

# Activities

CASTELLO DI CASOLE  
TUSCANY, ITALY

2010



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# Activities



## CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY



Indicates New Activities for 2010



### Thermal Bath & Spa Day Trip

Visit one of the nicest Thermal Spring Spas in Tuscany where the water contains beneficial sulfate-bicarbonate-calcium and magnesium. The experience includes private transportation and can be accompanied by a nice lunch, a wine or a rum tasting, a round of golf, or time to discover the nearby towns. Spa treatments are available and should be booked in advance. Please ask your Villa Concierge for more details.



### The Saffron of San Gimignano and the quaint towns of Monteriggioni and Colle Val D'Elsa

Visit the scenic town of San Gimignano with its assortment of medieval towers that make the town recognizable from miles away and well-known throughout the world. Tour its two largest churches including Sant'Agostino Church, which is famous for its spectacularly preserved medieval frescoes, and climb to the top of the town fortress to enjoy the magnificent Tuscan view. Next, visit a saffron farm to discover the secrets of how it is produced here and then enjoy the surroundings over a private lunch with homemade pasta and other local ingredients accompanied by the Famous Vernaccia of San Gimignano. In the afternoon, visit the medieval fortress of Monteriggioni, whose splendidly preserved walls were mentioned in Dante Alighieri's Divine Comedy, and then finish the day in the hilltop town of Colle Val d'Elsa, which is world-renowned for its spectacular crystal manufacturers and artisans. Transportation is provided, please contact your Villa Concierge for more details.



### Treasure Hunt in Florence

A perfect way for the entire family to sightsee this historic city, our knowledgeable guide will lead you on a treasure hunt through the winding ancient streets of Florence in search for hidden treasures. Your Villa Concierge can arrange a full- or a half-day tour and the best treasure hunter will receive a special gift.



### Children's Birthday Party at the Casale

Let us help you create a memorable birthday celebration for your child at Castello di Casole with a birthday dinner or snack at your residence, complete with a birthday cake and candles. Fun music and karaoke, great surprises like treasure hunts, magicians or even a nanny to help with the children can all be arranged through your Villa Concierge.



### Children's Pizza Party

One of the great cooks at Castello di Casole will share the secrets of preparing traditional Tuscan pizza dough and toppings made of local ingredients in this hands-on casual cooking class especially fun for children.



# Activities

CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY

## Vivoli Ice Cream

The Vivoli family, located in the heart of Florence, has been making ice cream since 1930. They prepare their ice cream daily with the finest natural ingredients, professionalism and love. Go behind the scenes into the hidden kitchen to enjoy a fun experience of preparing this delicious treat with the owner. The kitchen is only open to the public on special occasions and during a few selected months of the year. If you are interested in this unique experience in Florence, please ask your concierge for availability and rates.

## Chocolate Making Class

Taste, creativity and style are the three basic qualities of Andrea's Chocolate Artisan shop - La Bottega del Cioccolato. The shop is located in the central streets of Florence. Chocolate lovers can attend a special chocolate-making class with the Maitre Chocolatier of the shop, Andrea. In a class lasting about three hours, he will share the shop's secrets in preparing their signature scrumptious creations. At La Bottega del Cioccolato each taste of this delicacy offers a delightful flavor that fills the senses and lingers on to savor for a while. Each piece is prepared with the finest butter, heavy cream, fruit, and teas, as well as many natural ingredients. For more information, please ask your concierge for availability and rates.

## Renaioli sull'Arno – Florence from the Arno River

See the beautiful city of Florence from the water by taking a unique trip down the Arno river onboard a typical Italian boat, rowed by an experienced Florentine. You will discover and admire the treasures of Florence from a different perspective. A guide on board will educate you about this historical city. This special experience is only available from May through the end of September. Please check availability and rates with your concierge.

## Fishing in Tuscany

We can arrange a pleasant day with an expert fisherman from the area. Based on the season and your preference, we can arrange fly fishing, sunshine fishing, spinning or surfcasting in various fishing spots including one of the many lakes in the region, or on a river. Sea fishing for tuna, sea bass and, red snapper is also available. Price is based on the number of guests, type and location. Please keep in mind that fishing restrictions apply throughout Italy. For more information, please ask your concierge.



