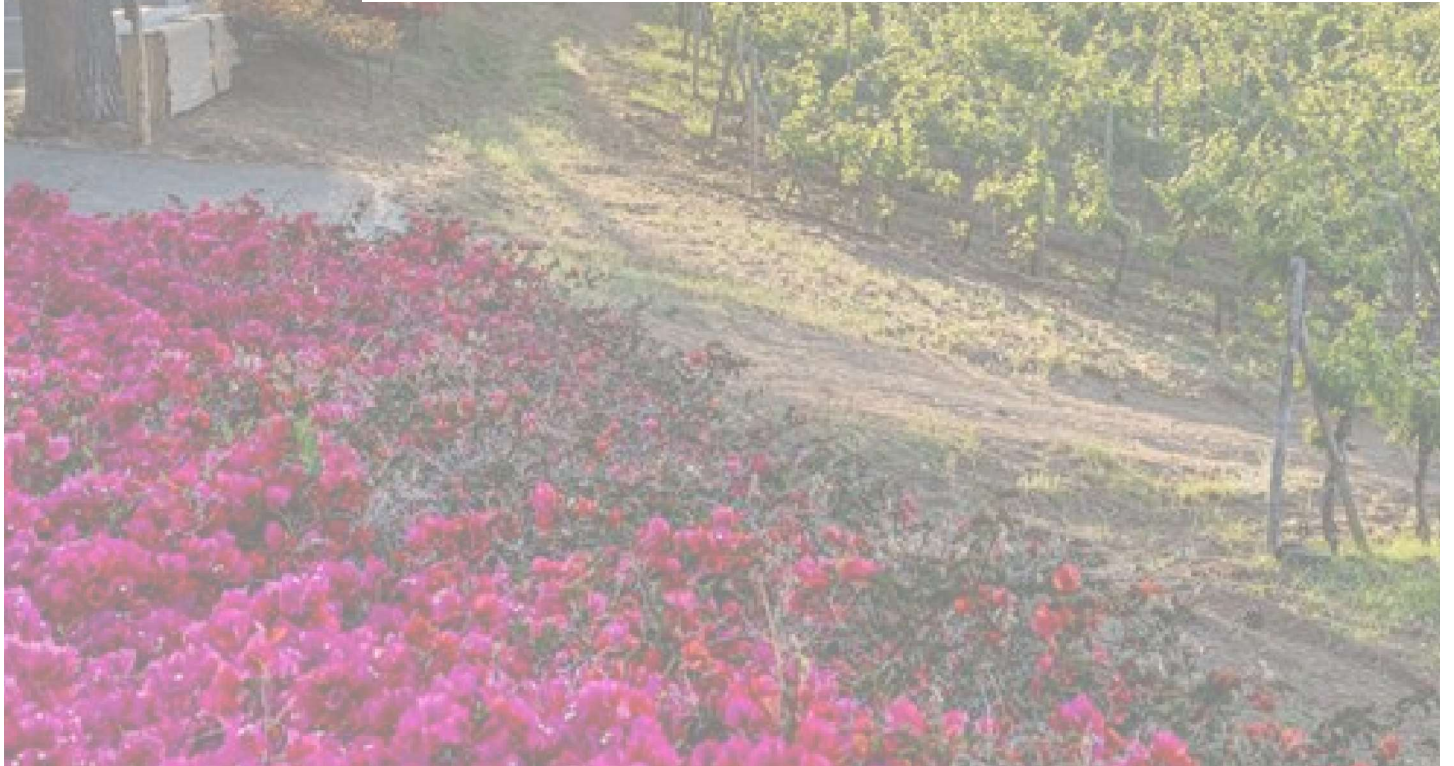




Vintage Stopovers: Part One

Mix indulgent stays with stellar vintages at these Italian wine resorts

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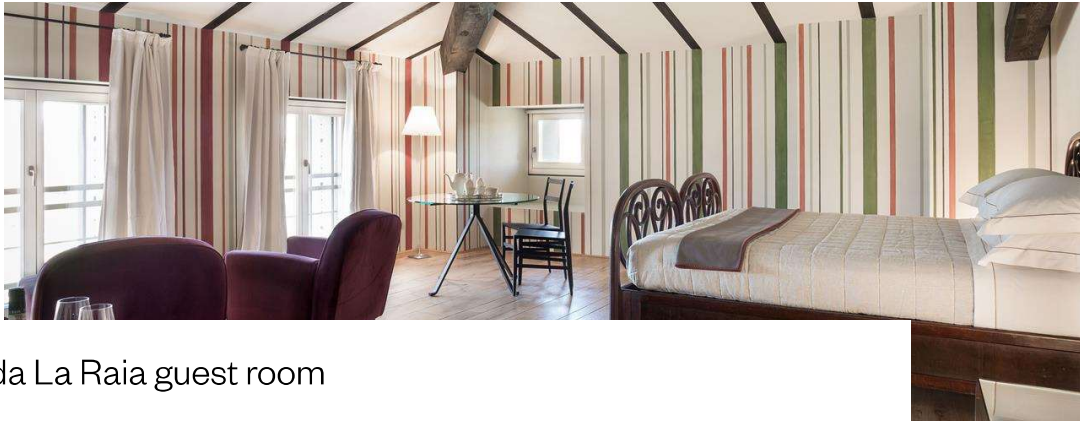
Oenophiles have never been short of options in Italy, a country brimming with vineyards and fine, rare bottles. Now many of its wineries have expanded to include classy residences featuring all manner of enticements. Below we give you our highlights.

Locanda La Raia – Piedmont

Opened in April 2017, Locanda La Raia is a rustic manor house nestled among the vineyards of its namesake biodynamic farm in Piedmont, famous for its white wine, Gavi DOCG Pisé. The 12 guest rooms, each one unique, are furnished with antique local furniture combined with elements of contemporary design. The spa is a quiet place to relax and the heated indoor/outdoor pool overlooks the Gavi hills. Do not miss the wine tour, not only to taste the excellent vintages, but also to discover among the vineyards a

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Locanda La Raia guest room

Capofaro Malvasia & Resort – Sicily

This resort is the ultimate expression of Salina, the greenest Aeolian island off the Sicilian coast. Owned by the Tasca d'Almerita family, one of the biggest names among Sicilian winemakers, this whitewashed resort is surrounded by Malvasia vines, the typical variety of the island. The 21 guest rooms fuse Aeolian architecture with a minimal design; in 2018 the property plans to add six new suites housed in the Capofaro lighthouse, an emblem of Salina's past. They will offer stunning views over the oldest Malvasia vineyard at the resort and the sea beyond.

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Capofaro lighthouse

Castello di Ama – Tuscany

A world-famous wine estate in Gaiole, Chianti, just 25km from Siena, Castello di Ama has long distinguished itself not only through the quality of its wines, but also by its important collection of contemporary art. Since 2000, 15 site-specific installations have constituted the collection, a work in progress by famous artists including Michelangelo Pistoletto, Daniel Buren, Anish Kapoor, Chen Zhen and Hiroshi Sugimoto, among others. For those who wish to experience the soul of this historic wine estate, Castello di Ama has five elegant suites enriched by original and contemporary works of art and furnishings that range from period antiques to modern gems.

