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WEEKLY BUZZ

What's trending this week: Sicilian getaways... exclusive wildlife cruises... spring spa breaks

By [Mike Cowton](#) - Apr 17, 2015

HALF-TERM LUXURY SICILIAN GETAWAYS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

WITH MAY half-term fast approaching, it is not too late to treat the family to a Sicilian break where the mercury hits a balmy 22 degrees, with luxury villa rental company Scent of Sicily



For those wanting to completely escape, [Villa Olympo](#) is set within 12 hectares of land mostly used for wine grape cultivation, and features a small lake. A private swimming pool and fenced garden surround the villa. Sleeping six within the main house and a separate apartment at the side sleeping two, the luxury villa has retained its rustic feel, whilst providing all the comforts of a modern holiday home.



The ground floor is framed by two patios, while inside you will find a large living area and kitchen fully equipped, with both a gas and an old wood stove. On the first floor there is another large living room, the second kitchen of the villa and also access to the wide first-floor terrace, which overlooks the estate and features a barbecue area. A seven-night stay from 25 May costs from £1,225.50 based on eight people sharing Villa Olympo.



Stop dreaming, start travelling

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Beach bums will enjoy a stay at [Villa Lilybeum](#). Set in a 9,000sq.m private garden, the traditional Sicilian villa has been renovated with the latest mod cons and is perfect for a large family. Sleeping eight, the villa features a private swimming pool, vine-covered porches to escape the midday heat, and a BBQ.

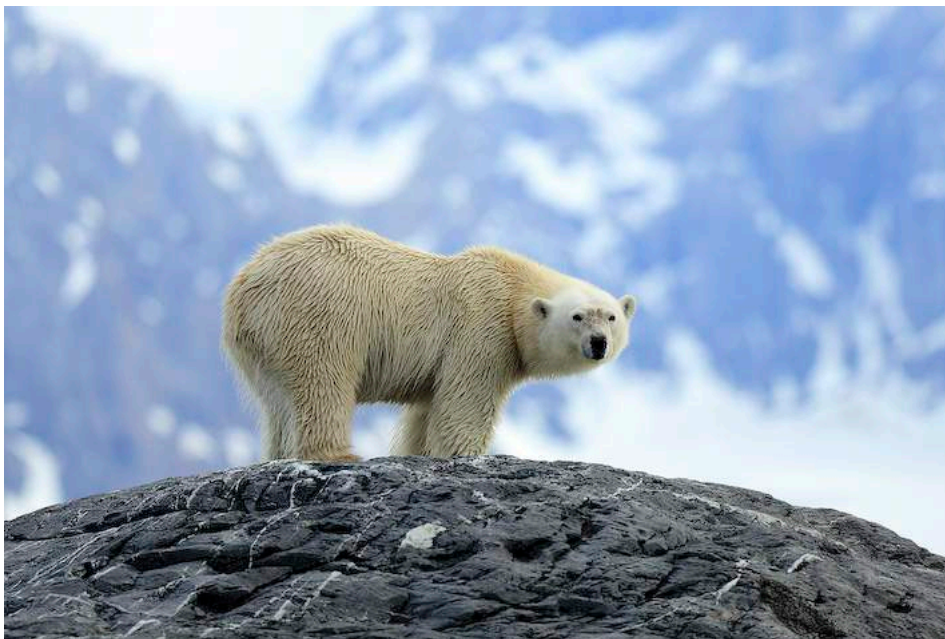


The villa is less than fifteen minutes to the white sandy beaches of Marsala and the Stagnone Nature Reserve, one of the most charming spots on the island. The 'Stagnone' is a lagoon which includes four islands, the most famous being Mozia with its ancient Phoenician fortress. A seven-night stay from 25 May costs from £1,478 based on a group of eight sharing Villa Lilybeum.

- For more information, to book and for details of further properties with availability during May half-term, visit www.scent-of-sicily.com

EMBARK ON AN EXCLUSIVE WILDLIFE CRUISE WITH NATURETREK

TRAVELLING BY boat on an expedition voyage, away from people, roads and cities, allows privileged access to some of the world's best wildlife spectacles. UK wildlife operator, [Naturetrek](http://www.naturetrek.com) is still showing availability on some of its 2015 cruises, including:



[Spitsbergen – Realm of the Polar Bear](#), 11 days – For icebergs and glaciers, vast seabird colonies, walrus and polar bears, this wildlife expedition to the high Arctic is hard to beat. Departs 25 June and costs from £4,995 pp*

[An Alaskan Voyage – Whales, Bears & Glaciers](#), 14 days – The chance to observe grizzlies and black bears fishing for salmon plus pods of orca and humpbacks engaged in their dramatic bubble-net feeding technique are just some of the likely highlights on this epic voyage in one of the world's last wildernesses. Departs 5 July and costs from £6,395 pp*

