

# The Telegraph

## Eat, drink and be Tuscan: celebrate a vintage year in Chianti

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The gardens at Badia a Coltibuono Credit: Alamy

### **Badia a Coltibuono**

Much of Chianti still breathes the proto-ecological medieval spirit of the Lorenzetti Buon Governo fresco mentioned above, but it is particularly strong in this estate centring on a well-preserved 11th-century abbey, whose vines were first planted and tended by Vallombrosan monks. Visits (costing €10 a head) take in the ancient cellars and a lovely Renaissance formal garden, and end with a tasting of the estate's excellent chianti classico and olive oil. The al fresco restaurant with its upscale regional dishes is a delight, while the estate's homely, comfy rooms and self-catering apartments – which share a good-sized swimming pool – are decent value for the area, starting at around £145 a night ([en.coltibuono.com](http://en.coltibuono.com)).