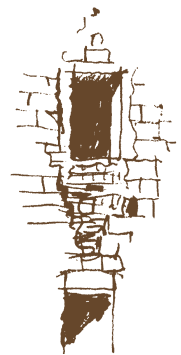
## CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY

### Wine Tasting with a Sommelier in Your Home

At Castello di Casole, we can arrange for a personal chef and a certified sommelier to come to your Casale and conduct a personal wine tasting event paired with delicious snacks- prepared, and served by the chef for any occasion. Each wine tasting event will feature a 4 wines and last approximately 3 to 4 hours. The sommelier will work together with you to select the wines. Experience the 4 Classic Tuscan Reds - Chianti Classico, Brunello di Montalcino, Vino Nobile di Montepulciano and Carmignan or Vertical of Brunello di Montalcino - a tasting of the same wine from various vintages and climate conditions. For more information, please ask your concierge.

### His & Her Days in Florence: Shopping, Spa and Golf

While the ladies are looking to spend a day in Florence discovering the great shops and boutiques of the town, the men can take advantage of one of the nearby golf courses. Afterwards, everyone can enjoy a relaxing afternoon at one of the best spas in Florence. Your concierge can arrange a personal shopper with ample knowledge and expertise in all areas of image consulting for women, men and children. Your personal shopper will offer you first-hand knowledge of the finest locations, top luxury stores, and smaller specialized boutiques. Check availability and prices with your concierge.



### Tuscan Cheese and Wine Experience

You will be escorted from your residence through the scenic *Crete Senesi* hills to a prestigious winery. There the owners will explain the science and art that goes into producing *Brunello*, one of the most highly acclaimed wines in the world. You will get the chance to taste and compare this year's wines. Afterwards, you will take a relaxing walking tour in one of the picturesque villages of the area. From there we you'll visit a local farm and guest house to learn the techniques of producing some of the typical cheeses of the area. This stop includes a delightful home-cooked lunch featuring, of course, the farm's own products. Finish the day in Pienza, a fascinating Renaissance town. The tour lasts approx. 5 hours and it includes transportation by a certified driver, the visit to the Brunello winery, wine tasting, the private lunch on the farm and the tour of the cheese farm.

### Cinta Senese Salami and Goat Cheese Production

One of Tuscany's culinary traditions includes the breeding of the renowned *Cinta Senese* for superb hams and salamis, a true gastronomic treat. Our guided tour will take you inside one of the most famous farms of the area so that you will be able to discover the secrets behind the production of these meats as well as world's finest goat cheese. You will be able to sample fresh cheese, hams, and fine local wines. The tour lasts approx. 5 hours and includes transportation by a certified driver, a meeting with the owner of the farm, and tour as well as a lovely lunch of pasta and farm products at an old mill.



# Activities

## CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY

### Olive Oil Tour

Olive oil is one of the most crucial ingredients to fine Italian cuisine, and you will be able to explore the complexities behind this often overlooked commodity. Through hands-on lessons, you will learn the techniques behind different methods of production, and the meanings of important terminology like “cold-press” and “extra-virgin.” You will learn to distinguish the difference between each type of oil, and even take home some samples. Your newfound knowledge of olive oil will surely add new complexities and appreciation to both the Italian food you enjoy on your vacation, and to your own cooking at home. The tour lasts approx. 5 hours and includes transportation by a certified driver, a wine tasting at a prestigious *Brunello* winery where the owners will explain the science and art that goes into producing *Brunello*, one of the most highly acclaimed wines in the world; a light lunch at a winery or local *trattoria* (depending on availability) and the olive oil production tour and tasting. *Note: We can also arrange olive harvesting and oil pressing experiences. Olive harvest is typically in the month of November.*

### Siena Sky and Land

Join us for a memorable experience viewing the sky and land of Siena. Take off in a small private plane for a spectacular view of Siena from the air. This unique perspective allows you to appreciate the changes of the city through history. See how Siena has retained green spaces within the urban architecture, and view how geography has influenced urban and rural activities. After your modern flight experience, you can enjoy an aperitif from the bastions of a romantic medieval castle and compare how a medieval lord might have surveyed his lands. You can top off this special evening with your own private dinner in the castle, prepared just for you by a renowned chef, complete with a selection of prestigious wines. This experience lasts approx. 5 hours and includes pick up by a certified driver at the property, a half-hour flight over the area, an aperitif and private dinner with the owners, and the return home at the end of the dinner.

