

Vogue

April 2010

VOGUE

APRIL
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23
CHIC
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STYLE

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shapes for you

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and scintillating

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Kate Moss

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boutiques
2010

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people
Who's voting
for who?

PHOEBE
PHILO
The return
of fashion's
golden girl





travel & lifestyle

Castel Monastero's rustic-style rooms look out over vineyards and forests, as well as a medieval piazza within the hamlet

Head for the hills

Tuscany's hotels are scaling new heights of sophistication and challenging old clichés

Three new hotels are redressing clichés about Tuscany. **Il Salviatino**, a fifteenth-century villa in the hills above Florence, is only a 10-minute drive from the city. Frescoes have been restored, gardens replanted, and 61 bedrooms have been modified to cleverly fuse ancient and modern. The interiors, in grey, burgundy and tobacco hues, are aimed at style-conscious couples, who will vie for occupation of the best suite: Ojetti, on the top floor, with a cut-glass floor through which you can gaze down to the ground floor. Guests are allocated "service ambassadors", who research your every wish and whim before your arrival (Salviatino.com). An hour away, **Castel Monastero** is more of a hamlet than a hotel. A wall encloses an eleventh-century castle and thick stone buildings (all of which have been converted into guestrooms) overlooking vineyards and forests, though the medieval vibe is undercut by a Gordon Ramsay restaurant and slick spa (Castelmonastero.com). The seaside resort of Forte dei Marmi, meanwhile, is a flashy number, where the streets are filled with designer boutiques and the beaches are filled with designer beachwear – worn the way only an Italian can. **The Principe**, a boutique hotel with 30 rooms and – vitally – its own beach club, opened here last month (Principehotelandspa.com). *Bellissimi!* CS

Above and below, in the hills above Florence is Il Salviatino, a sublimely restored fifteenth-century villa

The best bar snacks in London? We rate the parmesan and flatbread with rosemary at San Lorenzo... Spanish Marcona almonds and Jay's porkscratchings at Scott's... Puff-pastry sticks with dukkah spice at Claridge's Bar... Camisa olives with anchovies, garlic and chilli at J Sbeekey

SCHOOL DINNERS

Learn to cook at four stylish new culinary academies.

- 1. Thyme** This new food school, based in a seventeenth-century barn and owned and run by Caryn Hibbert, is in the idyllic village of Southrop in the Cotswolds. Twenty-four students work in pairs in the modern kitchens, under the guidance of different expert chefs. The school's focus is on seasonality, and courses intend students to develop skills well beyond cooking, teaching how to sow, grow, pick and cook. The Bunny Guinness-designed garden is full of mature olive trees, vegetables and fresh herbs (Thymeatsouthrop.co.uk).
- 2. Angela Malik's Cooking School** At Leith-trained Malik's school in Acton, take your pick from courses titled A Taste of Morocco, Thai Food Made Easy or Delicious Indian Home-Cooking. Book in for the Gastro Tour of Borough Market (Angelamalik.co.uk).
- 3. Daylesford** Devotees of Daylesford Farm Shop will be flocking to the newly opened cooking school on the premises. The one-day Field to Fork course sees pupils harvest their fruit and vegetables from the kitchen garden and collect eggs and milk from the farm. The Holistic Day's culinary lessons are complemented by a yoga session and a deep-tissue massage at the Hay Barn Spa (Daylesfordorganic.com).
- 4. Sophie Conran for Temple Guiting** Organise a group of friends and head to Temple Guiting Barn, near Stow-on-the-Wold, in the Cotswolds, for a bespoke country break. Sophie Conran and Sarah Saxon of Tasting Places will devise an itinerary for you, with courses ranging from seasonal food with Valentine Warner, produce with Tom Parker Bowles, or the finer points of curry with the Hairy Bikers. This is learning from the very best (Sophieconrantg.com). SF