

Villa Scuola at Castello di Casole, Tuscany, Italy: review

28 January 2016

A luxurious retreat in an old stone Tuscan school, set in the grounds of the Castello di Casole Timbers Resort hotel, this is a great option for children of all ages.



Villa Scuola sits on the Castello di Casole estate, so visitors have access to all that this luxury hotel has to offer

Telegraph expert rating: 9/10

Villa Scuola is one of a collection of three, two-bedroom villas grouped around a courtyard in the grounds of the **Castello di Casole** Timbers Resort hotel ([read the Telegraph review here](#)).

Once comprising the village school, these stone-built villas are identically kitted-out to an extremely high standard and come with high spec kitchens and large French windows leading out to a private area of garden with heated plunge pools and shaded dining areas. They lend themselves perfectly to a family of four or to two couples sharing. A daily cleaning service and access to the hotel's five-star facilities including restaurant, large pool area, spa, gym and bars are big plus points.

Location: 9/10

On a hilltop, surrounded by classic Tuscan views of vineyards, tall cypresses and olive groves, the villa and the castle-estate which it is part of lies near the small village of Casole d'Elsa, and Siena and San Gimignano are within easy reach. Tuscany's capital, Florence and the wine-making town of Montepulciano make good day trips from this base. Pisa and its airport are a two-hour drive.

Style/character: 9/10

Bought by film director, Luchino Visconti, in the 1960s, the tenth-century castle and surrounding buildings and farms were recently converted into a hotel and villa complex by the American-owned Timbers Resorts. The estate has been sympathetically and expensively restored using local materials to form a luxury rural resort. Within the undulating and wooded 4,200 acre estate is a selection of larger, upmarket villas also managed by the hotel.

Facilities: 9/10

Well-equipped with air conditioning and barbecues. Kitchens have large ranges, farmhouse sinks and big fridge-freezers, plus coffee machines, washing machines and microwaves. Spacious bedrooms have marble bathrooms furnished with free-standing baths and large walk-in showers. Nearest shops in Casole d'Elsa, larger supermarkets in Poggibonsi and Volterra.

Value for money: 7/10

Villas from from £875 per night or £6,130-£14,225 per week including use of hotel facilities, daily maid service and Wi-Fi.

Family-friendly: 9/10

A good option for families with all ages of children. Older teenagers will enjoy the proximity to the shared pool, spa and gym. Bikes are available to hire. Supervised activities are on offer for younger children.

Access for guests with disabilities?

Bedrooms are on the ground floor. Bathrooms are spacious with walk-in showers but are not specially adapted.

Details

Castello di Casole, Località Querceto, 53031 Casole d'Elsa (SI) (+39 0577 967 560; castellodicasole.com)

Simpson Travel (020 8003 6557; simpsontravel.com) features Castello di Casole in its Simpson Exclusive collection.

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- **[The best villa operators in Italy](#)**

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/12115673/Villa-Scuola-at-Castello-di-Casole-Tuscany-Italy-review.html>