

CASTELLO DI CASOLE

A BELMOND HOTEL
TUSCANY



TUSCAN HERITAGE AND CONTEMPORARY DESIGN CRAFTED BY ALESSANDRO MORICONI AT CASTELLO DI CASOLE, A BELMOND HOTEL, TUSCANY

APRIL 2024 – Located on an ancient Etruscan site, Castello di Casole, A Belmond Hotel - once a 10th century medieval Tuscan castle - welcomes two new private Villas and eighteen restyled Suites by interior designer Alessandro Moriconi, embracing both traditional and contemporary design. Moriconi pays homage to the postmodernist Italian movement with

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his restyling of the hotel's nine Etruria Suites, built in 2001 by renowned architect, Alessandro Mendini.

VILLA THESAN AND VILLA USIL: A REINTERPRETATION OF CLASSIC TUSCAN STYLE

Just a five-minute walk from the hotel, located on 1300-hectares of vineyards and olive groves, the Villas bear the name Thesan, meaning "dawn" and Usil, meaning "sun", showcasing a continued commitment to the land's cultural Etruscan heritage and language. The spacious 250m² Villas can accommodate up to seven guests, each boasting a large private garden and terrace with panoramic vistas, three double bedrooms, as well as an outdoor kitchen with a wood-fired oven. Guests have access to an infinity pool shared with four other luxury villas and private experiences within the sanctuary of their own villa.

Alessandro Moriconi combines Tuscan tradition with a modern approach, a vision aligned with Castello di Casole's noble heritage. Careful research has been undertaken of reclaimed materials and objects of Tuscan craftsmanship and antiques in the area, giving the new Villas an authentic and rustic charm, conveying the feeling of a home away from home.

Terracotta floor tiles, carved sculptures, exposed bricks, rustic wooden beams, and wrought-iron balustrades work harmoniously with lamps and furniture expertly crafted from Tuscan stone, creating a strong sense of place. Each area is distinguished by its unique palette of bucolic hues and colours, drawing inspiration from the surrounding nature. From the sandy tones gracing Villa Thesan to the verdant greens of the more rural Villa Usil, these palettes are further enhanced by the carefully chosen furnishings and fabrics with floral motifs, stripes, earthy textures, in collaboration with Dedar and Loro Piana.

"With this project, I was able to return to my Tuscan roots and discover the extent of local craftsmanship, which Belmond is committed to enhance and support. It was educational to get to know the artisans who contributed with their art to the villas, and to be able to source materials and antiques from the region," affirms Alessandro Moriconi.

NEWLY RESTYLED SUITES: A FRESH TAKE ON TUSCAN TRADITION

In the main building Alessandro Moriconi has expertly restyled nine Suites - four located in the room historically dedicated to wine fermentation and five in the former priest's house. Evocative of a traditional Tuscan home with heritage elements integrated skilfully with contemporary fabrics and décor, giving the Suites a renewed vibrant atmosphere.

Distinguishing each area by its own colour palette, Alessandro Moriconi chose cool and warm colours, reflected in terracotta or sage-green shades. From peculiar "bluette" and "terracotta fiammato" fabrics created in collaboration with esteemed textile company, Dedar, specifically for the project. These are complemented by Loro Piana interiors, floral carpets inspired by nature, and landscape paintings. Through meticulous research of Tuscan craftsmanship and antiques, the designer creates a dialogue between the outdoor and the indoor.

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"My approach to the restyling of these suites was more that of a curator. My challenge was to bring a new perspective to a centennial building, curating a sense of contemporaneity while preserving the authenticity and heritage of the place," says Moriconi.

THE RENOVATED ETRURIA SUITES: CONTEMPORARY DESIGN AND ART

Housed a short stroll from the main hotel, along a charming gravel road, the Etruria Suites are inspired by Italian design and the sprawling surrounding natural landscapes. Built in 2001 by one of the masters in Italian and Postmodern design, Alessandro Mendini, the nine Suites integrate perfectly with their environment.

Moriconi creates a dialogue between the Italian contemporary design from the fifties and Mendini's legendary architecture. The interior designer crafts stories through design, recollecting the iconic figures of Italian design, sculpture and painting, interlacing the eclecticism and elegance of those times with modernity. Just like a museum, guests will be surrounded by timeless art pieces - lithographies by De Chirico, renowned "camaleonda" sofas by Bellini, carpets inspired by Gio Ponti's drawings, vintage lighting and furnishings.

The terrace embraces the colours of nature with pastel shades permeating both interior and exterior areas. The landscape designers ensured a prevalence of plants from other countries and less classical Tuscan plants, as Euphorbia candelabrum from Africa or cast-iron-plants from Japan, instilling a sense of the unexpected.

A PERSONAL SANCTUARY, CLOSER TO NATURE

In harmony with the villa namesakes, guests can partake in astronomical sun-gazing led by an expert astro-tourist guide, unveiling the mysteries of solar eruptions and coronal emissions. Castello di Casole has been awarded by Astronomitaly for having "one of the most beautiful skies in Italy" due to its clarity and lack of light pollution, which guests can witness in real life.

