

IL BORRO

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A TUSCAN STORY

In the majority of travel guides, this hamlet surrounded by verdant Tuscan hills, is described in its present state as a medieval village. In fact, Il Borro, already existent in the 12th century, was originally a castle. From the remains of the ancient wall and bridge it can be deduced that Il Borro was a fortress situated on a spur of rock, a crag (the Tuscan word Borro means a gorge formed by the bed of a river), which made this emplacement an impregnable stronghold. Over the centuries, Il Borro has had considerable political-strategic importance; its road network, which probably dates back to Etruscan times, connected Arezzo and Fiesole, and even stretches of ancient Roman roads such as the Clodia and the Cassiaran ran near the castle.

It is not known which family the castle belonged to in the year 1000, but from the first written records it seems that the fortress was purchased by *Borro de Borris di Medulano* (Podestà or governor, of Arezzo, who took the name of the castle itself). For many long years the fortress was the object of bitter disputes between Guelph Florence and Ghibelline Arezzo.

Of significance in the history of this place is the presence of the Dal Borro family, particularly the famous general and terror of the Turks, *Alessandro Dal Borro* (Arezzo 22 April 1600 - Corfu 2 December 1656). On his death, the lands passed into the hands of his descendants until the family having become extinct, Il Borro was returned to the Grand Duchy in 1766.

Some years later, the government of Florence sold the land to the *Medici-Tornaquinci* family, and in 1867 the property passed to the princes of *Hohenlohe-Waldenburg*. The 20th century was also one of renewals and transfers for Il Borro; in fact, in 1904 the entire holding passed to *German Princes of Savoia-Aosta* or Duke Emanuele Filiberto of Aosta, Count Vittorio Emanuele of Turin and Duke Luigi Amedeo of the Abruzzi. In the mid-Fifties the whole estate, which comprised around 1000 hectares, as well as the village, passed to *Duke Amedeo of Savoia-Aosta*.

In 1993, the same Duke sold it to Ferruccio Ferragamo who for many years had rented it for hunting and holidays with family and friends. Since 1993, this ancient village has been completely restored and its history and traditions preserved.

Today, the company owned by Ferruccio Ferragamo, is run by his son **Salvatore (CEO)** and his daughter **Vittoria (organic vegetable garden and special projects manager)**.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

“An enduring act of faith”, Ferruccio Ferragamo likes to say. Since 1993, driven by a desire to give life back to the ancient village and its history, he has undertaken the extensive task of restoring and refurbishing the entire village and constantly implementing improvements and innovations.

Promotion of the territory, understood as an infinite wealth of customs and traditions, and **respect for the unique features of the place**, are at the heart of the Estate’s philosophy which perfectly espouses that of Relais & Châteaux, and is motivated by the desire to establish authentic ties with its guests.

Il Borro also shares with Relais & Châteaux a desire to safeguard, keep alive and promote the richness and diversity of cuisines and traditions of hospitality throughout the world. To this end it has reopened the **old workshops** in the Medieval Village to craftsmen, including a goldsmith, shoemaker, decorator and embroiderer, who work every day to create unique, original objects and offer equally unique experiences to guests.

Matters such as **sustainability, use of renewable energy sources, respect for the environment and the organic quality of farm produce** integrate with the life of the entire village – from hospitality to the restaurants, farm produce and wine production and the spaces reserved for wellness – in a natural union with the history of Il Borro.

Il Borro is a zero-carbon estate producing more energy that it uses and favouring the use of clean energy. Good examples are the decision to introduce electric cars and to install photovoltaic panels that generate 2Mwh every year, contributing to a saving of 930 tons of CO2 per year, equivalent to a car driven 225 times around the world or the CO2 absorbed by 77,500 trees in a year.

Vittoria Ferragamo, Ferruccio Ferragamo's fifth daughter, is the manager of the **Special Projects of Il Borro**. With the pioneering spirit and respect for nature that distinguishes the company, it has launched a series of activities aimed at safeguarding the territory, its traditions and its people.

Among the projects she manages *Orto del Borro*. It was born in 2012 from the passion and attention of Ferruccio Ferragamo for the healthiness of the environment and food and for the local traditions. Today Orto del Borro is a lush three-hectare "cultivated garden" in which seasonal vegetables characterized by freshness, quality and authentic flavor are grown.

The oasis of artisans of Il Borro is another of the initiatives undertaken. The artisans who animate the ancient village are the protagonists and offer their experience in craft workshops to protect the ancient arts and keep the local customs alive.

