







To Dream...





## To Dream...

of Stylish Simplicity, Charm and Beauty

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Of life full of light and colour, serene landscapes and timeless frescoes, bustling piazzas alive with the sounds of market day. Walking in the footsteps of history, beside medieval stone towers silhouetted against the vivid blue skies yet coupled with the sleek modern design and elegance that is so uniquely 'Italy'.

To dream is to dream of Tuscany, where the finest works of man and nature come together to create the perfect harmony of scenery and architecture that so inspired the great artists and poets through the ages.

That same landscape is still to be found here in the soft rolling hills, luminous skies and golden earth of Podere Ampella, where authentic Tuscan design combines with stylish contemporary living in the most breathtaking of settings.



# Tuscany

Walk where Nature, Art and History Meet



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Walk amongst the never ending hills of this enchanted land, the heady scents of wild thyme and nepitella crushed gently underfoot.

Walk in history's footsteps: amidst medieval stone towers glowing in the evening sun, hilltop castles nestling in rolling vineyards and shimmering olive groves, ancient hamlets encircled for centuries by their protective walls. This is Tuscany.

Walk amongst the eternal splendours of cathedrals and palaces, bridges and fountains. Walk through the piazzas, amidst the sounds of life and laughter, catching the aromas of steaming espresso and freshly baked bread. Stop for a gelato or at the market for a basket of the ripest of peaches. This too is Tuscany.



# Tuscany





# Storia & Arte

Immersed in Renaissance Glories

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Of all Italy, indeed of all Europe, Tuscany remains the most steeped in history and art. The artistic and architectural glories of the Medieval and Renaissance eras are clearly visible at every turn; in every city, town, village or church.

Above all stands Florence, the quintessential city of art and culture, cradle of the Renaissance, with an extraordinary wealth of treasures: Brunelleschi's dome, Michelangelo's David and Botticelli's Venus amongst them. There can be few rivals for the magnificence of the art collections of the Uffizi, Palazzo Pitti and Bargello.

The leaning tower in Pisa has become an icon, surely the world's most famous bell tower, yet to see it is still to marvel, not only as it daily defies collapse, but at the artistic mastery of the surrounding buildings in the field of miracles.

All over Tuscany city walls originally built for defence now protect the wonderful atmosphere of these historic centres from the incursions of the modern world.

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# Storia & Arte



# Sieneese Landscape

Timeless Golden Hills



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The Sieneese coutryside has become the very icon of Tuscany itself: winding roads studded with cypress trees, rustic stone farmhouses that seem to be a part of the land itself, the golden waves of rolling hills. In the heart of this classic timeless landscape is Podere Ampella. Nestled between the charming historic villages of San Giovanni d'Asso and Montisi, it is an idyllic setting with breathtaking vistas.

The captivating scenery of this area has played a major role in many great films, including *The English Patient*, *The Gladiator* and Zeffirelli's *Romeo and Juliet*.

In recognition of the splendour and unique value of the Val d'Orcia UNESCO has listed the area as a World Heritage site for both its stunning landscape and the importance of that landscape as the inspiration for so many great works of art, the 'icons of the Renaissance'. Now, as then, it is a land where man and nature live in harmony.



# Sieneese Landscape





# Siena

## Medieval Splendour



The finest example of a medieval city, Siena's uniformity of colour and architecture seems untouched by the modern world. Extending out from its unique shell piazza its noble palaces and narrow alleyways enable us to almost step back in time. The links between the artisans of this charmed city with the contoured land surrounding its walls remain strong.

Siena is at its most colourful twice a year for its famous Palio horserace, though the historic rivalries of the contrade can be seen all year round in the symbolic flags and banners.

The striking black and white striped façade of the gothic cathedral is the pride of this historic, yet thriving, vibrant city. From the campo rises the 102m Torre del Mangia offering magnificent views over Siena and the surrounding countryside, the rooftops and hills brushed by the unique colour palette of 'burnt siena'.

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# Siena



# San Giovanni d'Asso & Montisi



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San Giovanni D'Asso epitomises the very essence of Tuscany, with its hilltop setting and slopes running down to valley of the Asso river below. A delightful medieval village, clinging to the walls of its twelfth century castle, and offering traditional bars and small shops selling the excellent local produce, along with Italy's only truffle museum. There is a fine example of an ancient Romanesque church, San Giovanni Battista, whilst San Pietro in Villare, one of the most important churches in the area is surrounded by striking cypress trees.

