A Mandria

Region: France **Sleeps:** 8

Overview

Experience some of Corsica's most stunning scenery from this charming village home in the beautiful Balagne region. Here you are surrounded by incredible mountain landscapes yet it's only twenty minutes from the glistening beaches of the Mediterranean.

Meaning *bergerie* in Corsican, A Mandria was formerly a sheepfold, the origins of which can be seen in the characterful kitchen and dining area. The house was designed by the owner, an architect, with great love and care and he has created a welcoming holiday home with four air-conditioned bedrooms, each with their own bath or shower room.

Authentic materials have been used to retain the period charm of the interiors whilst teak decking has helped to create terraces for al-fresco dining and relaxing in the sun. The inviting swimming pool is a delight, especially with such mesmerising mountain and village views of which you will never tire.

Wander into the village and you will find a *boulangerie*, small grocery store and two simple restaurants, one of which belongs to the owner's lovely hotel, a 19th-century family *palazzu*; be sure to ask for a tour of the old chapel, original kitchens and impressive Napoleon III salon. You can also the family winery in the village to sample their excellent wines which are highly regarded in the area.

With such incredible landscapes around you, there are some magnificent walking trails both from the village and beyond in the Balagne countryside. Discover idyllic perched villages such as Speloncato, Pigna and Sant'Antonino. Make the most of the glorious scenery with horse-riding, rock-climbing and even paragliding across this spectacular region.

Yet despite this rural idyll, the sparkling seas of the Mediterranean aren't far with northern Corsica's wonderful coastline within a thirty-minute drive. Visit Calvi and L'Île-Rousse for relaxed lunches by the sea, discover beaches with white sand and crystal-clear water and take a boat excursion to the incredible Scandola Nature Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Whether gazing out towards the mountains from your terrace and swimming pool or exploring the villages, towns and beaches, this is the ultimate Balagne experience in northern Corsica, an island also known as *l'île de beauté*.

Facilities

Paragliding • Historical Sites • Golf Nearby • Air-Con • Wine Tasting • Horse Riding • Private Pool • <1hr to Airport • Walking/Hiking Paths • Walk to Village • Ideal for Kids • Cots (Cribs) • Ideal for Teens • Maid Service Available • Pets on Request • All Bedrooms En-Suite • Pool Safety Feature • Walk to Restaurant • Wi-Fi/Internet • Rural Location • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • TV • DVD • Heating • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • High Chair(s)

Interior & Grounds

Villa Interiors (130m2)

Ground Floor (accessed via a few steps from the parking area)

- Living area with doors opening up to the terrace
- Kitchen and dining area, including dishwasher, oven, microwave, fridge, freezer and coffee machine
- Double bedroom (160cm x 190cm) and bathroom with WC
- Twin bedroom (80cm x 190cm each, can be made into double) with shower room
- WC
- Laundry room

First Floor

- Double bedroom (140cm x 190cm) and shower room with WC
- Double bedroom (160cm x 190cm) and bathroom with WC

Outside Grounds

- Swimming pool (4m x 3m, depth: 1.5m) with safety gate
- Sun terrace with sun loungers
- Terrace for al-fresco dining
- Charcoal BBQ
- Enclosed private parking with some steps to house

Facilities

- Wi-Fi
- Air-conditioning (bedrooms)
- Heating
- Cable TV
- DVD player
- Hi-Fi system
- Telephone
- Hairdryer
- Washing machine and dryer

Location & Local Information

A Mandria enjoys a spectacular location in a mountain village in the Balagne countryside, an incredible region of mountainous landscapes, delightful villages and rolling hills.

The heart of the village only a short walk away where you will find a bakery, small grocery shop and a couple of simple village restaurants. One of these little restaurants is part of the owner's village hotel, a charming 19th-century *palazzu* – make sure you ask for a tour of the old chapel, the original kitchen with its grand chimney and the beautiful *salon*. You can also visit the family's own winery in the village which produces highly regarded wines.

There's a lovely walking trail from the village up to the 'Falcunaghja' (House of the Bandits), from where you can enjoy the marvellous views. Indeed, the Balagne countryside offers a wealth of marked walking trails, some of which connect some of the wonderful villages dotted across the region. There is also horse-riding, golf, rock-climbing and even para-gliding nearby.