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THE ESTATE

Il Borro extends over an area of **1,100** hectares located in the heart of Tuscany, in the **Upper Arno Valley**, a wide natural basin formed by the course of the eponymous river and bordered by the Pratomagno massif and the Chianti hills.

The Estate is part of the Relais & Châteaux Association, and includes an **historic residence**, a **villa** among Merlot vineyards, **58 exclusive suites** - both in the Medieval Village and at the Aie - and two restaurants - **Osteria del Borro** and **Il Borro Tuscan Bistro** - both overseen by Executive Chef Andrea Campani, a **Spa**, the **Wine & Art Gallery** and a **centuries-old wine cellar**.

Hospitality is integrated with the life of a **cutting-edge** farm, which has been entirely organic and eco-sustainable since 2015.

Il Borro's pride and joy are without doubt the 85 hectares of vineyards, from which 12 fine wines are produced (10 entirely organic). Among the main wines are **Bolle di Borro Rosé Metodo Classico** (100% Sangiovese), **Alessandro dal Borro IGT Toscana Syrah Bio** (100% Syrah), **Il Borro IGT Toscana Rosso Bio** (50% Merlot, 35% Cabernet, 15% Syrah) and **Petruna in Anfora IGT Toscana Sangiovese Bio** (100% Sangiovese).

Completing the property are 33 hectares of olive trees, which guarantee the production of organic extra virgin olive oil of the highest quality, 180 hectares given over to forage and arable land, 2 hectares to organic horticulture and the remaining acreage devoted to forestry.

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HOSPITALITY

Il Borro offers its guests a unique experience in the authentic Tuscan atmosphere, in full compliance with the necessary health and safety standards required in this historical period.

A true oasis of peace, where outdoor spaces allow you to immerse yourself completely in the silence that surrounds the structure, walking in the surrounding vineyards, in the woods or in the village, away from everyday city life, and in close contact with the environment.

The residences have exclusive spaces and personalized services and are the perfect setting to regenerate, be reconciled with themselves and spend stays with friends and family in total serenity. Moreover, Il Borro, equipped with ultra-wide fiber optic bandwidth connectivity, is the ideal destination for "workation", offering the possibility of alternating hours of work from remote to moments of pure relaxation in a naturally safe place.

At Il Borro each guest can choose between different solutions: the exclusive **Dimora Storica, Villa Casetta, the 38 elegant and refined suites** within the medieval village and the **20 new "Aie del Borro" suites**, accommodating up to 105 guests.

- THE HISTORIC DIMORA

Situated at the heart of the Estate, the elegant **Historic Dimora** towers over the entire medieval village.

It has been painstakingly and extensively restored using authentic materials and retaining the architectural features typical of 19th century Tuscan villas. Each suit has its own unique features that give elegance to the rooms.

Equipped with all amenities, with 10 en-suite bedrooms, meeting room, dining room, study, billiard room, heated indoor swimming pool and outdoor, gym, sauna and the sumptuous Dimora is the location of choice for exclusive stays and the ideal venue for organizing business meetings and tailor-made events.

- VILLA CASETTA

Villa Casetta, set in a large garden and surrounded by Merlot vineyards, offers the most authentic Tuscan holiday experience in an absolutely unique location

The villa has 4 bedrooms, a charming living room with a fireplace, large kitchen, a bright dining room and an infinity pool. Villa Casetta is equipped with solar panels in line with the eco-sustainable philosophy that is the hallmark of the entire Il Borro Estate.

Every morning, guests at Villa Casetta awake to the scent of coffee and homemade cakes for a delightful, private breakfast.

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- SUITES IN THE VILLAGE

A stone bridge leads to the ancient medieval hamlet in the heart of Il Borro, where 38 **charming suites and rooms** are located and which, together with the craftsmen's workshops, re-evokes the intimate life and suspended-in-time atmosphere of a medieval village.

Divided into **Classic Room, Deluxe Room, Deluxe Suites, Prestige Suites, Junior Suite and Family Suite**, each tells its story in a different way – the suites bear the names of the people who once lived in the village and of the crafts and trades they worked at.

Characterized by meticulous attention to detail, the suites feature soft colours and exquisite fabrics. The traditional Tuscan materials with which they have been elegantly furnished make the rooms pleasant and relaxing, reflecting the spirit of the place. Located in the peace and quiet of pedestrians-only little alleys, they give the feeling of experiencing moments out of time, surrounded by nature, history and beauty.