Montisi is an archetypal picturesque hamlet. Its many charms include an unusual historic grain tower and a splendid annual jousting contest, the colourful 'Giostra di Simone' which is held in full medieval costume every August.

Perfectly situated between these two charming traditional Tuscan villages sits Podere Ampella.



## San Giovanni & Montisi





## Only Minutes Away

Less than 20 Minutes from Podere Ampella

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Montalcino, the fortress town, perched high and swathed in vineyards, is home of the exclusive Brunello di Montalcino wine. Pienza, described as the 'pearl of the Renaissance', was built from scratch by Pope Pius II who set out to build his utopian vision of the perfect town.

Montepulciano sits gracefully on a ridge over the Orcia and Chiana valleys with its beautiful renaissance centre and delightful maze of lanes, arches and loggias.

Within secluded pine woods, lies the red Benedictine Abbey of Monte Oliveto Maggiore, with its famous frescoes by Signorelli and Il Sodoma. San Quirico d'Orcia was a key stop for medieval pilgrims travelling the Via Francigena; from there continue on to the pure simplicity of the beautiful Romanesque church of the Abbey at Sant'Antimo.

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## Only Minutes Away



# Location

Discover All of Tuscany



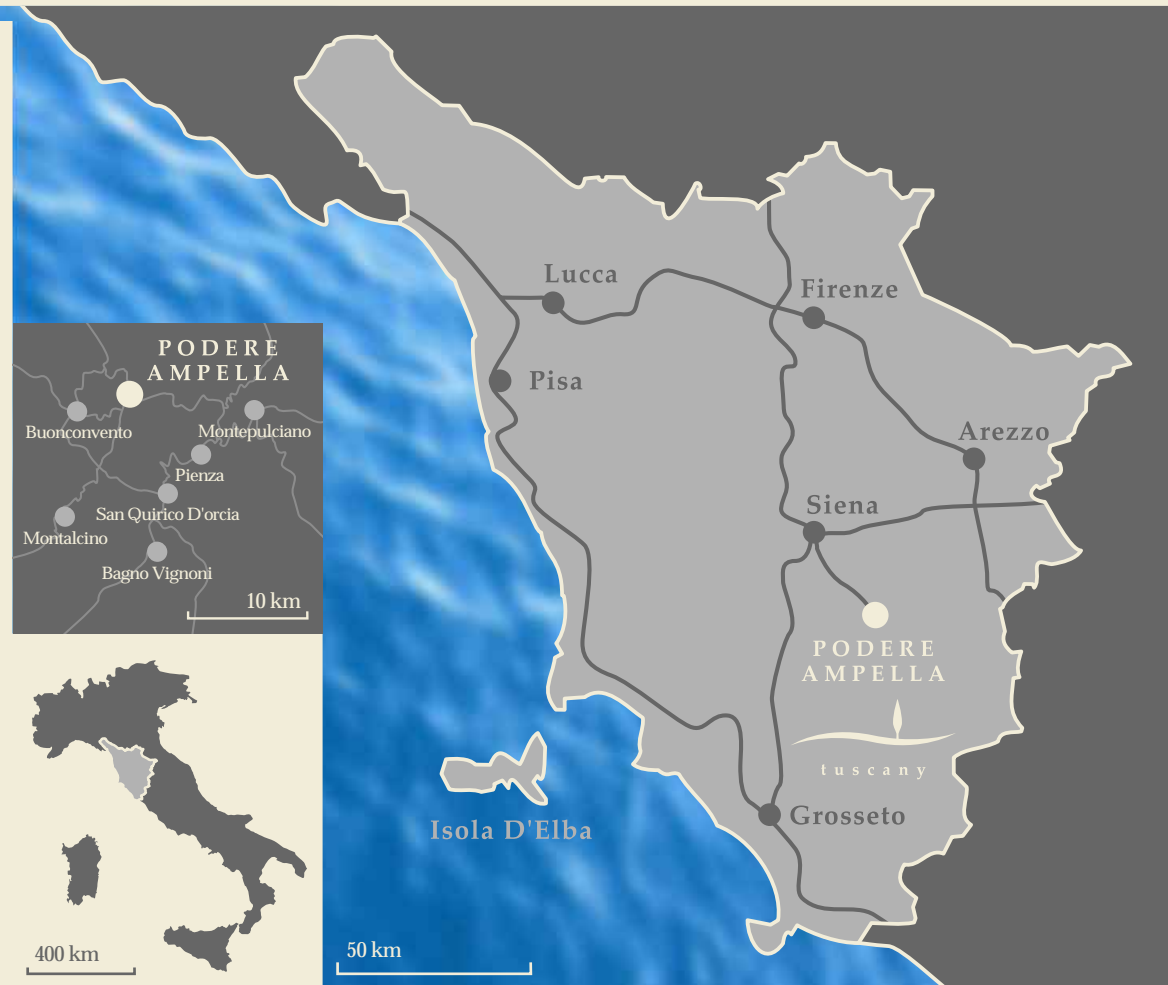
## DISTANCE:

