

# Villa Salix

Region: Chianti & Arezzo Sleeps: 16 - 23

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## Overview

If you are looking for a unique and charming home for your Tuscan holiday, look no further than Villa Salix. Sleeping 16 guests across the main home and the annexe, with the option to add 7 extra guests, this Renaissance house with its extensive grounds is a wonderful setting for a special trip with family or a group of friends.

As you approach the home through the tree-lined gardens, you will see these beautiful villas perched on the top of the hillside. These homes were built in the 1600s and are now a part of the stunning landscape. The spacious and elegant villa and annexe were once owned by the distinguished Medici family, who lived and ruled over Florence and the surrounding areas for centuries. The decor and furnishings reflect its prestigious past even today, and inside you will find traditional materials and period features alongside high-quality furniture and a calming colour palette.

The main villa can accommodate ten guests in the bedrooms, and the annexe can sleep 6. A further seven guests can also stay when adding in extra beds and using the sofa beds, making this a flexible space that can be adapted to suit your party's needs.

As you enter the main villa, you will walk into a bright, open-plan living space with a large dining table, comfy sofas, and a feature fireplace. These areas all flow seamlessly into each other to create the heart of the home, perfect for coming together over a meal. Downstairs there is also a fully fitted kitchen with a breakfast table and a handy study. When you wish to retire for the evening, head upstairs where there are five serene bedrooms, two of which are en-suite.

The annexe is decorated and furnished in a similar style to the main house though it is entirely independent. This second building is not short on space and has two living areas, a large dining room, a modern kitchen and three bedrooms. Both houses also have all the modern features you could need, including air-conditioning, Wi-Fi and smart TVs to make your stay more comfortable.



Both villas share the expansive gardens, which are filled with trees, lawns and outdoor seating. If you wish to dine al-fresco, there are several terraces or covered dining spaces to choose from. On a hot day, you will love taking a dip in the private pool before relaxing with a good book for the afternoon, all while soaking in the views of the rolling countryside.

Villa Salix enjoys a rural location but is not isolated, and amenities can be found a mere 7km away in a village called Vinci. Vinci is a small village, but it is well-known because it is the birthplace of artist, scientist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci and is where he lived his teen years. Those interested in Da Vinci can visit a brilliant museum in the village and his family home. There is also a 13th-century castle that towers over the other buildings, The Church of Santa Croce and a handful of artisan shops and eateries.

A place which is a little further out but is a must-visit for a day trip is Florence, which is 35km away from the villa. This city is the capital of Tuscany and is known as the Cradle of the Renaissance. Head there early as there are countless museums, galleries, palaces and places of worship to visit.

## Facilities

Private Pool • Child-Safe Pool • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • Ideal for Kids • Ideal for Teens • Wi-Fi/Internet • Air-Con • <1hr to Airport • Laptop Friendly Workspace • BBQ • Safety Deposit Box • Hairdryer • Smart TV • Table Tennis • Working Fireplace/Woodburner • Heating • Ceiling Fans • Cot(s) • High Chair(s) • Rural Location • Walking/Hiking Paths • Wine Tasting • Golf Nearby • Cycling • Horse Riding • Stalking/Hunting • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Historical Sites

# Interior & Grounds

## Main House

### Villa Interior (350m2)

#### Ground Floor

- Living room with fireplace, sofa, armchairs and Smart TV
- Fully-fitted kitchen with table seating 6 guests, oven, hob, fridge freezer, dishwasher, toaster, blender, kettle, Moka Pot and coffee machine
- Dining room with garden access and table seating 10 guests
- Study (option to add 2 double sofa beds)
- Laundry room with washing machine and dryer
- Guest WC

#### First Floor

- Master bedroom with double bed and en-suite bathroom with double sink, shower and WC (option to add single pull out bed)
- Bedroom with 2 single beds and en-suite bathroom with double sink, shower and WC
- 2 x bedrooms with double beds (option to add single divan beds)
- Bedroom with bunkbed
- Bathroom with bath tub, shower, sink and WC

## Annexe

- Living room with sofas and smart TV
- Lounge with fireplace and dining table seating 16 guests
- Fully-fitted kitchen with oven, hob, fridge freezer, dishwasher, toaster, blender, kettle and coffee machine
- Master bedroom with double-sized bed and en-suite bathroom with double sink, shower and WC
- Bedroom with double bed
- Bedroom with bunkbeds
- Laundry room
- 2 x bathrooms with showers, sinks and WCs

## Outside Grounds

- Swimming pool (10m x 5m, depth: 1.5m) open from approximately May to end-September
- Fenced grounds
- Terrace with outdoor sofas
- Covered al-fresco dining space seating 20 guests
- Poolside sun loungers and umbrellas
- Outdoor shower



- Ping pong table
- Barbecue
- Parking

**Facilities**

- Wi-Fi
- Air conditioning
- Fireplace
- Heating
- Smart TVs
- Washing machine
- Dryer
- Iron and ironing board
- Hairdryers

## Location & Local Information

The Chianti region of Tuscany is one of Italy's most beautiful areas and is much-loved by visitors. Villa Salix is perfectly placed to make the most of the stunning countryside and to visit nearby villages.

