



Apart from day-trip excursions, it's often the comforts of a luxurious home away from home that delight, such as Relais La Suvera's cozy library and stellar views.

meals. Food is of good quality, and the reasonably priced wine list includes all the top names of Tuscany. During the low-season, Il Falconiere operates a cooking school specializing in rural Tuscan cuisine, run by their chef, Michele Brogioni.

### Locanda Dell'Amorosa

53048 Sinalunga (SI) TELEPHONE (011) 39-0577-679497 FAX (011) 39-0577-632001 ROOMS 14 SUITES 6 RATES \$210-\$630 OPEN Mid-March to late December

This is certainly a romantic and comfy inn to visit, as the name in Italian ("lovers' inn") suggests.

It is located north of the wine town of Montepulciano, just outside Sinalunga and 10 minutes off the main freeway

(A1). Only 20 rooms are available in this ancient convent. Each has a different ambience, making the Locanda resemble a personal home more than a hotel. The restaurant serves good, typical Tuscan cuisine, although prices are expensive. There's also a small osteria to have a plate of cold meats, local cheese and top-class wines from super Tuscans to Brunellos. There is no swimming pool here; however, if you are visiting nearby wineries or simply puttering around the Tuscan countryside, it's a wonderful place to stay.

### Relais La Suvera

53030 Pievescola (SI) TELEPHONE (011) 39-0577-960300 FAX (011) 39-0577-960220 ROOMS 16 SUITES 19 RATES \$210-\$525, includes breakfast OPEN Mid-April to early November

Have you ever dreamed of staying in a Renaissance papal palace? Pope Julius II made La Suvera his summer residence. In olden times, it was probably a center for the Knights Templars. This unique property, located near Siena, is conveniently close to most of the important medieval towns in Tuscany.

The 35-room papal villa includes eight princely suites and four double rooms; other suites and rooms are in outbuildings such as the old stables and the former farmhouse. Each room has a decorative theme—for example, the Napoleonic suite or the Marie Antoinette suite—and comes complete with antiques personally selected by the owners, the Marquis Ricci and the Princess Massimo. Its heavy furniture and dark rooms might be a little overpowering for some. To say you would be staying in a museum is no exaggeration.

tion, but it is one made alive by a warm welcome, attentive service and gracious hospitality.

The library opens onto a loggia that offers breathtaking views of the surrounding park land and countryside. An ancient olive press is housed in the restaurant, which features traditional Tuscan cuisine. The only drawback here is the swimming pool, which has very little space around it to relax in the sun.

### Relais Villa Arceno

53010 San Gusmè (SI) TELEPHONE (011) 39-0577-359292 FAX (011) 39-0577-359276 ROOMS 8 SUITES 8 RATES \$280-\$395, includes breakfast OPEN April to early November

Villa Arceno is run like an English gentleman's club, with butlers at your beck and call.

The discreet charm of this exquisite 17th century villa and its extensive park, which includes a pool and a lake, ensures exclusivity. The rooms are elegantly furnished, spacious, well-lit by large windows, and each has its own dressing room. Six of the 16 rooms in the hotel have terraces.

The evenings encourage a social atmosphere—as guests mingle to discuss the day's outings, drinks are served in the garden, followed by a gourmet dinner. The service may seem snooty at times, but it hardly matters because the setting is so sublime.

### Terme di Saturnia

Loc. Saturnia Grosseto, 58050 Saturnia TELEPHONE (011) 39-0564-601061 FAX (011) 39-0564-601266 E-MAIL [infor@termedisaturnia.it](mailto:infor@termedisaturnia.it) ROOMS 82 SUITES 8 RATES \$160-\$280, includes breakfast, thermal baths, sauna, tennis court and golf practice course OPEN All year

Everything here is built around the amazing swimming pool, which is fed by underground hot springs. Located about two hours south of Siena in a forgotten part of Tuscany, this is a favorite destination during the winter for Italians who want to bask in the warm waters of the Saturnia springs.

Most of the 90 rooms in the modern, Tuscan-style hotel are relatively small. The restaurant serves healthy and delicious food, and even offers a good selection of wine. Many health treatments are available, from Shiatsu massage to facials. There's also a gym with personal trainers at your disposal. Some guests do their exercises in the pool. To slip into a warm pool on a cold winter's night in Tuscany is a glorious feeling and something out of the ordinary.

### Villa San Michele

Via Doccia 4, 50014 Fiesole (FL) TELEPHONE (011) 39-055-5678200 FAX (011) 39-055-5678250 E-MAIL [reservations@villasanmichele.it](mailto:reservations@villasanmichele.it) ROOMS 26 SUITES 15 RATES \$615-\$1,420, includes breakfast OPEN Mid-March to early December

The most beautiful hotel in Tuscany, Villa San Michele occupies a 15th century monastery that was once owned by the Medici family. Overlooking the city of Florence from the hillsides of Fiesole (a 10 minute taxi ride from the center of town), it offers a palatial elegance unmatched in the region.

The terraced bar and swimming pool offer breathtaking views of Florence and the valley of the Arno. Some rooms are small and dark, but also cozy and opulent—just feel the thick, luxurious linen bedsheets. The handful of rooms near the pool are larger and more modern. The restaurant is good if not exceptional. This is the ultimate mixture of Florence chic and country splendor.



Rejuvenating spa treatments such as massages and facials are enjoyed by guests of Terme di Saturnia.