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Castello di Ama

Gaiole in Chianti, Tuscany, Italy

[View on a map](#)

8/10

Telegraph expert rating

" Castello di Ama not only produces some of Chianti's best wines, but is also home to one of Italy's most impressive contemporary art collections. Immersed in a landscape of vineyards and olive groves, it makes for an utterly peaceful rural retreat, yet the artistic treasures of Siena and Florence are within easy reach. "

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Rooms from
£425 per night

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Mon 29 Jan

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Tue 30 Jan



OCCUPANCY

1 room, 2 adults, 0 children



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Telegraph Review



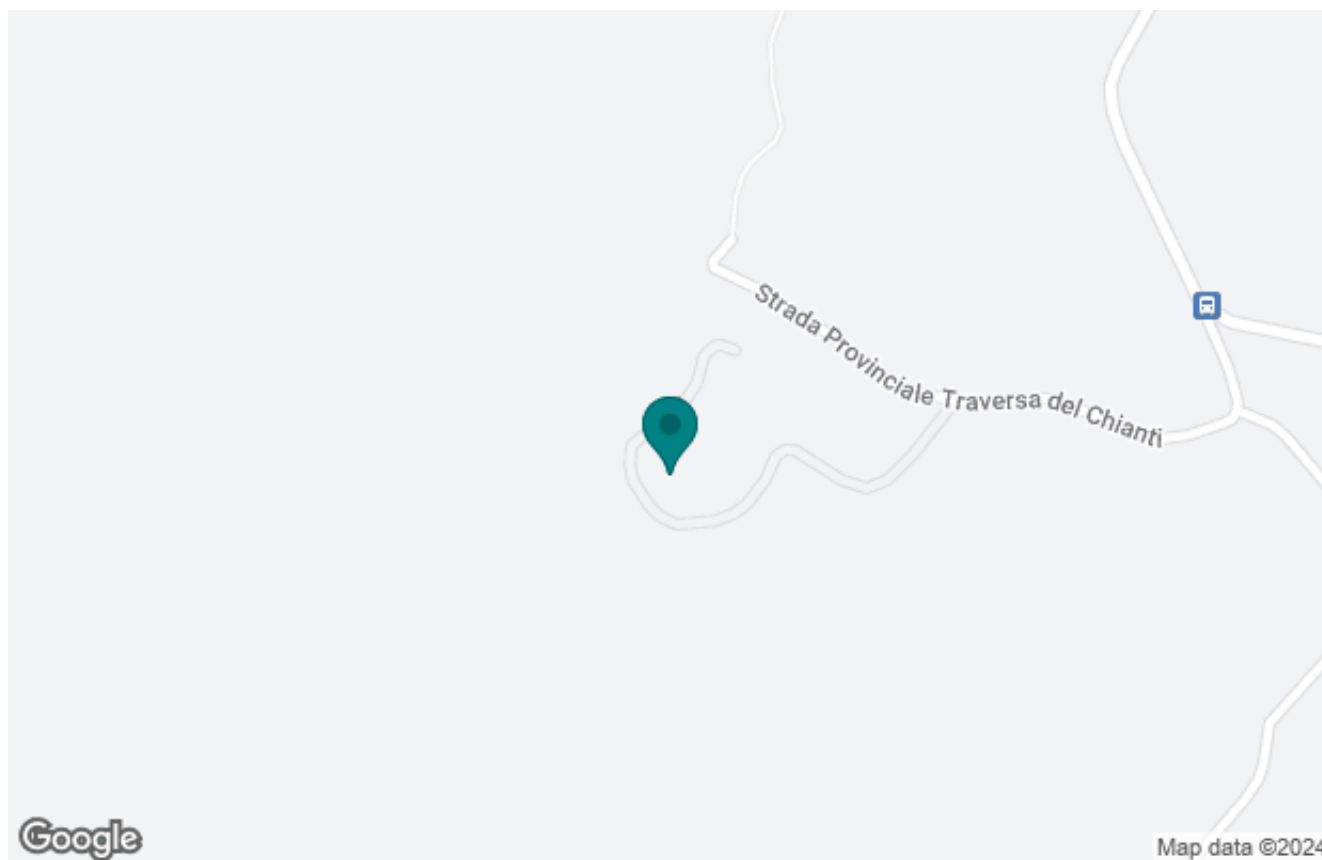
Nicky Swallow, DESTINATION EXPERT

1 October 2022 · 7:00am

Location

9/10

If it's full immersion in the Chianti winelands you are after, Castello di Ama can't be beaten. Standing in 200 acres of undulating vineyards and olive groves near the village of Gaiole, with virtually no signs of modern life on the horizon to spoil the illusion, this ancient stone hamlet lies a generous hours' drive south of Florence and some 20 minutes from Siena. Some of the region's most celebrated wine estates are on the doorstep if wine tasting is your thing, although Ama's are among the best.



