

VILLA SAN MICHELE

A BELMOND HOTEL  
FLORENCE

*Extraordinary*

FLORENTINE  
EXPERIENCES

To help you make the most of your stay at Villa San Michele, we've compiled a collection of experiences that bring our destination to life.

Which activities you choose, we are here to take care of everything!

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# Treasures of the Land



*Immersion in culture and history*

Treasures of the Land

# CALLIGRAPHY MASTER CLASS WITH BETTY SOLDI



Prepare to be inspired in this intimate, lighthearted workshop! In the company of Florence-based calligrapher and designer Betty Soldi, develop self-expression and learn to flourish through the world of handwritten words. Betty Soldi's 'Inksperiences' are based on bringing writing to life – capturing thoughts, ideas and spoken words through handwriting and the Renaissance ideal of thriving through creative

expression. In two stimulating hours, explore the beauty of words, taking inspiration from the captivating stories of Florence. The experience is held in Betty Soldi's design studio, an 1801 'limonaia' housed within a secret and private Florentine garden.

*We recommend booking in advance.*

Treasures of the Land

# ART OF THE APOTHECARY



**F**lorence has given birth to talents and skills in a multitude of métiers. Among the lesser known of these is the time-honoured study of herbs and botanicals, crucial to the wellbeing of many Florentines. In past times, scientists and monks who had knowledge and competence in this field became greatly valued by the city's elite, even gaining a strong social and political influence as a

result. On this fascinating private tour, your guide will reveal how traditional and herbal medicines and cosmetics have retained their importance in Florentine life, with exquisite artisan fragrances, infusions, soaps and body lotions still being produced today.

*Please contact our concierge to arrange your tour.*



Treasures of the Land

# UNVEILING FIESOLE



**L**ike that box of travel memorabilia that we keep in a corner of our living rooms, Fiesole conceals an array of secret treasures. Open the lid to discover the wonders of the hillside town perched above Florence that has inspired artists, poets and travellers for centuries. Explore on foot with a guide or hop in an iconic three-wheeled Ape Calessino for a delightful ride around the hillsides and hidden corners. Your guide will share stories of the Etruscan origins, Renaissance masterpieces

and natural landscapes that have shaped Fiesole's character. Choose to visit cultural sites, such as a Roman theatre, historic villas and artists' houses, or be immersed in the natural world, discovering vineyards, oil mills and farms.

*Your guided tour can be on foot or aboard an Ape Calessino (up to 3 guests). Two themes are available: Historical Artistic and Green and Nature. Please book in advance with our concierge. Duration: 3 hours.*

Treasures of the Land

# MASTERS OF SAVOIR-FAIRE



**F**lorence is celebrated for its glorious past, yet it is far more than a city of memories. It is a living cradle of craftsmanship and métiers, where Renaissance heritage and contemporary creativity continue to shape a new era of slow luxury. At Villa San Michele, we invite you to experience Florence through a different lens.

Masters of Savoir-Faire is not just a tour, it's a journey into knowledge, artistry and time itself. A curated encounter with the guardians of Florentine savoir-faire, whose mastery spans centuries: from Renaissance workshops to today's most refined contemporary ateliers. Guided by Barbara, our Florentine insider, you will step beyond the expected and into the intimate spaces where creation truly happens. Prepare for time to slow down and wisdom to emerge. You may discover a parchment artisan shaping history by hand, step into a restorers' studio where works of art are painstakingly brought back to life, or witness contemporary craftsmen redefining tradition with a modern vision. Each encounter is educational,

cultural and a rediscovery of precious crafts. Rather than simply observing the "Masters of Savoir-Faire", you will begin to understand them. And in doing so, you become a true connoisseur of a knowledge that is both timeless and alive.

