

No. 36

A NEW SPA IN TUSCANY

Designer Ilaria Miani's perfect transformation

Hidden in the hills of Val d'Orcia, a medieval Italian village outside Florence, the serene **Hotel Monteverdi** unveiled in June an intimate two-treatment-room spa housed in a 15th-century granary. With bleached tree branches rescued from the property and one-of-a-kind tubs hand-carved from Travertine marble, the spa's streamlined aesthetic maintains a modern feel, while bringing the ancient Tuscan countryside indoors. "I like to say that these walls talk," says Italian designer Ilaria Miani, who has renovated more than 20 homes in the region and rarely takes on commercial projects like this one. "Once you discover the history of these ruins, it's very exciting to interpret its contemporary existence."

The spa also features Florentine skincare and fragrance brand Santa Maria Novella, which makes its all-natural formulas by hand using local ingredients. After a massage with cocoa and sweet almond oil, guests can soak in a pomegranate mineral bath while looking at the hillside. "You can't capture this view in photos. You can only have it once you're here," says Miani. *Via di Mezzo, Castiglioncello del Trinoro; 39/05-7826-8146.*



Hotel Monteverdi
The spa's relaxation room features a rustic decor.



No. 37 THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LIZ VICE

Liz Vice found her gift for music while performing in a church choir in Portland, Oregon. But Vice didn't grow up religious and avoids the gospel label. And though the songs on her debut album, *There's a Light*, invoke faith and redemption and, yes, even God, they're hip and modern and fun. And it's impossible to listen to Vice's music without acknowledging at least one higher power—her own soulful voice. lizvice.com

No. 38 A SECOND FIRMDALE HOTEL FOR NEW YORK

Manhattan's Kit Kemp-designed Crosby Street Hotel is getting an uptown sister, the **Whitby Hotel**, on 56th Street between Fifth and Sixth Avenues, this summer. firmdalehotels.com

No. 39

TEEING OFF IN NEW ZEALAND

Opened in October after much anticipation, **Tara Iti Golf Club** is a Tom Doak design a little more than an hour's drive north of Auckland, New Zealand. Set on a peninsula of sand dunes where a river meets the Pacific Ocean, the property has the undulations and rich textures of native plant life that golf connoisseurs love. "It's always special to build a real links course," the architect says. "And we went for it—we planted wall-to-wall fescue, with a few people scratching their heads because no other course in New Zealand has done that." Compelling holes abound—one early favorite is the seventh, which Doak said might be the shortest par-four he's ever built. "It's 260 yards to a tiny green with a hollow in front...kind of like the Valley of Sin [at St Andrews], only with a little more up and over to it." Tara Iti is a private club but there are plans to allow limited visitor play with board-of-directors approval. legacypartners.co.nz



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: JOANN DOST; BERNARD TOULLON; CHIMERA VAN ORNUM