

## CONTENTS

We are thrilled to welcome you to Castello di Casole

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

Curated Experiences Uncover secret gems

Wining and Dining Savour authentic Tuscan gastronomy

> Diversions In Tuscany Explore, relax and learn

Unated monience

Uncover secret gems



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 tuscan tisana with local herbs 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.



## Cosmetology workshop on the footsteps of the Etruscans

A creative workshop where, together with essential aromatherapy notions, an expert teaches how to use ingredients easily accessible in nature and in one's own garden to create home-made face and body products, following the footsteps of the Etruscans, who took great care of their wellbeing. *A minimum of 2 guests is required.* 

## Workshop on medicinal herbs and natural remedies

A captivating course focused on the beneficial properties of local herbs and medical plants, to create customised natural remedies such as herbal teas and healing oils combined with medicinal and aromatic herbs. This course is created by taking the ancient knowledge of how to use the medicinal herbs found in Tuscany and used by the Etruscans to create natural remedies. *A minimum of 2 guests is required.* 



Discover our leafy grounds in vivid detail. 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 guided options with an acclaimed photographer or an expert nature guide. Or step out on a self-guided walk with the aid of our First Light map.

## TUSCAN WONDERLAND



t over 4,200 acres, our private estate The tou takes some exploring! An enchanting you dow way to discover its untamed beauty an 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 tou* you dow the anima *Please sp* 

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 HUNTING



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. Meet the hunter at the hotel lobby to explore the woods of Castello, 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. 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.

## FORAGING AND AFTERNOON HERBALTEA



A 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's exquisite treats, such

as mini sandwiches and homemade jams.

Also available with a selection of tisanes inspired by our aromatic herb garden.



apintoyourcreativeside 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, our courtyard or our vegetable garden, depending on the weather. We provide art supplies and basic tuition, suitable for all ages.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## FLOWER VORKSHOP

earn 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. Classes can be tailored to adults or families. 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.

The workshop lasts about 2 hours.

## **ECO-PRINTING AND BOTANICAL VORKSHOP**

Discover nature's gifts in an inspiring ecoprinting workshop in our leafy grounds with a local artist. 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, you will see it unrolled, revealing the glorious pattern emblazoned upon it.

To be noted, it is required two days to complete the experience. 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.



The most famous Japanese practice, known as Shinrin Yoku, is a process of relaxation, a simple method of being calm and quiet amongst the trees. Castello di Casole is also known as Querceto, an oak tree forest: here a local guide will help you awaken your five senses by walking barefoot into our forest, observing the beautiful surroundings, listening to the sounds of silence, breathing deeply and feeling the scent of nature. This sensorial experience can help adults and children de-stress and boost health and wellbeing in a natural way.

Cancellation policy: 3 days prior to the activity, otherwise all the charges will occur additionally on the final bill.



Savour authentic Tuscan gastronomy

## 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 sitespecific artworks, commissioned by vineyard owner Lorenza Sebasti to capture the spirit of the locale. Anticipate neon lettering, mirrored walls thought-provoking and 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. During lunch, the vinous experience continues with a selection of sublime Castello di Ama wines paired with a four-course tasting menu.

The experience must be booked in advance

# ENCHANTED

Display 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 7 days in advance. The aperitivo and dinner can host up to 8 guests.



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. The class will take place at the Emporio or at the Castello Grill during the summer months.

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

## FROM FARM **TO TABLE** OKING CLASS

A companied by our gardener through an in-depth guided tour of the new vegetable garden, you will discover wholesome seasonal products and harvest fresh produce before heading back to the hotel to take part in an engaging cooking class at our Emporio del Castello. From hands-on farm immersion to practice, here sustainability and Tuscan tradition come together. You will be taught how to create typical, tasty and seasonal dishes as per the Tuscan tradition, the quintessential cuisine of recycling and reusing ingredients allowing

any waste, according to the seasonal produce offered by nature. At the end of the class, enjoy your creations through a genuine "farm to table" experience with a relaxed family style lunch surrounded by aromatic herbs.

Diversions in Juscany



Explore, relax and learn

Diversions in Tuscany



### 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? The hotel's bike hub offers 16 new Bianchi e-bikes for rental, ideal both for weekend trekkers and city riders, to explore the estate.

## 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 Englishspeaking guide on a trek to discover new perspectives and panoramas. Hike through

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

# **ART OF** PHOTOGRAPHY

apture the inimitable essence of Castello di Casole under the guidance of professional photographer Duccio Nacci. Head out to charming surroundings of our hotel where you'll learn how to snap dusty lanes, country landscapes and medieval architecture.

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.

The photographer 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. Diversions In Tuscany



iscover the fascinating history of the Etruscan civilisation.

## 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. Please let us know if we can arrange for you a massage inspired by Etruscan traditions.

The experience must be booked in advance.

**Diversions In Tuscany** 



Uncover 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 visit.