*Duration: 3 hours. Ask the Concierge to tailor made your experience and for further details of the tour.*

Treasures of the Land

# PAPER MAKING WORKSHOP



**H**ow often do we stop to appreciate paper? How many missives or love notes have we sent or received over the years? And yet, less and less in the digital age do we experience the intimate joy of writing letters and the tangible pleasure of beautiful paper. In this hands-on workshop, tap into your creativity to rekindle your passion for paper. Skilled local artisans will guide you through the ancient art of papermaking and the decorative Florentine technique of marbling. Create your own sheet of precious handcrafted paper or design a one-of-a-kind marbled artwork using methods that have been passed down through generations.

Embrace this rare chance to rediscover the mindful art of making.

*Paper-making - Duration: 2 hours. Available up to 4 people. Dried hand-made paper sheet available the next day. Minimum age 8 years old.*

*Paper-marbling - Duration 1 hour. Available at 09:00 am or at 2:00 pm. Closed doors laboratory, up to 4 people. Personal travel diaries covered in own hand-made marbled paper available the next day. Minimum age 5 years old.*

Treasures of the Land

# GRAND TOUR, DÉJÀ VU EN VOYAGE



**D**elve back into the days of the historical Grand Tour in Florence with an avid art historian. Together, trace the transformative voyage undertaken by young European aristocrats from the 17th to the early 19th century. Walk in the footsteps of scholars, artists, philosophers and nobles who came to Florence seeking beauty,

knowledge and inspiration. As you meander through majestic piazzas, Renaissance palaces and quiet artisan streets, glean beguiling insights from your guide and relive the same sense of wonder that captivated the great travellers of the past.

*Duration: 2 hours. Available up to 6 Guests.*



Treasures of the Land

# THE BOTANICA OF FLORENCE



Enjoy a slow-paced itinerary through the city's flourishing gardens, exploring serene Renaissance gardens and secluded botanical spaces that reveal the strong link between Florence and the art of landscape design. Accompanied by an expert guide, uncover the origins, symbolism and uses of the many plant species that have shaped the city's green spaces over the centuries.

From ancient citrus collections and aromatic herbs to rare specimens and majestic architectural landscapes, each garden will reveal its own story – one interwoven with history, culture and human creativity.

*Duration: 3 hours. Available up to 6 Guests.*

Treasures of the Land

# “IN VILLA”: THE MEDICI AND FIESOLE VILLAS



The Medici villas are beauties to behold. Built by the powerful Florentine dynasty between the 15th and 17th centuries, these palatial UNESCO-listed residences represent a harmonious blending of scenic settings, sumptuous architecture and magnificent gardens, and demonstrate the deep respect the Medici had for the environment. Accompanied by an expert guide, gain a deeper understanding of these elegant estates as you admire the classical gardens and

Renaissance masterpieces that have inspired poets, artists and philosophers for centuries. Slow down, contemplate beauty and immerse yourself in the refined atmosphere of Tuscany's golden age.

*Choose a short visit to just Villa Medici, in Fiesole, or enjoy a longer, more structured experience exploring three properties: Villa Medici, Villa La Petraia and Villa di Castello. Ask our concierge for more details.*

# Wining and Dining



*Exploring legendary Tuscan gastronomy*

Wining and Dining

# CON GUSTO, TIMELESS FLORENTINE BITES



**D**iscover the authentic flavours of Florence on this foray into its gastronomic traditions. Trawl city markets, family-run trattorias and speciality shops where artisans still craft exceptional products using centuries-old techniques. Come into the contact with the makers, recipes and timeless rituals that define Florentine

cuisine. As you visit each prestigious address, learn about the cultural significance of the city's inviolable culinary heritage, which continues to inspire chefs and epicureans around the world today.

*Please arrange your tour with our concierge at least 2 days in advance. Duration: 3 hours.*

Wining and Dining

# HOME COOKING IN FLORENCE WITH ROLANDO



Join passionate foodie Rolando Beramendi, author of “Autentico, Cooking Italian the Authentic Way”, for a wonderful culinary experience in and around his home. Begin with a foraging adventure in his neighbourhood of Porta Romana, before going back to his house to begin preparing a delicious selection of typical Tuscan dishes. Create antipasti, a pasta, risotto or farro dish from his cookbook, a main dish and dessert.

