

# Viva la villa

Want to play away from home this summer?  
Sam Wylie-Harris seeks out luxury and seclusion  
in the world's best villas

## Cala di Mare, Corsica

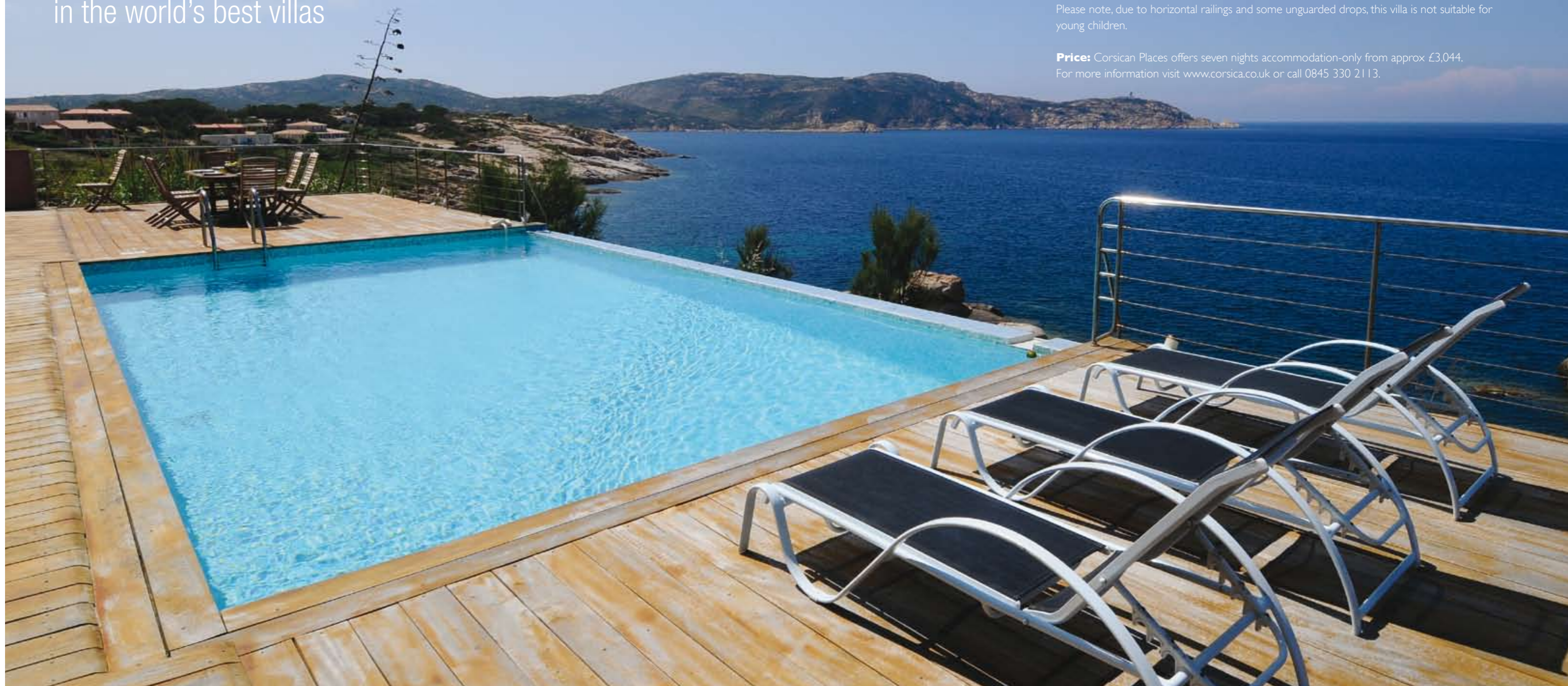
Exclusive, romantic and classy, Corsica's beautiful beaches and mountain scenery have made this French island hideaway a star attraction with honeymooners and the jet set.

The Cala di Mare is built into the rock above the spectacular rugged headlands of the Calvi coast. Set over two levels, the four bedrooms all have en-suite facilities, DVD players and flatscreen TVs. The master bedroom is a hideaway in its own right with a private terrace and hammam sauna. Full-length windows run across the living room and make the most of the stunning view and sunsets.

