

# Villa Gaiola

**Region:** Amalfi Coast   **Sleeps:** 12

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## Overview

Perched dramatically on a cliffside near Ravello, Villa Gaiola is a six-bedroom architectural masterpiece overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea. Its gravity-defying silhouette has captivated boat passengers cruising between Sorrento and Capri for decades. Accessible only on foot, the villa lies just a ten-minute walk from Ravello's central piazza, hidden behind wrought-iron gates and surrounded by six acres of terraced gardens, olive groves, and cypress trees.

Completed in 1927, the villa was first home to Lucille Beckett, daughter of Lord Grimthorpe, but gained fame under the ownership of Gore Vidal, who purchased it in 1972. From this extraordinary residence, Vidal penned several iconic works, including *Burr* and *Lincoln*. He and his partner Howard Austen expanded the villa's terraced gardens and added the marble-lined swimming pool in 1984.

Inside, the villa reflects timeless elegance. Restored in 2016, it features classical Roman floor plans, vaulted ceilings, antique furnishings, and 26-foot frescoed ceilings. The layout includes multiple sitting rooms, a panoramic summer living room, and Vidal's untouched rococo study—his “perfect cube”—still home to his desk, chesterfield sofa, and vintage globe.

The six luxurious suites, once host to luminaries like the Jagers, Andy Warhol, and Tennessee Williams, each offer king-size beds, bespoke wardrobes, and Vietri ceramic floors. The Serenity suite features a Jacuzzi, while Ecstasy boasts breathtaking views, including from a rose window in its bathroom with chromotherapy shower.

Villa Gaiola blends history, art, and nature in a setting of unparalleled beauty. Just a short walk from Ravello's Duomo Square, guests can enjoy the town's vibrant market, fine dining, and boutique shopping. This legendary villa is not only a luxurious escape—it's a piece of Amalfi Coast history.

## Facilities

Maid Service Included • Chef/Cook Available • Walk to Village • Wow Factor • Quirky (Unique) • Laptop Friendly Workspace • Villa • Wi-Fi/Internet • Air-Con • Heritage Collection • Kid-friendly excursions • Cooking Classes Available • Transfers Available • On-Site Concierge • Breakfast Included • Butler Available • Private Pool • Ideal for Babies & Toddlers • Pets on Request • Hot Tub • Washing Machine • Tumble Dryer • Safety Deposit Box • Hairdryer • All Bedrooms En-Suite • Smart TV • Working Fireplace/Woodburner • Heating • Seaview • Walking/Hiking Paths • Outstanding Landscapes • Outdoor Pursuit & Activities • Tourist Towns & Villages • Historical Sites



# Interior & Grounds

## Villa Interior (950sqm)

### Lower Ground Level

- Audacity Suite – King-size bed, en-suite bathroom with shower, mosaic tiled floor, living room
- Inspiration Suite - Four-poster king-size bed, en-suite bathroom with bathtub and separate shower, living room with original fireplace, mosaic tiled floor, small veranda
- Serenity Suite - King-size bed, en-suite bathroom with shower, mosaic tiled floor, large panoramic veranda with Jacuzzi

### Ground Floor

- Entrance hall
- Gore Vidal's preserved studio
- Sitting rooms
- Living room with working fireplace, fresco ceilings
- Lounge with bar
- Living room with private terrace and panoramic sea views
- Kitchen facilities for use of staff

### First Floor

- Desire Suite - Four-poster king-size bed, en-suite bathroom with shower, ceramic tiled floor, fireplace and access to 1,000 square foot panoramic terrace
- Curiosity Suite - King-size bed, en-suite bathroom with shower, ceramic tiled floor, access to 1,000 square foot panoramic terrace
- Ecstasy Suite – King-size bed, en-suite bathroom with shower, ceramic tiled floor, small panoramic terrace
- Access to private terrace with solarium, outdoor shower

### External suite (external spiral stair case down 33 steps)

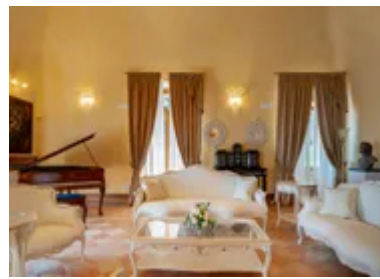
- Studio suite- with king-size bed and en-suite bathroom with shower cubicle
- Air conditioning and refrigerator

## Outside Grounds (25,000sqm)

- Swimming pool (15.5m x 5.5m, 2.70m depth) set on a marvel paved terrace
- Self-catering kitchenette
- Two guest bathrooms
- Panoramic terraces
- Private park and garden

