

Villa Siena Visitors' Comments up to August 2011

7th May and 26th August 2011

Our second visit here in August. First week of May, some rain but millions of the most beautiful flowers everywhere. Really spectacular time to visit, best for sightseeing and long walks along the beaches. Torre Guaceto beach is completely empty of people in May - wonderful!

August is a different world altogether. Nice and warm, but so many people can fit on the beach! Best place to go is the beach exactly opposite the villa, drive to Specchiolla, nice and unspoilt.. Great restaurants here (I am Dutch so that's very important.) Restaurants in Carovigno are as described, we particularly liked Il Casteletto. One can sit outside in a romantic garden - wonderful. Ostuni is the place to go in the evenings. We found a really good eating place (best so far) in the restaurant of Hotel La Terra. Lecce is very much worth a visit. Over the top baroque, Thank you so much, we really enjoyed it all, pool, fruits, scenery a little jewel!

R family, Haarlem, Netherlands

11th August 2011

We have had a terrific stay here. The pool was fantastic. All the information was very useful and good reading. Had a super day in Gallipoli - the children enjoyed Splash! Waterpark, We then walked through the fish markets and streets in the evening finishing off with a lovely meal. Best beach for us was Pantangianni. Ostuni was lovely and the caves at Castellana were beautiful. The seafood and pizzas were awesome. The villa is great, thank you very much - and thank you Silvana for looking after us. We've had a phenomenal time in Villa Siena and Italy, So good, that we hope to see you again soon.

E family, Devon, UK

26th July 2011

Fantastic break in lovely countryside with all the comforts of this lovely villa and the beautiful pool. Children loved the wildlife, thanks to Silvana for all her useful information about the wildlife. I don't think they will ever forget what they have learned. Visited the Southern-most tip, good day out, Lecce, Brindis, and Castellana Grotte also good. Very much looking forward to returning, thank you. The B family, Glasgow, Scotland.

8th July 2011

Thank you whoever thought out and realised this pleasant, practical house. The attention to detail and care have gone to make an extremely agreeable holiday. Family J, Netherlands

11th June 2011

Returned to this lovely villa for the second time in June. The weather was perfect. A couple of evening showers. We ate at the Miramare in Santa Sabina - good, but the staff at the Piccolo Torre opposite are extremely friendly and the food is good. Went to Lecce by train from Ostuni (9.30 am) €10 return. Took an hour, bought the tickets from the machine at the station (in Italian). Visited Matera (Unesco site) It's a long way but the roads up to Bari and across made it doable. The Sassi and the town itself are well worth a visit. We parked at the train station. Thanks again to Silvana for her help especially with the initial shopping as we arrived on Thursday (half day). The Cs and Ds, Nottingham, UK

21st May 2011

Had a really good time here. Villa had everything we needed, would certainly come again and recommend it to friends. The locals are more than friendly, even though we don't speak Italian. Lido Tiziana down on the seafront at Specchiolla certainly does as good food as anywhere, reasonably priced as are most places we ate at and the waitress was really friendly and spoke perfect English. Silvana was very helpful. Can thoroughly recommend a trip to the caves at Castellana. Weather has been great, thunderstorms a couple of nights but following days were perfect for sightseeing at Alberobello and Lecce. The rest of the week has been lovely and the pool was refreshing! Our first visit to Italy - a great introduction and we will definitely be returning ASAP! Family W, Berkshire, England

12th September 2010

What a wonderful week! We've had a fantastic time and too much to eat! Some spectacular thunderstorms, mostly hot and sunny, though, with the pool a welcome relief from the heat. The house is perfectly equipped and so tastefully furnished. We watched several fantastic DVDs and were delighted with the choice. Ostuni was a treat, charming and beautiful and a wonderful place to explore. Found an absolute treat of a restaurant there, fabulous food and service. Bye for now, Puglia - we'll be back. (And thank you to Silvana, too, so kind and helpful.) Mr and Mrs C, London

3rd September 2010

We've loved our stay. Very impressed with the villa, the facilities, and depth of information provided. The effort that has gone into the folders is much appreciated. Silvana has been great, and it has proved very useful to have a contact here. Local towns all worth a visit, Martina Franca and Ostuni were our favourites. Our children enjoyed the rides at Zoosafari, Fasano but not cheap. For shopping the local markets are great. Excellent icecream in Lecce. P. family Wimbledon

