A Balagna

Region: Northern Corsica **Sleeps:** 8

Overview

With views of rugged mountains and the village church from your glorious terrace, it's easy to see why Corsica is known as *l'île de beauté*.

In the heart of Balagne, just on the edge of a characterful village, A Balagna is an architect's house, designed with style and flair whilst making the most of the beautiful scenery. With air-conditioning throughout, four en suite bedrooms and a vast open-plan living-dining room with its contemporary kitchen, this holiday home is all about smart modern living in rustic surroundings. Gaze at the typical Balagne landscapes from the picture-book windows that flood light into the superb and spacious living room.

In the morning you can wander to the *boulangerie* in the village for pastries to enjoy with your morning coffee on the vast terrace with mountain and valley views, listening to the birds sing in this idyllic setting. Relax in the sun or dip into the heated swimming pool, followed by long al-fresco lunches in the shade of the covered terrace.

The local village also has a grocery store and a couple of small restaurants, including one at the villa owner's hotel, a charming 19th-century family *'palazzu'* where evening meals are served on the summer poolside terrace with panoramic views. Wine-lovers can also sample some of the owner's excellent and well-regarded wines at their winery in the village.

In the very heart of the incredible Balagne, drive to other enchanting villages such as Speloncato, Pigna and Sant'Antonino (one of France's '*Plus Beaux Villages*'), discover many magnificent hiking trails and head to the beautiful coastline with the sandy beaches between L'Île-Rousse and Calvi so near. Even in the heart of the

mountains, the crystal-clear Mediterranean is never far away in this wonderful part of northern Corsica.

Facilities

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

Interior & Grounds

Villa Interiors (164m2, one level)

- Open-plan living and dining space with doors leading to terrace and swimming pool
- Open-plan kitchen, well-equipped including dishwasher, fridge-freezer, gas hobs, electric oven, microwave, cafetière and coffee maker, toaster, mixer and kettle
- Bedroom with king size bed (160cm) and en suite shower room. Access to pool terrace
- Bedroom with king size bed (160cm) and en suite shower room. Access to pool terrace
- Bedroom with twin beds (90cm each, can be joined as a double) with en suite shower room (no WC)
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- Separate WC

Outside Grounds

- Heated swimming pool (4x3m, depth: 1.5m) with retractable safety cover. Heated April, May, June, September and October
- Covered al-fresco dining area
- Charcoal BBQ
- Enclosed and private parking
- Electric gate
- Grounds below the villa (via open-sided steps from terrace)

Facilities

- Wi-Fi
- Air-conditioning
- Heating
- Cable TV
- DVD player
- Safe
- Hairdryer
- Washing machine and dryer

Location & Local Information

A Balagna is set on the edge of a mountain village in northern Corsica, with other houses dotted nearby, surrounded by wonderful landscapes of rugged peaks, trees and pretty Balagne villages. This region is often referred to as the 'Garden of Corsica' with good reason.

You can walk into the village where you will find a small grocery store, a bakery and two small village restaurants, including one which belongs to the owner's hotel where you can dine out on the terrace by the hotel's pool. There's also an authentic *osteria* serving traditional Corsican fare on the edge of the village.

As well as the owner's lovely hotel in the village, a 19th-century *palazzu* (ask for a tour of some of the original features), you can also visit the family winery which produces a delicious red, white and rosé wine, all of which are highly regarded in the area, part of the Vin de Corse-Calvi AOC.

You are incredibly well placed to visit other beautiful villages of the Balagne. Start with Speloncato (7km), dating back to Neolithic times, with its incredible views then wind back to Pigna (14km) with its ceramic and music traditions and Aregno (11km) with its pretty churches and annual almond festival.

Spend time exploring the old village of Sant'Antonino (12km), one of France's '*Plus Beaux Villages*' with steep narrow lanes and beautiful buildings. It's a lovely place to stop for lunch with a couple of restaurants making the most of the glorious views towards the sea.

There are many walking trails across this region, some leading from A Balagna's local village itself and others which link Balagne's hilltop villages. One such example is the trail between Lumio (17km) and the abandoned village of Occi where you are rewarded with spectacular views over the countryside and sea.

The Balagne region also offers activities such as rock-climbing, canyoning, paragliding and horse-riding or even donkey treks around Sant'Antonino. There is also a superb golf course around twenty minutes away, Golf Reginu. You can of course find a wide range of watersports along the coast with the main centres in Calvi and Algajola offering jet-ski, kayaks, paddle boarding, sailing, snorkelling, diving and more.

Indeed, it's only about 25 minutes to reach the coast where you will find beautiful sandy beaches and crystal-clear seas. Plage de Bodri (18km) is a lovely spot, as is Sant Ambroggio and the sandy beach with its watersports at Algajola, with many smaller coves and beaches backed by maquis and pine trees dotted inbetween. Heading east, the wild and remote Plage de L'Ostriconi enjoys a glorious setting at the beginning of the Désert des Agriates.

The nearest town, L'Île-Rousse (16km), is a charming seaside port where you can watch old men play *boules* on the main square, enjoy the town's traditional or beachside cafes and restaurants and take a pleasant walk along the waterfront to the lighthouse. There's always a lovely ambience in the town and it's a great place to pick up produce from the covered market or shop in larger supermarkets.

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 (27km) is another wonderful town to visit for the day with its marina, beach, lovely old town and citadel and many pleasant restaurants and atmospheric bars. From the marina you can take boat excursions to visit the protected Scandola Reserve on the dramatic west coast, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	**Calvi (26km)**
Nearest Airport 2	**Bastia (82km)**
Nearest Ferry Port	**L'Île-Rousse/Calvi (16km/27km)**
Nearest Village	**(Within 1km)**
Nearest Restaurant	**(Within 1km)**
Nearest Shop	**Small grocery store (Within 1km)**
Nearest Supermarket	**L'Île-Rousse (15km)**
Nearest Town/City	**L'Île-Rousse/Calvi (16km/27km)**
Nearest Beach	**Plage de l'Ile Rousse (16km)**
Nearest Golf	**Golf Reginu (13km)**

What we love

- Enjoy spectacular mountain and valley views from your beautiful terrace and swimming pool
- Ideal for guests looking for contemporary style in idyllic and authentic, countryside surroundings, yet with a charming seaside town just 20 minutes away
- Wander into the characterful village where you will also find the owner's 19th-century family '*palazzu*' hotel and a winery where you can sample the owner's excellent wines
- In the heart of the Balagne, drive to other wonderful villages such as Speloncato, Pigna and Sant'Antonino, or take one of the many 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
- The beautiful sandy beaches between L'Île-Rousse and Calvi are under half an hour by car

What you should know...

- Due to the nature of the terraces, open steps and grounds, please keep an eye on younger guests when relaxing or playing outside
- It's worth noting that a small part of the access road leading to the villa is unsurfaced
- If travelling with family or friends, book another one of the owner's houses on the other side of the village, A Mandria (https://www.oliverstravels.com/france/corsica/a-mandria/), with four air-conditioned bedrooms and a private swimming pool
- Please see the 'Features' tab for number of WCs across the four ensuite shower rooms

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?:** Yes, on request only and with prior agreement with the owner.

- **Other Ts and Cs:** 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 heating charge?:** No. The pool is only heated approximately mid-April to mid-October. Please note that like all heated pools, pool heating and water temperature are reliant on weather and outside temperatures.

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