## Additional Facilities

- Wi-Fi
- Grand piano
- Original artworks
- Frescoed ceilings
- Smart 4K televisions in all bedrooms
- Chromotherapy showers
- Safe for laptop



- Minibar in all bedrooms
- Telephone in all bedrooms
- Jacuzzi
- Laundry facilities

# Location & Local Information

Just a ten-minute walk from the villa lies Ravello, the elegant clifftop town famously dubbed the Balcony of the Amalfi Coast. Long a haven for artists and writers, Ravello hosts cultural highlights like the Ravello Festival, held at Villa Rufolo each July and August. Here, open-air concerts take place with sweeping views of the Gulf of Salerno. Its piazzas are lined with everything from Michelin-starred restaurants to traditional pizzerias, offering exceptional dining between strolls through its stunning architecture and boutique shopping streets.

The Amalfi Coast is renowned for its charming towns and vibrant shopping. Winding streets are filled with stylish clothing, fine leather goods, ceramic art, and the beloved local liqueur, Limoncello. Whether you favour the classic version or an artisanal twist, it's a must-try—and makes a perfect souvenir (just be sure to tape the corks before packing!).

Food lovers can dive deeper into the region's culinary culture through cooking classes, wine tastings, and weekly street markets. Ravello and Sorrento host theirs on Tuesdays, while Amalfi's Thursday market offers a scenic seafront setting. Friday's market in Maiori is perfect for picking up fresh ingredients before enjoying a seaside stroll.

Local tour operators offer a wide range of excursions. Take a boat trip to Capri, famous for its Blue Grotto and turquoise waters, or drive just an hour to explore the ancient ruins of Pompeii. Many tours include added luxuries such as lunch, wine tastings, and snorkelling—making it easy to craft your perfect Amalfi experience.

## Local Amenities

Nearest Airport	Napoli (62km)
Nearest Airport 2	Roma Fiumicino (290km)
Nearest Town	Amalfi (7km)
Nearest Town/City	Sorrento (38km)
Nearest Restaurant	(100m)
Nearest Supermarket	(4km)
Nearest Village	Ravello (1km)





## What we love

- This exquisite residence, beautifully refurbished in 2016, is steeped in history.
- Even for the Amalfi Coast, where spectacular views are available across its entire thirty-four miles, the views of the hillside, sea and mountainside from the terraced gardens are truly majestic.
- Each of the six suites are immaculately appointed, with exceptional artworks, king-size beds and stunning private bathrooms.
- The villa's thirteen-year build was completed in 1927, becoming the home of Lucille Beckett - daughter of Ernest William Becket, Lord Grimthorpe.

## What you should know...

- The villa is only accessible by foot, there are 30 steps down from the walking path of the garden to reach the main entrance.
- Due to the seven levels of terraced garden, this villa is not suitable for those with mobility issues.
- The office room of Gore Vidal closed to the public, used only as museum.
- The rooms, all located in the main building, are distributed on different levels and can only be reached by using stairs.
- Villa Gaiola is a historical-cultural property subject to protections and constraints and is not equipped with an elevator system, nor can it be equipped with it.
- The villa's private swimming pool isn't fenced, so children should always be supervised when outdoors.
- Child supervision is mandatory especially in the outdoor areas/garden.
- Kitchen facilities for use of staff only.

# Terms & Conditions

- **Security deposit:** €15000 charged to client's credit card by the owner as a pre-authorisation upon arrival and refunded two weeks after departure, subject to full inspection.
- **Arrival time:** 3.00 p.m. Check-in outside this time may be subject to an extra cost. Please enquire for more details.
- **Departure time:** 11.00 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:** Please note that published rates are only valid for the current year. Any bookings for subsequent years will be on request only and correct rates will be confirmed at the time of booking. Please note that your booking will only be confirmed once we have checked availability with the owner or their property manager. Due to the seven levels of terraced garden, this villa is not suitable for those with mobility issues. The villa's private swimming pool isn't fenced, so children should always be supervised when outdoors.
- **Changeover day:** Flexible.
- **End of stay cleaning available?:** Yes. 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.
- **Smoking Allowed?:** No.
- **Minimum stay:** 7 nights. All other durations on request.
- **Heating costs included?:** Yes.
- **Tax:** Italian Visitors Tax payable locally in cash (typically costs €1-€10 per person per night - please enquire if exact amount is required).
- **Internet access?:** Wi-Fi internet access included.
- **Pool towels included?:** Yes.
- **Pool opening dates?:** 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.
- **Stag & Hen Do Allowed? :** Weddings, stag/hen parties and any special events are on request only and subject to prior arrangement with the owner and additional charges.
- **Property Licence Number:** Pending