18th August 2010

Great villa with super views. We've all enjoyed our stay here, especially the pool area. Look out food, there's some great food and wine here, you will put on weight! Recommend to look through the folders provided here. All the trips and days out are shown. Favourites: Lecce, Alberobello, Ostuni, and the beaches. A lovely two week break. Mrs and Mrs T, East Sussex

August 4th 2010

We've all had a marvellous time relaxing here at Villa Siena. We've enjoyed long, lazy days by the pool, and some terrific meals in local restaurants. The locals are charming, helpful and welcoming - a true delight. It's been great fun pottering around the garden, and investigating the local flora and fauna, and we've all been thrilled and excited by the local rules of the road! But nothing would have prevented us from enjoying this delightful haven. AM, Cheltenham

27th July 2010

It's been gloriously hot, though very windy for a couple of days. We've made good use of the pool and rediscovered the delights of Cluedo. Recommend the caves at Castellana, the trulli in Alberobello, Locorotondo, and Lecce. Generally, though, we've just enjoyed lazy times here in the sunshine! John ...Hampshire

July 21st 2010

Villa Siena was just what we needed to recharge the batteries! Weather has been lovely, even though we had a thunderstorm. Been to most places that were recommended in 'the book', but make sure you do your sightseeing in the morning before it gets too hot. Found a lovely restaurant in Carovigno, only been opened 20 days. Family run and very welcoming. (Owners comment: We've added it to our list - a good find!)

Tracey and Darren

July 2010

Thank you for all your help. A week is not long enough to appreciate all the sites and beaches. We explored the nature reserves, saw sunsets over the beach, whilst sipping cool glasses of the local brew. Lavender will forever remind me of lazy days by the pool, the buzz of bees and glorious sunshine. Thank you for all your efforts to make the villa such a relaxing escape. Jerry and Charmaine, Essex, UK

26th June 2010

We spent our 25th wedding anniversary at Villa Siena. The villa was filled with laughter happiness and love. Lazy days by the pool, wonderful barbeque evenings and lots of wine - what else do you need? Visited Ostuni Saturday market (great shopping), Brindisi, and Carovigno several times. Thank you Silvana and Antonio for caring for us, and to Sheila for sharing your villa with us.

Finland

19th June 2010

The warmth of the weather was matched by the warmth of the welcome - thank you. We've had a fantastic week exploring the local area from a comfortable and well-equipped villa. There's plenty to see - Ostuni, Alberobello, Martina Franca, Locorotondo and a great beach at Pananagianni - something for everyone. It's been sunny all week - especially pleasing as it's rained in the UK! Good local restaurants, good food, great value. Rosemary, Nottingham, England

9th Sept 2009

Summer vacation is the most precious time of year. This is especially true when both parents are busy with work. We have been to Puglia before admiring the climate, ocean, historical

towns and restaurants of this part of Italy. However, staying at Villa Siena was the vacation we were looking forward to. The calm, lovely, well-cared for house and gardens were just perfect. Our kids (8 and 6) loved the pool as well as the Zoo Safari at Fasano. The beach and ocean at Punta Penna Grossa was wonderful. We had a happy vacation here, thanks a lot for sharing this beautiful place with us.

Hr Kugler and family, Germany.

27th August 2009

Beautiful area, temp 30° + everyday. Got into Sotto L'Arco on a Tuesday night without reservation - fantastic food, with prices to match! Ostuni is particularly stunning at night, with a wide choice of restaurants. We made good use of the pool.

The Roods, Kent, England

13th August 2009

We loved it from the moment we drove into the driveway. It is the perfect villa, perfect position to relax from having worked months in busy jobs. It is also perfect to relish 'family time', with the pool, the terrace, reading time, cards and games. Having three weeks here we were able to enjoy family and take our time travelling to Carovigno, Ostuni, Lecce, Alberobello, Taranto, Mesagne (shopping mall). If you have children with you Fasano (Safari /Theme Park) is a must. We managed a lot of walking and completely wound down from our busy lives. Eating experiences was a delight both in and out. And the Italians have been tremendously friendly. Silvana and Antonio were most helpful. We loved it here and will recommend it. Especially with Sheila's guide information. Beverley Peter Gemma and Nathan, UK

23rd July 2009

Great holidays in this charming house between the swimming pool, the beautiful and wild Torre Guaceto's beaches, The visits of Carovigno, Ostuni, Martina Franca, Alberobello, Cisternino, Lecce, Gallipoli, Nardo, and the beautiful (and not at all touristic) Ceglie Messapica.

Very sympathetic dinners in 'La Vela' in Villanova looking at the sunset on the harbour.