Sit down to savour the fruits of your labours, accompanied by a variety of local wines to nourish body and soul. Depart feeling fulfilled, entertained and enlightened, and in possession of a signed copy of his cookbook.

*Limited to 4 participants. The experience can start at 09:00 am or at 10:00 am. Minimum age 14 years old. Duration: Approximately 5 hours.*

Wining and Dining

# HOME COOKING IN FIESOLE WITH GLORIA



Enjoy an incredible cooking experience in the hills, 10 minutes from Villa San Michele, at the enchanting home of proud Fiesolana, Gloria. Savour spellbinding views of Fiesole, Florence and the unspoilt countryside from her terrace and revel in the convivial warmth of her authentic Tuscan home. Gather around the family kitchen table for a five-senses experience where

Gloria urges you to both follow and break the rules, blend tradition and innovation and freely express your creativity. Choose from an array of menus – get your hands floury to practise pasta making, cook like an Etruscan, master pizza, opt for vegan or gluten-free dishes, or add wine pairings to your repertoire. Whatever you choose, fun and laughter is guaranteed with fabulous foodie Gloria.

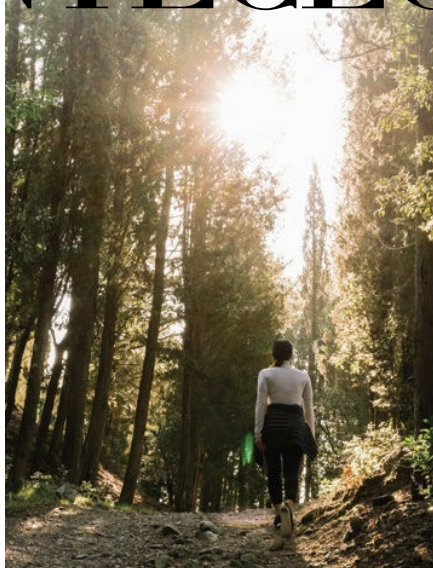
# Active and Exhilarating



*Adrenaline-fuelled adventures*

Active and Exhilarating

# HIKING IN MONTECECERI



**R**ejuvenate your senses on an early-morning hike through the serene woodlands of Montececeri. Accompanied by a nature guide, discover time-honoured trees and peaceful paths and learn about the environment and botanical treasures moments from the hotel. As you stroll, you'll glimpse breathtaking views of Florence through the trees, moments of wonder that put an extra spring in your step. Your route may also pass through the hallowed

site where Leonardo da Vinci and his assistant Zoroastro da Peretola tested their flying machine for the first time. The hikes can be enjoyed at any time of day, but we recommend stepping out at sunrise to truly recharge your soul.

*Duration: 2 hours. Comfortable clothes and sturdy sneakers suggested. Recommended for ages 8 and up. Please book with our concierge.*