Outdoors, guests can relax on a sun lounger with a chilled glass of wine and watch the sea merge with the waters of the infinity pool. Other amenities include a fitness room, sauna, state-of-the-art kitchen and top of the range barbecue. If you can tear yourself away, the restaurants of Calvi are just a short walk, and the chic boutiques of L'Île Rousse and Bastia a quick drive away.

Please note, due to horizontal railings and some unguarded drops, this villa is not suitable for young children.

**Price:** Corsican Places offers seven nights accommodation-only from approx £3,044.  
For more information visit [www.corsica.co.uk](http://www.corsica.co.uk) or call 0845 330 2113.





## Island Hideaway, Maldives, Indian Ocean

Turquoise lagoons, white sandy beaches and luxury villas make this barefoot paradise the ultimate destination in the Indian Ocean.

Island Hideaway Spa Resort & Marina is a boutique resort situated on the privately-owned island of Dhonakulhi, north of the Maldives.

The resort has six types of spectacular guest villas nestled amongst coconut groves and is a haven of peace, tranquillity and serenity. Its crystal clear turquoise waters stretch as far as the eye can see.

For glamour and romance, the two Hideaway Palaces are ideal. Located on a golden sandbank, one villa faces sunrise, and the other sunset.

On those sultry Indian evenings, couples can enjoy a romantic candle-lit dinner in the spacious indoor dining pavilion with a roof-terrace for star-gazing. Perfect pampering can be found in the Hideaway Spa by Mandara and water sport enthusiasts will be in heaven with the state-of-the-art marina complete with catamaran sailing, wind surfing, big-game fishing and the largest dive centre in the Maldives.

**Price:** From approx £1270 per night. For more information visit [www.island-hideaway.com](http://www.island-hideaway.com) or call +960 650 15 15.

## Ses Salines, Ibiza

Famed for its beautiful beaches and the best nightclubs in the world, this party island is buzzing with great places to stay.

What makes Ses Salines the jewel in the crown of Ibizan villas is its stunning twin level swimming pool adjoined by an impressive waterfall.

Located on the southern tip of the island, the villa is close to the hot and happening beaches of Salines, Cap d'Es and Formentera.

Las Salinas is where the beautiful party kings and queens go to chill out. Exclusive bars play summer music throughout the day and serve cocktails right to your sun bed.

When the glam party scene becomes too much, retreat to the shady terraces of Ses Salines. The patio has a summer kitchen, ideal for cooking fresh fish on the barbecue, and a large outdoor dining area for entertaining.

With six bedrooms and four bathrooms, the villa has comfortable accommodation for couples or a family. The interior is spacious with relaxed furnishings and cool terracotta tiles throughout.

Amenities include satellite television, home cinema and access is via electric gates.

**Price:** From £6,380 per week. For more information visit [www.world-villa.co.uk](http://www.world-villa.co.uk) or call 01756 751 777.





## Villa Atlas Oasis, Marrakech, Morocco

If you want to chill out by day and enjoy a little decadence at dusk, this stunning villa, with views of the Atlas Mountains, is just 30 minutes from Marrakech.

Explore the ancient medina and souks, see the world's biggest open-air food market or sit back with a peppermint tea and soak up the carnival atmosphere of this captivating city. Take a sunset stroll through Les Jardins Marjorelle, a garden dedicated to the city by designer Yves Saint Laurent.

Villa Atlas Oasis is surrounded by palm, olive and orange trees, and has a wonderful Zen ambience created by the soothing water features and large heated swimming and plunge pools.

With nine luxury suites, including two suitable for families, it's ideally suited to a group holiday or socialising with close friends and relatives. Indulge in the large salon with fully stocked bar or a traditional Moroccan hammam with a full range of massage and beauty treatments.

Boutique Souk's concierge services come with the villa, providing restaurant recommendations and reservations, excursions and personal shopping, babysitting, massage or spa bookings.

**Price:** From approx £1,692 per night (£11,844 per week).  
For more information visit [www.boutiquesouk.com](http://www.boutiquesouk.com)  
or call 07900 195 261.