*“Good oil, like good wine, is a gift from the gods. The grape and the olive are among the priceless benefactions of the soil, and were destined, each in its way, to promote the welfare of man.”*

### Luxury Service

Castello di Casole would like to offer its guests the opportunity of arranging a very special outing to make your vacation even more extraordinary and unforgettable. We can arrange a luxury sports car, such as a Ferrari, an Aston Martin or a Lamborghini, for you to explore the countryside in and discover the beauty of Tuscany from a different perspective. If you prefer the sea, we can also arrange a boat or chartered yacht for a day to discover the beauty of the Tuscan Archipelago. If your dream destination is further away, we can provide you with a private helicopter or even a private jet – just simply ask your concierge.



# Activities

## CASTELLO DI CASOLE — TUSCANY, ITALY

### Guided Wine Tours

This wine tour includes transportation with an English-speaking driver. You will be picked up at your Villa in the morning in order to arrive at the first winery by 11:30 a.m. Begin with a stroll through the vines and grounds, then continue to the cellar to see first-hand the transformation from grape to glass — fermentation, maturation, aging — a remarkable synthesis of nature and nurture. The morning culminates with a tasting of the estate's vintage paired with a delicious lunch of favorite Tuscan specialties.

You will reach the second winery around 3:30 p.m. The second winery always differs from the first estate in its style and methods of production. This will enable you to compare the contrasting characteristics of the two wineries, a reflection of the strategy and personality of the vintners. After a tour of the vines, grounds and cellars, you will enjoy a tasting of the estate's fine vintage together with the winemaker. Your driver will then take you back to the Villa, arriving by late afternoon. The choice of the wineries depends on their availability and the distance from your residence.

**TIME:** Begins at 10:00 a.m.

**OPTIONS:** The driver will be at your disposal for 8 hours.

**MINIMUM AGE:** Recommended for adults.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours for the wineries and also for the driver, otherwise all the charges will occur.

### Self-Guided Wine Tours

If you prefer to drive yourself, and organize your day please ask your concierge and they will give you suggestions, directions to the wineries and can make your reservations at the wineries.

**TIME:** Remember that most of the wineries open around 10:00 a.m. and close around 5:00 p.m.

**OPTIONS:** The tour at each winery can last around 30 to 60 minutes depending on the questions and the interest of the guests.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours is generally required for the winery.

*The most notable of the many wine districts is Chianti, near Siena and the main river in this area is the Arno.*



## CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY

### Walking Tour of Florence and the Museums

A perfect combination of the arts and the pleasure of a stroll through the tiny and narrow streets of Florence. Ask your concierge to arrange a tour with a highly specialized English-speaking private guide.

**TIME:** Normally the tour begins around 10:00 a.m. For any specific requests please contact your concierge. The tour normally lasts about 3 hours.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** Florence is located about 1 hour away from Castello di Casole, your concierge can provide driving directions.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required. Please specify if there are children in your group, so that we can find the best guide for the young guests.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes, and pre-booking entrance tickets to the museums is highly recommended in order to avoid a long line at the entrance.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 72 hours is required.



*The pride of the Medici and the cradle of the Italian Renaissance, Florence remains a remarkable destination filled with some of history's greatest art and architecture.*

### Tour of the Uffizi and the Galleria dell'Accademia

Explore the most important painting gallery in Italy, the Uffizi, and the marvelous Michelangelo's David in the Galleria dell'Accademia. Ask your concierge to arrange a tour with highly specialized English-speaking private guide.

**TIME:** The tour normally begins around 10:00 a.m., and lasts around three hours. For any specific requests please contact your concierge.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** Florence is located about 1 hour away from Castello di Casole, your concierge can provide driving directions.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required. Please specify if there are children in your group, so that we can find the best guide for the young guests.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes, and pre-booking entrance tickets to the museums is highly recommended in order to avoid a long line at the entrance.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 72 hours is required.



## CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY

### Italian Gardens in Florence

Visit the princess garden “Boboli” and the private art collectors “Bardini.” Ask your concierge to arrange a tour with highly specialized English-speaking private guide.

**TIME:** The tour normally begins around 10:00 a.m., and lasts around three hours. For any specific requests please contact your concierge.

