



Badia a Coltibuono

Chianti, Tuscany, Italy

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9/10

Telegraph expert
rating

" This ancient monastery-cum-wine resort high in the Chianti hills has hosted travellers, from pilgrims to popes, since the 11th century. Set in Renaissance-style gardens and some 2,000 acres of woodland, it's a place to savour silent landscapes, and the fine wines and food of the aptly named 'Abbey of Good Harvest'. "

Telegraph Review



Kate Bolton-Porciatti

Kate Bolton-Porciatti, one of The Telegraph's Italy experts, covers destinations from the Dolomites to

15 January 2026 6:00am GMT

9/10

Location

Four miles above the quiet town of Gaiole in Chianti, and 650 metres above sea level, the Badia a Coltibuono is a haven of peace: refreshingly cool in the heat of summer, verdant and dewy in spring, and glorious in autumn, when mists drift through vibrant foliage. The estate encompasses a vast nature reserve rich in native wildlife, criss-crossed with hiking and biking trails.

For cultural excursions, Siena is around 25 miles south; Florence 38 miles north. Etruscan and Roman remains uncovered from the abbey's lands are on display in Florence's Archaeological Museum.

9/10

Style and Character

The site's layered past as a Romanesque abbey turned 19th-century villa lends it a distinctive ambiance, hushed and contemplative. Its authenticity has been preserved, thanks to the Stucchi Prinetti family owners, whose ancestors acquired the estate in 1846. The frescoed and vaulted refectory is now a splendid lounge while an elegantly stuccoed and fireplaced hall serves as the breakfast room.

For me, though, the Renaissance-style gardens steal the show: vine-draped pergolas, clipped parterres, stone-edged ponds, fountains and sprays of white hydrangeas – all fringed by the forested Chianti hills.

8_{/10}

Service and Facilities

After check-in, reception staff will largely leave you to your own devices, though you can seek them out during opening hours (9am to 7pm). There's an out-of-hours phone number for emergencies, I found this to be a place best suited to independent travellers who appreciate the quiet of rural nights.

Amenities include an open-air swimming pool, a bar, restaurant and wine-tasting space, a music room (with classical LPs and a horn gramophone), various lounges, libraries and a billiard room. Guests can also enjoy estate hikes, picnics, games of pétanque, wine tastings and guided tours through ancient cellars housing vintages from the mid-20th century.

8_{/10}

Rooms

The 14 rooms retain a monastic simplicity with whitewashed walls, weathered terracotta floors and dark wooden beams.

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Food and Drink

The estate's culinary legacy dates to the 1970s, when the late owner and celebrity chef Lorenza de' Medici introduced Chianti's first cooking courses here – a tradition which continues today with her daughter, Emanuela, at the helm. The fabulous, fireplaced kitchen makes for a convivial setting.

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Value for Money

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