

Give in to temptation in terrific

Head to Italy this year and enjoy everything that the beautiful Argentario Resort Golf & Spa has to offer: luxurious

Universally acknowledged as the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance, the beautiful Italian region of Tuscany has, for decades, been a popular destination amongst holidaymakers who enjoy history, culture, art, and beautiful landscapes.

However, over the past few years, it has also started to establish itself as a favourite of golfers.

That is down, in no small part, to the spectacular Argentario Resort Golf and Spa.

Located in the heart of the Maremma - a beautiful, almost untouched part of Southern Tuscany - Argentario's popularity is obvious.

It comprises 73 design rooms and an exclusive cottage, all featuring a private terrace with views of either the stunning, lush Monte Argentario landscape, or the resort's 18-hole championship golf course. More about that in a minute.

The on-site Dama Dama Restaurant offers delicious Tuscan and Mediterranean cuisine, with many of the ingredients having been grown on-site in the resort's own organic vegetable garden.

The stylish Espace Wellness Centre, meanwhile, is a 2,700sq/m oasis of tranquillity, leisure, and indulgence. Its style is suspended somewhere between retro and modern, whilst its amenities includes a hi-tech gym, Kneip pool, massage rooms, and indoor and outdoor pools.

Its MediSpa offers dermo-aesthetic and naturopathy treatments, with the facilities for the resort's sportier guests including three tennis courts, two jogging paths, and even a football pitch.

But back to the golf course. Surrounded by the Orbetello Lagoon - a mouth-watering nature reserve - and the kind of beautiful, green countryside



Tuscany

rooms, opulent dining, sheer relaxation, and a magnificent course

for which Tuscany is world-renowned, the course is a sheer pleasure to play.

Originally laid out by Italian golfer Baldovino Dassu, the course was subsequently worked on by Brian Jorgensen, the result being a layout that has been described as 'varied spectacular and technically challenging'.

Its small, perfectly-manicured greens are especially noteworthy and, no matter how badly you might play, the stunning views across the aforementioned lagoon are guaranteed to brighten your mood.

A sign of the quality of the course? Only the fact that Ryder Cup-winning captain Jose Maria Olazabal and Italian teenager Matteo Manassero have been known to use it for practice. Bear in mind, these are two guys used to playing some of the world's finest

courses and who have access to just about anywhere they choose. The fact they plump for Argentario speaks volumes for the quality of this destination.

If you feel that your game could use a pair of expert eyes giving it the once over either before or after you take to the course, there is an on-site teaching academy - and you might recognise one of the instructors who works there.

Emanuele Canonica, a past winner of the Johnnie Walker Championship at Gleneagles, now teaches out of the academy and is available for lessons. He uses the latest cutting-edge technology and equipment to ensure that you leave Argentario a better player than when you arrived, which is never a bad thing.

The resort is, in simple terms, a 'must visit'.



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Eat, drink, play golf? Perfect!

Visit the Argentario Resort Golf & Spa this May and you will be able to enjoy a number of eno-gastronomic and sports events in the wider Tuscany region. The Maremma Wine & Food Shire takes place from May 16-18 and comprises food festivals and wine tastings in different towns allowing the discerning tourist the opportunity to appreciate - and taste - two of the aspects that symbolise the area: quality and eco-sustainability. This culinary event takes place within the larger Maremma Festival, which promotes local culture and sports. As you might expect, therefore, the Maremma Tuscany has a busy calendar of events, including boat races, handicrafts exhibitions and sports activities, such as the Maremma Wine Shire Golf Pro Am, which will take place in the Argentario Golf Club on May 17. The competition will be followed by eno-gastronomic tastings on a panoramic terrace overlooking the course. Interested? Then check out the packages below for more info:

GOLFIN' TUSCANY
A short but intense golf break. Three nights with unlimited green fees. Prices start from €885 per double room.

GOLF & GOURMET
An all-Tuscan golf and gourmet experience. Seven nights, with unlimited green fees, and two meat and fish tasting menus with dedicated wines. Prices start from €2,185 per double room

All rates include buffet breakfast, daily spa access and wi-fi internet use.

For more information, log-on to argentarioresort.com