Pisa	- 120"	Cortona	- 45"
Roma	- 120"	Pienza	- 25"
Lucca	- 110"	Bagno Vignoni	- 15"
Firenze	- 90"	Montepulciano	- 20"
Grosseto	- 70"	Montalcino	- 20"
Perugia	- 70"	Buonconvento	- 15"
Siena	- 30"	San Quirico D'Orcia	- 15"

Perfectly located within the heart of Tuscany Podere Ampella is ideally situated for exploring this magnificent region being near to both the historic Via Cassia road and Italy's main artery, the A1 'Autostrada del Sole'.

All of Tuscany is within easy reach, from the cities of Florence, Siena, Arezzo, Pisa and Lucca to the many special places that have become justly famous for their varied and unique charms. San Gimignano with its striking profile of 13 medieval towers piercing the skyline, the dense vine clad hillsides and castles of Chianti and the pine covered shores of the wild Maremma coast.

Or venture over the regional border into Umbria following in Hannibal's footsteps to the clear waters of Lake Trasimeno or the historic cities of Assisi, Orvieto and Perugia.



# Location





## Dream of a Life...

Where There is Time

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Dream of a life lived in a poetic, timeless landscape of soft rolling hills.

Of a life where there is time: time to savour all the flavours, aromas and scents of the traditional Tuscan way of life. Of days lived to the full, days filled with laughter and simple, sun drenched pleasures.

A long wooden table, draped in linen and laid up for lunch under the gentle shade of a vine drenched pergola. A cool glass of wine, sipped slowly on the terrazza watching the sun drop slowly down behind the hillside. A shared moment; sharing the passions, warmth and enduring spirit of the Tuscan people.

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## Dream of a Life...



# Awaken Your Senses

Dream in Colour



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Vivid red poppies splashing the fields, violet grapes dripping from the lush green vines, black silhouetted cypresses studding the bluest of skies, ancient olive groves shimmering with silver leaves, scarlet geraniums brimming from sun drenched terracotta pots, acres of brightest yellow sunflowers nodding in the summer's warmth. And everywhere the richest golds of the earth, the stones and the sunsets of these gilded rolling hills of the Siennese land.

Be still while butterflies swirl through a haze of lavender. Breathe in the jasmine scented night as the magical fireflies light a moonlit path. Listen to the silence.

Or listen to the sounds of life as you stroll; of barristas preparing the perfect espresso, the clattering of plates in the trattorias or the drumbeat announcing the arrival of the flag throwers leading the procession through the cobbled streets.



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# Awaken Your Senses





# Flavours of Nature

The Traditional Tastes of Tuscany

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The finest fresh ingredients from the land paired with the skills and traditional techniques passed down through the generations; coming together to produce the outstanding local foods and wines.

Drawing on 2,500 years of wine growing tradition the vineyards and wineries of the area that produces some of the world's greatest wines such as the rich ruby reds of Brunello di Montalcino and Vino Nobile di Montepulciano. The soil, the air and the gentlest breezes work their magic in the olive groves to produce award winning extra virgin olive oils whilst in the Val d'Orcia precious saffron grows, with its ancient, enticing aroma.

San Giovanni d'Asso is renowned for its highly prized white truffle. Sample it at the annual Truffle Festival in November or at one of the many good restaurants in the area. Pienza is the home of the archetypal Tuscan cheese, pecorino, made with ewes milk from the sheep which graze the unique herb scented pasturelands of the surrounding hills.