- AIE DEL BORRO

Aie del Borro, inaugurated in June 2019, are elegantly renovated rural buildings dating to the times of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany.

Leopoldina and the three nearby farmhouses – Il Forte, La Posta and La Fonte – have been renovated to preserve their original architectural features and safeguard local history.

Set in verdant countryside and surrounded by mulberry trees, oaks, lavender bushes and geometrical aromatic herb gardens, Aie del Borro are ideal for families and groups of friends looking for an experience in natural surroundings with the focus on sports and wellness. Golf, horse riding, a tennis court, calisthenics equipment and an open-air swimming pool are available for guests just a short distance away.

The four types of accommodation available are **Classic Room, Deluxe Suites, Prestige Suite and Family Suites**. The warm, comfortable rooms feature natural shades that recall typical Tuscan colours. The fine materials used, such as wood, terracotta and travertine marble, help create an atmosphere that combines the charm of nature with elegance. Each suite is decorated with tasteful furniture made by local artisans, and offers a breathtaking view of the surrounding countryside and the magic of surreal silence.

In addition to the open-air swimming pool and paddock with horses, the **new Vincafé**, a short way from the Aie, is the perfect place to enjoy a light lunch or an enchanting sunset aperitif.

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IL BORRO'S RESTAURANTS

The restaurants play a key role at Il Borro, and the two options offered are designed to satisfy not only the preferences and tastes of Relais guests, but also those of non-residents.

- OSTERIA DEL BORRO

The gastronomic offer, managed by Executive Chef Andrea Campani, is a tribute to the land of origin: Tuscany. Particular attention is given to the ingredients, always fresh and seasonal, such as the vegetables that come directly from the organic garden of Il Borro and the meats, cheeses and fish supplied by local producers carefully selected and with which continuous collaborations have been started.

A gourmet restaurant that brings "to the table" products, recipes and the philosophy of Il Borro: quality, craftsmanship, respect for the environment and love for the land and its fruits. All interpreted in a contemporary way, always maintaining a great balance between ancient flavours and new experiments.

- IL BORRO TUSCAN BISTRO*

Chic and casual in bistrot style, it is open from morning to late evening, and offers traditional Tuscan dishes where the always-seasonal raw ingredients are the main players and the menus are a voyage of discovery of local cuisine.

All dining options are overseen by **Executive Chef Andrea Campani**, who came to Il Borro in 2013.

**The format can also be found in Florence on the Lungarno Acciaiuoli, and in Dubai in the luxurious Hotel Al Naseem Madinat Jumeirah.*

The next opening of Il Borro Tuscan Bistro will take place in London by the end of the year 2021.

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LA CORTE SPA

La Corte Spa fits perfectly with the Estate's wellness philosophy, where the magical combination of unspoilt nature and relaxation restores harmony to body and mind.

In this oasis of tranquillity, guests can keep in shape with gym or yoga, and carve out precious time to dedicate to their health and beauty.

The exclusive, intimate Spa, with hydromassage, Turkish bath, sauna and relaxation area, has been designed to provide a gratifying, relaxing experience with a holistic mix of products and personalized treatments. Highlights among these are the exclusive **"Il Borro Sensory Treatments"**, body massage with Il Borro Extra Virgin Olive Oil, or **candle massage with "Il Borro" wine therapy** using the flagship wine produced by the Estate's winery.

Guests can use the fitness area and outdoor pool with a breathtaking view of the Balze and the medieval village.

WINE & ART GALLERY

Designed to create a space devoted to the history of wine, the Wine & Art Gallery, located above the wine cellar, was opened to public for the first time in 2008. The exhibition is a journey through the history of Il Borro, its people and their succession, from the Medici to the Hohenlohe, Savoia and Ferragamo families.

The same enthusiasm which led Ferruccio Ferragamo to purchase Il Borro in 1993 and restore it to its former glory also motivates his continuous search for fine engravings with a wine theme. An artist's take on wine in all its many aspects, from grape growing to harvesting and including its environmental and social implications. The Wine & Art Gallery currently houses more than one hundred engravings, including works by Mantegna, Dürer, Aldegrevier, Parmigianino, Bloemart, Rembrandt, Callot, Tiepolo, Canaletto, Fattori, Whistler and Tissot, but also contemporary artists such as Chagall, Picasso and Warhol.

