



## 5 hotels for inspiring incentives in Italy

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5 December 2019 by Mark Williams

Our pick of elegant Italian getaways for exciting activities, captivating cuisine and stunning scenery.



**MASSERIA SAN DOMENICO** (main image, above)

**Where:** Fasano

**Perfect for:** Getting out on the fairway for a round of golf

**Accommodation:** 40 rooms and suites, including deluxe rooms, garden suites and the San Domenico suite

**Main airport:** Bari International Airport (1.5-hour drive)

**Website:** [masseriasandomenico.com](http://masseriasandomenico.com)

## **Meeting space**

Masseria San Domenico is available for exclusive hire for two to three nights from April to November. Its largest meeting space, Salone San Domenico, spans 243 square metres and can hold up to 150 people theatre-style.

## **Food and drink**

There are four restaurants and two bars here, including San Domenico restaurant which offers typical Puglian cuisine with the emphasis on seasonally available ingredients, and serves a rich selection of the best regional wines.

## **Activities**

Be sure to give your guests some time off to relax in the thalassotherapy spa or the outdoor saltwater swimming pool. Or they can enjoy a game of tennis, a round of golf or workout in the hotel gym. Two beaches offer easy access to the waters of the Adriatic, complete with a seafood restaurant and bar.



## **PALAZZO DAMA**

**Where:** Rome

**Perfect for:** Exploring the historic city of Rome. This urban hideaway lies on the banks of the river Tiber

**Accommodation:** Choose from double deluxe, junior suite, garden suite, executive suite and Dama suite

**Main airport:** Leonardo Da Vinci International Airport (45-minute drive)

**Website:** [palazzodama.com](http://palazzodama.com) (part of Preferred Hotels & Resorts)

### **Meeting space**

The Bow Window Room overlooking the garden and pool can accommodate indoor events year-round, while the subterranean Raspoutine Club is available for late-night events. You can also arrange a complete hotel buyout for exclusive access.



## Food and drink

Pacifico is the restaurant brand by celebrated Peruvian chef Jaime Pesaque, serving Nikkei cuisine (a fusion of Peruvian and Japanese food). Signature dishes include Pesaque's ceviche, Tiradito (a raw fish salad) and Wagyu carpaccio.

## Activities

Situated in the centre of Italy's historic capital, the hotel is well placed for visiting must-see Roman sites such as the Colosseum or Vatican City.



## CASTELLO DI GARGONZA

**Where:** Tuscany

**Perfect for:** Peace and tranquillity in the Tuscan countryside within a 13th century fortified village



**Accommodation:** A variety of classic, comfort and superior rooms spread throughout 13 buildings

**Main airport:** Florence Airport (1 hour 15-minute drive)

**Website:** [gargonza.it](http://gargonza.it) (part of Great Hotels of the World)

### **Meeting space**

Among the event spaces within the medieval hamlet of Castello Di Gargonza are a former olive mill, cellar and stables that have now become conference facilities. The 155 square metre Upper Olive Hall can accommodate 140 guests, while smaller rooms cater for groups of 10-40 people.

### **Food and drink**

La Torre di Gargonza is a familyowned restaurant in Monte San Savino, set just outside the Gargonza city walls, with views of Gargonza's woods and Chiana Valley. Try authentic traditional Tuscan dishes made with fresh seasonal ingredients chosen personally by chef Susi Brogi.

### **Activities**

Put together a sightseeing itinerary which includes nearby Arezzo, Castgion Fiorentino and Cortona to discover the history of the local area. Or take a group on the wine trails of Chianti, Terre di Arezzo and Siena, Montepulciano and Montalcino. Guests can also cool off in the panoramic swimming pool after enjoying a forest trail in the local woods.



## HOTEL VALLE DELL'ERICA

**Where:** Sardinia

**Perfect for:** An eco-friendly team-building getaway. This coastal resort was awarded Europe's Leading Green Resort at the World Travel Awards

**Accommodation:** There are two hotels – Erica has 148 rooms and suites and La Licciola has 123

**Main airport:** Olbia Costa Smeralda Airport (1 hour 10-minute drive)

**Website** [hotelvalledellerica.com](http://hotelvalledellerica.com)

### Meeting space

The Anton Paolo Vincentelli Conference Centre on the beautiful island of Sardinia has 476 square metres of event space, hosting conferences for up to 450 people. Three smaller meeting rooms can hold up to 50 people.



## Food and drink

There are seven restaurants and three bars to choose from, which all enjoy spectacular views of the Maddalena Archipelago and island of Corsica. The cuisine centres on traditional Sardinian cooking and you can even have seafood on the beach at Li Zini beachfront restaurant.

## Activities

A team of incentive experts will be on hand to help you organise your event. Choose from sailing excursions, fishing, golf, kayaking, stand-up paddleboarding, trekking and mountain biking.



## MANDARIN ORIENTAL LAKE COMO

**Where:** Lake Como

**Perfect for:** Canoeing along picturesque Lake Como or simply admiring the stunning scenery

**Accommodation:** 52 suites, 21 guest rooms and two villas, from the superior rooms to Villa Del Lago

**Main airport:** Milano Malpensa International Airport (50-minute drive)

**Website:** [mandarinoriental.com/lakecomo](http://mandarinoriental.com/lakecomo)

### **Meeting space**

Four function rooms are named after popular local beauty spots: Blevio, Menaggio, Comacina and Bellagio. The largest is Bellagio, which holds up to 108 guests seated, while the smallest, Menaggio, holds up to 72 seated guests.

The four rooms can be combined to occupy a total area of 375 square metres and host over 280 guests. Meetings can also be held in the beautiful greenhouse, the hotel's amphitheatre or on the lawn with the botanical park.

### **Food and drink**

Restaurant L'Aria serves refined Italian cuisine in an elegant lake-front setting. The chef gives traditional Mediterranean dishes a personal twist, marrying different techniques and flavours. CO.MO Bar & Bistrot is the ideal spot for a quick bite during the day or an after-dinner drink.

### **Activities**

The hotel has a comprehensive spa, plus a heated pool on a floating platform on Lake Como, and can arrange boat tours, watersports and supercar driving experiences. There are also seven golf courses to choose from nearby.

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