Sant'Antonino (10km) is one of the villages which is featured on many walking routes, one of Corsica's oldest villages and now classified as one of France's *'Plus Beaux Villages'*. Wander along the steep lanes and find a restaurant where you can enjoy good Corsican food with mesmerising views. Pigna (12km) is also full of charm and features some lovely artisan shops selling local ceramics. There is a great community of artists and musicians across the village; look out for concerts in the village where you can listen to traditional Corsican chants.

Other incredibly beautiful Balagne villages include Speloncato (8km), Corbara (12km) and Lumio (16km) with its weekly market on a Wednesday morning. There is a walking path from Lumio leading to the abandoned village of Occi, yet another spot for panoramic vistas of the breathtaking scenery around you.

Drive along winding lanes, passing spectacular vistas, and within around 15km you will reach L'Île-Rousse, a charming seaside town. Visit the covered market, wander through the picturesque lanes filled with traditional restaurants and pretty shops, stop for a coffee on the main square as old men play boules then enjoy lunch in one of the beachside cafes. It's not a huge town but there is always a lovely and relaxed ambience.

There are some wonderful beaches along this stretch of the Balagne coastline. Plage de Bodri is particularly beautiful or discover further coves and summer beach cafes all the way up to Algajola and Calvi. You will find a good range of watersports in both L'Île-Rousse and Calvi and you will also find scuba-diving, sea kayaks, windsurfing and snorkelling in Algajola (20km). In the other direction, Ostriconi beach (25km) is one of Corsica's wildest beaches with white sands and grassy dunes, accessed via a remote and steep path.

There's also the charming little train, U Trinichellu, which runs between Calvi and L'Île-Rousse via Algajola, stopping off at lovely beaches on the way.

Calvi is a very popular town to visit with its large sandy beach, historic citadel, atmospheric marina and a great choice of lovely restaurants and cafes with amazing sea or mountain views wherever you look. From Calvi you can take a

boat trip out to the Scandola Reserve on Corsica's west coast, now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	**Calvi (25km)**
Nearest Airport 2	**Bastia (80km)**
Nearest Ferry Port	**L'Île-Rousse/Calvi (15km/26km)**
Nearest Village	**(500m)**
Nearest Restaurant	**(500m)**
Nearest Supermarket	**(14km)**
Nearest Shop	**(500m)**
Nearest Town/City	**L'Île-Rousse/Calvi (15km/25km)**
Nearest Beach	**Plage de L'Île-Rousse (15km)**
Nearest Golf	**Golf Reginu (12km)**

What we love

- The mountain views from the terrace and swimming pool are magnificent
- You can walk into the local village, so typical of the Balagne with its pretty houses and mountainous landscapes
- Visit the owner's winery in the village and taste its highly regarded wines
- Drive to some of the Balagne's most idyllic villages such as Sant'Antonino, Pigna and Lumio, or use many of the inter-village walking trails and do some hiking
- Try the charming little train, U Trinichellu, which runs between Calvi and L'Île-Rousse via Algajola, stopping off at lovely beaches on the way.
- L'Île-Rousse and Corsica's glistening coast are just a 20-minute drive away with Calvi just a little further

What you should know...

- Air-conditioning is featured in the bedrooms only
- If travelling with family or friends, book another one of the owner's houses on the other side of the village, A Balagna (https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/corsica/a-balagna/), with four bedrooms, air-conditioning and a private swimming pool

Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** €800 paid via bank transfer or cash to the owner before 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.

- **Linen & towels included?:** Yes.

- **Pets welcome?:** On request only and with prior agreement with the owner.

- **Other Ts and Cs:** Air-conditioning is featured in the bedrooms only. Weddings, stag/hen parties and other special events are not permitted.

- **Changeover day:** Saturday (mid-June to mid-September) or flexible at other times.

- **End of stay cleaning:** Standard changeover clean included in the price. 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.

- **Smoking Allowed?:** Yes, except in the bedrooms.

- **Minimum stay:** 7 nights. All other durations on request.

- **Heating costs included?:** Yes.

- **Pool towels included?:** No.