



## An Umbrian Evolution: The Reschio Estate



[Reschio](#) is a 3,700-acre pastoral Estate in the Umbrian hills on Italy's Umbria-Tuscany border. Encompassing a 10<sup>th</sup>-century castle, the Estate was bought in 1994 by Count Antonio Bolza, intent on bringing this forgotten corner of Italy back to life. In the 25 years since Count Bolza's son, London-trained architect, Count Benedikt, and his wife, Donna Nencia Corsini, have set about beautifully restoring over half of the buildings on the Estate with meticulous detail, transforming them into one-of-a-kind private homes, eight of which are available to rent. This May saw the Estate complete its most ambitious chapter yet, opening the doors to award-winning **Castello di Reschio**, a supremely elegant 36-bedroom hotel featuring a field-to-fork restaurant and an ethereal subterranean Bathhouse. Elsewhere on the estate, guests will uncover **Ristorante Alle Scuderie**, a 70-cover restaurant; **Il Torrino**, an ancient watchtower turned pool bar; and an **Equestrian Centre** where Reschio's 40 Spanish pure-bred horses are housed.

From his base at **The Tabaccaia**, the estate's former 1940's tobacco factory now reimagined as an industrial-chic creative center, Count Benedikt is responsible for every design and restoration project at Reschio, transforming each crumbling ruin into modern-day masterpieces whilst respecting traditional Italian building techniques and blending old with new. Working with local carpenters, stonemasons, tile makers, blacksmiths, lighting masters and other artisans, Count Benedikt has worked tirelessly over the last two decades to create some of Europe's most exquisite homes. Each project varies in degrees of modernity and antiquity, whilst prioritizing seclusion for its owners. Count Benedikt's involvement goes way beyond that of a normal architect's brief, encompassing interior design, landscaping plus **bespoke furniture and lighting design** via his [BB for Reschio](#) studio, as well as sourcing **antiques and unique artwork** from across the country.

Most recently, Count Benedikt's attention turned to the Estate's crown jewel, its 1,000-year old castle where he, Nencia and their five young children lived for a decade. Following a sell-out first season, **Hotel Castello di Reschio** has become the beating heart of the Estate, combining Reschio's hallmark design with a jaw-dropping position that overlooks the wild Umbrian countryside that surrounds it. Count Benedikt has embraced an organic approach to its design championing local craftsmanship and creating thoughtful, beautiful spaces that are filled with comfort and wit - artfully referencing the intriguing characters who once resided within the castle walls.

Meanwhile at the Equestrian Theatre, famed sculptor **Nic Fiddian-Green's** bronze Roman Horse celebrates how integral Reschio's pure-bred Spanish horses are to the evolution of the Estate. Having learnt to ride himself aged 57, Count Antonio founded his stud in 1994 and appointed leading dressage expert, **Antonello Radicchi**, to train his horses at the highest level of dressage. Riding lessons and excursions are available for guests and a weekly dressage event brings guests and home owners together. Other activities include hiking, tennis, wild swimming in the Estate Lake, cooking lessons, olive oil making, truffle hunting, and painting classes.

In recent years, the Bolza family has introduced organic farming to the Estate. The land is abundant with roots, shoots, leaves, berries, fruit and truffles thanks to no artificial fertilizers and a **synergic vegetable garden**. A second, larger organic kitchen garden grows much of the produce that informs the menus at Reschio's restaurants. The **Reschio olive groves**, home to over 5,000 olive trees, are grown and managed according to the practices of organic farming to include century-old trees, and the Estate's harvest provides a superior quality of oil thanks to an early harvest giving a smaller yield. The Estate's **vineyards** produce wine from Sangiovese, Ciliegolo, Cesanese and Merlot varieties, whilst over one million bees provide **organic millefiori honey**.

*Hotel Castello di Reschio opened 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021*

*Rates start from €760 per room per night including breakfast, based on two sharing.*

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