

Pieve Aldina
Radda in Chianti
Toscana





heart

In the heart of Tuscany

To the Luberon, Marseille, Menorca... To the Vallée de l'Eure, Hossegor, Ile d'Yeu... A tenth address in Italy joins the Domaines de Fontenille collection. Pieve Aldina is located on the «Chiantigiana», the wine route between Florence and Siena, in the heart of the vineyards and olive groves that are the hallmark of this exceptional land and embodies the soul of Tuscany.

Frédéric Biousse and Guillaume Foucher fell in love with this 16th and 17th century bishop's residence, next to the church of Santa Maria Novella, in the splendid, fortified village of Radda in Chianti. This strong stone architectural structure, made up of 4 houses with articulated roofs, becomes an amazing hotel-citadel, an island set among terraced gardens and a square of olive trees, in an attitude of seclusion and benevolence.

« As soon as you pass the big stone porch, the place is filled with an unexpected island of green and freshness: a huge wisteria winds from roof to roof, climbing roses spread their fragrant bouquet, a jardin de curé (priest's garden) is arranged around a small boxwood labyrinth... This conversation between stone and vegetation, inconspicuous from the outside, amazed us. »

living

The art of Italian living

For the past 8 years, Guillaume Foucher and Frédéric Biousse have been creating «source hotels». Each of their new addresses is designed as a matrix for rethinking our relationship with the world.

« Driving up to Pieve Aldina along a gentle hilly road, you can feel the lights, the smells, the materials, the flavours... When you arrive, you are welcomed into a large kitchen where an Italian mamma serves you cecina, a typical chickpea cake, or crostini with Tuscan pecorino. You are about to step straight into the Italian way of life. »

Staying in Pieve Aldina means discovering architecture, light, landscape, history, and gastronomy. Experience the many ways to live fully in the present moment, with your head in the clouds and your feet firmly planted in the fertile soil.





heritage

A unique listed heritage

The Hotel Pieve Aldina is not just one building, but four, forming an architectural complex of 2000 m² surrounded by 40 hectares of olive groves. Situated on the terraced hills of Chianti, the houses retain all the characteristics of Tuscan architecture: thick external walls, tiled roofs, strong wooden frames, brick or granite window frames, splendid stone porticoes where the air flows..

In 1043 the property was given by its owner, the Count of Piancaldoli, to his wife, Aldina Ubaldini, after whom it was named. One of the four houses, once the summer residence of the Bishops of Siena, is listed as a national monument. The adjacent church, Santa Maria Novella, is one of the most important examples of Romanesque architecture in Florence and dates from the 10th century.

« *The architectural site of Santa Maria Novella has a very strong identity. Here you feel safe, like a guest in a centuries-old history. We have restored the place under the scientific supervision of the "Soprintendenza Speciale" of Archaeology, Fine Arts and Landscape.* »

«**T**he stone façades of the houses, which turn golden brown as the sun sets, blend into their natural surroundings and yet open up to the panorama. The sunsets are spectacular.»».

As in the paintings of the Italian Renaissance, where the landscape is seen through a window, the hotel offers extraordinary views of the Tuscan countryside from each of its openings. These views were created by Filippo Lippi, Fra Angelico or Piero della Francesca. These landscapes are now classified alongside the historic buildings, as they preserve a large part of the layout and aesthetics that have been established over the centuries.

Two worlds coexist harmoniously in this extraordinary place. The inner world, where you can enjoy the richness and refinement of the Italian art of living in the interior gardens or in the salons with their classified decorations. The outside world, where the immensity of the sky and the pastoral vastness of the earth can be appreciated through the finite and perfect space of the surroundings.

window

The beauty of the Tuscan countryside through an open window





peace

Four houses, a haven of peace

The renovation of the buildings was carried out by the Florentine architectural firm Pierattelli. The main house, called «La Pieve», has been restored in its original blue, pink and stencils adorning the walls of the ground floor rooms. A majestic marble staircase leads to the first floor, where a spacious salon with a neoclassical frescoed ceiling unfolds. On each floor, charming details embellish the rooms: trompe l'œil plinths in imitation marble, putti and grotesques on the ceilings, acanthus leaf motifs on the walls...