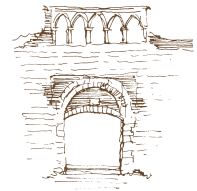
**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** Florence is located about 1 hour away from Castello di Casole, your concierge can provide driving directions.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required. Please specify if there are children in your group, so that we can find the best guide for the young guests.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes, and pre-booking entrance tickets to the museums is highly recommended in order to avoid a long line at the entrance.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 72 hours is required.



*While strolling along beautiful, hidden side streets you will visit stunning workshops such as furniture restorers, Florentine paper artisans and more.*

### Artisans of Florence

Discover the secrets of the artisan, the methods of their craft, 500 years old. From marbled paper, jewelry, leather, shoes, and even an oil and vinegar tasting. The tour will be arranged according to the availability of the artisans. Ask your concierge to arrange a tour with highly specialized English-speaking private guide.

**TIME:** The tour normally begins around 10:00 a.m., and lasts around three hours (normally visiting three artisan shops). For any specific requests please contact your concierge.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** Florence is located about 1 hour away from Castello di Casole, your concierge can provide driving directions.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required. Please specify if there are children in your group, so that we can find the best guide for the young guests.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes and pre-booking the artisans is highly recommended.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 72 hours is required.



## CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY

### Our Specialties in Florence

If you already know Florence, if you are looking for special activities or if you want to go deeper into the art and the history, your concierge is happy to arrange the following tours with a highly specialized English-speaking private guide: Florence and its Dynasty: The Medicis, The Countryside Villas, The Roman Hill Towns of Fiesole, Michelangelo and his City, Jewish Tours, The Last Supper, etc. Please do not hesitate to contact your concierge to get more information about the tours or if you have any other special requests.

**TIME:** The tour normally begins around 10:00 a.m., and lasts around three hours. For any specific requests please contact your concierge.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** Florence is located about 1 hour away from Castello di Casole, your concierge can provide driving directions.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required. Please specify if there are children in your group, so that we can find the best guide for the young guests.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes, and pre-booking entrance tickets to the museums is highly recommended in order to avoid a long line at the entrance.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 72 hours is required.

*Tuscany is a delight to the eye in every season. The folds of the land are soft and gentle. It is a countryside completely at peace.*

### Tour of Siena

Explore Siena's golden past in the piazza and the palazzi in the medieval heart of the town with a specialized guide. Marvel at the artistic treasures of the Cathedral and learn about the pageantry and passion of the frenzied Palio horse race in the main square, the majestic Piazza del Campo. We are happy to arrange a special visit to one of the museums of Siena's contrade, the neighborhoods who take part in the Palio and who jealously guard their victorious banners and regalia in beautiful exhibitions open only to members.

**TIME:** The tour normally begins around 10:00 a.m., and can last three or six hours, depending on your preference. For any specific requests please contact your concierge.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** Siena is located about 35 minutes away from Castello di Casole, your concierge can provide driving directions.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required. Please specify if there are children in your group, so that we can find the best guide for the young guests.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 72 hours is required.



# Activities

## CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY

### Tour of San Gimignano and Monteriggioni

The medieval towns of San Gimignano and Monteriggioni are two beautiful settlements retaining their original architectural layout, something no longer recognizable in Florence. The views from the walls surrounding the settlements are breathtaking and San Gimignano is famous for its towers, which were also the backdrop for Zeffirelli's masterpiece "Tea with Mussolini." Monteriggioni is a smaller village enclosed in ancient walls with lovely buildings and the air of a distant age still permeating the small winding streets.

**TIME:** The tour normally begins around 10:00 a.m., and can last three or six hours, depending on your preference. For any specific requests please contact your concierge.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** San Gimignano is located about 30 minutes away from Castello di Casole and Monteriggioni about 25 minutes from your Villa. San Gimignano and Monteriggioni are located about 30 minutes from each other. Your concierge can provide driving direction for the towns.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required. Please specify if there are children in your group, so that we can find the best guide for the young guests.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 72 hours is required.



*Pisa is also known for its excellent university, which was established in 1343 and has become one of Italy's most prestigious institutions of learning.*

### Tour of Pisa

Pisa is famous around the world for its leaning tower, a tribute to both human ingenuity and folly. The tower is part of the beautiful cathedral complex, whose architecture mixes Moorish, Byzantine and Roman motifs recalling Pisa's glorious past as a Mediterranean seaport. Around the Campo dei Miracoli, the square of miracles, you find the Cathedral of Santa Maria Assunta, the Campanile (the leaning bell tower), the Baptistery (vaguely resembling baci, the Italian Hershey's Kiss) and the Camposanto, the monumental cemetery allegedly created by the Crusades with earth from the Holy Land and now home to beautiful Roman sarcophagi.