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Credit: Alessandro Moggi

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L'Albereta Relais & Chateaux – Lombardy

Immersed in the Franciacorta countryside, the Italian land of sparkling wine, this bolthole by Terra Moretti Group was one of the first wine relais in Italy. Opened in 1993 with nine guest rooms, it became famous thanks to its partnership with three-Michelin-star chef Gualtiero Marchesi, who, until his recent departure, found the perfect venue to exalt his culinary compositions.

Today L'Albereta boasts 57 elegant guest rooms and suites, a spa by Espace Chenot and a fine-dining restaurant, where innovative cuisine pays attention to health. But the most exciting new entry is the kiosk La Filiale, inaugurated in March 2017 inside L'Albereta's park by chef Franco Pepe (named the best pizzaiolo in the world). Here the fine wines from Bellavista and Contadi Castaldi, the two wineries in Franciacorta from Terra Moretti, accompany a menu dedicated to pizza.

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Dievole – Tuscany

You don't have to love wine to enjoy this part of Italy: the rural kaleidoscope of colours makes for a rewarding escape even if you never crack open a bottle. Nestled amid the natural splendour, Dievole was established in 1090 and sits at the very heart of Chianti Classico, south of Florence. The estate has been making its prize-winning reds for nearly that long, and over the past decade has offered a rustic take on local cuisine.

Now, thanks to a makeover, the Villa Padronale is an opulent retreat so plush you could spend a week inside, decked out in bespoke furnishings, from the Carrara marble bathrooms to the four-poster beds and frescoed walls. If you do venture out, there are tours of the winery's 600 hectares, just to start with. When paired with locally informed fare and ample opportunity to sample prized wines and extra-virgin olive oil, it's a thoroughly intoxicating getaway.

Visit dievole.it

Credit: Daniela Marchi

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Top of page image: Capofaro Malvasia & Resort (credit: Alessandro Moggi)



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