## Villa El Cid, Andalucia, Spain

Overlooking the Los Flamingos golf course and nestled between Marbella and Estepona, all the rooms and terraces of this scenic villa offer views towards Gibraltar and the Rif Mountains of North Africa. For golfers looking to improve their handicap, the green fairways of the world-famous Soto Grande golf course are just a 35-minute drive away.

The surroundings are intimate enough for a family or group of friends to enjoy a memorable holiday, but facilities are also ideal for entertaining on a grand scale. There's a barbecue area for up to 200 guests including a pizza oven and champagne-chilling storage facilities. Should you decide to throw a party, the nearby Ritz Carlton Villa Paderna with its star spa can accommodate extra guests.



The property features six bedrooms, each with an en-suite bathroom and private terrace, with lift access to the upper levels. Amenities include air-conditioning and underfloor heating throughout, self-contained staff quarters, garage, personal protection system and 24-hour security.

Explore the surrounding area or simply enjoy the home comforts of a tennis court, golf putting lawns with bunkers, outdoor and indoor heated pool and a large games room with pool table – there's even a cinema!

**Price:** From approx £14,737 per week. For more information visit [www.villaretreats.com](http://www.villaretreats.com) or call Villa Retreats 01625 586 586.

## Villa Lefki Thea, Corfu, Greece

It's no myth that a holiday in the Greek Islands is an unparalleled experience.

Situated on a hillside and commanding stunning sea views, the Villa Lefki Thea is located on the north-west coast of Corfu. The island is famous for its romantic sunsets and dramatic scenery, while the shallow, crystal-clear waters are ideal for bathing.

The traditional fishing village of Agios Stefanos is also a stone's throw away. Refreshingly free of tourists, this charming idyll has several family-run tavernas and two cocktail bars.

The villa has a secluded garden, large heated swimming pool and an elegant outdoor entertaining area.

All furnishings are modern and slick, with six bedrooms and bathrooms, a home cinema and gym.

**Price:** From approx £7,720 per week. For more information visit [www.world-villa.co.uk](http://www.world-villa.co.uk) or call 01756 751 777.





## Villa Rockstar, Eden Rock, St Barts

As the name suggests, this extravagant villa is fit for a rock legend. No expense has been spared to transform this space into the ultimate millionaire's retreat. Located on the classy Caribbean island of St Barts, Eden Rock is a favourite haunt for the rich and famous thanks to its year-round sunshine.

The estate comprises north and south houses connected by a courtyard and cloisters, with direct access to a beach of pink coral sand and the ocean expanse. Watch the sun rise and dip over the endless horizon.

Surrounded by 10ft walls, this super-luxe enclave boasts its own professionally equipped recording studio as part of a music room and theatre/cinema-screening suite.



The style is contemporary and edgy with four luxurious suites, Italian stone baths, Schiffrini kitchen, 12-seater dining table by Xavier Lust and a funky collection of original art work. The master suite is every diva's dream; the circular en-suite bathroom is finished in hand-cut, pure white gold.

Additional facilities include a sports area, large swimming pool, separate spa pool, a Technogym and two staff/private cabins. A dedicated Villa Rockstar butler service is available from the Eden Rock's luxury hotel, also in the area. And if you want to party in true rock star style, famous French chef Jean-Claude Dufour and his team are at your service.

**Price:** From approx £14,120 per night. For more information visit [www.edenrockhotel.com](http://www.edenrockhotel.com) or call +590 590 29 79 99.



## Piccolo Eremo, Capri, Italy

If you long for la dolce vita, the captivating Piccolo Eremo is an excellent choice.

This typical Caprese-style villa enjoys a million dollar view of the island's symbolic Faraglioni, two enormous vertical rocks protruding from the sea. All four bedrooms and bathrooms overlook the water. The terrace garden has an elegant lounge area, open-air kitchen, gazebo with dining table to eat al fresco, and an unusually shaped swimming pool.

For those who prefer natural surroundings, the island's best sandy/rocky beach at Marina Piccola is within walking distance.

The villa is easily accessible by foot - crossing the famous little piazza - or by car.

**Price:** From approx £16,459 a week. For more information visit [www.quintessentiallyestates.com](http://www.quintessentiallyestates.com) or call 0845 224 3658.