CASTELLO DI CASOLE A BELMOND HOTEL

TUSCAN EXPERIENCES

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We are thrilled to welcome you to Castello di Casole.

Make the most of your time here with our bespoke experiences that with our bespoke experiences that bring Tuscany alive. Whatever you choose, we'll take care of everything.

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### Curated Experiences



ur property has been awarded the "I Cieli più belli d'Italia" quality astrotourism certification, which identifies the very best locations for observing Italy's beautiful night sky. Choose from:

### Astrotour with telescope

Sip a refreshing aperitif before joining an English-speaking astronomer for a lesson in nocturnal orienteering. Discern the stars, galaxies, planets and nebulae through a powerful telescope and discover how to navigate your way in the dark using the constellations.

### Virtual astro tour

Explore the mysteries of space in high-tech, 360-degree detail from the comfort of our library. Guided by an astronomer, using a virtual reality device, experience what it's like to walk in space, visit the Space Station, travel on interstellar ships and much more. Educational, entertaining and fabulous fun for children, teens and all ages above. Simply select your preferred experiences.

Please book in advance.

### LIVE LIKE ANETRUSCAN

iscover the fascinating history of the Etruscan civilisation. Choose from:

### Archaeology tour

Unearth the world of the Etruscans on a half-day excursion. Begin by meeting a local specialist at Casole's Etruscan Museum and be guided through the intriguing collection of artefacts discovered under Castello di Casole. Or journey to a secluded tomb site to learn about the ancient civilisation's life and death customs. A gentle downhill cycle ride among rolling hills leads you back to Castello di Casole. As a reward for your active exploits, visit our Essere Spa for therapeutic treatments inspired by Etruscan traditions.

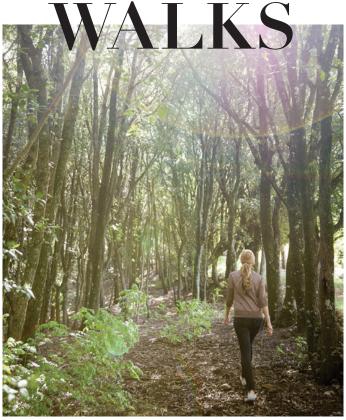
### Etruscan workshop at Castello di Casole

Travel back in time with the help of a herbalist. Learn about ancient Etruscan cosmetology, scents and body care and create your own botanical preparations. You'll take away new ideas to prepare at home whenever the mood takes you. Please note, children must be accompanied by an adult.

The experience must be booked in advance. Please notify the concierge of any allergies at the time of booking.



### FIRST LIGHT



iscover our leafy grounds in vivid detail, aided by high-performance Leica Trinovid 8x42 HD binoculars. Set off at daybreak and listen to the early-morning breeze rustle through our vineyards and olive groves. Enjoy exceptionally high-contrast images of the wildlife waking up in the oak forests and rapeseed fields.

Choose from a guided tour with an expert nature guide or step out on a self-guided walk with the aid of our First Light map.

# WHERE WINE MEETS ART

assionate about Tuscan wines? Visit an acclaimed local winery in the heart of Chianti Classico to learn more. In the charming hamlet of Castello di Ama, stroll through the vineyard and visit the cellars where fermentation and ageing occur. Admire the incredible collection of site-specific artworks, commissioned by vineyard owner Lorenza Sebasti to capture the spirit of the locale.

Anticipate neon lettering, mirrored walls and thought-provoking sculptures.

Continue with a private tasting of four superb wines in the 18th-century Villa Pianigiani, before sitting down to lunch at Il Ristoro di Villa Pianigiani, the estate's restaurant. During lunch, the vinous experience continues with a selection of sublime Castello di Ama wines paired with a four-course tasting menu.

Treasures of the Land

### TUSCAN WONDERLAND



t over 4,200 acres, our private estate takes some exploring! An enchanting way to discover its untamed beauty and hidden wildlife is on a sunrise or sunset safari tour. Guided by our nature expert, you'll get up close to the deer, wild boar, pheasant and hares that inhabit the land while discovering fascinating

facts about their habits and behaviours. The tour lasts around an hour, taking you down unknown paths to pause at the animals' favourite haunts.

Please speak quietly and avoid wearing strong fragrance.

# TRUFFLE

ur vast estate is a treasure trove of truffles. Join a professional truffle hunter to seek out the precious tubers, which are particularly abundant in September and October but available all year round. You'll be met at the hotel and escorted through the countryside to hunt for the delicacies, aided by a highly trained Lagotto Romagnolo dog. Afterwards you can feast on a delicious fixed menu based on your

finds with the option of pairing the dish with a great wine (for an extra charge).

