



Hotel Review: Castelfalfi



BeSeeingYou At: Castelfalfi

Location: Tuscany, Italy

Number of rooms and suites: 146 rooms and suites, plus 5 villas

Date of Stay: October 2023

Hotel Website

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Castelfalfi sits amidst the gold and green hills of Tuscany

Why book Castelfalfi ?

As far as Tuscan postcard scenery goes, Castelfalfi is tough to top. Located between Florence, Pisa, and Siena in one of Italy's most celebrated areas, Castelfalfi rises on a bluff overlooking an incredible 2,700 acres of rolling hills, vineyards, olive groves, cypress trees, lakes, and farmhouses.

The medieval 'borgo' (village) of Castelfalfi with its ancient castle and perched location is part of the resort, though the main street does have a few independent shops and privately-owned apartments, a church, and plenty of scenic overlooks. Castelfalfi also has an array of activities for guests to partake in year-round, from wine tasting and e-bike rentals to truffle hunting, an adventure park for kids, cooking classes, hiking, movie nights, and so much more.

Wellness lovers will adore the brand new La Spa, opened in October 2023, a one-of-a-kind sanctuary with indoor/outdoor infinity pool, as well as traditional rituals and contemporary treatments performed by highly trained therapists. Fancy a round of golf? The 27-hole Castelfalfi Golf Club, the largest in the region and one of the most challenging in Italy.

Over the last year, Castelfalfi has undergone a multi-million pound, head-to-toe renaissance. Guests who've been here before will return to find it flourishing with a more



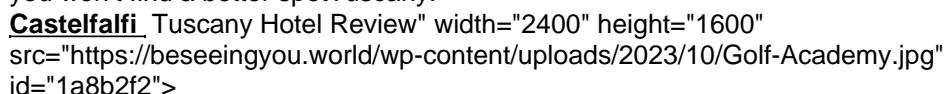
/u> has undergone a multi-million pound, head-to-toe renaissance. Guests who've been here before will return to find it flourishing with a more sophisticated and contemporary look yet one that's still in touch with its Etruscan roots and rustic warmth.

Castelfalfi recently became a member of Preferred Hotels & Resorts prestigious Legend Collection and is a member of the Virtuoso luxury travel network. But even though no sophisticated details were spared in the recent renovation, the atmosphere is still welcoming and relaxed, as if arriving at a fabulous friend's Tuscan country home.

Who's staying?

I met couples traveling off season and families with newborns and teens in tow. The kids's club is housed inside the borgo's old school adjacent to the main hotel building, and I can see parents looking for a break taking advantage of this amenity. I also sat in the steam room with a group of girlfriends who'd come to eat, drink and pamper themselves.

Given **Castelfalfi**'s central location, it makes a great launch pad for travellers who want to explore local villages and bigger cities by day then return to the peace and quiet of **Castelfalfi** each night. If you love golf, or you've been promising yourself you'll learn, you won't find a better spotTuscany.

A photograph showing a view of a golf academy in Tuscany, featuring a large building and surrounding greenery.

*The 27-hole **Castelfalfi** Golf Club is the largest in the region and one of the most challenging courses in Italy*

Does **Castelfalfi** have a past?

Where do we begin?! **Castelfalfi** is an ancient Etruscan settlement that was built in the early Middle Ages by the Lombard Faolfi, which gave birth to the name Castrum Faolfi and eventually **Castelfalfi**. The borgo has changed hands several times since, and was once owned by the Medicis in the 15th century, who renovated the castle and its adjacent villa, which was used as a hunting lodge.

With almost a thousand years of history behind it, **Castelfalfi** slowly declined and was ultimately after WWII as people left for jobs in the cities. Tui Group bought the vacant village in 2007, transforming it into a vacation destination.

Acquired in the summer of 2021 by the Lohia family, **Castelfalfi** has been revived and is on the path to a magnificent future, worthy of its long and noble history.

Rooms & Suites

During last year's renovation, all of **Castelfalfi**'s rooms were upgraded and refreshed, and four new **Castelfalfi** Signature Suites were added in two categories: **Castelfalfi** Grand Suites and **Castelfalfi** Suites. These spacious and well-appointed accommodations offer guests an unforgettable experience with an unparalleled level of elegance and design. Featuring king size beds, pull out sofas, dining areas and panoramic views from private patios, and a garden, these suites can also be combined for a family or larger group.

There is also a bar to enjoy a further moment of *dolce vita* with custom ready-to-drink **Castelfalfi** cocktails. As an additional amenity, a private barman is available to mix and serve classic *aperitivos*.

Castelfalfi has a selection of villas and traditional farmhouses scattered around the property that have been completely restored and can be configured for friends and families wanting a little more privacy away from the main hotel building. The villas (2 to 8 bedrooms) are surrounded by cypresses and rolling hill scenery. Each custom designed villa also has a private pool and enjoys access to all the 5-star services of **Castelfalfi**.