**TIME:** The tour normally begins around 10:00 a.m., and lasts about two hours. For any specific requests please contact your concierge.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** Pisa is located about 1 hour and 30 minutes away from Castello di Casole, your concierge can provide driving directions.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required. Please specify if there are children in your group, so that we can find the best guide for the young guests.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 72 hours is required.



## CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY

### Tour of Lucca

Lucca is a relatively unknown Tuscan gem whose splendid historic center recalls the city's glorious past as a Roman outpost, Lombard duchy, medieval mercantile power, and proud independent republic. The town offers a wealth of treasures to enjoy. For the art enthusiast, Lucca boasts some of the best examples of Gothic and Romanesque architecture in Tuscany, with beautiful polychrome marble facades and exquisite carving that synthesize Moorish, Norse, and early Christian symbolism. Native city of the opera composer Puccini, the town's musical offering ranges from classical concert to jazz and blues festivals. The fertile Lucchese countryside brings to the local table excellent extra vergin olive oil, delicious soups and vegetables, Buccellato — a local raisin bread, pungent pecorino cheeses, and the elegant wines of the nearby town of Montecarlo. Above all, you will enjoy the pride that the Lucchesi themselves take in their hometown. If you would like to discover the town in a different way your concierge will be more than happy to give more information about a bike tour of the town with an English-speaking guide.

**TIME:** The tour normally begins around 10:00 a.m., and lasts about three hours. For any specific requests please contact your concierge.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** Lucca is located about 1 hour and 30 minutes away from Castello di Casole, your concierge can provide driving directions.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required. Please specify if there are children in your group, so that we can find the best guide for the young guests.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 72 hours is required.



dal castello del P. Pretorio

*Native city of the opera composer Puccini, Lucca has a rich musical offering ranging from classical concerts to jazz and blues festivals.*

### Bike Tour and Bike Rental

Magnificent landscapes in a sea of scents and colors... This is Tuscany, a land whose panoramas are the result of centuries of harmonious exchange between nature and her inhabitants. You can have an expert English-speaking professional bike guide, offering you the chance to discover Tuscany through a wide range of itineraries that you may select based on your ability, number of kilometers, length of tour and location. If you just want to ride on your own, just ask your concierge to rent some bikes for you and have them delivered at the house. You can choose between road bikes, hybrid and mountain bikes.

**TIME:** The tour normally begins around 10:00 a.m. or earlier depending on the temperature of the season, and can be arranged for a half or a full day. For any specific requests please contact your concierge.

**MINIMUM AGE:** The minimum age required for renting a bike is 8 years old. For any other requests or in case you have younger children, you can ask your concierge to arrange special activities for them.

**ATTIRE:** Sporty.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 72 hours is required.



# Activities

## CASTELLO DI CASOLE — TUSCANY, ITALY

### Palio Racing

The world famous Palio horse race in Siena is an incredible event, held twice a year in the beautiful Piazza del Campo in the town center. The first race is on July 2nd, the second on August 16th. You can view the excitement and dram of the Palio live from a private terrace overlooking the central Piazza del Campo, where the action takes place. You will enjoy a perfect view of the event, including the parade and exhibitions which precede the actual race and the boisterous victory celebrations that follow. View the festivities from a comfortable vantage point above the huge crowds that gather in the square; enjoy drinks and refreshments and the cool shade of a canopy. If you prefer to be in the middle of the action, your concierge can buy tickets for you in the boxes or on the terraces of the building that surround Piazza del Campo. Just please remember that the tickets for the boxes offer you a seat, while the ones for the terrace are standing-only.

**TIME:** Normally the parade begins around 5:00 p.m. in August and around 6:00 p.m. in July. The starting time will be confirmed a few days before the race, and remember that if you are approaching Siena around 4:00 p.m. you might have problem reaching the town itself and finding parking.