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# Flavours of Nature



# Taste the Dream

La Cucina Toscana



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A crumbly wedge of aged pecorino cheese, from the sheep that graze the surrounding hillsides, drizzled with chestnut honey and served on with platter of local prosciutto crudo ham and a juicy purple fig plucked straight from the tree. To follow, the famed white truffle of San Giovanni d'Asso gently grated over a plate of steaming fresh pasta.

Toasted bruschetta anointed with freshly harvested and newly pressed green extra virgin olive oil, then a steaming bowl of hearty ribollita soup with a glass of rich dark Brunello wine from the renowned vineyards of nearby Montalcino. Cantucci almond biscuits carefully dipped into a glass of sweet white Tuscan Vin Santo to finish.

The tastes of dreams: the tastes of Tuscany



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# Taste the Dream





## Dream of Life's Pleasures

Run Walk Ride Swim Play

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Follow one of the many trails: on horseback, by bike, run or just walk. In the unspoiled beauty of this quintessential Tuscan landscape, the pleasures of sport and exercise are multiplied by the breathtaking vistas laid before you.

Golf in Tuscany is a perfect combination of sport and pleasure played amidst the best of natural settings. Tuscany is rich in golf courses, offering a variety of 9 and 18 hole courses surrounded by beautiful scenery, where the tranquillity is only disturbed by the swish of the golf club.

To see even more of this enchanted land, take a balloon trip from Montisi itself, rising up into the air from a hidden valley at dawn, followed by a champagne breakfast.

And to swim look no further than the glistening waters of the pools of Podere Ampella.

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# Dream of Life's Pleasures



# Pure Relaxation

Health Harmony Benessere



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Experience the vitality and wellbeing for body and soul provided by the precious natural thermal spas of Tuscany. Less than a quarter of an hour's drive from Podere Ampella, are the mineral enriched waters of Bagno Vignoni which have been highly valued by so many throughout history, from the Romans onwards.

Bathe in the warm, healing spring waters surrounded by the tranquil beauty of the Tuscan countryside, steam in the regenerating saunas and baths or relax with a massage. Let the stresses of modern world be washed away naturally in the oasis of wellbeing provided by these ancient thermal spring waters.