[Amazon Wildlife Cruise](#), 10 days – A staggering ten per cent of all species known to science occur in the Amazon, and this new cruise is designed to maximise the chances of encountering some of this tropical wilderness's most prized fauna. Departs 19 June and 31 July, and costs from £3,495 pp*

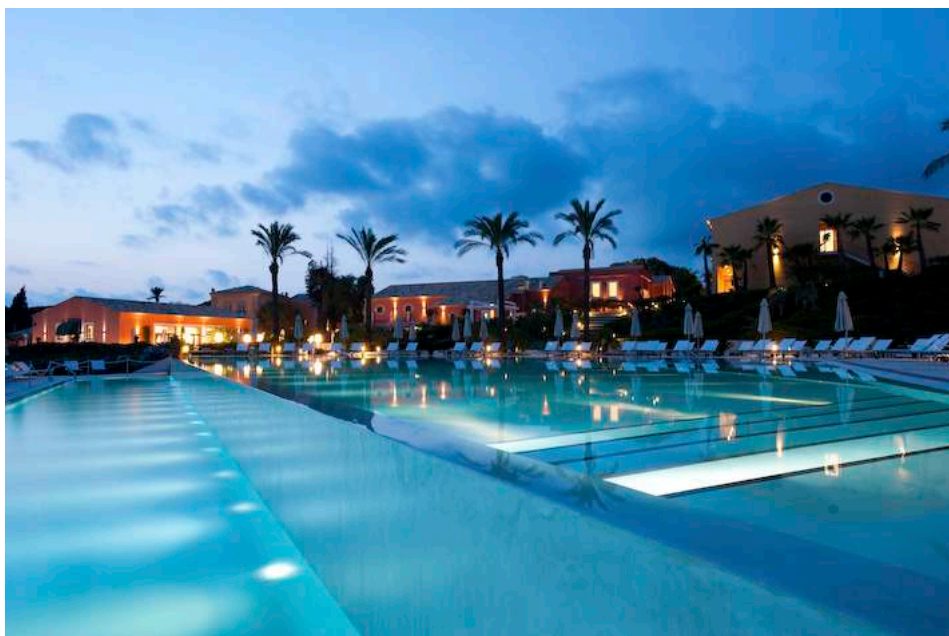
[Brahmaputra Cruise](#), 14 days – In the heart of rural Assam, experience a luxury voyage down the mighty Brahmaputra River. Departs 10 December and costs from £3,595 pp*

*All prices are based on two sharing a twin cabin and include flights (London), transfers, full-board cruise accommodation and expert guiding.

- For more information, please call Naturetrek on 01962 733051 or visit www.naturetrek.co.uk

RECHARGE THE BATTERIES WITH SICILY SPRING SPA BREAKS AT DONNAFUGATA

COUPLES SEEKING to get away from it all and pamper themselves in five-star luxury can do so at Sicily's Donnafugata Golf Resort & SPA this spring – with a four-night stay for two people available from only €1,250 (approx £895).



Situated in the heart of the province of Ragusa, the deluxe resort provides the perfect retreat for guests in idyllic surroundings, and enjoy some of its many spa and gastronomic delights.



Donnafugata Resort is home to an award-winning luxury 900sq.m spa and health club, with a wide range of reinvigorating personalised treatments available. The venue's comfortable treatment cabins overlook its two picturesque golf courses. Using only natural products, local minerals and essential oils scents, Donnafugata Resort's menu of treatments offers a choice between revitalising rituals, holistic therapies, scrubs, steam baths, specific programmes for toning and slimming, and special couple massages.



Expert advice and personal training sessions are also available at the spa, which also features an indoor pool, hydro-massage, sauna, steam bath and gym areas, and there is even a massage specifically designed for golfers to ease any aches and pains after a hard day on the fairways.



Guests can enjoy a selection of the relaxing spa treatments and various local culinary delights with the new luxury breaks, with a four-night stay available from just €625 (approx. £445) per person. Prices are based on two people sharing a room and Donnafugata's 'Gold' package includes five-star bed and breakfast accommodation with a free Sicilian gift, four massage treatments and four free two-hour sessions in the spa. In addition to enjoying one full body massage and a seasonal treatment, guests can also sample traditional local cuisine with two three-course dinners (excluding drinks) per person included.



People looking for a longer stay can take advantage of Donnafugata's 'Diamond' package and enjoy seven nights' bed and breakfast accommodation from only €920 (approx. £657) per person for two people sharing a Classic Room.

- For more information on Donnafugata Golf Resort & SPA or to book a stay, call 00 39 0932 914 200 or visit www.donnafugatagolfresort.com

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