In this main house, you can take refuge in one of the many rooms, read a poem by Pavese on a large sofa, hum «Encora tu» by Lucio Battisti, or go out into the courtyard to admire the lemon trees in the jardin de curé and watch the sunlight play on the decorations of the large 18th-century terracotta pots.

The other three houses - the «Studiolo», the «Conventino» and the «Allegato» - have, like «La Pieve», splendid woodwork in the rooms. The warm presence of the wood is enhanced by a subtle variation of beige, white and brown tones, creating a serene atmosphere that gently reflects the sun's rays.



In the four houses, 22 rooms and suites have been created, respecting the original structures of each building. The large volumes - from 35 to 120 m² - and the high ceilings define the contours of the greatest luxury, that of the space that is given without counting the cost.

« *The rooms are full of light - we have deliberately left them uncluttered. We want to offer a contemporary interpretation of Italian hospitality.* »

The choice of elegant, clean-lined furniture enhances the interplay of textures between the luxurious furnishings by Italian design house Gervasoni, the whitewashed effects of the paint on the walls and the terracotta tiles, whose patterns and colours evoke the gentle geometry of ancient flowerbeds in a more contemporary vision of these ancestral materials.

On the walls are the photographs of the artist Dune Varela, printed on slabs of Carrara marble, or the "herbariums" of Stéphanie Montaigu, who uses the yellowed pages of old books to paste images of ancient sculptures and flowers. These works are an introduction to the many artistic treasures of Tuscany, an invitation to see more.



purity
A sense of purity,
a taste for materials





In Pieve Aldina, the difference moments of the day are set in different epicurean places. Lunch and dinner are served in the main restaurant, which can seat up to 50 people and is open to outside guests. Chef Flavio Faedi serves Tuscan cuisine in a beautiful, vaulted room in winter or in the garden in summer. Peposo, a Chianti wine meat stew, competes with Pappa al pomodoro, a soup of bread, tomatoes, garlic, oil and basil. Every day, he draws his inspiration from the baskets of vegetables and fruit brought in by local gardeners and producers.

For more casual moments, you can sit down at the table in the mamma's kitchen to taste her gnocchi and her wonderful almond biscuits over a glass of Santo, a sweet local wine. In the neighbouring oenoteca, with its wooden shelves full of bottles and food, you can sample local wines, cheeses and cured meats at any time of the day - a glass of Brunello di Montalcino will grace a fennel seed salami or an aromatic herb pecorino.

Spritz and prosecco, the spirit of the Italian aperitif, are served in the jardin du curé on sunny days and in the oenoteca in winter. From June onwards, after the wheat has been cut, the tables are also set up in the ochre and golden fields, in the shade of the olive trees. This is the season for weddings and the property is ideally located as the parish church of Santa Maria Novella is open at weekends, offering the convenience of a joyful celebration and on-site accommodation for guests.

flavours

Local flavours and culinary journeys





halt

A halt in the heart of Tuscany

50 km from Florence, where the masterpieces of the Uffizi Gallery are housed, 30 km from Siena and its extraordinary brick-paved Piazza del campo, and the same distance from Arezzo, where the exceptional cycle of frescoes by Piero della Francesca can be seen in the church of San Francesco, Pieve Aldina is ideally situated.

The property is also within easy reach of the picturesque villages of San Gimignano, Volpaia, Panzano or Pienza and the Val d'Orcia, which offer endless heritage treasures and many good trattorias to enjoy Tuscan gastronomy. The Chianti hills can be explored by bike, by car, and why not by hot air balloon for an unforgettable flight.

The richness of the land offers many opportunities for escapism: truffle hunting with a dog handler, pottery or oenology courses, tastings with local producers, visits to wine cellars or oil presses... And when the mood strikes, you can simply enjoy the heated swimming pool. Listening to the song of the cicadas, contemplating the elegant design of the cypresses set against the deep blue of the sky, this is not far from the paradise of the painters and poets that the Tuscan countryside has inspired so much.

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Pieve Aldina

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