



**Castello di Casole
Tuscany, Italy**

Castello di Casole offers a lifestyle as rich and diverse as Tuscany itself. The Casali –farmhouse ruins scattered throughout the property – are meticulously restored and furnished in traditional Tuscan fashion with luxurious modern updates. Atop the highest hill, the Castello will become an intimate five-star boutique hotel with impeccable suites, a spa and much more. Owners and guests at Castello di Casole enjoy all the amenities and personal attention only Timbers Resorts can provide, all set among the perfect hills of Tuscany.

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Area Overview

In the rolling Tuscan hills near the mythic cities of Florence, Siena and San Gimignano is Castello di Casole, the Castle of Casole – 4,200 acres, 1700 hectares, untouched except by history.

One of the largest private landholdings in all of Italy, Castello di Casole offers ample opportunity to bask in luxury while embracing the Tuscan lifestyle. Here, where vineyards and olive groves pattern the landscape, each moment is infused with centuries of the world's favorite art, culture, food and wine.

From museums and galleries housing original works of Renaissance artists, to majestic castles built for the Medicis, to lovely trails through sweeping Tuscan fields, there is no more culturally significant, beautiful place for a peaceful retreat. Each morning, as the sun crests the mountain and bathes the countryside in Michelangelo's morning light, you'll be reminded that there truly is no place like Tuscany, Italy's heart and soul.

Property Features, Services & Amenities

Owners at Castello di Casole enjoy a wealth of luxurious services, conveniences and amenities – everything to make life in the Tuscan countryside a wondrous celebration of past and present.

- Bilingual concierges available to make dinner reservations, arrange tours and outings, and plan activities for the whole family
- Daily housekeeping service and attentive governautes see to your every request
- 88 acres of Sangiovese, Merlot, Petit Verdot, Cabernet vineyards, used to

- make the private-label vintage blend, available only to Owners and guests
- 30 acres of olive groves, harvested and pressed on the property to create a private-label extra virgin olive oil unlike any other
- Award-winning Model Game Reserve abundant with hare, pheasant, deer, fox, cinghiale and other natural wildlife
- Extensive private trail system for hiking, biking and running through the vast Tuscan countryside
- On-site educational experiences, including language lessons, cooking schools to inspire culinary creativity, pottery classes and grape and oil harvesting classes with the local oenologist
- Private animal watching tours with the Castello game wardens
- Guided day trips throughout the region
- Upon completion, Castello di Casoli will feature a 41-suite boutique hotel with a bike shop, artisan boutiques, enticing dining venues, and a world-class spa and fitness center inspired by the region's fragrances and natural approach to diet and exercise

Residence Features

Commanding the most favored sites throughout the property are the ruins and reconstructions of Casali farmhouses, each painstakingly created by architects and artisans, and gently coaxed into the modern age while remaining true to their Tuscan heritage.

- Casali range from 4,000 to 7,000 interior square feet surrounded by several acres of open space
- Heavy-stone exterior walls and Tuscan-style architecture that embrace the charm and character of old-world Italy
- Reclaimed farmhouse materials, such as old stones, ceiling tiles and terra cotta roof tiles used throughout the Casali
- Low-impact sustainable design that remains true to Italian heritage while enhancing integrity of the property's buildings, landscapes and open spaces
- Heated infinity-edge pools tiled with Bisazza glass mosaic tile
- Hand-set stone patios with outdoor dining areas and "forno a legna" wood-burning pizza ovens
- Outbuildings, once used to store the land's harvests, restored to serve as unique and inviting guest quarters
- Rich interiors with Patina and Artitalia furniture, Rubelli fabrics, Callatini hand-painted beds and Frette bedding topped with Bagni di Volpi duvets
- Spacious gourmet kitchens with Gianfranco Ballerini refrigerators, DeMannicor gas and wood burning stoves, and other fine features
- Contemporary baths with Philippe Starck fixtures, Carrara marble sinks and Bisazza mosaic tiles
- State-of-the-art electronics, including flat-panel satellite televisions and Wireless Internet
- Grand Tuscan fireplaces
- Air conditioning

Local Dining

At Castello di Casole, we have exceptional cooks (Governantes) who can prepare a typical Tuscan dinner, so that you can experience true Tuscan flavors and foods without the hassle of cooking a large meal – whether you’re entertaining or just wanting to relax for the night. The catered evening includes service during dinner with your kitchen left in perfect order afterward. You may review the menu with your Villa Concierge if you wish. For a more formal service, ask your Villa Concierge about our private chefs. Please ask your Villa Concierge 24 hours in advance if you would like to have a chef in your Casale.

Upon completion, Castello di Casole will offer several additional dining options, including a fine restaurant and a pizzeria for fun, tasty casual cuisine. And of course, there are several restaurants in the area that serve authentic regional cuisine in spectacular settings, from charming hilltop trattorias to historic brick buildings in the heart of town. For more information and suggestions, please contact your Villa Concierge.

Things To Do

There are different ways to spend your holidays at Castello di Casole, including outdoor explorations, cultural excursions and of course, quiet relaxation. The region’s rich history is apparent in the myriad museums and galleries nearby, where Renaissance masterpieces await. Enjoy a local food and wine tour where you can meet vintners and chefs, tour majestic gardens that have been tended carefully for centuries, or set out on foot, bike or horseback to explore the Tuscan countryside.

