



CASTELLO DI CASOLE

A BELMOND HOTEL
TUSCANY

CASTELLO DI CASOLE, A BELMOND HOTEL, TUSCANY, EXPANDS ITS OFFERING WITH THE OPENING OF TWO NEW PRIVATE VILLAS

OCTOBER 2023 – Castello di Casole, A Belmond Hotel, Tuscany, is pleased to announce the opening of two new private villas, launching now ahead of the 2024 season. Inspired by the property's rich Etruscan heritage, Villa Thesan and Villa Usil will reflect the codes of the Tuscan tradition interpreted by interior designer Alessandro Moriconi. Just five-minutes' walk from the hotel, located on a 10th century 1300-hectare estate, the two new villas boast outstanding views of the Tuscan countryside, surrounded by vineyards and olive groves.

VILLA THESAN AND VILLA USIL: A RETURN TO ETRUSCAN LIVING

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

In a commitment to perpetuating the cultural heritage of the fascinating Etruscan community and given the southeastern exposure of the two properties, the villas bear the name *Thesan*, meaning "dawn" and *Usil*, "sun" in the Etruscan language. The spacious 250m² villas can accommodate up to seven guests, each boasting a large private garden and terrace with panoramic vistas, as well as an outdoor kitchen with a wood fire oven. Inside, the villas comprise three double bedrooms, a comfortable living area and a sunlit dining room seamlessly connected to the well-appointed kitchen. Guests will also have access to an infinity pool shared with four other luxury villas.

Alessandro Baccarelli, General Manager at Castello di Casole, says: "Through every aspect of the design of the new villas we aim to provide the most personalised and authentic experience, following our *Incomparable Genuine Travel* philosophy that has always guided Belmond properties around the world."

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A REINTERPRETATION OF CLASSIC TUSCAN STYLE

Alessandro Moriconi, Art Director, is the mastermind of the interior design of the villas, which combine Tuscan tradition with a modern approach, in line with Belmond's vision. Thanks to careful research of reclaimed materials and objects of Tuscan craftsmanship and antiques in the area, Moriconi gives the new villas an authentic and rustic charm, conveying the feeling of a home 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, to create a strong sense of place.

Every single element was meticulously constructed and installed by skilled artisans and local suppliers and brought to life using time-honoured techniques such as trowelling and stucco work.

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. These were conceived to recreate the essence of twentieth-century fabric, such as the iconic "bluette fiammato" fabric created in collaboration with esteemed textile company Dedar, alongside the opulent fabrics of Loro Piana Interiors.

"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.

EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES, CLOSER TO NATURE

Guests of these villas will benefit from exclusive, private experiences, within the sanctuary of their own villa. In harmony with the villa namesakes, guests can partake in astronomical sun-gazing led by an expert astrotourist guide, unveiling the mysteries of solar eruptions and coronal emissions using a specialised solar telescope.

To step back in time and live the life of an Etruscan, guests may indulge in relaxing Etruscan and Tuscan spa treatments in the Villa or partake in bespoke cosmetology workshops - delving into the depths of ancient cosmetic lore and sharing age-old beauty recipes cherished by Etruscan women, who were great aficionados of self-care and well-being.

A stay in the Villas immerses guests in the warmth of Tuscan hospitality. Guests will be welcomed with a local aperitif with cocktails prepared by Castello di Casole's Barman. Further enhancing the stay is a thoughtfully curated grocery service offering an array of locally sourced meats and freshly harvested vegetables, plucked from the verdant Orti del Castello, as well as a pizza kit so guests can try their hand at creating delectable wood-fired pizzas in the outdoor oven. Those seeking a special culinary moment can call on the talents of a private Chef for special dinners and cooking classes. To get back to nature, guided meditative walks amidst the expansive 1300-hectare woods and private yoga sessions are available on request, as well as all other hotel services and activities.



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NOTES TO EDITORS

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

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ABOUT BELMOND

Belmond was born from a passion for connecting discerning travellers with the world's most remarkable properties, locations and journeys. From hotels and trains to river cruises and safaris, Belmond curates incomparable experiences and crafts unforgettable stories. With a legacy spanning over 46 years, since the acquisition of Hotel Cipriani in Venice in 1976, Belmond has grown into a global collection of 47 properties spread across 24 countries. Exceptional destinations connected by legendary journeys are the very soul of Belmond, where the path that brings you to a place is as important as the destination itself. A pioneer of slow travel, Belmond has been operating the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express since 1982. The group later expanded to include pristine beach resorts, such as Maroma on the Riviera Maya, historic hideaways such as Villa San Michele in the Florentine foothills, urbane icons, such as Copacabana Palace in Rio de Janeiro, and gateways to UNESCO world heritage sites, such as Hotel das Cataratas in Brazil's Iguassu National Park. As proud custodians of storied properties, Belmond is committed to building on the past to create a new legacy: the heritage of the future. Working with communities and local talents, together with the world's most respected chefs, designers and artists, Belmond continues its purpose of perpetuating the legendary art of travel. Since 2019, Belmond has been part of the world's leading luxury group, LVMH (Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton).

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