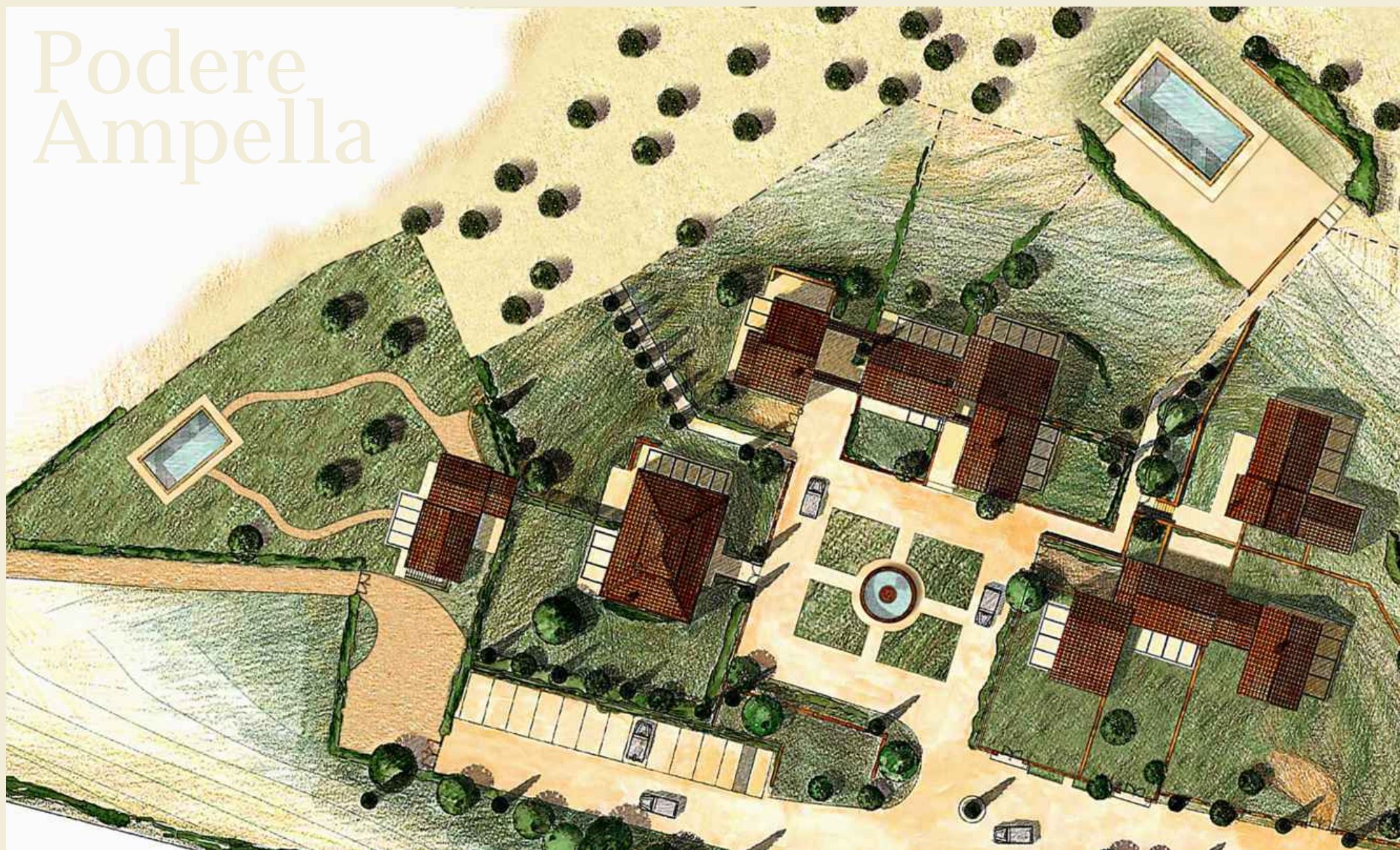
# Pure Relaxation



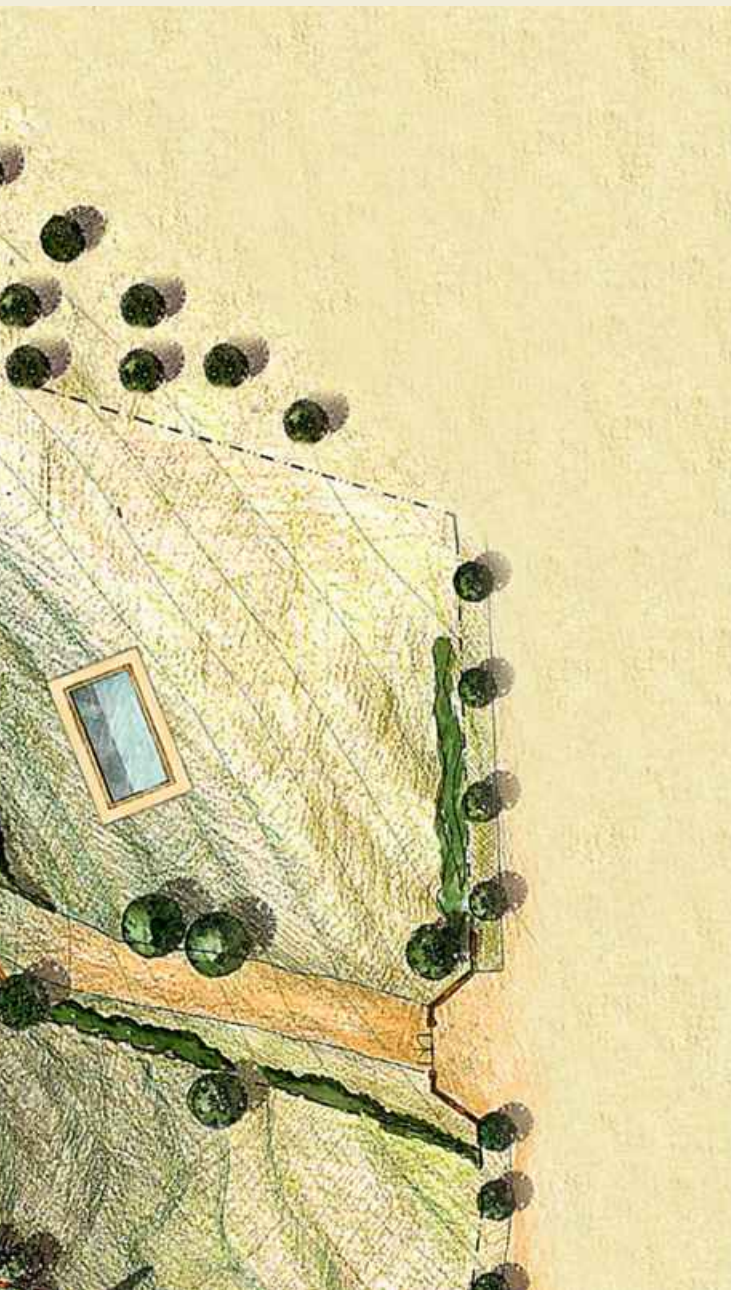




# Podere Ampella







# Podere Ampella

Where the Dream Becomes Real

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Sun baked stone walls, handmade terracotta floors, chestnut beamed ceilings, pergolas twisted with the perfumes of jasmine and wisteria, sitting out on the terrazza bathed in the radiant glow of the golden sun setting over this tranquil vision of timeless beauty.

Just as some of the world's finest wines have been created by modern winemakers combining the grapes of the ancient Tuscan vineyards with the best of new techniques, so it is for the buildings of Podere Ampella.

The historic skills of the Sienese artisans and original local materials in the hands of today's master craftsmen have combined to make this truly special place. High standards of design, quality, comfort and attention to detail ensure that at Podere Ampella tradition meets excellence.

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# Villa & Casa

## Tradition and Quality Combined



Immersed in this enchanted landscape sits Podere Ampella. This exclusive Borgo consisting of a selection of villas and apartments of the highest quality, offers traditional Tuscan style within a secure, enclosed gated complex.

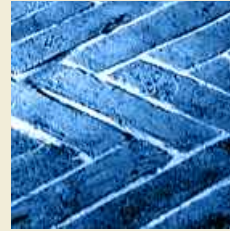
Each building within the Borgo is unique in design, and their location on different levels of the hilltop creates an overall feeling of balance and harmony within the shared landscaping. Even the parking area has been carefully designed to provide private parking for every apartment yet discretely located so as not to detract from the natural beauty of the setting.

Incredible unbroken 360° vistas for over 30km across the hills to the horizon provide the perfect setting for the large shared pool. And in addition to all of this, every apartment has its own garden, with varying sizes available according to personal preference, and a pergola covered terrazza area from which to sit out and admire the breathtaking scenery.



