



SAMPLE

From left: Kreiss Estate, Palm Springs; Pilaa Beach House, on the island of Kauai.

LISTING DECODER

Before you put down a deposit, it's critical to know how to read between the lines in a villa-rental listing. Here are some words to watch for:

"KITCHENETTE"

The emphasis is on the "-ette." Expect something like a single burner and bar fridge, rather than the fully stocked, eat-in variety.

"JUNIOR SUITE"

Unlike a true suite—which has a separate sitting room—a junior suite incorporates the sitting room into the bedroom.

"SLEEPS 8"

Ask for the total number of bedrooms—couches don't count!

"STEPS FROM THE BEACH"

Confirm that it's not a thousand steps.

"POOL ACCESS"

A private pool is what you want. "Access" usually means you'll be sharing it—and it may even be at another location.

United States and Canada

AGENCY Beau Monde

Villas (*beaumontdevillas.com*) Beau Monde has 25 architecturally noteworthy Palm Springs pads, including one previously owned by Warner Brothers cofounder Jack Warner. Staff can arrange mountain biking tours, art classes, tennis lessons, and private treatments at your villa.

TOP PROPERTY

Kreiss Estate A Michael Kreiss-designed three-bedroom estate with 18-foot ceilings, many glass walls, and views of the San Jacinto Mountains. *From \$1,100/night.*

AGENCY Beautiful

Places (*beautiful-places.com*) Co-owner Liza Graves works with 30 estates in Sonoma and Napa valleys, from historic farmhouses and vineyard cottages to mountainside manors, and caters to wine lovers by arranging vineyard tours, private tastings, and picnics with winemakers.

TOP PROPERTY Terra

del Cuore A Tuscan-style villa in Napa with two guest cottages, a bocce court, indoor and outdoor pizza ovens, walking trails, a small chapel, and a sweeping view of southern Napa Valley, including San Pablo Bay and Mount Diablo. *From \$4,500/night.*

AGENCY Entrée Canada

(*entreecanada.com*) Among owner Marc Têlio's 20 properties in Whistler and Mount Tremblant is everything from authentic log cabins to palatial estates with infinity pools. Têlio creates trips around golf, skiing, or culture, and he also regularly satisfies one-off requests, such as in-villa yoga instruction or private cooking classes.

TOP PROPERTY

Whistler Estate A six-bedroom, 6,500-square-foot villa in British Columbia, complete with outdoor infinity pool, rock hot tub, and adjoining backyard spa that includes a sauna and gym equipment. *From \$12,000/night.*

AGENCY Time and

Place Villas (*timeandplace.com*) The agency has villas in Nantucket, Beaver Creek, Los Angeles, and Palm Springs, but its Kauai and Maui properties are some of the most spectacular. All clients are contacted immediately after booking to discuss special requests, and round-the-clock concierges can arrange anything from car service to a chef.

TOP PROPERTY Pilaa

Beach House The fully outfitted, modern three-bedroom villa in Kauai has a granite soaking tub, chef's kitchen, central gas tiki torches, and a football field-size secluded beach. *From \$1,700/night.*

Villa Values Where to Find Great Deals

OKANAGAN VALLEY The Napa of the Northwest, south central British Columbia claims more than 70 wineries in a 155-mile-long basin between mountains. **Vacation Rentals by Owner** (*vrbo.com*) provides comprehensive coverage, with dozens of rentals in the region.

TOP PROPERTY Number 119997 Just 50 feet from Woods Lake in Kelowna, this four-bedroom villa has Italian stonework, a Jacuzzi, and an antique stone fireplace. *From \$6,500/week.*



MORE RECOMMENDED AGENCIES

* Villas of Distinction (*villasofdistinction.com*)

Personalized Hawaii trips can include a private tour guide, nanny service, and the opportunity to participate in local festivals.

* One Key World (*onekeyworld.com*)

Unlike a rental agency, One Key offers a travel card that allows users up to 45 nights at villas around the world.

* Five Star Destinations

(*5stardestinations.com*) Offering 150 properties in Aspen, its agents will also make hard-to-get dinner reservations.