When you need to stock up on groceries, there is a supermarket under 4km away. You can also head to the charming village of Vinci, only 7km from the house, which has a number of shops and restaurants. Known for being the birthplace of the revered artist and inventor Leonardo da Vinci, people flock here to explore his childhood home, which houses a brilliant interactive museum and artworks. There is also a museum in town which showcases Da Vinci's famous inventions and sketches located inside a medieval castle. After learning more about Da Vinci, you could enjoy a stroll along the Strada Verde walking trail shaded by olive trees. The village also has some pretty Romanesque churches and a historical centre which is a scenic spot for a lazy lunch.

The small town of Empoli (6km) was once a Roman settlement which was conquered and overtaken many times as the years went by, and though partially destroyed in WW2, it was rebuilt, and today it is a picturesque place to wander around. The main square, known as the Piazza dei Leoni with its pretty fountain, is a good starting point for exploring the town; from here, you can set off through the winding streets. A few key attractions include the Collegiata St Andrea, a church originally built in the 11th century and later updated; head inside to see amazing frescoes by artists such as Lorenzo di Bicci. Additionally, make sure to visit the Palazzo Ghibellino, a palace built in the 10th century, once home to the local parliament but now a palaeontology museum. As well as having gorgeous historic streets and buildings to look around, Empoli has bustling markets and a good selection of restaurants where you can sample fresh local produce grown in the surrounding farmland. Throughout the year, there are also many festivals held in town, such as food festivals, wine festivals, and even antique festivals.

Nature lovers will be delighted to visit this area thanks to its rolling hills, olive groves and vineyards punctuated by traditional villages. If you would like to get out and enjoy the outdoors, then why not visit one of the local Chianti wineries. There are many which you can visit close to the villa for a guided tour, a wine-making lesson and lunch. If you feel a little more active, Bellosguardo Golf Club is just 7km away. This lovely 9-hole course spreads over 6322m, making it one of Italy's longest. Alternatively, you can explore the nearby trails on foot or by hiring a bike.

Make sure to set a day aside to visit the incredible city of Florence, which you can reach in under an hour by car (35km away). Florence is packed with maze-like cobbled streets lined with a huge selection of shops, eateries, palaces and museums. Some key attractions are the cathedral and the imposing Medici



palaces, The Palazzo Vecchio and The Palazzo Pitti. If you are an art lover, there are plenty of galleries you can visit. However, the Galleria dell'Accademia, which has Michelangelo's statue of David on display, and the vast Uffizi gallery with works by greats such as Botticelli and Giotto, are among the best. If you have time to squeeze in some shopping while in Florence, walk over to the Ponte Vecchio bridge, which is filled with ancient jewellery shops or explore some of the thriving markets in the centre of town.

## Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	<b>Florence Airport (33km)</b>
Nearest Airport 2	<b>Pisa International Airport (55km)</b>
Nearest Village	<b>Empoli (6km)</b>
Nearest Restaurant	<b>Empoli (4km)</b>
Nearest Supermarket	<b>Empoli (4km)</b>
Nearest Bar/Pub	<b>Empoli (4km)</b>
Nearest Beach	<b>Single Fin Tuscany Dog Beach (62km)</b>
Nearest Golf	<b>Bellosguardo Golf Club (7km)</b>
Nearest Train Station	<b>Empoli (6km)</b>
Nearest City	<b>Florence (35km)</b>

## What we love

- Villa Salix is a beautiful rural home built in the 15th century and once owned by the Medici family
- The spacious house and annexe are the perfect blend of old and new with original features and modern interiors combining to create a striking home
- If you are a wine lover, you will enjoy the wine tasting events at two nearby vineyards, which are included in your trip to Villa Salix
- When you wish to explore the nearby area, the town of Empoli is located 6km away, the village of Vinci is 7km away and the magical city of Florence is just 35km away

## What you should know...

- The villa is situated amidst the rolling Tuscan countryside, but there are a few neighbouring homes nearby.
- The main villa and additional annexe can sleep 16 guests. Additional beds can accommodate up to 7 additional guests on request. Please refer to the 'Features' tab for full details.
- We recommend that guests bring a car to drive to nearby villages and to Florence. Access to the home is via a country road next to the villa, and there is parking on-site.

# Terms & Conditions

- Security deposit: €1500 paid in cash to the owner upon arrival and refunded upon departure, subject to full inspection.
- Arrival time: 3.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.
- Departure time: By 10.00 a.m.
- End of stay cleaning included?: Extra €600, 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.
- Linen & towels included?: Yes.
- Pool towels included?: Yes.
- Energy costs included?: Yes, except for air-conditioning which is an extra €300 per week.
- Heating costs included?: Extra cost, payable locally.
- Minimum stay: 7 nights, all other durations on request.
- Changeover day: Saturday. All other changeover days on request.
- Pets welcome?: Not allowed.
- Smoking Allowed?: Outside only.
- Tax: Italian Visitors Tax payable locally in cash (typically costs €1-€10 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.
- 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: A cot and highchair are available on request.
- Pool opening dates?: The pool is open from approximately May to end-September. 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.