



## In Transit

### A Guide to Intelligent Travel

June 18, 2009, 9:00 AM

# New Hotel Has All the Comforts of Medieval Italy

By HILARY HOWARD



Castel Monastero

If your dream vacation involves staying in a medieval Tuscan village with modern amenities, [Castel Monastero](#) might be of interest. Opening on July 1, the resort, built within 13 stone buildings that surround a main piazza (all established in 1050) has stayed true to the village's original architecture. But there are also some decidedly nonmedieval touches like a gelateria and a spa.

The 10,000 square foot spa — the only part of Castel Monastero that was not originally part of the village — breaks from the resort's traditional style with a sleeker modern look. It has 10 treatment rooms, a tea room and three outdoor pools.

The 76 guest rooms are all in the original village. They have vaulted ceilings, terra cotta tiles and walls finished in stucco veneziano polished plaster, while bathrooms are tiled in grey Vulcan stone.

[Gordon Ramsay](#) has created a restaurant for the resort, which will serve dishes made from local ingredients like Chianina beef and pecorino di fossa. A more casual restaurant, the Cantina, will be in a former wine cellar, while a cooking school will cater to guests of all skill levels.

Nightly rates at the resort, which is on 400 acres of gardens, groves and vineyards 14 miles east of Siena, start at 392 euros, \$557 at \$1.42 to the euro.

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