

Villa Balena

Region: Lucca & Pisa Sleeps: 19

Overview

Evoking a historic element through its opulent features and majestic architecture, Villa Balena offers a beautiful residence for guests looking to forget the stress and strains of everyday life. The imposing house is nestled in central Italy's Tuscan coastline in the very heart of Viareggio – a resort city with a sandy beach, summer water sports and charismatic promenade.

The spectacular property features nine bedrooms, two of which are suites, and nine en-suite bathrooms to offer the utmost comfort and privacy. The rooms are decorated with ornate wallpapers and four-poster beds and natural light floods in through the large windows or balcony doors. On a sunny afternoon, reflections from the pool dance on the floor! Contemporary artwork and careful renovations add a chic freshness – an amalgamation of features those with great taste will appreciate.

Step outside to the expansive gardens filled with aromatic rose bushes and majestic trees framing the modern pool. Featuring Roman steps for effortless access and multicolour neon lights, this stunning retreat is designed for having guests over for long garden soirées. On quiet days, have your breakfast, lunch and dinner al-fresco on the veranda or find a spot away from the rest of the group on one of the lovely balconies.

When it's time to explore, you'll be pleased to find that sandy beaches, local cuisine and the typical amenities of a bustling seaside city are waiting for you just beyond the front door. Make sure to visit at the end of summer when the city hosts its acclaimed carnival – it also has a complex which houses the Carnival Museum, with small reproductions of the city's allegorical floats. On warm days, cool off in the waves at one of the nearby beaches and don't forget to reserve a spot in one of the many seafood restaurants framing the promenade to enjoy the day's freshest catch.

Set amongst the Tuscan wine and olive groves, the city of Lucca is a 30-minute drive away. With a beautifully preserved historic centre that includes palazzos, squares, Romanesque churches and handsome fortifications, it's perfect for wholesome strolls finished with a hearty meal of fresh pasta and wine.

Pisa, with its famous leaning tower, is also located only a 30-minute drive away, helping you tick this architectural wonder off your bucket list.

Lovers of art and Renaissance architecture will love exploring the true gem of



the Tuscan crown, Florence. Easy to reach in less than 2 hours by car, it's filled with ancient buildings, prestigious statues such as Michelangelo's David, as well as museums and a bustling dining scene.

Facilities

Private Pool • Beach Nearby • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • Ideal for Kids • Ideal for Teens • Wi-Fi/Internet • Air-Con • Pets on Request • Walk to Beach • Walk to Village • Walk to Restaurant • <1hr to Airport • All Bedrooms En-Suite • Satellite TV • Lift • Heating • Cot(s) • Watersports • Sailing • Canoeing/Kayaking • Golf Nearby • Tennis Nearby • Cycling • Fishing • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Historical Sites • Scuba Diving • Paragliding • Boat Trips

Interior & Grounds

Villa Interior (500m2)

Ground Floor

- Large open-plan living room with sofas, TV and small dining table and chairs
- Kitchen equipped with fridge, freezer, hob, oven, dishwasher, microwave
- Dining room with a long dining table and chairs
- 2 x bedrooms with double bed and en-suite bathrooms with showers and WCs
- 2 x suites with double beds, living rooms and en-suite bathrooms with showers and WCs
- 3 x bathrooms with showers and WCs

First Floor

- Family room with bedroom with double bed and bedroom with twin bed and en-suite bathroom with shower and WC
- 2 x bedrooms with double beds and en-suite bathrooms with showers and WCs
- Bedroom with two single beds and en-suite bathroom with shower and WC
- Bedroom with single bed and en-suite bathroom with shower and WC

Outside Grounds (300m2)

- Heated pool (6m x 5m) with Roman steps, lights and hydromassage jets
- Pool terrace with sun loungers and umbrellas
- Garden with grassy lawns, trees and flowers
- Veranda with lounge furniture
- Dining table with chairs
- Balcony

Facilities

- Wi-Fi
- Air-conditioning
- Central heating
- Flatscreen TV
- Lift
- Bikes (available on request)
- Dryer
- Iron and ironing board



Location & Local Information

The Tuscan landscape is considered among the best that Italy has to offer. With its splendid hills, elegant architecture, olive trees and sun-kissed vineyards, the views at every turn are enchanting and awash with seasonally changing colours. Visitors to Tuscany come for many reasons – some in search of fine art and others to explore the extraordinary countryside, while wine buffs descend to enjoy the simple but wonderful cuisine and wine.