On and Around the Property

At Castello di Casole, everything is close at hand, from cooking, art and language classes to world-class shopping, and expert English-speaking guides are available to help you create memorable experiences of all kinds. Your Villa Concierge can arrange adventures on or around the property, including bike tours on the secret paths of Tuscany, animal-watching expeditions in the Model Game Reserve, and hikes through the peaceful landscape. There are also plenty of activities for kids, and guided daytrips to locations all over Italy. Please refer to the Castello di Casole Activities guide for more information.

Seasonal Events

Tuscany offers an abundance of cultural and recreational activities year-round. From the famed Carnevale celebration that spans the last 5 to 10 days before Ash Wednesday to the Sieneese Music Week in July to wine crush in the fall, you won’t want to miss out. For more information, visit <http://www.discovertuscany.com/tuscany-events/>.

Transportation

"Aeroporto di Firenze," or "Amerigo Vespucci" Airport as it appears on all the road signs in Florence (FLR), is the nearest airport to Castello di Casole. This small airport is served by convenient international flight options from major European cities such as Paris, Munich, London, Frankfurt, Brussels, Zurich, Rome and Milan. The Florence airport is about a one-hour drive from Castello di Casole, and a personal driver can be arranged to pick you up upon arrival. Please contact your Villa Concierge for arrangements.

Other major airports include the Pisa Airport (PSA) which is about an hour and a half drive to the property. Milan Airport (Malpensa MXP) and Rome airport (Leonardo da Vinci FCO). These are each about a four-hour drive from Castello di Casole, and are a wonderful alternative if you wish to explore these cities on your way to your Castello hideaway.

Because Castello di Casole is located in the remote Tuscan hills and each Casali is surrounded by many acres of open space, we recommend that you rent a car during your stay. Please contact your Villa Concierge to arrange car rental or taxi service. These can be picked up at the airport or delivered to your villa.

General Info

- Currency: The Euro is the official currency in Italy. The U.S. dollar is not accepted in the majority of places.
- Banks & ATM's: Italian banks in Tuscany have 24-hour ATM's that usually have bilingual screens that work like those found in the U.S. and Canada. ATM bancomats are also located throughout the towns, and cash is given out in Euros. Few bank employees speak English, and there are no U.S.-affiliate banks in Tuscany. Banks are open weekdays; from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Unfortunately, we are not able to exchange money at Castello di Casole.
- Credit Cards: VISA, MasterCard and American Express are accepted at all major restaurants and hotels throughout Tuscany. If you don't see the familiar logos, especially in smaller establishments, ask before ordering.
- Cell Phone Service: Your Villa Concierge can arrange to rent a cellular phone for you during your stay.
- Check-out time is at 10 a.m.
- Wireless Internet and email: Internet and email access is available in your Casale. Please find the instructions located in your Casale or contact your Villa Concierge for instructions on connecting your modem or for the wireless key. A computer is available for your use in the Villa Concierge office.
- Books and DVD's: There is a selection of reading material and DVD's available in the Owners' Lounge at Cetena.
- Electricity: Our electric current is 220 volts. All homes have power adapters. If you need additional converters, please contact your Villa Concierge.

Notes of Distinction-

- No airport transfer or point-to-point transportation is included in your stay. Additional fees may apply. Florence Airport to Castello costs €195.00 and Pisa Airport to Castello costs €280.00. The concierge is available to book a car rental for you. Or if you prefer, the concierge can arrange to have a car waiting for you at your villa upon arrival.
- Castello di Casole charges for Housekeeping. A daily tidy clean is included and you will be charged €390.00 for your departure clean, but it depends on the length of the stay, the number in the party and the depth of cleaning required. Contact your concierge for more info on this. If you are visiting for a 2-week period, there is a mid-stay cleaning for a charge of €210.00.
- Castello di Casole is a non-smoking / non-pet community.
- Limited dining – Please contact your concierge to arrange for an in-residence chef. There are many local restaurants in the neighboring hill towns that provide excellent options for dining. Please remember Italy does not accommodate for “to go” orders.
- No Spa available until hotel is completed. Please contact your concierge to arrange in-room treatments or to schedule appointments with some fantastic local spas.
- Each home has a private pool that is heated and available from May 1st through the end of October, air-conditioning and Wireless Internet.

Travel Tips

- In Italy, your check is not presented until asked for; your waiter is not ignoring you, but merely respecting your right to linger after your meal.
- Most of the shops and offices take a short lunch break between 1p.m. and 4 p.m. The stores normally open around 9 a.m. and they close at 9 p.m. Most stores are closed on Sunday.
- As in the U.S., traffic takes to the right-hand side of the road. When driving, use caution and respect the speed limits. Electronic speed traps are frequent.
- In rural areas around Tuscany, livestock still graze on the sides of the main highway; keep an eye out for deer.
- Italians are socially very polite. When doing business, it is a customary courtesy to make small talk with the individual you are dealing with prior to getting down to business.

For additional information and tips, contact your Villa Concierge.

Links

Castello di Casole: www.castellodicasole.com

Discover Tuscany: <http://www.discovertuscany.com/>

Things to do in Tuscany: <http://www.wimco.com/activities/acttuscany.asp>

Wine Tours: <http://www.tuscan-wine-tours.com/>

Bike Tours: <http://www.tuscanybiking.com/>
Art & Museums: <http://www.seetuscany.com/art.htm>

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