

MADE IN ITALY

YOUR SECRET TUSCANY: LUXURY HOTEL & VILLAS AT ARGENTARIO GOLF RESORT & SPA

Surrey Magazine was delighted to be invited by The Argentario Golf Resort & Spa, set in the Monte Argentario nature reserve to spend a few days at the design hotel for the launch of their new collection of luxury villas.

Tuscany is one of the most alluring and sought-after gems to visit in Italy that is itself one of the most popular countries and tourist destinations in the world, celebrated for its rural beauty with breath-taking landscapes, heritage, style and gastronomy.

After a swift morning flight from London Heathrow to Rome Fiumicino airport and 90-minute car transfer we soon arrived at the resort. Greeted by our host Laurent Coppini and his team, we arrived in time to enjoy an alfresco lunch on the panoramic sun terrace of the new Argentario Club House with stunning views over the golf course, the Orbetello lagoon awash with pink flamingos and the Gulf of Talamone in the distance.

The Argentario Club House is a fabulous addition to the resort with soft leather chairs, deer antler candelabras, and cosy furnishings chosen by Milan-based interior designer, Andrea Fogli. They serve simple yet creative, healthy dishes focusing on quality! Fresh salads with local cold meats, cheese and homemade olive oil and focaccia. For dinner, a gourmet banquet of authentic mouth-watering platters of fish, lovingly crafted pasta with grilled Med vegetables rounded off with Cantucci almond biscotti and Tuscan rocks of dark natural chocolate - the Italians know how to please!

Laurent gave us a tour of the resort and explained that the sleek design of the Club House and recently-completed luxury villas reflect the ultra-modern dramatic architecture of the nearby resort hotel which is a member of "Design Hotels" built with minimal environmental impact and maximum luxury by Augusto Orsini for the 21st century. The property is shaped like a giant dragonfly characterised by its magnificent, futuristic white atrium and light-filled stairway leading down to a wellness centre with state-of-the-art spa, technogym, saunas, hot tubs, and two swimming pools. The reception, bar and restaurants are situated in the central body. There are 73 rooms, suites and luxury apartments extending outwards like wings. I loved the quirky design surprises around every corner - an industrial 20ft white desk lamp and table, massive stylish and modern comfy wool



Argentario Golf Course

pile cushions, bobbin-like stool seating in the lobby and realistic life-size jet black wild boar coffee tables in the bar lounge! Exquisitely crafted furnishing themes flow throughout the property strongly led by nature, bringing the outdoors inside. Impressive floor to ceiling glass windows are in stunning contrast to the Tuscan blue sky and cleverly extend and blend the hotel into the landscape with a fusion of design and luxury.

Located in the rustic coastal region of Maremma Tuscany, on the Monte Argentario Peninsula, it's an area of outstanding beauty stretching between mesmerising white sandy beaches of the Mediterranean Sea to the picturesque verdant valleys of rolling hills with postcard-perfect splashes of pink sycamore blossoms and long hours of sunshine. We drove to Porto Ercole, a small fishing village, to watch the fishermen untangle their nets and prepare to go out fishing.



Horse Track Maremma Cottage

It's the perfect place to enjoy an aperitif and feast on fresh seafood. The larger seaside Porto Santo Stefano is where ferry boats depart on trips for the Islands of Giglio and Giannutri.

Golfers in our party appreciated the peacefulness and beauty of a natural, unspoilt and charmingly Italian style 18-hole championship golf course far from the mass tourism. Designed to be eco-conscious, it is surrounded by picturesque landscapes and wildlife. No hole looks the same and hundreds of shimmering silver ancient olive groves under the Tuscan sun make it appear centuries old with incredible panoramas.

As a non-golfer, I lolled around the wellness centre and indulged in a heavenly body massage and facial experience at the spa leaving me with an immediate sensation of relaxation and wellness before a laze by the pools - alternatively there is a beach service to one of the natural beaches or guests can just unwind in one of their spas and well-appointed rooms and villas, complete with their own Jacuzzi tubs!

Argentario offers a strategic location to visit local attractions, cultural days out and sight-seeing trips to explore monuments and the art cities like Rome, Sienna, Florence and Pisa. Thanks to its mild climate it permits a great variety of interests and activities that can be enjoyed all year-round, including nature reserves, beaches, sailing and water sports, horse-riding, hiking, cycling, golf and of course spending time surrounded by nature. One must-do excursion

that the hotel can arrange is a visit to Le Mortelle Wine Estate belonging to the Antinori family - a perfect partner for Argentario Golf. After a fascinating tour of their state-of-the-art cellar we enjoyed a private tasting of prestigious wines before heading back to the resort for a unique fine dining experience at the Dama Dama Restaurant. So named after the fallow deer that occasionally roam around the grounds where you can sample Emiliano Lombardelli's Tuscan gourmet tasting menus based on the flavours and colours of the local land with lots of surprises including naturally blue-violet potato dust!

There are currently five bespoke luxury villas boasting ground breaking design and views to buy or rent with the resort planning to limit the number to 22 over the next few years! Villas enjoy privacy and independence with stunning panoramic views you can't match, with open access and sharing all comforts and services of the five-star Argentario Resort. Concierge service, Wi-Fi and secure parking are available to all guests whilst those staying at the villas enjoy complimentary green fees throughout their stay. Also included is a beach service to one of the most exclusive beach clubs of the area and excursions: yacht and boat rental, sailing courses, fishing trips, cookery lessons, guided visits in wineries and olive mills. There's an on-site heliport, polo club and luxury shopping in the Argentario resort boutique where you can buy designer fashion, bespoke interiors, local wines and sportswear.

Two Hills Lodges feature 'the Lagoon Bay' design with family living spaces, double-height living rooms, cinema rooms and huge decks overlooking the polo fields where tournaments are played from June to mid-August. Two Maremma Cottages, with impressive open-plan living area and their own interior designs - one named 'Olive Trees' themed by nature and the other 'Horse Track' is equestrian themed complete with terrace and outdoor hot tubs. Locker Cottage is the glamorous, chic and high spec country pad. It is a haven of peace and tranquillity, with wow factor open plan living, a massive terrace and extra-large Turkish bath.

Villas are flexible to rent for as many days or weeks you want, and prices are tailor made according to the length of the stay, interests and demands of the guests! If you buy a villa, owners benefit from 24/7 security, property management and a rental programme. Your villa can be used whenever you desire whilst the rest of the year the property can be put in a rental pool to generate income.

Property prices start from Euros 1.75 million. www.argentariogolfresortspa.it
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Indoor swimming pool



Olive Trees Maremma Cottage



Dama Dama Restaurant



Le Mortelle Wine Estate