This dazzling holiday house is right by the brilliant beaches of Versilia, in the northwestern province of Lucca. The coastline is known for its long white beaches, pine forests and the Apuan Alps which loom dramatically in the background. Versilia and neighbouring Viareggio are ideal places for a sun-soaked getaway, with lots of restaurants and shops for stocking up on cocktail ingredients and other holiday essentials to make your stay more comfortable.

Right at the border of Liguria and Tuscany, you can find the city of La Spezia, the gateway to the Cinque Terre National Park. Its 1800s maritime arsenal and the Technical Naval Museum with ship models attest to the city's seafaring heritage. Once you reach the hilltop St. George's Castle, you can see many artefacts from the Middle Ages in its archaeological museum and enjoy cinematic views of the verdant backcountry and villages below.

Originally an Etruscan village, 13th-century walls still encircle the enchanting hilltop town of San Gimignano and its skyline brims with mediaeval towers, including the stone Torre Grossa. The best way to enjoy the old-world atmosphere is to walk around its charming Piazza della Cisterna on a sunny day.

In Livorno – a port city on the west coast of Tuscany – you can stroll around the seafront and admire majestic cruise ships in the modern harbour. After exploring its canal-laced Venezia Nuova quarter and seeing many Renaissance fortifications, head to the city's main gathering place – Terrazza Mascagni. The busy promenade with checkerboard paving is a fantastic spot for witnessing a Mediterranean sunset at one of the many terraced bars.

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	Pisa International Airport (30km)
Nearest Airport 2	Florence Airport (91km)
Nearest City	Pisa (24km)



Nearest Restaurant	(Within walking distance)
Nearest Bar/Pub	(Within walking distance)
Nearest Supermarket	(Within walking distance)
Nearest Beach	Bagno Venezia (<1km)
Nearest Golf	Alisei Golf and country club (9km)
Nearest Train Station	Camaiore Lido Capezzano (6km)

What we love

- Experience grand Italian style and historic opulence blending with modern comfort in this splendid villa
- The enchanting gardens offer pristine lawns, a beautiful private pool and a veranda for al-fresco dining
- Located almost directly on the sandy coastline, it is ideal for beach-combing wanderers who love to spend time splashing in the waves and catching ample sun rays
- The shining gem on Tuscany's dazzling crown, Florence can be reached in just over one hour by car

What you should know...

- Although you're almost directly on the beach, hiring a car is highly recommended in order to explore all the gems of this beautiful region.

Terms & Conditions

- Security deposit: €1000 paid via bank transfer to the owner 7 days before arrival and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.
- Arrival time: 5.00 p.m. to 10.00 p.m. Late check-in charge between 10.00 p.m. and 12.00 a.m. of €200 will apply.
- Departure time: 10.00 a.m.
- End of stay cleaning included?: Yes. 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.
- Linen & towels included?: Yes.
- Pool towels included?: Yes.
- Energy costs included?: Yes.
- Heating costs included?: Yes.
- Minimum stay: 7 nights from mid-July to mid-September. 3 nights during all other periods.
- Changeover day: Flexible.
- Pets welcome?: A small pet is allowed on request only and with prior agreement with the owner.
- Smoking Allowed?: Outside only.
- Pool heating charge?: Extra €600 per day. Please note that like all heated pools, pool heating and water temperature are reliant on weather and outside temperatures.
- Tax: Italian Visitors Tax payable locally in cash (typically costs €1-€5 per adult per night- please enquire if exact amount is required).
- Insurance: Guests are required to be in possession of a valid insurance policy, which covers them for cancellations, loss of personal belongings, personal liability and any accidental damage caused during their stay.
- Internet access?: Wi-Fi internet access included.
- Pool opening dates?: 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: A cot is available on request.
- Other Ts and Cs: Weddings, stag/hen parties and any special events are not allowed.
- Other Ts and Cs: Bikes are available on request.