding contemporary touches such as air-conditioned bedrooms, Wi-Fi and satellite TV with Netflix.

The rustic ground floor, where the chariot was once kept, has been transformed into a spacious living and dining area with original arched ceilings and a beautifully tiled kitchen. Three bedrooms, each with stone carved ceilings, king-size beds and private bathrooms, allow up to ten guests to rest here.

The upper floor was once an aristocratic holiday residence and is therefore more noble in style with three bedrooms and bathrooms for a further six guests, a relaxing room with fireplace as well as a pretty kitchen and dining area – a self-contained apartment in itself reached via the original stone stairs outside. But most of all, the two upper terraces will take your breath away – sit back with a glass of Cerasuolo di Vittoria from a local vineyard and admire the country views from either the east or west-facing terrace.

Set amongst the stone walls, the private swimming pool is another delight – cool off from the warm summer sun before seeking shade as you dine al-fresco beneath one of the fruit trees. Depending on the season, look out for pomegranates, lemons and olive trees and be engulfed by the aromas of the garden – this is what Sicily should be all about.

Perfectly positioned between Ragusa and its marina, it's a wonderful spot for exploring south-eastern Sicily and its many Baroque towns which have gained UNESCO World Heritage status. Ragusa is like a museum with its historic architecture whilst Modica is home to stunning palazzi, churches and delicious chocolate. Scicli is also full of Baroque charm and is a must-visit for fans of the popular detective series, Montalbano.



The coastline around Marina di Ragusa is only 15km away whilst many more gorgeous beaches can be found at Donnalucata and Spiaggia di Randello with its nature reserve. Further afield, drive to Marzamemi, Noto and even Syracuse. Spend time discovering Sicily's archaeological sites from nearby Cava d'Ispica and Kamarina to Agrigento further east on this enchanting and wondrous island.

Facilities

Private Pool • Ideal for Kids • Ideal for Teens • Wi-Fi/Internet • Air-Con • Pets Welcome • BBQ • Stag/Hen Allowed • Ground Floor Bed & Bath • Satellite TV • Working Fireplace • Heating • Caretaker/Owner on Site • Cot(s) • High Chair(s) • Watersports • Rural Location • Walking/Hiking Paths • Wine Tasting • Cycling • Horse Riding • Fishing • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Historical Sites • Romantic • Scuba Diving • Boat Trips

Interior & Grounds

Villa Interiors

Ground Floor

- Open-plan living and dining room
- Open-plan kitchen area, well-equipped including dishwasher, fridge, microwave, coffee machine
- Bedroom with king-size double bed
- Quad bedroom with king-size double bed and second king-size double bed on a mezzanine level
- Quad bedroom with king-size double bed and king-size sofa-bed
- 3 x en suite bathrooms with shower, WC and bidet
- One additional bathroom with shower, WC and bidet

First Floor Apartment (via external steps)

- Room with fireplace
- Kitchen
- Dining room
- 3 x double bedrooms
- 3 x bathrooms (one en suite) with shower, WC and bidet

Outside Grounds

- Swimming pool (6x12m, depth: 1.4m) open approximately May to end-October
- Poolside pergola and sun-loungers
- Al-fresco dining area
- Barbecue
- Two upper terraces (characterfully low walls)
- Stone patio (shared)
- Vegetable garden and fruit trees
- Surrounding farmland and olive grove

Facilities

- Wi-Fi
- Air-conditioning (all bedrooms and living room)
- Heating
- Satellite TV and Netflix
- Washing machine/dryer



Location & Local Information

In south-eastern Sicily, around 15km equidistant to both the heart of old Ragusa and Marina di Ragusa, La Dolce Vita is surrounded by typically Sicilian countryside, next to the caretaker/father's residence and a neighbouring agriturismo. It is brilliantly positioned for exploring both the coastline and Baroque towns of this enchanting island.

Many of the famous Baroque towns which have gained UNESCO World Heritage status are within easy reach – Ragusa being the nearest, just under a 20-minute drive away. Its historic beauty is astonishing from its grand cathedral in Ragusa Superiore to the enchanting warren of impressive palazzi, churches and squares in Ragusa Ibla. Dine out in one of the town's Michelin starred restaurants or find a charming osteria for authentic Sicilian fare.