Reservations essential. Please book as early as possible, particularly for October activities. Inform the concierge of any allergies or dietary restrictions in advance. Dress code: comfortable clothes, long trousers, trainers or hiking shoes. Please note that the hunters speak just a little English.



### TUSCAN TOURS

ncover the most compelling treasures of Tuscany from our idyllic retreat. Siena is just 30 minutes east and Florence 60 minutes north. It's a scenic hour's drive to the coast. Popular Volterra and Montalcino are also within driving distance. You can cycle comfortably to the walled fortress of Monteriggioni. Or visit our nearby neighbours, the enchanting hilltop villages of Mensano, Radicondoli and our namesake, Casole d'Elsa. In the distance, the 14 legendary towers of San Gimignano rise on the horizon.

Our guided tours generally last 3 hours, but if you'd like a more in-depth exploration you can book a 6-hour tour. The guides are experts in an array of local interests. Should you and your family prefer a tour tailored to a theme, such as biodynamic farms, organic vegetable gardens, sustainability, nature or food, simply ask and we will arrange your full-day personalised experience.

Speak to our concierge for expert recommendations on where to wisit.

### FORAGING AND AFTERNOON HERBALTEA



ccompanied by our guide, seek out wild foods and herbs that help your body connect with nature. Savour them in a cosy corner of the hotel, drinking a relaxing herbal tea and sampling Chef Daniele Sera's

exquisite treats, such as mini sandwiches and homemade jams.

Also available with a selection of tisanes inspired by our new rose garden.

Ulining and Dining



### ENCHANTED



Injoy a magical standing aperitivo in a totally unique setting: a secluded glade, where a beautifully decorated table floats beneath our ancient trees. Discover true enchantment under a splendid candelabra surrounded by myriad twinkling lights.

Prefer a grander feast? Complement your aperitivo with a sumptuous dinner on the Visconti terrace as the sun sets behind the rolling hills. Executive Chef Daniele Sera has designed a dazzling menu for the occasion.

Available daily. Please book 48 hours in advance. The aperitivo and dinner can host up to 20 guests.



M aster the art of Tuscan cooking by choosing one of our engaging classes.

### Morning with our chefs

Join our Executive Chef's team for a lesson in typical Tuscan cuisine. Learn how to prepare authentic dishes and create a full spread, from appetiser to dessert, in true "Made in Tuscany" style. The menu will be based on pasta (ravioli, tagliatelle and gnocchi), but can be tailored to your requests.

### Pizza making

Enjoy a slice of our pizzaiolo's expertise. Discover how to prepare a true Italian pizza and bake it in a traditional woodfired oven dating from the 16th century. Choose your preferred sauce and toppings and look forward to sampling the delicious creation at the end.

The one-hour class takes place at Emporio del Castello.

### GIN DISTILLERY TOUR IN CHIANTI



hianti is famously known for its wine, but this aromatic excursion will introduce you to Italy's first gin distillery. Set near Vallombrosa Abbey in Reggello, it produces a London Dry Gin crafted almost exclusively from Tuscan ingredients. Fourteen botanicals, including Florentine iris, Tuscan juniper, lavender, rosehip and lemon zest are cultivated within the estate's 94 organic acres.

The brainchild of British businessman and Tuscan resident Patrick Hoffer, the acclaimed tipple is named 'Peter in Florence' in tribute to his gin-loving father.

Ask the concierge to arrange your excursion and transfers.

### TRADITIONAL TUSCANY: PAUGNANO FARM

ample typical Tuscan produce at this authentic sheep farm, which not only produces Pecorino cheese, but olive oil and vegetables that can all be tasted on site. The owners of the farm, which is located near Radicondoli, just 20 minutes from our hotel, will welcome you into their home, show you around the estate and provide an enticing array of cheeses and olive oils for tasting.

On request, they can serve a light lunch in their kitchen or on their terrace using fresh farm ingredients.

If you stay until 17:00, you'll see them milk the sheep. They will also demonstrate how the milk curdles before it's transformed into cheese. Please note, the owners don't speak English, but if you'd like to witness the running of a true Tuscan farm, this is the perfect place to do it.

Advance booking required.

Diversions in Juscarry



### HIKING AND BIKING



### Bike tour

Pedal off with an English-speaking guide to discover our beautiful surroundings. A wide range of itineraries offer varying distances, durations and locations. As Tuscany is extremely hilly, we recommend discussing your preferences in detail so that we can plan the perfect excursion.

