



Enduring, Authentic
TUSCANY

The golden heart of Italy, Tuscany is no secret. If you step off the tourist's well-worn path, however, and venture into the history, flavor and craftsmanship of this sun-kissed region, you'll discover the timeless, unexplored treasures that keep it uniquely true to itself.

Story | KATHRYN HUNTER



WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Perfume-making at Aquaflor Firenze

Located in a Renaissance-era palazzo in Florence's Borgo Santa Croce, this upscale casa di profumeria draws you into an intensely personal bespoke experience that can be as much about discovering yourself via memory, associations and connections as it is about creating and bottling your own unique perfume.

Leatherworking at La Galleria Michelangelo

Under the watchful eye of a dedicated maestro, explore the difficulty and beauty of one of Florence's most celebrated arts in a hands-on workshop using traditional Florentine tools and techniques. La Galleria Michelangelo is located in Santa Croce square, a hub for leather craft for more than five centuries.

Colle Bereto

This celebrated vineyard at the heart of the Chianti region is open to visitors only by advanced booking. Once owned by the Catholic church, the oldest part of the estate was built around 1200, and the mineral-rich hills surrounding it have surrendered archeological relics of winemaking that date back thousands of years.

Organically produced and estate bottled at the new moon using the natural power of gravity, Colle Bereto's wines are undoubtedly the highlight, but the estate also produces exceptional olive oil, vinegar, grappa and honey. The sweeping vista of the vineyards from an al fresco lunch on the grounds is almost as refreshing to the senses as the Chianti Classico.

Il Salviatino sits high on a hill above the city of Florence—ornately landscaped terraces, ancient oaks and stalwart cypresses frame a bird's-eye view of Brunelleschi's infamous Duomo and the breathtakingly romantic cityscape known as the "cradle of the Renaissance." Though only 15 minutes from the city center, this five-star luxury hotel and its 12.5-acre grounds have the feel of a

peaceful and opulent country villa. Recent, stylish renovations seamlessly incorporate modern design, comfort and technology without losing the established sense of elegance earned across the centuries.

With a labyrinth of rooms, each individually decorated, Il Salviatino's riches are myriad—here an 1866 fresco by Bruschi or an ancient stone tub, there a spiral staircase to a magical

upstairs sitting room lined floor to ceiling with books. Service ambassadors provide 24/7 concierge and butler service, a relaxing spa and pool wait just below in the gardens, and you'll find meals on the terrace as artistic and awe-inspiring as the museum-quality surroundings.

Il Salviatino also arranges many tailored and exclusive guest experiences throughout Florence and the wine-rich hills beyond.



WHILE YOU'RE THERE

Cooking at Le Salette

Beginning with a trip to the local market in Barga, this hands-on culinary experience takes you “from the land to the plate.” Side by side with chef Alessandro Manfredini, you’ll craft Italian specialties like homemade pastas, gnocchi and decadent desserts in a light-filled room tucked away between the magical inner workings of Renaissance Tuscan’s kitchen and the cozy outdoor terrace where the fruit of your labors will be enjoyed. Buon appetito!

Podere Còncori

“L’agricoltura dá. L’agricoltura prende.”—Agriculture gives. Agriculture takes. Owner and vintner Gabriele Da Prato explains matter-of-factly the difficulty of producing biodynamic wine, which is intimately tied to weather patterns and other forces beyond the grower’s control. Bad years, when all is lost, come as often as the good. But small harvests, natural methods and painstaking attention to detail make this biodynamic winery—and its award-winning vinos—truly special. A vineyard tour, followed by lunch and tastings, is like a visit with family and a distillation of the land itself.

Village life

Walk densely wooded paths from Renaissance Tuscan’s grounds to the near-abandoned village of Treppignana. In Barga, explore the cobblestone alleyways, the third- and fourth-generation-owned alimentari, the flower-filled window boxes and old wells... With a short drive to the 18th-century hamlet Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, dine at Andrea Bertucci’s Vecchio

Mulino with the charismatic owner himself (a pioneer in the Slow Food Movement) while admiring the foundation stones of an ancient cathedral that make up its walls. Take a wide view, and you risk coming to this part of the world without seeing it at all, but concentrate on the details, slow your step, and you glimpse Tuscany’s true soul.



Renaissance Tuscan Il Ciocco Resort & Spa, located in the Serchio Valley at the foothills of the rugged Apuan Alps, is in northern Tuscany where the climate is cooler and wetter, the vegetation greener and the crowds thinner. Replete with balconies fit for any Romeo and Juliet, the 180-room luxury hotel provides panoramic views

of the medieval city of Barga far below. True enchantment is watching an afternoon storm roll in over the mountains, glass of local vintage in hand.

Built as a hunting lodge in 1956, Renaissance Tuscan is modern by Italian standards, but it’s a setting imbued with the personality and slow, thoughtful pleasures that give this history-filled corner of the

world its enduring appeal. Dine at hotel restaurant La Veranda, enjoy a cocktail or small plates at the Nour Lounge, or take advantage of other on-site amenities like the spa, fitness center and indoor and outdoor swimming pools. From this comely castle on the hill, you’ll also find one of the most unexplored areas of Tuscany at your fingertips. ✦