

Escape To Puglia: Three Hotels To Book Now

Back-to-school blues getting you down? Consider a last-minute break to Puglia. The heel of Italy's boot is where *Vogue's* Sarah Harris got married, so she is somewhat of an expert, and has scoured the countryside for the best masserie. Here are her picks of three hotels to book now before winter bites

by SARAH HARRIS

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Masseria Trapania

Seemingly situated in the middle of nowhere (although it's only a 10-minute journey from the main town of Lecce) Masseria Trapania, a fortified farmhouse that dates back to the 16th Century, has been lovingly restored by the affable Australian Rob Potter-Sanders. Once ensconced within its six beautiful gardens with picture-perfect swimming pool surrounded by plum trees, petting roaming resident cat Rosie, you'll never want to leave. There are nine suites, most boasting rooftop bathtubs or outdoor showers. Attention to detail is everything here, right down to the Aesop products in the bedrooms. Come nighttime, the fire pit in the garden scattered with Moroccan cushions makes a wonderful location for stargazing. Don't leave without asking for a tour of the ancient olive press, still in its original condition and housed underground in the courtyard.

Trapana.com



Masseria Potenti

Run by the charismatic Maria Grazia and her daughter, Chiara, a spell at Masseria Potenti – which dates back to the 11th Century – is like staying with the Italian family you never knew you had. Family cooking and good times make for a warm Italian welcome from the get go. Better still, the hotel doubles as a vintage pop-up shop (the family are keen collectors of antique clothes, so pack lightly, you are bound to leave with something delightful). Be sure to ask Maria Grazia for her beach recommendations, which vary from those situated next to a nature reserve complete with flamingoes to others that look like they could be in the Maldives.

Masseriapotentia.it



Borgo Egnazia

From pizza to gourmet food (there are a staggering six restaurants within the compound), from charming hotel rooms to fully-serviced three-storey villas, what Borgo Egnazia lacks in history and heritage it makes up for in facilities. A golf course, spa and boutique and seven on-site swimming pools, including those dedicated to children (little ones are also entertained with kids clubs here bursting with activity schedules) are all taken as read. With all the tennis, water sports, yoga, and cooking school, you will never complain that there isn't anything to do. Don't miss Borgo Egnazia's Pedcheria Da Vito; a delicious fish restaurant alongside its Cala Masciola beach club, just a short buggy ride away.

Borgoegnazia.com

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