# Young Travellers on Tour



*Play and Explore*

Young Travellers on Tour

# GREEN ADVENTURES IN THE FARM PARK



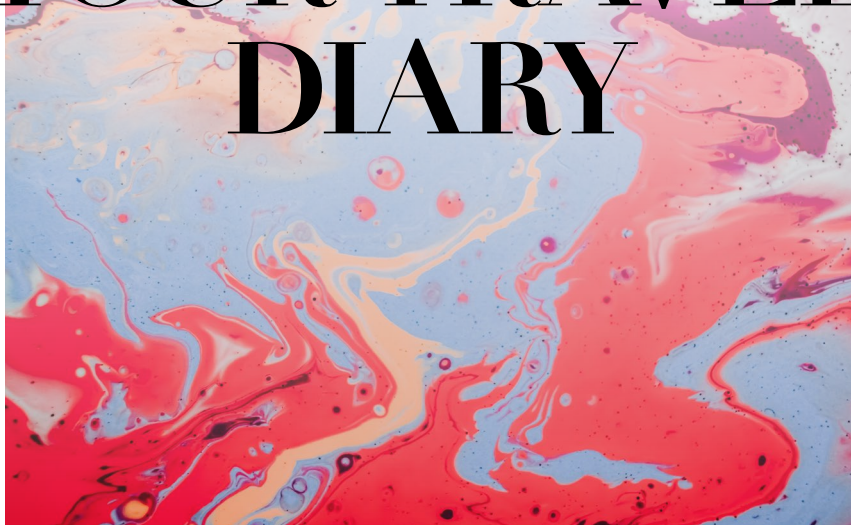
**Y**oung adventurers – and your families – come and discover the magic of Maiano Park, just five minutes from Villa San Michele! This immense organic estate in the Florentine hills embraces farm animals, sweeping lawns, fairytale woodlands and even an ancient tower on a lake. Join our tour for an engaging journey through lush forests, olive groves and charming rural paths. Get close to friendly farm animals, spot local

wildlife, learn about nature through interactive activities and enjoy ample space to run, play and explore in safety.

*No age limits. Guests with walking difficulties may find access and moving around quite challenging. Available only in daytime and suggested only in good weather conditions. In summer it can be very sunny and hot, hats and sun lotion should be with you.*

Young Travellers on Tour

# PAPER MARBLING: YOUR TRAVEL DIARY



**I**t's time to leave your digital devices behind and discover the joy of making beautiful, marbled paper. In this engaging, family-friendly workshop, skilled professionals will introduce you to the magic of marbling, helping you create vibrant, colourful, swirling and floating patterns. These can be used to adorn one or more sheets of paper or a travel diary cover, which can be

taken away as a stunning keepsake of your time in Florence.

*Paper-marbling – Duration 1 hour. Available at 09:00 am or at 2:00 pm. Closed doors laboratory, up to 4 people. Personal travel diaries covered in own hand-made marbled paper available the next day. Minimum age 5 years old.*

Young Travellers on Tour

# PALAZZO DAVANZATI: BACK HOME IN THE MIDDLE AGES



Prepare for an enthralling time-travel experience brimming with stories, curiosity and wonder. Join a private guide to explore a medieval palace owned by the Davanzati family, who were responsible for building Villa San Michele. Gain a rare and immersive glimpse into domestic life during the early Renaissance, discovering how people lived, worked and celebrated 500 years ago within these very walls. Explore the monumental

entrance hall, the kitchen with its original tools, the bedroom, one of only two Guicciardini Quilts in the world (the other is in London's V&A Museum), the armoury, courtyards and more. Seek out a special treasure and you may even win a prize!

*Duration: 3 hours. Up to 6 Guests. Youngest travellers' prize always included. Location features a certain number of steps, with no elevator available.*

# Experience and Rituals



*Restore and reconnect*

Experience and Rituals

# HOLISTIC WELLNESS JOURNEY



Villa San Michele invites guests to a holistic wellness journey amidst natural splendour. Experience Renaissance-inspired rituals, meditation, gong healing, breathwork, yoga, and contemplation within ancient gardens and woodlands. A cutting-edge gym, with both indoor and outdoor areas offering stunning views of Florence, complements hiking trails and sacred geometry stations.

Nourish your body and soul at the Villa San Michele Spa by Guerlain with luxurious treatments. Embrace movement with Technogym equipment and personal trainers, or explore nature bathing

with enchanting paths. Spirituality blossoms in the woodland's Energy Chapel with programs crafted by La DoubleJ. Savour the Mediterranean's bounty through healthy, locally sourced nutrition.

Every detail of your stay is intentional, from arrival rituals to in-room meditations, morning forest walks, and evening tranquil practices.

*To discover more about our wellness offerings, please contact our concierge.*

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