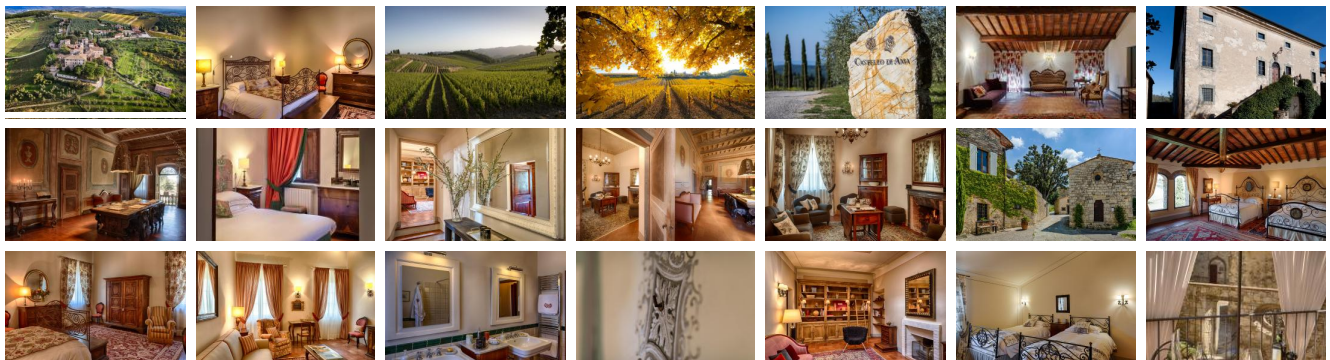
Style and Character

9/10

The present owners' family bought Ama, a substantial 17th-century stone 'borgo' (hamlet) in the 1970s; it includes three patrician villas, each with its own chapel, and a collection of stone houses, many of which now stand empty. The 'castello' itself

was destroyed centuries ago. Villa Rigucci now has five suites while Villa Pianigiani houses the restaurant, wine shop and tasting rooms.

Inside, the juxtaposition of old and new, an underlying theme at Ama, is immediately obvious; under beamed ceilings and between painted walls, family antiques and pictures rub alongside striking Edra lamps and design pieces. A striking reception centre known as Arca stands just above the village – a sleek, airy, contemporary space in steel and glass. And site-specific artworks (by the likes of Roni Horn, Anish Kapoor, Louise Bourgeois and Daniel Buren) inhabit the ancient buildings and grounds in the most natural, organic way. The latest installation is a magical garden by Jenny Holzer.





[See more images at Booking.com](#)

Service and Facilities

7/10

The more-home-than-hotel ethos behind Ama means that some of the more traditional hotel services are missing (there is no pool, for example) which is not to say that staff, led by the owner's son, Arturo, are not super-helpful and charming; you will be given a warm welcome and lots of local advice about where to eat and what to see and do. But the set up will particularly appeal to independent travellers, and a car for exploring the countryside is essential.

Arca, the reception area, includes communal space where guests are welcome to lounge on fuschia-pink Edra chairs with an arty book, or to sip a glass of the house wine with wraparound views. Tours of the estate (extra cost) taking in the cellars, vineyards, artworks and the village are not to be missed and include a winetasting at the end.

- ✓ Restaurant
- ✓ Wi-Fi

Rooms

8/10

Five suites, each named after one of the estate wines, are housed in elegant Villa Ricucci, which was until quite recently the Florence-based owner's country retreat. Three are enormous with separate sitting rooms: L'Apparita sleeps four and has a cosy sitting room with working fireplace; Bellavista has two queen-sized beds and particularly beautiful views; Haiku is a cosy little nest under the eaves with a vast bathroom. All are lovingly furnished with fine family antiques and pictures. Oriental rugs lie on traditional terracotta tiled floors and beautiful embroidered linen fabrics drape tall windows. There is a tea tray in each room complete with electric kettle and teapot. The splendid bathrooms come with huge showers, fluffy Frette robes and towels, and the delicious in-house line of organic 'Iris Mater' bath goodies. Villa Ricucci also has a billiard table and a library-cum-sitting room for guests' use.

Food and Drink

8/10

In warm weather, lunch and dinner are served on one of two terraces at Il Ristoro, in elegant Villa Pianigiani; in winter, meals move indoors to the original family dining room. The food is local, seasonal, unfussy and good, with dishes such as aubergine, mozzarella and basil flan, fresh pappardelle pasta with meat ragù and guinea fowl roasted with lemon and fresh herbs providing a backdrop for the superb, award-winning estate wines and olive oil pressed on site.

Guests sit around a long table in the old kitchen of Villa Ricucci – complete with vast functioning fireplace – for a hearty rustic breakfast of fresh fruit and yogurt, home made cakes, local cheeses and ham and eggs cooked to order.

Value for Money

7/10

Double rooms from €490 (£420) year-round. Breakfast included. Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

Not suitable although the owners do try to accommodate guests with disabilities however they can.

Family-Friendly?

While there is plenty of space for children to run around, there are no special facilities for children. Two of the suites can sleep up to four, and cots are provided free of charge.

Località Ama, 53013 Gaiole in Chianti, Tuscany, Italy.

00 39 0577 746 031

castellodiamma.com

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£ **425** per night

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