**OPTIONS:** The parade lasts approximately 2 hours and the Palio can last only a few minutes... it all depends on the horses and if they can stay in line.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required but in the confusion and with so many people on the road, claustrophobic guests and children have to be very careful and eventually go into town very early to get tickets for the private terrace.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes. Very early booking — at least six months prior to the race — is highly recommended, as this is the most popular event in the Tuscan summer calendar.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellation allowed only at the time of the reservation.

### Hiking

Hiking in Tuscany is one of the world's great traveling experiences. You can purchase a map from your concierge and enjoy this fun experience by yourself or you may join a professional English-speaking guide for a new perspective and panorama of this wonderfully scenic realm. Hike through vineyards and olive groves, past castles and hamlets, relishing the peace and harmony of the landscape. The tours accommodate walkers of various abilities and pace and appeal to the casual but enthusiastic walker as well as to the experienced hiker.

**TIME:** Open.

**OPTIONS:** The tour can last approximately from 2 to 4 hours, depending on the individual.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required.

**EQUIPMENT:** Sporty.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:**

48 hours is required.

*Another way to see Tuscany is to hike through the olive groves, past castles and vineyards, where you can relish the peace and harmony of the landscape.*



# Activities

## CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY

### Hot Air Ballooning

Experience the magic of an aerial adventure where the destination is irrelevant, the journey everything! Hot air ballooning expeditions capture the imagination, as each flight is a unique and magical voyage. The flight starts at dawn (approx. 6:00 a.m.) and the inflation takes about 30 minutes. Your voyage lasts about 1 hour. Afterwards, a splendid continental breakfast awaits you upon landing. Once the trailer of the chase vehicle, which follows your flight from the launch site, is loaded, you will be accompanied back to the launch site. The ballooning season is approximately late spring to early autumn with annual variations.

**TIME:** Normally, flight starts at dawn (approx. 6:00 a.m.) and lasts about an hour.

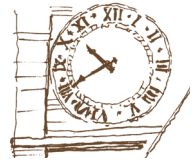
**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** The meeting point is about 20 minutes from your villa, your concierge can provide driving directions.

**MINIMUM AGE:** A minimum of 6 years of age is required.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Cancellation allowed only at the time of reservation, unless bad weather conditions prohibit flight.



*Did you know —  
Tuscany briefly got  
its own constitution  
under Leopold II,  
before joining a united  
Italy in 1860. Florence  
was the Italian capital  
from 1865 to 1870.*



### Golf

Tuscany is an ideal place for golf. The temperate climate, rolling terrain, and broad, tree-lined meadows create fairways that seem a natural continuation of the stunning Tuscan landscape. Enjoy a game of golf throughout the year as various exclusive clubs are open year-round. The closest, best golf clubs are located about 1 hour and 15 minutes from the property — Ugolino and Castelfalfi. Your concierge can provide more information about costs and tee time availability.

**TIME:** Depends upon tee time availability.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** The Ugolino and Castelfalfi golf clubs are located about 1 hour and 15 minutes from Castello di Casole.

**MINIMUM AGE:** A minimum handicap is required depending on the club you choose.

**EQUIPMENT:** Sporty.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours is required.



# Activities

## CASTELLO DI CASOLE — TUSCANY, ITALY

### Horseback Riding

In the verdant Chianti Hills just outside the Castello di Casole property, enjoy a ride through the lovely Tuscan landscape of vineyards, groves and woodlands. You will be paired with a horse suitable to your skill and height will be provided with a cap and proper safety gear. The duration of the walk may vary depending on the experience and age of the riders.

**TIME:** Open, depending upon availability of the horse company.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** About 40 minutes from the property.

**MINIMUM AGE:** A minimum of 9 years of age is required and the guests must have riding experience.

**ATTIRE:** Sporty.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes. 100% deposit required at time of booking.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours is required.

### Truffle Hunting

Your concierge is happy to arrange a private tour where the truffle's natural habitat is rigorously controlled. You can participate in a truffle hunt accompanied by local experts. Once the tour is over, you will be invited to taste truffle dishes prepared by their chef in the farm kitchen.

**TIME:** Depends upon availability. The tour lasts about 2 hours. This activity is typically arranged between the beginning of September and the end of December.

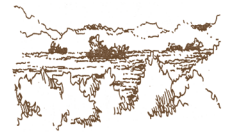
**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** About 45 minutes from Castello di Casole.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required.

