

W

weekend

by Antonella Euli



Umbria's Natural Charms

On a hill surrounded by vineyards, in the heart of the Umbrian countryside, stands Relais Todini. A period residence in a 12th century manor, surrounded by the Todini estate - five hundred hectares of vineyards, livestock farming and a hunting reserve. Redeveloped in a number of stages, it is now a period five-star stone and terracotta residence with frescoed walls, fireplaces, tapestries and wood beam ceilings. There are only eight rooms and four suites, all different and all furnished with period items. Those seeking a truly exclusive experience can choose a stay at the Villa Sant'Isidoro, located in gardens with a view over valley, lakes and hills. Guests can enjoy an excellent spa where wellbeing begins with refined infusions in the relaxation area and continues in the Turkish bath with chromotherapy, maxi Jacuzzi and a range of treatments including baths in wine extracts and an exclusive line of cosmetic products with truffle extracts. Lunch and dinner are served in the elegant restaurant with a view of Todi. Here sophisticated international cuisine complements typical traditional dishes. The kitchen team is led by chef John Paterson from Cumbria, England, whose dishes reflect a "simple, honest, hand, recreating the flavours, aromas and the atmosphere of Umbria itself". All accompanied by the extra virgin olive oil produced on the estate. A variety of activities are offered for guests - visits to the private park with many types of animal, some exotic, that have found a favourable habitat here for growth and breeding. Guests can see zebra, camels, ostrich, deer, chamois, wild sheep, llamas, Ankole-Watusi cattle, pelicans, Canada geese and many other species. There are walking trips and mountain bike rides among vineyards, olive groves, woods and artificial lakes and guided tours to Todi, Perugia, Spoleto and Assisi, and it's also possible to also join a hunt in the reserve, fish in the lakes and enjoy tastings and guided visits in the Cantina Todini, which produces excellent niche wines. www.wearetodini.com