Thanks for all your information about the region, the different markets, the wines, and thanks also to Silvana (and her very good French) and Antonio who are so kind.

Diane and Bernard, Paris, France

14th July 2009

We have had the most wonderful week enjoying the sun, the scenery, the food and above all, the local people. The villa makes an excellent base from which to explore the area and is equipped to a high standard. One piece of advice is to order just two antipasti between four - you will feel very full otherwise. Try as many local restaurants as you can and don't worry about your limited Italian. Just point and smile and the locals will go out of their way to help you. Have a great holiday - we did.

Val and Rich, Dorset

30th June 2009

Three glorious weeks here in June 2009 - a far cry from London England. Get used to the locals and you will sure find serenity. Nobody bothers you here, our only contact has been Silvana who was most helpful to us when needed - also her follow-up call was much appreciated. Find the GS supermarket - it has it all.

Pantanagianna was for us the best and closest beach for us - about 15 mins. A must is a visit to Ostuni at night - the main square and walk up to the cathedral really nice - we did this on a Saturday and had no trouble parking in a car park at 7.30 pm.

The pool is so refreshing at any time of day and a special thank you to Antonio who kept it in a pristine condition for us. Also big thanks to Sheila and Colin for sharing their world with us. We hope whoever is reading this has as good a holiday as we did. Mr and Mrs F, Kent.

By email: 6th June 2009

The time in Puglia and in Villa Siena was great. It was not too hot (sometimes also a bit too cold) but we had a good time. We liked the food (Antipasti :-)) and we spent a lot of time travelling around and visiting the best places. Silvana and Antonia helped us when ever required and did a great job. Karin and Helmut, Vienna, Austria

4th-11th October 2008

What a wonderful retreat! Pool a little bit too cold at this time of year, but the sea at Pantangianna beach was beautiful (swam most afternoons). Ate very well at Hostaria San Filippo, Taverna del Castello and Il Grottino, all located around the main square in Carovigno. Alberobello (Trulli Zone) is a must see. Ostuni market on a Saturday morning is well worth a visit (if you can find a car parking space!).

Thanks to Silvana for her warm welcome and excellent support and for the excellent information supplied in the villa. Ottimo villa, ottimo food, ottimo wine. Hope to revisit. Mrs and Mrs W, Warks, UK.

September 16th 2008

What a wonderful place! Had an enjoyable stay even if the sun didn't shine every day. Really enjoyed looking at the villages and buildings - old churches etc and smelling the pine trees, and the lavender round the pool. Thank you so much. Liz, Sydney, Australia.

6th September - 13th September 2008

Villa Siena soon felt like home for us - very comfortable and everything to hand, including fresh figs for breakfast. Had a fab holiday. Otranto was perhaps our favourite place - worth spending the day and evening there at the Lido and in the town.

Carovigno market supplied us with lots of delicious produce - and so cheap!

Glad we went to Ostuni on Silvana's recommendation - we went in the evening - wonderful!

Many thanks, Silvana and Sheila. Peter, Maureen and friends, Neston, Cheshire.

14th August - 28th August 2008

We've had a great fortnight. Weather's been hot hot hot! Constant 30°, even broke 40° one day! Pool was a very welcome relief that day. Villa excellent and well-equipped in a very quiet, private location. Figs excellent. Mornings spent out and about exploring before it gets too hot, then a little siesta and then lazy afternoons in and around the pool. Visited Ostuni, Lecce, the amazing limestone caves at Castellenata, and Zoo Safari at Fasano to name but a few. Alberobello is 'trulli' worth a visit, yes, it's touristy, but unique. We also watched the festival in Ostuni "Cavalcata di Sant'Oronzo" with riders on horses and Ostuni all decked out in lights. (Freddie aged 8 - I've enjoyed being by the pool and eating out at Sabina beach. But my favourite thing was definitely the Animal Park.) Josie and Paul, Dorking Surrey

31st July - 14th August 2008

Great villa, so good to stay in a villa that's much loved and feels like a lovely home. We've all enjoyed the figs and the pool has been used 3-4 times a day.

The weather's been hot, hot and even hotter! And whenever we went exploring, or to the beach, we always looked forward to reaching home. For some reason it always feels cooler here, even when there's no breeze at all.

A lovely time has been had by all. A big thank you to the wonderful Silvana and Antonio, a fantastic couple. Many Thanks. Kate and James, Wimbledon, London

24th July - 31st July 2008

Lovely week in very relaxing setting. Villa / pool v. good - excellent shaded reading spaces; DVDs raided when needed; pool helped work off some of the undoubted weight gain. Sat market at Ostuni worth a visit, and enjoyed Lecce, Ostuni.