On 25 March 2019, the Wine & Art Gallery presented a new exhibition entitled *"Bacchus and Venus: the role of women in wine history"*, containing a selection from Ferruccio Ferragamo's extensive collection. The key figure in this new show is woman, who embodies various personalities depending on the situation. Indeed, art history allows us to see how the role of the female is not limited to a passive use of wine, but how women often conducted and directed many of the activities in which it plays a part.

The exhibition is arranged in ten different sections (*The Bacchantes – Hebe, cup-bearer of the gods – The cup-bearer among men – Ariadne, the lover of wine – Wine and lovers – The spirit of domesticity – Managing high spirits – The vine is female – Divine women – Free spirits*), each of which focuses on the role of women in the history of wine through the celebration of both in art.

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IL BORRO EXPERIENCES

Il Borro offers a series of unique experiences designed to give a taste of the real Tuscany. From wine tours to cooking classes, walks, golf, artisans' workshops and a whole variety of excursions in and about the countryside, every activity is full of surprises and enjoyment.

IL BORRO WINE TOUR

Guests have the choice of a number of **wine tours** to discover the secrets of the fine wines produced on the Estate combined with activities that focus on food, culture or wellness. Lovers of good food can round off the experience with a special picnic among the vines or with lunch with local products at Il Borro Tuscan Bistro. The special treatments offered by the Il Borro Spa are ideal for those looking for some regenerating pampering.

- **“Tasting”**: a multiplicity of tasting options for wine lovers to find out more about the various aspects of organic wine growing at the estate..
- **“Wine Cellar & Art Tour”**: two trajectories taking turns to throw light on various aspects of the world of wine. An artistic journey through iconography or a trip through the wine cellars to learn the secrets of winemaking.
- **“Il Borro Experience”**: a full immersion Il Borro experience giving you the chance to mix and match the multiplicity of available activities to your own personal interests.

COOKING CLASSES

Il Borro's **Cooking Classes**, designed for adults and children, are overseen by Executive Chef Andrea Campani and give guests the chance to experience the essence of Tuscan culinary tradition, made up of ingredients, recipes, aromas and flavours that reflect the region and its history.

HORSE-RIDING ACTIVITIES

Il Borro also offers *horseback riding* along exclusive and fascinating routes. It is a paradise for those who love to move in contact with nature among plowed fields, vineyards and olive groves cradled by the slow and soft treading of the magnificent steeds made available by Vittoria Ferragamo.

SPORT AND RELAXATION

Country trails for bike or horse rides, tennis courts, a football pitch and golf course surrounded by vineyards and olive groves are available for sports and outdoor enthusiasts, as well as exciting open-air adventures such as the fascinating truffle hunt.

Guests wanting to explore the Valdarno area from unusual, exciting perspectives can choose between test drives in a Ferrari, thrilling hot air balloon flights or helicopter tours.

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TRADITION AND CRAFT WORKSHOP

Guests have the opportunity to visit the shops, to perceive the industriousness that is handed down from father to son and to actively participate in the realization of small creations, the result of the long experience of the master craftsmen in the production of shoes, ceramics, jewelry, embroidery, paintings and much more.

The handicraft workshops offered by Il Borro are:

- *"Arte e restauro al Borro"*: a creative workshop to discover all the secrets of drawing and color to learn and improve the techniques of oil painting, watercolor, acrylic and on request gilding with gold leaf.
- *"Calzolaio Palaia"*: at La Bottega Palaia you can participate in the course aimed at creating shoes and leather belts.
- *"Oro del Borro"*: at the "Oro del Borro" shop it is possible to attend the course "Create your silver jewel". With the help of the local goldsmith, you can create and customize your own pendant, ring or necklace.
- *"Busatti 1842"*: a fascinating and unique course that teaches sewing, designing and creating home textile products through creative (machine) sewing, crochet, hand embroidery and hemstitching.

Not only for adults but craft workshops are also intended for children who can have fun creating a picture or a wooden object by participating in *the painting and decoration course* or learn to design and make a puppet attending *the sewing course creative*.

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WEDDINGS AND EVENTS

The Borro is the ideal setting for ceremonies, weddings and private events.

For an excellent service Il Borro proposes personalized offers for each event. There are many different areas available: from the square of the village, to the enchanting Italian garden; from the terrace near Dimora, to the swimming pool; from the panoramic Vincafè, to the amphitheater.

The amphitheater of Il Borro has been recently renovated to offer its guests a new exclusive location and to emphasize once again the continuous research of Il Borro towards excellence.

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