SAN CASCIANO DEI BAGNI, TUSCANY

CASALBERNA

A beautifully refurbished, classic Tuscan farmhouse dating back to the mid-18th century, Casalberna welcomes guests with easy charm, authentic style, and a warm embrace. Its hypnotic views out over the timeless Val d'Orcia are not easily forgotten, and its mature, manicured gardens provide the perfect backdrop for a serene, carefree holiday.





PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Service

Features

Quintessential Tuscan charm
180-degree views of the Val d'Orcia
Spacious, character-filled interiors
Extensive, manicured gardens
A panoramic pool
Unforgettable sunsets

Nearby

Email us: info@thethinkingtraveller.com
Or call us: +44 (0)20 7377 8518 or toll free in the US or Canada 1-800-490-1107
Casalberna is exclusively available through The Thinking Traveller, you won't find it anywhere else.

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ABOUT THE VILLA

14 GUESTS 7 BEDROOMS 8 BATHROOMS

Inside: accommodation at Casalberna incorporates a main house, an adjacent guesthouse, and an independent apartment.

The main house

On crossing the threshold of the main house into a central hallway, one is immediately struck by the architectural and interior design features on show. Lofty, barrel-vaulted, arcing ceilings in pale brick are offset by earthy terracotta floors, a venerable, rustic olive-green cupboard with decorative panels harks back to other times, and a charming and eclectic mix of antiques, art and bibelots artfully bring the whole together. These themes, or variations on them, return like motifs throughout the property

An opening to the left of the hallway allows the space to flow into a voluminous, double-sized living area with more of those vaulted ceilings with flying arches. To the left is a large, sink-in sofa, a collection of easy chairs overlooked by a piece of contemporary artwork, while to the right are three well-cushioned country sofas gathered around a square coffee table and an impressively grand fireplace. The palette of the furnishings is a mix of warm hues, a tonality that is enhanced by six windows with traditional iron grilles that suffuse the space with Tuscan light. French doors between the two sitting area open out onto a shaded terrace with glorious views of the Val d'Orcia.

An opening to one side of the main living area leads into a cosy study (also accessed from the central hallway) with a desk, bookcases and a window looking out to the gardens.

Back in the central hallway, a couple of steps on the right lead up into the splendid dining room, whose large, central wooden table sits beneath wood-beamed, brick ceilings. This is a most convivial spot for long, celebratory meals with loved ones.

A few steps and an arched opening connect the dining room to the magnificent

country-style kitchen, which is a dream for both amateurs and professional chefs. Equipped with a central, marble-topped island, a huge range cooker, and plenty of workspace, this generous space is ideal for those who love to cook together.

Just off the kitchen is a table and chairs and an indoor barbecue oven, and, accessed from a short corridor, a guest WC and the laundry room.

Stairs lead from the dining room up to the first floor and an inviting sitting area with a sofa, an easy chair, a fireplace, a desk, a large wooden bookcase, and sloping brick and wood-beamed ceilings. This space is also accessed via a classic Tuscan external flight of steps.

All four of the main house's bedrooms are accessed from the first-floor living room, either directly or via a short corridor. In detail, there is:

• an elegant, generously proportioned, double-aspect master double with superb views, a sofa and an armchair, a walk-in wardrobe, and a large en-suite bathroom with walk-in shower and more of those wonderful views
• a double with countryside views, a walk-in wardrobe and an en-suite shower room
• a double with an iron-framed four-posted bed, countryside views, and a dedicated bathroom with tub and overhead shower just across the corridor
• a double-aspect twin bedroom with a chaise-longue, a walk-in wardrobe, an en-suite bathroom with tub, and access to the gardens below via an external flight of steps

The guesthouse

The guesthouse echoes the warm, welcoming aesthetic and architectural motifs of the main house. It is home to comfortably furnished living area and two bedrooms:

• a double, located just off the living area, with dedicated bathroom with tub
• a spacious, externally accessed double with en-suite bathroom with tub

The apartment

Located a few metres from the guesthouse, the fully independent apartment has an open-plan living and dining area with kitchen corner, a double bedroom, and a dedicated shower room.

Completing the accommodation at Casalberna is a a well-equipped gym with sauna, relaxation area, and shower room and WC, located next to the apartment.

Outside: in terms of al fresco pleasure, Casalberna offers numerous irresistible possibilities.

Possibly the standout feature is the sensational 180-degree panorama, which pans out across the heart-stoppingly beautiful rolling hills and patchwork fields of the Val d'Orcia to the impressive volcanic form of Monte Amiata, which rises up to over 1,700m on the western horizon. Wherever you are in the grounds of Casalberna, these sensational views will accompany every moment of your stay. Sunset is a particularly moving spectacle.

Accessed from the living area in the main house is a large, convivial terrace shaded by a wood-beamed roof and furnished with a round dining table and well-cushioned wicker sofas and armchairs.

From the edges of this terrace, a three-acre swathe of manicured lawn wraps around the house, sloping down a gentle incline to the furthest reaches of the grounds.

Bisecting the lawn, a 25m-long path with steps leads to the gorgeous pool area below. Its central mirror of water is flanked on one side by a voluminous, cane-shaded gazebo with sun loungers. This area is served by a WC below the pool.