Information very helpful, as was Silvana. Weather consistently good (26 - 29°), windy at times, so back terrace a haven. Say hello to the geckos for us! Many thanks. Marilyn and Leslie, Brill, Bucks

28th June - 12 July 2008

"We have had a wonderful holiday. Lovely villa and fantastic pool which has been well-used as temperatures have been in the 30s every day. All the information provided was great and we loved Alberobello. Also enjoyed Ostuni, Gallipoli and Lecce. Had lovely meals at Il Casteletto and Hosteria San Filippo. Enjoyed the beach at Pantanagianni, and if you like seafood, Ristorante Torque Da on the beach is worth a visit."

Jeff and Margaret, Solihull, July 2008

By email

"We wanted to say what a good week we had in the villa. You can't imagine how much we appreciated how well equipped the villa was and also how organized you were with directions and shopping lists. How wonderful it was to have all your detailed instructions/directions. . We did absolutely nothing until Tuesday. The villa is lovely. The pool area in particular looked beautiful, The lavender around the pool was in flower, smelled gorgeous and was attracting the most beautiful butterflies. There were some lovely white agapanthus flowers just where I sat in the shade of the olive tree. We had a few wonderful days of peace and quiet, which was just what we needed after a period of extreme stress. Thanks again"

Anita and Noel, West Midlands, UK, June 2008

"A wonderful 2 weeks. The weather was just perfect, we made the most of the pool and enjoyed lunches and dinners outside. Had some lovely evening meals in S. Sabina (thanks for your recommendations!) The seafood restaurant by the Torre was our favourite. Visited Ostuni, Alberobello + M. Franca and loved them ALL. Finally thank you for all your research, information and detailed maps, all helped to make this a fantastic holiday."

Lou and Neil, Wadhurst Sussex, June 2008

"Excellent Villa, enjoyed our stay. And yes, it's touristy, but Alberobello is a must see. Mini heatwave this week made the pool a saviour. Recommend early rise and siesta, which set you up for the evening. We enjoyed the 'Taverno de Castello', staggered at the low price despite the exchange rate. Thank you."

Christine and Terry, Nottingham UK, May 2008

"Villa Siena lived up to our expectations. The web site was so accurate. We enjoyed the roof terrace, especially in the evening when we had a glass of wine."

Jeff and Bev, Florida USA, May 2008

"We have enjoyed our week at the villa - thank you for all the helpful info.

Breakfasts have been long and leisurely on the roof terrace, we have been grateful for the sun and warmth after a 'grey' winter in the UK. The wild flowers and bird song have been an added bonus. It is so pleasant to be surrounded by both in contrast to life in a big city. The peace and quiet have kept us close to the villa on several days, but we have made a few longish trips out - notably Capo S. Maria di Leuca at the Southernmost tip. It took 2 hours to get there down the main roads, but was worth it, especially if you then hug the east coast on the N173 to come back - wonderful scenery. We also visited Alberobello to see the trulli (and visit the excellent wine shop 'Enoteca L'Anima del Vino' on Via Indipendenza - well-stocked and spoke English!) Alberobello is well worth a visit in spite of being 'touristy'. S. Caterina (on the west coast, north of Gallipoli) was also a pleasant coastal village with good scenery. Keep your eyes out for the striking hoopoe birds that visit the surrounding trees this time of year!"

Andrew and Barbara, Sheffield, April 2008

"A wonderful week, and all too brief. We found the villa to be just right, secluded and comfortable. Picking fruit off the trees was a real treat. The wealth of information really helped us make the use of our time here." Michael, Bristol, & Tracy and Geoff, Munich, Germany, Oct 2007

"We have spent a lovely two weeks here and feel the area is worth another visit. There is so much to see and do here. We loved Lecce, Ostuni, Otranto and Matera, the latter two being worth the longer drives. We found the details provided extremely useful when working out one's itinerary. The villa is very comfortable and well-equipped, and we enjoyed sunbathing by the pool and on the roof, which we weren't sure we would be able to do this late in the year. We are going home relaxed, sun-tanned, and at least half a stone heavier!" Eric and Helen, France, & Lesley, Co. Durham, Sept 2007

