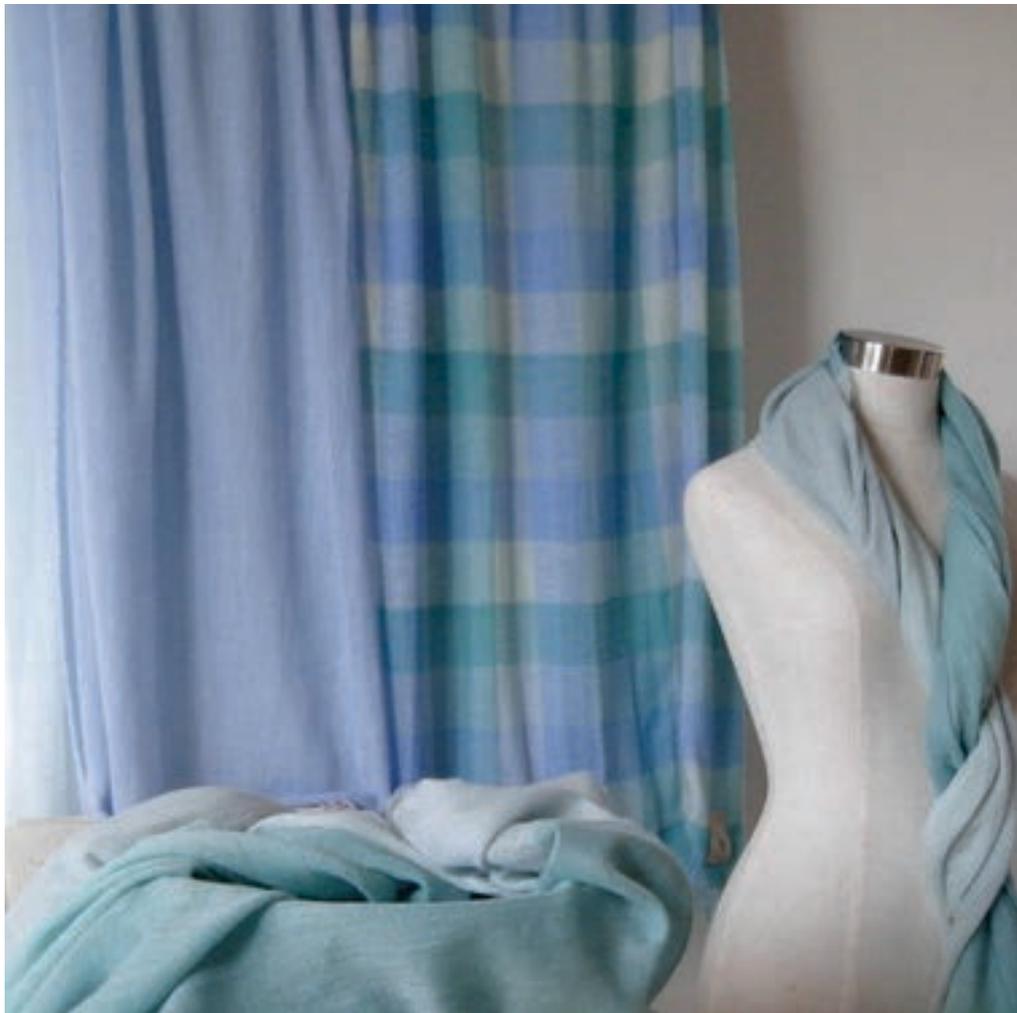


# how to spend it

## **Chianti Cashmere Goat Farm: sumptuous shawls and beauty products**

16 October 2014  
By Mary Lussiana



A Tuscan farm with impossible-to-resist items

There is no dearth of things to buy on a jaunt through Tuscany, but one thing I didn't expect to find late this summer was gorgeous cashmere.

Several Chianti Cashmere shawls (from €150, first picture) caught my eye in the shop of the magnificently restored [Castello di Casole](#), once the home of film director Luchino Visconti and now a luxurious hotel (from about €364), set amid the rolling, cypress-studded Tuscan hills. The shawls were all “superfine” in texture, which meant they really doubled up as scarves, and I loved in particular the delicate lavender-blue and soft grey designs. But my favourite was the Camello, with its beige and brown bands on cream that made it a versatile addition to my autumn wardrobe.

I was, however, very tempted to buy one in every colour – not to mention the rugs, wraps, throws and elegant houndstooth square shawls that Chianti Cashmere also produces. All can be bought online, but real enthusiasts should visit the shop and beautiful rural farmhouse located halfway between Siena and Florence. Run by Nora Kravis, who back in the 1970s swapped her home on Long Island for a Tuscan ruin, the Chianti farmhouse is today available to rent (from €800 per week; sleeps six) and is also the home of the cashmere source: a herd of goats – all named, all loved – that was the first privately owned cashmere goat herd in Europe, and built up slowly by Kravis.

The goats roam the pastures and are hand-milked at weaning, resulting in the Cashmere Goat’s Milk soaps (from €5, second picture), body lotions and shampoos that are also for sale.

But the one problem I’ve found with the soap is that it is decorated with such an adorable-looking white goat that I can’t bring myself to use it. So, it sits on the rather unlikely setting of my desk, where it reminds me of sun-dappled Tuscan afternoons, the fragrance of lavender, the sound of church bells and a very happy holiday.

Castello di Casole, Località Querceto, 53031 Casole d’Elsa, Siena (+390577-961 508; [www.castellodicasole.com](http://www.castellodicasole.com)). Chianti Cashmere Goat Farm, La Penisola, Radda, 53017 Chianti (+390577-738 080; [www.chianticashmere.com](http://www.chianticashmere.com)).

<http://howtospendit.ft.com/style/66331-chianti-cashmere-goat-farm-sumptuous-shawls-and-beauty-products>