



Malvarrosa Beach Villa, Valencia

Airy, spacious and kitted out with cutting-edge design, the Malvarrosa Beach Villa is a refreshing break from 'the norm' of traditional Spanish holiday villas.

Cool, funky interiors and fresh white features create a restful, modern feel in a beach-side location overlooking Valencia's most

beautiful stretch of sand.

There are four spacious double bedrooms (three of them en suite), with large, comfortable beds and unfussy décor.

Traditional Valencia breakfasts and afternoon tea are served on request.

Sleeps: Eight.

Cost: From €390 per night or €48.75 per person per night.

Island Sight, Crete

The views from this modern Cretan villa are sublime, stretching over the Aegean Sea towards the mountains. There are three en suite double rooms, a twin bedroom and a sofa bed.

Take a dip in the outdoor pool, and, as the sun sets, fire up the barbecue and enjoy a glass of something chilled while the freshest of local seafood sizzles to perfection.

The house also comes with fitness and games room as well as a laundry. You can borrow the owner's 45ft private yacht, but you'll have to pay for this perk.

Sleeps: Up to 10 people.

Price: €500 per night or €50 per person per night.



The Olive Grove, Andalucía

Perched over the azure waters of the Med, this rustic Andalusian farmhouse near Malaga is a restful secluded retreat.

Think exquisite antiques, hand-

stitched tapestries, sun-bleached walls and warm, earthy hues.

Take your pick from the many terraces and verandas that surround the cortijo and modest pool. Chunky wooden benches are well placed to soak up the shade,

terracotta urns rest by the pool and shocking pink bougainvillea creeps over the brilliant white walls.

Sleeps: Eight.

Cost: From €5,000 for a week's stay (or €89 per person per night).



Sea View Villa, Deia, Mallorca

Tucked away in the rustic Bens D'Avall nature reserve, this smart villa has postcard views over the mountains and the sea.

A 30-minute drive from Palma airport, it's tastefully furnished with modern art, marble walls and sliding double doors that lead to cool terraces. Gardens burst with olive and orange trees, and the scent of citrus, lavender and bougainvillea fills the air.

Walkers will love the nearby coastal paths, and taking the tram to the bustling cove of Port de Soller makes for a perfect day out.

Dario is your host, conjuring up tasty breakfasts of fresh fruit and juices and the finest local pastries.

Sleeps: Eight (on a B&B basis; extra meals can be arranged on request).

Cost: From €119 per person per night.



River House, Devon

This 20-year-old solid oak-frame house set on five green acres is an architect's dream.

Soaring beams, glass walls and slick Italian furniture create a mood of space and calm.

There are six bedrooms, a heated indoor pool, a library and a Mediterranean-style courtyard with views of the River Dart below.

Lovely coastal walks can be taken from the house, or head off on a day trip to Berry Head or Salcombe.

Rental includes a welcome hamper, bed linen and towels.

Sleeps: Eight adults and three children.
Price: From £4,750 (€5,367) for a week.