"Charming villa in excellent location & very well-equipped. We appreciated all the detailed info and maps etc that you had provided. The restaurants were excellent, particularly Hosteria s. Filippo and Il Castelletto. T.S Sabina and Villanova proved good for an early evening stroll and watching the locals go in and out. V.N. has very nice modern cafe / gelateria overlooking port ideal for pre-dinner drink. We enjoyed Ostuni and the UNESCO sight at Alberobello - the only really 'touristy' place. Everywhere has been quiet, relaxed, and people very friendly."
Sue, Michael, Alison and Paul, London, Sept 2007

"A great treat and wonderful way of celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary - bringing the family to Italy on holiday. Thanks for all the holiday information. Highlights of the holiday for me were warm fresh figs from the garden with Parma ham - delicious! Battling with the ocean waves at Pantangianna beach. Listening to the raucous laughter from the boys at their discovery of Monty Python from your selection of DVDs, and the ongoing re-enactment of the sketches thereafter for the duration of the holiday." Nick and Sonia, Walsall, W Midlands, Aug 2007:

"What a wonderful corner of the world! So convenient to everything and with all conveniences provided, we have thoroughly enjoyed our stay here, wish it could have been longer! The pool, the fresh fruit from the garden, the friendly locals, and the perfect weather have been great. Not to mention the pasta, bread, cheeses, salami, gelati etc! Thank you for making it all so easy with all the information and instructions." Rosemary and Chuck, Philadelphia, US Aug 2007

"A beautiful relaxing week - in fabulous surroundings. We particularly enjoyed Cisternino ("La Vera") - a really smart old town and lots of family tavernas, eating at La Cantina in Martina Franca, the exploding fruit bowls and chubby cherubs of all the Baroque churches in Lecce - and having lunch at The Trumpet - near the Basilica at Santa Croce in Lecce". The ice-creams were fabulous everywhere! As were the people! Thank you very much." Angie, Gary, Jamie and Becky, Brighton, UK, August 2007

"A very relaxing holiday in a lovely villa! We had a great time exploring the local area and further afield. Gallipoli in particular is well worth a visit. Celebrated our son's 6th birthday and he learned to swim in the pool! A great time had by all, many thanks for a wonderful holiday. We hope to come back in the Spring." Emma, Martin, Chloe and Ewan, Wiltshire, UK, August 2007

"A great two weeks, lovely villa and pool. Many thanks." Jemma, Daniel and Bonnie, London, July 2007

"A great 5 days at the villa - weather brilliant - only saw clouds on last day. Explored the local area, beaches etc and made good use of the barbecue and above all, the pool. (I had fun in the pool - Gabriel, 6) (I liked the shower in the en suite and the pool, beaches and air con - Jessica, 12)." David and Pam, Paris, France, July 2007

"A beautiful villa in a beautiful location. Having dinner on the roof as the sun sets can't be beaten. The pool is great for cooling off and is set in a well-kept garden complete with butterflies, almonds, grapes and figs. I couldn't have asked for a more relaxing holiday" John, Aberdeen, July 2007

"Thank you so much for sharing your villa and little part of Italy with us, we have had a great time. The villa is beautiful and all your hard work has been very well spent, and you have made us feel so welcome, it has been our home since we arrived." Lynne and Chris, Sevenoaks, Kent, June 2007

"What a fantastic week, the villa was well-appointed and beautiful, the surrounding areas and beaches are wonderful. René (4) had great fun in the pool and looking at all the beautiful views from the roof terrace. We would love to come again." Phil, Pippa, Fay and René. Blackheath, London, May 2007

"We thoroughly enjoyed a week in this well-equipped beautiful villa and made excursions in all directions. It would be nice to come back in the Autumn some time. We look forward to that already." Per Gerd and family, Sweden, May 2007

"A tremendous week's holiday in a superb villa - everything we could want, need or wish for! We had a brilliant time. As for the condition of the villa, we can only say it was perfect. We loved the area so much we are interested in buying a villa ourselves!" Becky, Jane, Paul, Richard and Les, Dartmouth, Devon, May 2007

"A most enjoyable holiday in this very attractive well-appointed villa set in a delightful garden. An excellent base for exploring SE Italy." Robbie and Edna, Kingswood, Surrey, October 2006

"A thoroughly enjoyable holiday. Lovely villa in a beautiful setting. The gardens and pool create a very relaxing area to return to after exploring the surrounding countryside." Jane and Steve, London, Sept 2006

"A wonderful week's holiday - well off the tourist track. Lovely grounds with an abundance of fruit and nuts to eat (especially the figs). The local markets are well worth a visit. It is the real Italy." Phil and Janet, Surrey, UK, Aug 2006