**ATTIRE:** Sporty.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours is required.



*Explore private reserves guided by expert truffle-searchers who will explain all you need to know to find these curious, elusive delicacies.*

### Painting and Decoration

This is a course on ceramic decoration on white clay with ceramic colors. A qualified assistant will give you the equipment and will explain the traditional way of decorating and realizing a finished ceramic object. Her name is Eva and she lives in the Castello di Casole estate; she studied painting, water painting and design and has a degree at the Montelupo Fiorentino Institute of Ceramics. For decoration you can copy images of the Tuscan tradition or you can paint real flowers and fruits.

**TIME:** This fun experience lasts about 3 hours.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** The course will take place in your home or garden.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:**  
48 hours is required.



# Activities

## CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY

### Palazzo Davanzati

Visit the preserved private residence of the 14th century family and witness what home life was like centuries ago.

**TIME:** The tour normally begins around 10:00 a.m. and lasts about three hours. For any specific requests, please contact your concierge.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** Florence is located about 1 hour away from Castello di Casole, your concierge can provide driving directions.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required. Please specify the age of your children, so that we can find the most appropriate guide for them.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 72 hours is required.

### Shopping Tour

You can join forever curious and indefatigable shoppers for a delightful stroll through the most beautiful boutiques in Florence. With a little initial information from you, your personal shopping guide can pave a shopping trail to help you find everything you are looking for and more... Personal shoppers have superb taste and an intimate knowledge of Florence: they know and love the city's traditions and local crafts as well as its contribution to the latest avant-garde designs. Having worked with the biggest Italian houses, including Gucci, Valentino, Emilio Pucci and Ferragamo, shoppers are attentive, prepared, and up-to-date on both trends and tradition to suit your fashion fancy.

**TIME:** The tour takes about 3 hours, but upon availability and your request, it can last longer.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** Florence is about 1 hour from Castello di Casole.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours is required.

*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.*

### Private Massage in Your Room

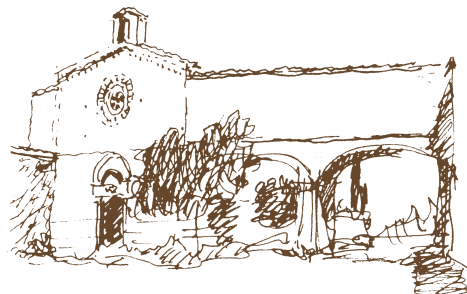
**SPECIALITIES:** Our masseuse can come to your room and provide a soothing in-residence massage. Treatment options include Energetic Lymph Drainage, Relaxing Massage, Shiatsu of Ohashi, Craniosacral Therapy, Draining Mudding-on top localized, and Ayurvedic Massage. For any further information please contact your concierge.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age required.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours is required.

**ATTIRE:** Some treatments require loose clothing.



## CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY

### Welcome Dinner at Your Home

Our chefs can prepare a delicious Tuscan meal awaiting you upon arrival.

**CUISINE/SPECIALTY:** Please remember that the menu can change depending on the ingredients available in the different seasons. If you would like to receive a copy of the current menu, please do not hesitate to contact your concierge.

**TIME:** The welcome dinner is usually left in your Casale around 7:30 p.m. the day of the arrival and no service is provided, you can of course also choose to have service included.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Please arrange this service with your concierge prior to arrival.

### Cooking Class with Private Chef at Your Villa

A fitting introduction to the culture of cooking and eating in Italy by means of single, hands-on lessons or tailor-made short courses. Uncover the differing cultural and geographical characteristics that greatly influence the cuisine which, in effect, is not national but regional. The goal of the courses is to introduce a natural and practical way to simple and genuine Tuscan cooking, so that, on your return home you can easily reproduce the same dishes.

**CUISINE/SPECIALTY:** Learn how to prepare authentic delicious Tuscan meals in a stunning setting with fantastic chefs.

**OPTIONS:** The menus are very seasonal, since here at Castello di Casole we love to use fresh ingredients, so please do not hesitate to contact your concierge and ask for the menu available in a particular season.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours is required.

### Dinner in Your Home with Private Chef

A private chef will come to your home and prepare a memorable feast for you and your guests.

**CUISINE/SPECIALTY:** Our chefs can prepare delicious Tuscan meals or any Italian dish you crave.

**OPTIONS:** Menus are very seasonal, so please contact your concierge and ask for the menu available.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours is required.