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Tip: Across the road from the hotel is La Tabaccaia, one of the estate's magnificent historical buildings that now houses 31 smaller though no-less comfortable and stylish guest rooms. They don't have views but they are a little less expensive and still give guests access to **Castelfalfi**'s superb restaurants, spa, and experiences.

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*All of **Castelfalfi**'s rooms blend contemporary good looks with Tuscan warmth*

Spill the tea: how's the food and drink?

The magical sun-kissed Tuscan landscape provides ample agricultural inspiration for fresh ingredients to grow and transform into the delicious dishes found on **Castelfalfi**'s tables. The main restaurant, Olivina, has a selection of meat, fish, pasta, and specials, such as the divine ossobucco served the night I arrived.

A two minute walk from the main building is the casual and family-friendly Il Rosmario, where you should definitely try one of their melt-in-your-mouth steaks or a wood-fired pizzas. The Country Clubhouse at the golf course is a stunning setting for a lunch on the outdoor terrace overlooking the links. Lunch and dinner can also be eaten at the elegant Bar Ecrù and terrace off the hotel lobby, the perfect place for a pre-dinner aperitivo or night cap too. Poolside, Giglio Blu serves snacks and light lunches.

La Rocca has the best views the village from its terrace at the castle, though its dramatic backdrop is reserved for private dining and special events only.

Castelfalfi produces its own wine and olive oil. In celebration of the estate reopening, Fonterinaldo is the property's latest white wine.

Neighbourhood news

A car is advisable if you'd like to explore surrounding cities, villages and wineries.

Castelfalfi itself is a village but the majority of it has been folded into the hotel. Still, a stroll down the picturesque main street reveals a couple independently owned shops and even a wine bar. There are also walking and biking paths leading straight from the borgo, and the golf course is just a five minute drive (the hotel will happily take you there). You can also play a game of tennis or paddle tennis.

For day trips, you can't be better situated. Pisa airport: (40 minutes) Florence airport (60 minutes) San Gimignano (30 minutes) Tuscan coast (60 minutes) Siena (70 minutes) Lucca (75 minutes).

Will I get bored if I don't have a car at Castelfalfi ?

Not a chance! There are so many activities and experiences at **Castelfalfi** you could stay for seven days and never do the same thing twice. From truffle hunting, wine tasting and cooking classes to an adventure park for (kids and adults), e-bike rentals, and the region's largest golf course, your daily agenda can be as full as you wish. Of course, lounging by the pool and reading all day is perfectly fine, too.

Did the service meet your expectations?

Ciao! Buongiorno! Buona sera! The friendly daily greetings were the soundtrack of our two-night stay at **Castelfalfi**. They couldn't be any nicer or more attentive to our face-to-face needs. Our bags were instantly plucked from the car and whisked to our room where a chilled bottle of Prosecco was waiting, along with some fresh biscuits.

There were a few small hiccups, though nothing that would keep me from returning again. Our room wasn't cleaned during our two night visit, which would have been nice if only to remove some of the garbage and the empty Prosecco bottle and plates. And the closet light remained on day and night. Even though we reported it to a staff member, no



t remained on day and night. Even though we reported it to a staff member, no one attended to the issue during our time at the hotel, so we just closed the door.

I must tip my hat to Alessandro at the winery. His tour and enthusiasm for **Castelfalfi** wine was contagious. We loved every sip as well as his witty charm and passion for his work. We brought home a few bottles to remember the moment.

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Castelfalfi 's brand new spa has an indoor/outdoor pool with views for days
Is there a spa?

Is there ever! **Castelfalfi** 's brand new spa is one-of-a-kind, and we're not just saying that. Thanks to an exclusive collaboration with RAKxa Wellness Spa, La Spa is the first European outpost for the renowned world-class integrative wellness retreat and the spa menu includes three RAKxa Wellness Spa treatments: RAKxa Good Night Sleep, RAKxa Tension Release and Seven Chakra Hot Stone massage. You'll also find two saunas, a steam room, a relaxation area, and an exceptional indoor/outdoor heated infinity pool with far-reaching Tuscan views.

Sustainability scene?

Castelfalfi did a decent job of trying to eliminate plastic by placing glass bottles in rooms and using refillable bottles for shampoo, soap, and hair conditioner. By the indoor pool, plastic bottles are set out for guests to grab, which is understandable yet too bad. All of the olive groves and vineyards on the estate are tended to using organic farming principles, and **Castelfalfi** 's Golf Academy has been GEO certified as a result of its sustainable systems.

Extra! Extra!

Castelfalfi has the only working olive oil mill in the region and locals are encouraged to come press their olives during harvest (October) and as needed. I highly recommend a visit (and taste).

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*The ancient borgo of **Castelfalfi** is now a walkable part of the resort*

Reviewed by Kimberley Lovato

Want to arrange a hotel review? Contact editor@beseeingyou.world

*Editor's note: Kimberley stayed as a guest of **Castelfalfi** in order to review it for BeSeeingYou. All opinions are her own.*

*Photos courtesy of **Castelfalfi***

