

MORE THAN JUST GOLF: ARGENTARIO GOLF RESORT & SPA

During those hopeful summer months, in between lockdowns and when international travel seemed optimistic, Hannah Tan-Gillies hopped on a flight to Argentario Golf Resort & Spa, to see what makes this five-star golf resort so much more than a golf destination.

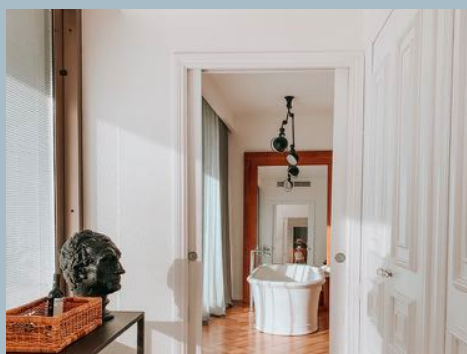
It seems only fair, that after months of my four walls that my first international jaunt would be to the truly impeccable Argentario Gold Resort & Spa. Located in between the Mediterranean Sea and Tuscany's rolling hills, Argentario maximises the idyllic natural surroundings of Maremma, Tuscany.

While the resort is primarily known to golf enthusiasts, especially with its striking PGA 18-hole course, there are plenty of reasons for non-golfers to venture to this side of Tuscany and experience everything that this resort has to offer. The resort itself is a sight to behold. Designed by Andrea Fogli, the interiors instantly envelope you in an atmosphere of sleek yet tranquil oasis, blending contemporary design with a distinctive retro feel. Outside, the hotel blends in with the natural landscapes of Maremma, surrounded by cork-oak woods and centuries-old olive trees.

A grand spiral staircase commands attention at the heart of the resort,

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whose eco-conscious design philosophy permeates every design detail. The enormous glass windows and ceilings maximise the pastoral views, which are in stark contrast to the tabarca-stone pavements, arched countertops and striking black structural elements. The hotel's unique dragonfly-shaped silhouette means that every room offers panoramic views of the nearby lagoon and tranquil blue sea on the horizon.

The resort offers 73 generously-sized rooms and five luxury villas, which are perfectly suited for those looking for an extended stay. Each room features panoramic terraces and all the modern amenities that a luxury traveller requires. The villas each offer individual interpretations of Tuscan country houses, imbued, of course, with Fogli's extravagant touches. Art lovers will notice the social table by Vincent Van Duysen or the Cappellini chairs and Pig Tables by Marcel Wanders, or even Ron Gilad's chandeliers at the bar.

Beyond golf, Argentario also offers

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an endless array of wellness and sports activities to make any visit, no matter how short or long, as enriching as possible. During my stay, I tried my hand at an outdoor workout, a run along the perfectly manicured golf course, yoga, and even olive-tree picking. Truly there was something for everybody.

For those looking for a more relaxing way to spend their days, the resort's Espace Wellness Centre offers a wide range of treatments and massages, and offers a bio sauna, Turkish bath, and even one-on-one sessions with the resort's in-house nutritionists.

Foodies also have plenty to chew on at Argentario, with the Club House Restaurant offering casual Italian favourites, impeccably made with only the freshest locally-sourced ingredients, and the gourmet Dama Dama restaurant serving some wonderfully creative gastronomic creations. The menu at Dama Dama is bold and refreshingly contemporary, offering Tuscan and Italian specialties with Chef Emiliano Lombardelli's inimitable flair. We highly recommend trying the Tasting Menu – which takes you on a colourful voyage of Tuscan flavours perfectly paired with local Italian wines from the resort's vast wine cellar.

We'd also encourage a cocktail masterclass at the Aper Bar, named after local wild boars (Aper in Latin) which offers alchemic concoctions that will delight those who enjoy a little tippie.

While it may seem counter-intuitive to leave the hotel, the nearby towns of Porto Ercole and Orbetello offer plenty of quintessentially Italian sights to behold. These two towns reveal a non-tourist





side of Tuscany that we haven't seen before. The squares and restaurants are filled with locals, exuding a relaxed and unique community atmosphere that you don't often see in Italy's more popular destinations.

You should take a quick drive to the Convento della Presentazione al Tempio, where if you are lucky, you can get a blessing from the priest who will wish you a blessed and happy stay at Maremma. This is also the perfect spot to watch the sun set over the Silver Coast, a view that is not known to many other visitors in this magical place.

Despite all the ceaselessly fascinating things on offer at Argentario, what sets this place apart from the rest is the truly marvellous service and care of its staff. After the past year, where smiles and genuine human connection are few and far between, it is truly impressive to see the staff at Argentario go above and beyond to ensure that you enjoy your stay. That is a rarity itself and in my opinion, truly what makes Argentario more than a golf destination. ■

■ Hannah stayed in a Junior Suite Club Travel Room starting at €650 per night for two people.

■ For more information on Argentario Golf Resort & Spa's latest offers and packages contact booking@argentarioresort.it or visit argentarioresort.com