

THE BEST CURIOUS VILLAS

VILLA DRAKOTHEA MYKONOS Sleeps nine, four rooms From £540 per night

High in the hills overlooking Lia Bay, the haphazard layout of Drakothea somehow manages to stay on the right side of bizarre. From the interior that is filled with curios and unusual furniture. to the daring addition of a man-made beach to one end of the infinity pool, there is plenty here that you won't find anywhere else. coolstays.com British Airways flies to Mykonos from London Heathrow.

MOULIN DU IARDINIER

MOUANS-SARTOUX

Sleeps nine, four rooms From £9,110 per week As director Sir David Lean's former holiday home, Moulin du Jardinier could well have been instrumental in inspiring greats like Doctor Zhivago or Lawrence of Arabia. It's not difficult to imagine - heavy canopies of flowers hang over the pool, and the vaulted ceilings of the 15th-century former mill house have been preserved indoors. Every corner of this Provencal palace is truly a treat. sjvillas.co.uk British Airways flies to Nice from London Gatwick and London Heathrow.

KAMINI VILLA **SANTORINI**

Sleeps four, two rooms From £580 per night Of all the curious conversions in this list, this is the most unexpected. It was once two vast kilns, the larger of which is now the kitchen and living room, while the smaller is a bedroom and bathroom. The rooms are light and airy, their white curved edges complementing the shape of the kiln. bluevillascollection.com

British Airways flies to Santorini from London Heathrow.

DEATH VALLEY **HOUSE NEVADA**

Sleeps six, three rooms From £1,890 per week Sitting in 80 acres of clear views of the Nevada High Desert, this curious Modernist abode looks like it's part of an elaborate film set that has somehow been forgotten. A great retreat for solitude seekers. homeaway.co.uk British Airways flies to Las Vegas from London Gatwick and London Heathrow.

kitchen at Santorini's

luxurious converted





AMANYARA TURKS & CAICOS

Sleeps 12, six rooms From £91,210 per week Amanyara Villa is the latest and most striking addition to the Aman Resort. Its series of elegant pavilions surround a black volcanic rock pool, that leads out onto the waters of the marine reserve beyond. amanresorts.com British Airways flies to Turks & Caicos from London Heathrow.

CASA LAGUNA MEXICO

Sleeps six, three rooms From £54,635 per week Tucked away amidst verdant scenery by a huge clear lagoon, Casa Laguna barely needs its rooftop pool and Jacuzzi. The interior's gaucho colours and textures have a modern twist. A private boat will help you to get to know your surroundings better. rosewoodhotels.com British Airways flies to Cancun from London Gatwick.

VILLA OPULENCE MYKONOS

Sleeps 25, 12 rooms From £127,345 per week One of the most exclusive villas in the world, this is a private paradise. Overlooking the Aegean, it mixes classic Greek architecture with cool features, such as the swings and hammocks by the infinity pool. It even has its own private nightclub. Part of Blue Villas private collection British Airways flies to Mykonos from London Heathrow.



vada's Death Valley House looks like it is set on the moon: lounge by the pool at Amanyara Villa; a



THE BIGGEST VĪLLĀS

VILLA DEGLI AGRUMI SICILY

Sleeps 20, ten rooms From £7,500 per week Fusing history and modernity, the faded red façade of this classic Sicilian house has been nudged into the 21st century with the addition of chic glass balconies. Inside, the exposed old stone brickwork contrasts with - while also complementing - the contemporary furnishings. massimovillas.com British Airways flies to Catania from London Gatwick.

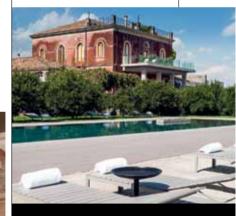
EL BOURA MOROCCO

Sleeps 16, seven rooms From £6,295 per week Floor-to-ceiling windows, flowing drapes and arched doorways - El Boura combines Eastern design with Western luxury, while its extensive gardens and outhouses make it practically a kingdom for hire. The huge pool, neighbouring olive groves and souk means

there is also plenty to do and dining alfresco, with soaring views of the Atlas Mountains in the distance, will round off each day perfectly. rocksure.com British Airways flies to Marrakech from London Gatwick

THE TIDE HOUSE CORNWALL

Sleeps 18, seven rooms From £2,350 per week This house in St Ives has been designed with families in mind so there are sleeping arrangements to suit all ages. Kids will love the children's den and for outdoors activities, there are the beaches and rock pools. For evenings, the little pebbled courtyard at the back



of the house is great for cooking barbeques. perfectstavs.co.uk British Airways flies to Newquay on a codeshare from London Gatwick.

VILLA CETINALE **TUSCANY**

Sleeps 27, 13 rooms From £21,245 per week Every inch of this Roman Baroque villa has been carefully curated and styled. It feels like being in a Zeffirelli film, with muralled ceilings. four-poster beds and gardens filled with lemon trees. cvvillas.com British Airways flies to Pisa from London Gatwick.