Cypresses, oaks and fruit trees dot the lawn here and there, offering areas of shade, a sense of seclusion, and no little Tuscan charm. Elsewhere, floral climbers, perfectly spherical bushes, and aromatic plants bring multisensory vivacity.

The main al fresco dining area is found on the large, well-shaded terrace in front of the guesthouse, which also has a sitting area. Served by the kitchen in the main house, as well as a nearby barbecue area, this is a most convivial spot in which to enjoy lazy lunches and laid-back dinners long into the night.

CONSIDERATIONS

Due to the nature of the property, which includes terraces, low walls and several drops around the grounds, children must be supervised at all times.

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Amenities

Accommodates (max)	14
Bedrooms	7
Double beds	6
Twin beds	1
Bathrooms	8
... of which en suite	4
Pool [2]	12x6m
Gym	✓
Sauna	✓
Daily maid service [1]	✓
Barbecue [5]	✓
Vegetable garden	✓
Private parking	✓
Fibre Wi-Fi Internet	✓
Air conditioning [3]	✓
Fireplace	✓
Heating	✓
Smart TV	✓
Bluetooth speakers [4]	✓
Hairdryer	✓
Iron	✓
Washing machine	✓
Tumble dryer	✓
Dishwasher	✓
Microwave	✓
Safe	✓

[1] from Monday to Saturday

[2] a salt-water pool

[3] in the bedrooms

[4] there's a Bluetooth speaker in the gym and a pair of portable Sonos speakers

[5] there are two barbecues, one inside, near the kitchen in the main house, and one outside

✓ = yes/present

– = optional/on request

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THINK ABOUT

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EXPLORING THE LOCAL AREA

Located just a couple of kilometres outside the historic, charming spa village of San Casciano dei Bagni on the eastern slopes of the Val d'Orcia, Casalberna is perfectly positioned for those wishing to mix restful days with a little touring.

San Casciano dei Bagni has three restaurants, a pizzeria, two bars, a couple of food shops and a greengrocer's, so you won't have to go far for supplies or dining out. Its thermal springs have attracted wellness devotees since Etruscan and Roman times and today you can visit the upscale Fonteverde Hotel, which offers all manner of treatments and a beautiful al fresco thermal pool.

Other easy trips nearby include Giovanni Bulgari's renowned winery, Podernuovo (20mins), where you can organise wine-tastings and other experiences, and Cetona (25mins), a picture-perfect mediaeval town imbued with the soulful spirit of Tuscany.

The Val d'Orcia, which runs below Casalberna, is famed for its natural beauty and for its numerous historic towns and villages, including, but not limited to, Radicofani (with its mighty castle), Bagno Vignoni (another ancient spa town), Castiglione d'Orcia (a UNESCO-protected mediaeval village), and Pienza (built at the behest of Pope Pius II in pure Renaissance style, and also synonymous with its excellent sheep's cheese). For a spiritual excursion, the hidden-away, Romanesque Abbey of Sant'Antimo is recommended.

The Val d'Orcia and its surroundings is also wine country, and no stay at Casalberna would be complete without a visit to the renowned, mediaeval wine-producing towns of Montalcino and Montepulciano, less than an hour to the north.

Siena and Arezzo, two more of Tuscany's gorgeous towns, are just over an hour's drive north, while Florence is about two hours away.

Being in the southeast of Tuscany, Casalberna is also well-placed for exploring

PRICES, AVAILABILITY AND BOOKING →

Distances

Perugia Airport: 74km-46miles-1hr25
Rome Fiumicino Airport: 193km-120miles-2hr15
Rome Ciampino Airport: 176km-109miles-2hr05
Pisa Airport: 221km-137miles-2hr40
Florence Airport: 154km-96miles-2hr
San Casciano dei Bagni (nearest shops, restaurants, spa resort and other amenities): 2.3km-1.5miles-5mins
Cetona: 14km-8.6miles-25mins
Bulgari's Podernuovo winery: 12km-7.5miles-20mins
Città della Pieve: 20.5km-12.7miles-30mins
Montepulciano: 37km-23miles-50mins
Montalcino: 53km-33miles-1hr5
Orvieto: 56km-35miles-1hr
Siena: 90km-56miles-1hr10
Arezzo: 85km-53miles-1hr10
Grosseto: 106km-66miles-1hr50
Florence: 139km-87miles-2hr
Nearest beaches: the gorgeous coastline and beaches of Orbetello and Monte Argentario are about two hours away

the neighbouring regions of Umbria and Lazio. In the former is Citta della Pieve (30mins), a historic hill-top town offering a great art tour dedicated to the work of Il Perugino, and glorious, cliff-top Orvieto (about 1hr) whose splendid gothic cathedral and early 16th-century St Patrick's well are architectural wonders. In Lazio, meanwhile, we recommend the wonderful Lago di Bolsena and its surrounding villages (about 1hr), and **Viterbo**, once home to a succession of Popes (also about 1hr).

Staying in Tuscany and heading west, you could explore Monte Amiata, whose wooded flanks rise up to about 1,700m, the wild and wonderful Maremma area, the historic town of **Grosseto**, and the **beaches** of the Tuscan coast around Orbetello and Monte Argentario (just under two hours).





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GALLERY





























