The experience allows guests to travel back in time, imagining the life of an Etruscan with bespoke cosmetology workshops. These delve into the depths of ancient cosmetic traditions and share age-old beauty recipes cherished by Etruscan women who were great aficionados of self-care and well-being.

Tuscan hospitality is at the forefront of the Villas experience. Upon arrival, Castello di Casole's Barman welcomes guests with a local aperitif. A thoughtfully curated basket of locally sourced produce awaits with meats and freshly harvested vegetables from the Orti del Castello, the hotel's very own vegetable garden, alongside daily breakfast baskets. Those seeking a special culinary moment can call on the talents of a private Chef for special lunches, dinners or pizza classes. Embracing the great outdoors, an expert floral designer leads flower workshops and creative painting classes to reflect the verdant scenery.

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The Castello di Casole estate is home to a collection of Etruscan artifacts unearthed during excavations in the 1870s. Today, these pieces can be discovered inside the Essere Spa and the hotel library, as well as at the nearby Casole d'Elsa archaeological museum..

ENDS



NOTES FOR EDITORS

Images of Castello di Casole, A Belmond Hotel, Tuscany can be [downloaded here](#).

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ABOUT CASTELLO DI CASOLE, A BELMOND HOTEL, TUSCANY

A former 10th century castle, Castello di Casole, A Belmond Hotel, Tuscany retains the ambience of a private country house, with 39 suites. It is a gateway to the wonders of rural Italy – rolling hills, olive groves, and vineyards – as well as Tuscan towns Siena, Florence and San Gimignano. The property's identity is deeply rooted in its agricultural past stretching back to the 7th Century BC, with Etruscan artefacts found across the 3,200 acres of land, on display throughout the hotel. Its cuisine is a celebration of its surroundings, with a farm-to-table concept and a focus on simple and fresh produce, cultivated in the Orti del Castello – the hotel's vegetable garden. Its garden is also home to over 50 varieties of rose, an infinity pool overlooking the Tuscan hills, a spa housed in the former wine cellar, and Tosca for fine dining, open only for dinners, alongside Emporio del Castello, open only dinners during fridge season only, for authentically Tuscan dining and the more casual Pool Grill in the summer months. The region's famous landscape can be discovered through a range of activities, from stargazing, hiking and biking to wine tasting and truffle hunting. Guests can opt for secluded Etruscan luxury in the two recently opened private villas - Villa Thesan and Villa Usil, just a five-minute stroll from the hotel. Inspired by the estate's heritage, both villas reflect the codes of Tuscan tradition and boast outstanding views of the surrounding countryside.

Castello Di Casole [Instagram](#)

ABOUT BELMOND

Belmond has been a pioneer of luxury travel for 46 years, building a passion for authentic escapes into a portfolio of one-of-a-kind experiences in some of the world's most inspiring destinations. Since the acquisition of the iconic Hotel Cipriani in Venice in 1976, Belmond has continued to perpetuate the legendary art of travel, taking discerning global travellers on breathtaking journeys. Its portfolio extends across 24 countries with 50 remarkable properties that include the illustrious Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train, remote beach retreats like Cap Juluca in Anguilla, Italian hideaways such as Splendido in Portofino, or unrivalled gateways to world natural wonders such as Hotel das Cataratas inside Brazil's Iguazu National Park. From trains to river barges, safari lodges to hotels, each unique property offers an incomparable experience with its own story to tell. The essence of the Belmond brand is built upon its heritage, craftsmanship and genuine, authentic service. Belmond sees its role as custodians of timeless heritage, dedicated to preserving its assets through sensitive ongoing restoration plans. Belmond is part of the world's leading luxury group LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton.

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ABOUT ALESSANDRO MORICONI

Enriched by his past collaborations as a designer with esteemed luxury houses like Chloé, Nina Ricci, JW Anderson, Lemaire, and as a stylist with Vogue Italia, Alessandro Moriconi seamlessly infuses an artistically driven approach into an obsessively pursued quest for natural, elegant and flawless harmony. Blending personal and cultural influences, from Tuscany to London till Paris, he defines his unique philosophy of architecture and interior design that is both rooted in sensitivity and cosmopolitan. From an apartment in Paris resembling a private art gallery to a Sicilian countryside home to the villas of Castello di Casole, Alessandro envisions vibrant, character-filled spaces, always honouring their unique origins and stories. The interior design stories that he tells are embellished by encounters and conversations that are essential building blocks to spark his vision. His stories are depicted through images and reflect a shared ideal. Inspired by people just as much as he is by places, he designs spaces by seeking out unique objects that evoke memories, define and elevate every aesthetic. Alessandro selects textures and materials intuitively, guided by touch. He transforms, interprets, amplifies, then artfully assembles and gathers them all together. Guided by his instinct and emotions, he designs exclusive scenes and decors where eras and styles intertwine.

Alessandro Moriconi: [Instagram](#)

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