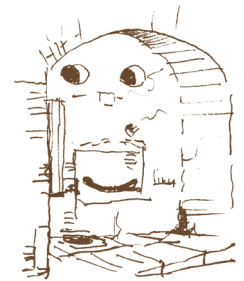
### Catered Dinner at Your Home

**CUISINE/SPECIALTY:** On any night during you stay, our chefs can prepare a variety of traditional Tuscan dinners, allowing you to try the various authentic Tuscan flavours in your own home. Remember that the menu can change depending on the different seasons. If you would like to receive a copy of the current menu, please do not hesitate to contact your concierge.

**SERVICE:** The catered dinner is cooked in your Casale. It includes service during dinner and your kitchen will be left in perfect order.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Please arrange this service with your concierge prior to your arrival or at least 24 hours in advance.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours is required.



*From the far north to the spectacular south the culinary delights stand apart as each region, and often town, practices entirely distinct styles of cooking.*



## CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY

### Pizza in the Brick Oven

**CUISINE/SPECIALTY:** At Castello di Casole we have traditional Tuscan brick ovens located outside each Casale. One of our chefs can prepare the dough for you, allowing you and your guests all the fun of rolling and baking it. Or, if you prefer, our chef can handle the entire process.

**RESERVATION REQUIRED:** Please arrange this service with your concierge prior to your arrival or at least 24 hours in advance, in order to allow enough time to properly light the oven and reach the required temperature.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours is required.

### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

*Most adult activities can also be arranged for kids.*

#### Babysitter

You can arrange for babysitters of great experience and professionalism to guarantee the most reliable, trustworthy personnel for your children.

**TIME:** The baby sitter will come directly to your house and offers half-day, full-day or hourly service

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age required.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 1 week cancellation is required.

#### Art and Craft Activities

Let your kids express their creativity and explore their artistic interests as they experiment with different materials. An artist/counselor will help your kids, depending on the age, to discover materials such as clay, ceramics, and paper. An artist will teach the basic techniques of how to model clay, creating little objects before painting their creations with bright colors. The artist employs music and books to create a happy atmosphere and she will involve the children in a wonderful experience. At the end of the course the artist will collect the objects up, cook them in an appropriate oven and return them to you in a few days.

**TIME:** The artist can come directly to your house, or your kids can go to her house, located inside the property. Two and three hour courses are available.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age required.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours is required.



*Informative and fun adventures are specifically created for children and led by experienced and qualified guides, camp counselors, babysitters and entertainers.*



## CASTELLO DI CASOLE – TUSCANY, ITALY

### Leonardo Da Vinci and His Machines

Visit Leonardo Da Vinci's birthplace and marvel at the creations of a genius' mind.

**TIME:** The tour normally begins around 10:00 a.m. and lasts about three hours. For any specific requests, please contact your concierge.

**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** Florence is located about 1 hour away from Castello di Casole, your concierge can provide driving directions.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required. Please specify the age of your children, so that we can find the most appropriate guide for them.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 72 hours is required.

### Animal Watching

The game keeper of the property, Paolo, will be happy to come and pick you up and take you animal watching inside the property.

**TIME:** Sunrise or sunset is ideal, and the activity normally lasts about an hour.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age required, but the truck can only accommodate up to 2 guests at a time.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 48 hours is required.

### The Children's Museum

Inside Palazzo Vecchio is a fun and interesting museum with various activities for children.

**TIME:** The tour normally begins around 10:00 a.m. and lasts about three hours. For any specific requests, please contact your concierge.

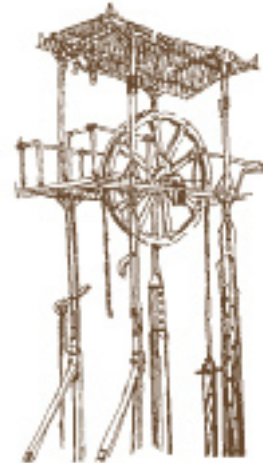
**DISTANCE FROM THE PROPERTY:** Florence is located about 1 hour away from Castello di Casole, your concierge can provide driving directions.

**MINIMUM AGE:** No minimum age is required. Please specify the age of your children, so that we can find the most appropriate guide for them.

**ATTIRE:** Casual.

**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:** Yes.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** 72 hours is required.



*Share the cultural treasures of Tuscany with your kids through tours specifically designed for young travelers.*