# Villa & Casa





# Natural Finishings

Terracotta Wood Stone



Attention to detail is what makes Podere Ampella so special. Evoking the typical rural buildings of the locality, the apartments feature roofs of traditional aged tiles and stone walls, with arches and lintels made from beautiful reclaimed brick. Interiors have chestnut beamed ceilings, handmade terracotta floors and solid wooden doors and windows of the highest quality.

Every aspect of the design has been carefully considered to provide the best of Tuscan rustic style combined with the modern comforts, conveniences and little luxuries that today's discerning owner expects. The charm of the traditional features is combined with the most up to date heating and air conditioning. With certification for outstanding heat dispersion characteristics the apartments will be at the perfect level of comfort in all weathers, enabling Tuscan life to be enjoyed in every season.

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# Natural Finishings



# Interni

## Stylish Relaxed Living



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Spacious, light filled rooms provide the setting to design your own dream. The incredible views from the windows combined with rustic plastered walls, terracotta floors and the beautiful cotto tiled and wooden beamed ceilings offer the perfect interiors to create stylishly simple rooms.

Bedrooms are generously sized airy spaces just waiting for a hand painted armadio, wrought iron bed and some antique linens to complete them. The clean simplicity of travertine and ceramica defines the bathrooms.

The ease of living that epitomises Tuscany is enhanced by the layout of the ground floor, where the kitchen flows naturally into the dining room and then onto the outside pergola covered terrazza, so the pleasures of good food, good wine and good company can be easily enjoyed. More than a dream, this is life lived to the full, in the stunning setting of Podere Ampella.

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# Interni





[www.podereampella.com](http://www.podereampella.com)