Heading south from La Dolce Vita, Marina di Ragusa is also only 15km away with its sandy beaches, summer watersports and boat trips from its marina. It's a joyful place for an evening stroll and granita in the height of the summer or perhaps an aperitivo in one of the many bars and cafes. Beach-lovers should also discover the coastline around Donnalucata, especially popular with wind-surfers, and the wilder shores of Spiaggia di Randello set in a nature reserve.

There is still so much exploring to be done – both Scicli and Modica are about half an hour away, two further Baroque jewels which will take your breath away with their historic architecture. Inspector Montalbano fans will be eager to visit Scicli's townhall, one of the many scenes in the much-loved TV series, whilst chocoholics must try some of Sicily's famous chocolate in Modica.

Just over an hour away is the stunning town of Noto and of course the idyllic coastline of the Vendicari nature reserve. Alternatively, drive further towards Syracuse and the amazing island of Ortigia, yet another one of Sicily's UNESCO World Heritage sites.

History and nature lovers alike will appreciate the incredible beauty of Cava d'Ispica near Modica whilst there are so many more archaeological treasures to discover from Caucana and Kamarina to Agrigento.

Furthermore, visits to surrounding vineyards can be arranged – the well-known Cerasuolo di Vittoria is produced from local grapes and there are some excellent wineries to visit within a short drive.



Local Amenities

Nearest Airport

**Catania Airport
(109km)**

Nearest Airport 2	Palermo Airport (310km)
Nearest Town	Ragusa old town (15km)
Nearest Restaurant	Between Ragusa and Marina di Ragusa (10-minute drive)
Nearest Supermarket	Outskirts of Ragusa (12km)
Nearest Beach	Marina di Ragusa (15km)

What Oliver loves...

- Dating back to the 19th century, this Sicilian farmhouse has remained in the family for generations
- Such a beautiful restoration which has preserved La Dolce Vita's authenticity and historic elegance
- The views from the two upper terraces are timeless with landscapes that have barely changed over the last century
- Enjoy breakfasts al-fresco in the shade of one of the fruit trees – look out for lemons, pomegranates and olives
- It's only 15km to both the exquisite Baroque town of Ragusa and the sandy beaches of its marina and coastline
- A perfect position for visiting Modica, Scicli, Noto and many of Sicily's archaeological treasures

What you should know...

- The villa sleeps up to sixteen guests across six bedrooms including two quad bedrooms with mezzanine levels (sloping ceilings), one of which features a large sofa-bed.
- Air-conditioning is featured in all bedrooms and the living room.
- Youngsters will need to be supervised on the historic upper terraces
- The caretaker and the owner's father live on-site – whilst the swimming pool and garden are for your exclusive use, they share the large stone patio.

Terms & Conditions

- Security deposit: €500 paid via bank transfer to the owner one month before arrival (or cash on arrival) and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.
- Arrival time: 4.00 p.m.
- Departure time: 10.00 a.m.
- Energy costs included?: Yes.
- Heating costs included?: Yes.
- Linen & towels included?: Yes.
- Pool towels included?: Yes.
- End of stay cleaning included?: Extra €320 (2022), extra €340 (2023), payable locally. However, guests are required to leave the accommodation clean, tidy and in the same condition as on their arrival. Any extra cleaning, laundry, maintenance and/or rubbish disposal required will be charged against the security deposit.
- Tax: Italian Visitors Tax payable locally in cash (typically costs €1-€5 per adult per night- please enquire if exact amount is required).
- Changeover day: Flexible.
- Minimum stay: 6 nights from beginning-June to end-October and over Xmas/NY. 4 nights during all other periods.
- Pets welcome?: On request only and with prior agreement with the owner.
- Smoking Allowed?: Yes.
- Pool opening dates?: The pool is open approximately May to end-October. Please note that pool opening dates are subject to local weather conditions and pool maintenance requirements and that cooler months may not be suitable for swimming.
- Other Ts and Cs: Weddings, stag/hen parties and any special events are on request only and subject to prior arrangement with the owner and additional charges.
- Other Ts and Cs: Air-conditioning is featured in all bedrooms and the living room.
- Other Ts and Cs: The caretaker and the owner's father live on-site – whilst the swimming pool and garden are for your exclusive use, they share the large stone patio.
- Insurance: Guests are required to be in possession of a valid insurance policy, which covers them for cancellations, personal belongings, personal liability and any accidental damage caused during their stay.
- Internet access?: Wi-Fi internet access included.