

Teeing off in Tuscany

*There's more to Tuscany than the beauty of the landscape – there's superb golfing facilities.
Daniel Price delves into Argentario Golf Resort and Spa.*





With many golf courses around the world offering resort-style accommodation, villas and facilities, selecting where to book your next holiday or purchase your next property can be tough. Many of the European resorts can seem similar in terms of what they offer and that's why Argentario Golf Resort and Spa comes so highly recommended.

Think Tuscany and you immediately picture rustic homes and vineyards, dotted across green rolling hills. It's a beautiful image, but there is more to Tuscany than the regular tourist trail, and this is one of the many special features of Argentario Golf Resort and Spa.

Augusto Orsini, the man behind the successful resort, originally lived in Rome, but an annual trek to the Argentario Peninsula as a young boy, with his family and his golf-loving father, led him away from the Eternal City.

One of the main ideas behind the project was to show Tuscany's progressive side. "In Tuscany, you are used to seeing rustic villas – which are beautiful – but I wanted to do something new, something fresh", says Orsini.

Choosing Maremma, located on the Argentario Peninsula, Orsini conceived the project that culminated in the creation and inauguration of the golf course in 2006 and the five-star Argentario Golf Resort and Spa in 2009.

To fulfil this dream, Orsini looked for materials to give the resort a unique and eco-conscious spirit in rustic Tuscany. On the environmental aspects of the design, Orsini says: "The resort's eco-conscious philosophy stretches from the restaurant, which uses local products from Maremma and from the resort's own organic vegetable garden, all the way to the golf course, which was built with as little environmental impact as possible". >>>

Left: A spectacular view of Argentario Golf Club.

The environmentally friendly approach has seen the return of animal species, such as fallow deer, hares and a variety of birds in the area. In addition, the resort's grounds and golf course received BioAgricert environmental certification for sustainability and water management.

Not only does Argentario Golf Resort and Spa offer holiday accommodation, but there are also fantastic villas available for purchase and rent. The luxurious villas benefit from quality interior design and Italian furniture. Homebuyers at Argentario Golf Resort and Spa can create their dream villa by choosing different sizes and interior design styles, ranging from contemporary to country chic and eclectic fusions. Owners are granted full access to the wide range of world-class facilities on site, including the golf course, and during long periods away, the property can be rented out to generate income.

Speaking to Argentario Golf Resort and Spa Blog and Marketing Manager, Raffaella Monaco, it is apparent this is a resort the whole family can enjoy. "Children have their own pool, indoor play area, outdoor playground, and kid's menu at the restaurant," says Monaco. "We also provide babysitter services and golf lessons with pros of the calibre of Emanuele 'Cannonball' Canonica, winner of the Johnnie Walker Championship at Gleneagles".

Despite being a quiet, exclusive retreat, off the beaten track, the resort is well-situated to enjoy everything Tuscany has to offer, including the famous art cities of Siena, Florence and Rome. Thanks to the mild Maremma climate, golf and other outdoor activities are enjoyed throughout the year.

The resort is also happy to organise activities for families, including sailing classes, horse riding tours and cooking classes. The stunning natural beauty of the Maremma region can be enjoyed on foot or bicycle, so there is more than enough to keep the whole family entertained.

Monaco sums up the ethos of Argentario Golf Resort and Spa beautifully, "The combination of nature, art, relaxed lifestyle and genuine food, make Argentario and Maremma Tuscany the ideal destination". ■

For more information:
www.argentariogolfresortspa.it



Top and below: Argentario Golf Club.



Below from top to bottom: The pool at the Espace Wellness Center; a treatment room; the interior of Locker Cottage.