### Bike rental

Prefer to ride independently? We can rent bicycles on your behalf and have them delivered to the hotel. Choose between road bikes, hybrid and mountain bikes. You just need to provide precise details of each rider, including gender and height. One ANGi helmet (with a safety sensor) will be given to each group, which may require some basic instruction.

### Hiking

Stride out through our leafy grounds and explore the largest private estate in Tuscany. Follow our eco guide along different paths that reveal our extraordinary biodiversity. Should you prefer to enjoy the beauty of our estate independently, we can provide you with a map of our hiking trails. Or venture further afield. Join a professional English-speaking guide on a trek to discover new perspectives and panoramas. Hike through vineyards and olive groves, visit old abbey ruins and hamlets, relish the peace and harmony of the landscape. Tours accommodate walkers of various abilities and pace, appealing to both the casual, enthusiastic walker and the experienced hiker.

Diversions in Tuscany

### ALABASTER WORKSHOP IN WOLTERA



iscover the incredible world of alabaster with two masters: sculptor Omero and artist Gloria. This spectacular experience gives you an insight into time-honoured carving techniques and hidden alabaster treasures.

Alabaster art is still going strong thanks to the devotion of artisans who have made the noble stone their lives. Meet two such artisans in the centre of Volterra, renowned for its rich Etruscan origins. Visit Omero Cerone in his workshop

and witness how a block of alabaster is cut and shaped. It's then ready for the artistic prowess of Gloria Giannelli, who became the first woman to work in alabaster in 1980. Watch her creating decorative pieces in her timeless workshop next to the Etruscan Museum.

Duration 3 hours. A guided tour of Volterra can be added upon request for a separate charge.

### ART OF **PHOTOGRAPHY**

apture the inimitable essence of Tuscany under the guidance of professional photographer Duccio Nacci. Head out to charming towns and landscapes where you'll learn how to snap dusty lanes, country churches and medieval hamlets.

Capture the wonders of nature, architecture or humankind at daybreak or sunset, in ethereal light or intriguing shadow. The Tuscan landscape offers infinite variety and changes with each season. Bring a reflex camera, comfortable shoes, and let Duccio do the rest.

Cost of driver to be added. Duccio can also create a photographic book of you and your loved ones, set against the perfect backdrop of our estate – a memento to treasure forever.





ap into your creative side in the inspiring setting of our grounds. Depict the verdant scenery during an alfresco art class, or let the muse inspire you in San Tommaso Church or our courtyard, depending on the weather.

We provide art supplies and basic tuition, suitable for all ages.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

### FLOWER WORKSHOP

Table, learn how to transform flowers into masterpieces from an expert floral designer. Master simple techniques to create beautiful arrangements blending seasonal, local flowers, aromatic herbs and natural materials. Create wreaths, posies and fresh and dried floral compositions that you can take away with you.

Materials will be plastic-free with a focus on sustainability.

Classes can be tailored to adults or families. The workshop lasts about 2 hours, 30 minutes. Why not combine it with a sunset aperitivo at the Enchanted Table? (For an additional charge.)

### ECO-PRINTING AND BOTANICAL



iscover nature's gifts in an inspiring eco-printing workshop in Casole, a few minutes from the hotel. You'll begin by collecting interesting botanicals from the verdant surroundings, before returning to the workshop to decorate a silk or wool foulard or pocket square with your findings. Your creation is steamed to imprint the natural pigments onto the fabric. The next day, return

to see it unrolled, revealing the glorious pattern emblazoned upon it.

The workshop lasts around 90 minutes, not including the steaming process. The next day's reveal takes around 30 minutes. The workshop can be held at Castello di Casole upon advance request. Children aged 13 and up are welcome.

# WELLBEING SESSIONS

### Yoga

Start your day with a one-hour yoga class. All levels are welcome. Workouts will be adapted to suit individual needs.

### Yogalates

Unwind and embrace the morning with a series of relaxing, stretching moves that harmoniously blend yoga and pilates. All levels are welcome. Workouts will be adapted to suit individual needs.

### Soul-walking

Join a leisurely, 90-minute guided stroll into the woods surrounding our hotel to nurture your wellbeing. Foster a beautiful balance between mind, breath and soul.

### Fitness walk

Stride out on a two-hour workout in nature. Begin with a short warm-up before pacing after your trainer through the lush landscapes of Castello di Casole. You will stop along the way for specific aerobic activities, yoga exercises and, at the end of the class, a blissful stretching session.

Available on request. Please reserve at least 24 hours in advance. Questions about the level of fitness required? Simply ask the concierge.