VILLA VIDRO **PORTUGAL**

Sleeps Ten, nine rooms From £9,250 per week

Nowhere will you feel more like Batman and Bond combined than at Villa Vidro. If the white cubed rooms and glass walls weren't enough, then perhaps the giant pool that glides through the centre of the house might just do it for you. What's more, with some clever trickery and glasswork, the villa appears to be floating away from the side of the hill for some extra design kudos. thewowhousecompany.co.uk

British Airways flies to Faro from

London Gatwick.

BOSCO DEGLI ULIVI **PUGLIA**

Sleeps six, three rooms

From £2,179 per week This stylishly designed villa, with its polished cement floors and glass sliding doors, is made all the more desirable as it doesn't have the heavyweight price tag that usually accompanies smarter escapes. Hidden away in an olive grove and with a huge outdoor deck around the pool, there is also ample privacy and space for relaxing and entertaining. thethinkingtraveller.com British Airways flies to Bari from London Gatwick.

VILLA MOONSHADOW

KOH SAMUI

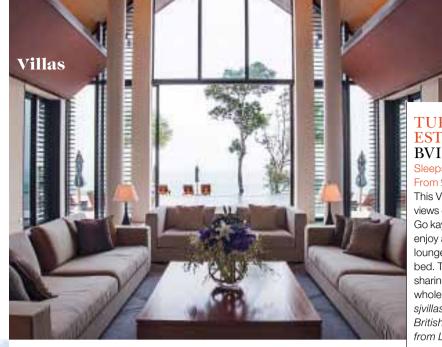
Sleeps Eight, four rooms From £5,080 per week The three connecting pavilions make the sumptuous Villa Moonshadow completely unique. Sitting high on Chaweng Noi Hill, it offers a 180° view of Coral Cove below. Inside it is kitted out with all the latest gadgets, while the furnishings work Thai motifs into contemporary design. The quest manager is also on hand to organise boat trips or a Thai massage at any hour of the day. holidaylettings.co.uk British Airways flies to Koh Samui

from London Gatwick.



Explorations

Lounge in the sun Phuket's Villa Sawarin is flooded with natural light and offers a wonderful view; Torre Sponda's pool (below) looks out on to the scenic Amalfi coast



BEACHSIDE VILLAS

THE SMALLEST VILLAS

DAMIA WINDMILL SANTORINI

Sleeps two, one room From £430 per night
For a quirky getaway by the sea, Damia was once a windmill so the quarters are all close and curved. As it's perched on a cliff top, the private balcony gives panoramic views of the whole island and boat-filled bay below. bluevillascollection.com
British Airways flies to Santorini

from London Heathrow.

ARTISTS STUDIO SPAIN

Sleeps two, one room

From £595 per week
This little villa has a big past; it
was built in the 16th century as
a farmhouse and then left to
ruin until recently, when it was
converted into a large, open-pla

ruin until recently, when it was converted into a large, open-plan studio for two (although up to four can stay as there's a sofabed). Outside is a garden and terrace. trujillovillasespana.com
British Airways flies to Madrid from London Heathrow and London City.

TORRE SPONDA POSITANO

Sleeps two, one room From £2,045 per week
As you might expect from a former watchtower, the views of the Amalfi coast from Torre Sponda are spectacular.
A miniature pool on the terrace overlooking the bay is shared with two other apartments. cvillas.com

British Airways flies to Naples from London Gatwick.

TURQUOISE ESTATE VILLA

Sleeps Ten, five rooms
From £11,160 per week
This Virgin Gorda villa has great
views over the Caribbean Sea.
Go kayaking and snorkelling,
enjoy an in-house massage or
lounge on the beachside swing
bed. Two neighbouring villas
sharing a beach make up the
whole of The Turquoise Estate.
sjvillas.co.uk
British Airways flies to Antiqua

from London Gatwick.

VILLA SAWARIN PHUKET

Sleeps 16, eight rooms
From £1,485 per night
For something super-smart with a
sea view, try Villa Sawarin. On Cape
Yamu, it combines traditional Thai
architecture with modern decor,
cleverly fused by architects JeanMichel Gathy and Phillipe Starck.
Its 24-metre infinity pool overlooks
the Andaman, and there's a private
practice green for golfers.
homeaway.co.uk
British Airways flies to Phuket
on a codeshare with Bangkok
Airways via Bangkok.

CASA MARJANI MOZAMBIOUE

Sleeps 12, five rooms
From £28,860 per week
Casa Marjani utilises the
anonymity of the Quirimbas
Archipelago to the max. The
master bedroom leads on
to a private beach, while a
viewing tower makes for perfect
stargazing. Plus the staff can
arrange castaway picnics.

vamizi.com

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