



Castello di Casole, surrounded by the immemorial Sieneese countryside

THE RECCE

AN EMERGING star

Blessed with an abundance of superlative properties – from enchanting *agroturismos* and small inns to grand hotels – the key to successful hospitality in Italy seems clear: stay true to the terroir, through and through. So what are we to make of **Castello di Casole**, a 41-suite hotel on a 1,700ha estate deep in the Sieneese countryside that has been recast by American property developer David Burden? To begin, we can salute a job well done. Set to open this summer after six years of kudos-worthy planning and construction, the hotel anchors the historic hilltop castello, where guests, having been inveigled and tantalised by a long allée of cypresses, arrive to find not only a restored 18th-century chapel but also a half-dozen rusticated sitting rooms, lounges and restaurants. Authenticity abounds, from the furnishings and the fare to service of the highest calibre, guided ably by general manager Bart Spoorenberg. The pulchritude of the surrounding vineyards and olive groves notwithstanding, the property also features a 500sq m spa and wellness centre, an infinity pool and, elsewhere on the sprawling estate, 28 artfully restored Casali farmhouses, which are available for fractional ownership. *From €630; castellodicasole.com*

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Commodious countrified accommodations abound

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Hôtel du Cap's iconic swimming pool alongside the Mediterranean

TRIED AND TESTED

RETURN TO MAGNIFICENCE

A timeless, unhurried and dignified charm pervades every corner of the new-look **Hôtel du Cap-Eden-Roc**, the 142-year-old icon of the Côte d'Azur that emerged from a four-year, €45m restoration last April. Set in a 9ha park on a promontory studded with parasol pines in Cap d'Antibes, the 118-room Victorian-style Villa Soleil has it all: sun-drenched rooms that gave artists and authors a stir; restaurants

where, inexplicably, the fare outshines the setting; and shoreside, a seawater swimming pool cantilevered above the cobalt of the Mediterranean, where the more active can venture out to a pair of pontoons. There are, of course, the famous cabanas, tennis courts, a gym and spa, but above all, the hotel is immersed in the aura of the great and good who have come to relax and left – only to return each subsequent year. The icon has been reinvented. *From €495; hdcer.com*

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The beach-side terrace

THE GETAWAY

SEASIDE SANCTUARY

Corsica's achingly fashionable Hotel Casadelmar has burnished its now-established credentials by adding a waterside outpost on the Benedettu Peninsula of Porto-Vecchio. Designed by Jean-François Bodin, **La Plage Casadelmar** is situated on a private sugarcane beach with 12 rooms and three suites, all with terraces, fashioned from

a pleasing blend of stone, wood and volcanic rock. The property, which is decorated whimsically in both earth tones and a colourful palette of designer furnishings, also features a restaurant, casual grill and, of course, a swimming pool – ensuring it becomes an instant Mediterranean classic. *From €300; laplagecasadelmar.fr*

CHRISTINA BEISCHL

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