

Galerie

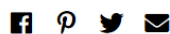


Umbria Transforms Medieval Estates Into Luxury Hotels

Live like royalty while discovering Tuscany's lesser-known neighboring region

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It feels like everybody is traveling to Italy these days. So to enjoy an authentic Italian experience without throngs of crowds, you have to venture a lot further off the beaten path. Some advice? Skip Tuscany in favor of its lesser-known-but-equally-beautiful neighboring region—where several hotels and resorts have been created inside imposing medieval structures spread across the dramatic mountainous landscape.

Umbria is more rugged and less accessible to tourists than other parts of the country, and still relatively off the radar for many international visitors. But the region is slowly becoming more popular as a quieter alternative to Tuscany, Amalfi, and other overrun destinations, thanks in part to its wealth of atmospheric historic buildings set in spectacular sprawling estates. Here, guests can stay in luxury surroundings and pretend to be Italian nobility for as long as they desire, without having to share the experience with too many others.

Several high-end properties in the region have placed particular focus on wellness, and include state-of-the-art spa facilities within the alluringly mysterious settings or overlooking the picturesque countryside. There's also an overarching emphasis on home-grown produce, local craftsmanship, and a sense of regional pride. For day trips from these remote rural hideaways, Umbria's capital [Perugia](#), as well as smaller cities like Orvieto, Gubbio, and Assisi, each has its own fascinating history, cultural institutions, archeological sites, and unique character.

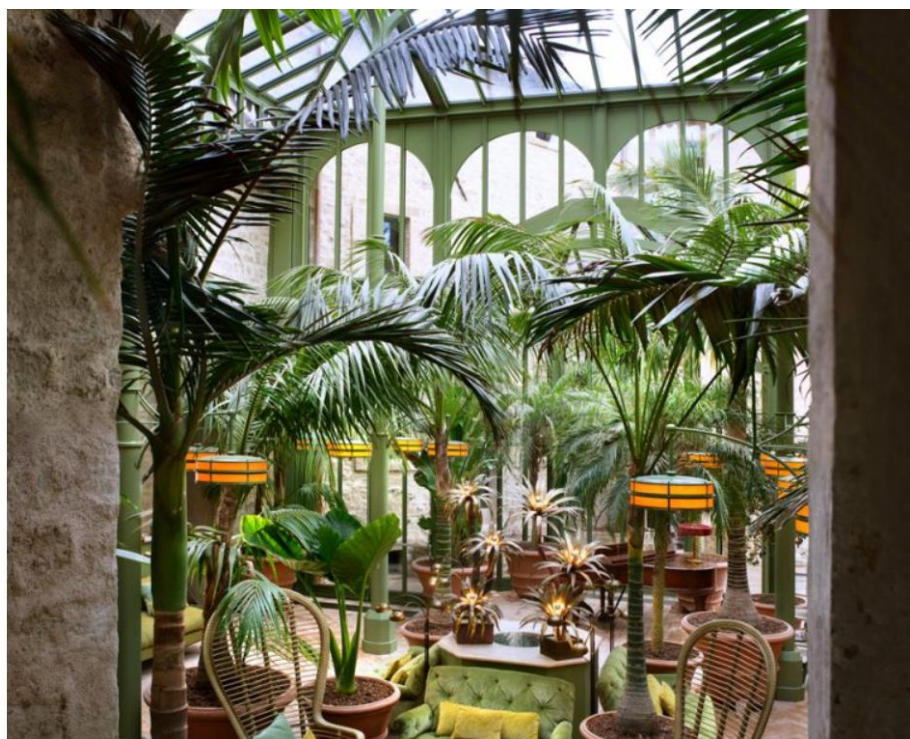
If you're ready for your getaway to Italy's new high-end hospitality hotspot, we've picked three impressive hotels in a castle, a count's estate, and monastery that have each been turned into luxury accommodation.



Reschio

It doesn't get much more "fairytale" than staying in a 1,000-year-old castle. Presiding over 3,700 acres of rolling countryside, the imposing 10th-century structure and its varied outbuildings were painstakingly restored and modernized for five-star clientele by the estate's owners Count Benedikt—who happens to be a trained architect—and Donna Nencia Bolza. When it opened in 2021, the [Reschio](#) hotel instantly flooded social media feeds, but it's by no means an influencer haunt—likely due to its \$1,000 per night starting room rate. The property's money shot is from behind the oval-shaped heated outdoor swimming pool, which reflects the Castello's striking rotunda and the dramatic umbrella pines around its periphery.

From a church that hosts yoga classes and a watchtower serving poolside fare, to a glass-house Palm Court lobby bar for cocktails and a cozy Boot Room for fireside drinks—there's a host of beautifully appointed spaces in which guests can lounge and relax. The Ristorante Al Castello serves a cornucopia-style breakfast buffet and exquisitely presented a-la-carte dishes for dinner, while the Ristorante Alle Scuderie on the other side of the property offers up pizzas for lunch on top of an extensive all-day menu. Both these common areas and the capacious guest suites—most of which are housed within the castle walls—are outfitted with bespoke furniture designed by Count Benedikt as part of his B.B. for Reschio line. These pieces are all made locally, and available in the U.S. via platforms including 1st Dibs and Artemest.



The estate has a distinctly equestrian sensibility, with 32 purebred Spanish horses housed and trained on site that guests can take out on guided hacks around the vast property. Other activities to indulge in include truffle foraging, wine and olive oil tasting, and lakeside picnics during the summer. In the atmospheric spa, a candlelit bath house features a three-storey rain shower in a former cheese storage tower, and a huge private treatment room hosts massages, facials, foot scrubs, and more to the soundtrack of a crackling fire and Gregorian chanting—a welcome departure from panpipes—for a unique relaxation experience.