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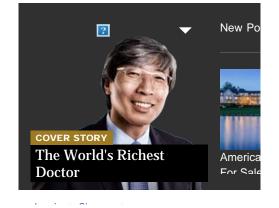
Luxury Tuscan Hotels: Four Impeccably Designed Suites

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On his spring swing through Tuscany, The Hotel Detective's eye was dilated nearly every day by the gorgeous decor it encountered. And by the various ways in which hoteliers interpret the Tuscan design vocabulary.

So here is a gallery of suites at three <u>luxury</u> properties that were real eyeopeners, each taking Tuscan design in an inspired direction. These are among the most beautiful rooms that THD has ever come across in Tuscany.

Castello del Nero: The rich but restrained decor of this property, a 52-room hotel in a punctiliously restored 12th-century castle on the doorstep of Chianti, a mere 40 minutes south of Florence, epitomizes aristocratic restraint and assertiveness.



That's reflected in room 115 (below). Over the bed is the crest of the

Torrigiani family, who owned the Castello from the 18th century until the 1980s. But the hotel has another side, rooms with rampantly frescoed walls such as 118 (second picture below), which can be appreciated from the bed in the middle of the room.



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Castello di Casole: An American company, Timbers Resorts, brought back this aristocratic estate from the dead. The rooms here are more an American idea of an aristocratic Tuscan aesthetic. As Sandy Burden, who designs all of the Timbers properties, said, "The market wants that coffee-table book of Tuscany. Truffled with the elegant and casual feel."

That's the Classica Suite (below) to a tee. The bed is regal, the walls are rustic, and the small

windows and sloping roof add that frisson of garret romance—it's the antithesis of a grand, high-ceilinged room.



Finally, there's Hotel Monteverdi down in the Val di Orcia, whose designer, Ilaria Miani of Rome, has pulled off a tour-de-force in marrying Tuscan rusticity with a minimalist but elegant modern aesthetic, as seen in the bedroom below.





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Monteverdi was one of THD's major discoveries. This is a teaser: There will be a detailed report on the property the first week of September. In the meantime, see The Hotel Detective's two previous posts on Castello del Nero and Castello del Casole.

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