



## SPRING DESTINATION SPOTLIGHT: MONTEVERDI TUSCANY

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When American lawyer Michael L. Cioffi first laid eyes on the village of Castiglioncello del Trinoro in Tuscany, he was immediately smitten, and for good reason. The land is several millennia old—so rich in history and tradition that he couldn't let the dilapidated buildings of the charming Italian town continue to ruin. Italian by heritage, Cioffi bought the property, furthering a longstanding affinity for Tuscany, and opened his impossibly stylish and rare boutique hotel, **Monteverdi Tuscany**, in 2012. Located in the postcard-perfect Val d'Orcia, a UNESCO Heritage site, he's successfully created one of the most enchanting hotel properties on the globe.

With interiors by lauded Florentine designer Ilaria Miani, past perfectly meets present, celebrated in a meticulous restoration that pays homage to the Val d'Orcia. What to expect? A strict minimalist approach reminiscent of Shaker design, blended with a signature aesthetic of raw yet sophisticated materials, guestrooms with distinct personalities, and handcrafted appointments and furniture by local artisans. What's more, the stunning property isn't only a tranquil Italian retreat; it's a catalyst to experiencing *la dolce vita*.



“Every aspect of Monteverdi—from the smallest architectural details to the grandest vista from our Library Bar or from our lavender garden and swimming pool—is designed to stimulate the mind and ignite the senses,” says Cioffi in his coffee table tome, *Monteverdi: A Village in Tuscany*. Here’s what’s not to miss:

**Eye On Design:** Design highlights can be found around every corner, yet standouts include the Luxury View Suites, where Tuscan foundations are finished with stone walls, wood-beam ceilings, and sunny views to continually nourish the spirit. Additionally, three carefully restored hilltop villas capture the Tuscany travelers yearn for: panoramic views of rolling fields of gold and green grain, cypress trees, and terraced vineyards.

**Pamper Me, Please:** Expanded just last year, the Spa at Monteverdi includes a gorgeous heated underground pool modeled after Roman baths and finished with a warm waterfall and adjacent cold plunge pool. Hammam treatments are inspired by cleansing rituals of the Ottoman Empire, and as part of the “Monteverdi Bathing Rituals,” al fresco twin travertine tubs are employed for outdoor, herb-infused baths with indelible views of the Val d’Orcia hillside. A private yoga studio has recently been incorporated as well.



**Savor:** Monteverdi elevates the Italian tradition of stellar food and wine. Opened in 2018, the new Culinary Academy—a converted schoolhouse—features daily cooking classes. Gourmands can hone their skills in a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen, while indoor and outdoor dining spaces accommodate each class to sample and enjoy their culinary creations. Executive Chef Giancarla Bodoni helms a seasonally inspired culinary program. The farmhouse inspired *Oreade* dishes local, source-to-fork cuisine—seasonal grains and pecorino cheese produced by sheep grazing on the nearby rolling hills. Menu highlights include the Sangiovese pappardelle with boar ragu or the beer and honey braised veal cheek with polenta croutons.

**Sip:** Daily wine tasting seminars are held right on property, while once a week guests can also experience vertical wine tastings by a local wine superstar from Tuscany. With a focus on wines from the surrounding areas of Montalcino and Montepulciano, Monteverdi’s Enoteca features 32 carefully vetted wines by the glass, all preserved in an Enomatic system.

**Cultural Connoisseur:** Stellar music performances are held at the 14th Century Romanesque church, Chiesa di Sant’Andrea, and at the new Monteverdi Lounge, while the works of international contemporary artists are showcased in Monteverdi’s on-site art gallery. As part of the Artist and Scholars in Residence program, Cioffi and his team invite an eclectic group of leading musicians, painters, sculptors, singers, and scholars to hold lectures or perform on property. As such, guests will hear resident students rehearsing the likes of Claudio Monteverdi and other Baroque composers. As Cioffi explains, “Monteverdi, infused into the bones of Castiglioncello, is the perfect perch from which to see, taste, and feel this land, its rhythms and history.”



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