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RENAISSANCE®

TUSCANY IL CIOCCO RESORT & SPA

# AN EXTRAORDINARY PLACE

A journey you wish would never end

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## FOR ALL OF OUR GUESTS

**H**ave you ever read a book that was so wonderful that you never wanted it to end? This is how the guests of the [Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa](#) feel. Those who stay with us wish their holidays would never end. Page after page, day after day, we reveal all of the secrets that make this corner of paradise so extraordinary. It's much like being drawn into a book in that our travelers will be surprised by the emotions that rise up in them as they slowly get to know our history. Staying at the [Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa](#) is an unforgettable experience, to be treasured like a good book, becoming a part of one's best memories.

Georges Midleje  
General Manager



# CHAPTER I

Where time flows slowly a tale rich in history. In places where nature opens up, old-world flavors take shape and the traveler goes off on adventures in the wild.





## WHERE TIME FLOWS SLOWLY

**T**he [Serchio Valley](#) is the most fascinating and mysterious corner of Tuscany.

Situated between the Alpi Apuane (Apuan Alps) and the Appennino Tosco-Emiliano, it is unique for its particularly rich vegetation, which offers the traveler a [truly spectacular natural setting](#) with enchanting mountains as a backdrop. In these places that hold ancient memories - where nature, art, legend and tradition blend wonderfully together - one can wander among thick forests full of chestnut trees and beech trees and into small villages where it seems as if time has stood still.



## A TALE RICH IN HISTORY

**C**rossing into the Serchio Valley, passing the ancient Ponte del Diavolo (Devil's Bridge) and truly plunging oneself in this area means taking in the wonderful scenery of the valley and the mountains, which hold many surprises.

There are [medieval villages](#), [fortresses](#) and other [strongholds](#) that are still intact today.

These are the places that tell of the rural, historical and cultural traditions along with [museums](#) that are unique in the world, [churches](#), [monasteries](#) and [old sanctuaries](#).

It's a historic place for a journey that is like a story waiting to be told.



## Many places to “skim through” like the pages of an old book

### Ponte del Diavolo (Devil’s Bridge)

This work of medieval engineering goes back to the 14th century. According to an ancient legend, the devil himself completed this bridge in exchange for the soul of the first person to cross it.

### Fortezza delle Verrucole (Verrucole Castle)

This medieval castle overlooks an entire valley. Local legend has it that there’s a secret tunnel leading to a castle in a neighboring town.

### Duomo di Barga (Barga Cathedral)

The cathedral dates back to the year 1000. One note of particular interest is the cathedral’s door with engraved Greek letters, Latin letters and mysterious symbols that have never been able to be deciphered.

### Case Museo Giacomo Puccini and Giovanni Pascoli (House Museums of Giacomo Puccini and Giovanni Pascoli).

The former homes of the famous composer and famous impressionist poet have been turned into museums. Both of these masters found inspiration in these places that have always moved great artists.



Other places worth a visit include the Museum of Plaster Statues, the Ghivizzano castle, the Rocca Ariostesca, the Chestnut Museum or the smallest theater in the world – the famous Teatrino which is a Fondo Ambiente Italiano property in Vetriano.





## NATURE OPENS UP

**E**xperience nature in order to **recapture a forgotten sense of equilibrium** surrounded by natural parks, lakes and caves.

Allow yourself to **fully relax** as you stroll through romantic fields full of flowers. But then get your **adrenaline** going as you head down a mountain stream or climb up the face of a rock. So many **emotions** to be discovered in the heart of the Serchio Valley, which can be both gentle and forceful.



## The traveler's eyes take in so many different landscapes

### Grotta del Vento (Wind Cave)

This is an underground treasure in the Alpi Apuane park where one can admire stalactites, stalagmites, little lakes, small streams and wells, all accessible via smooth paths.

### Parco dell'Orecchiella (Orecchiella Park)

This nature reserve is populated by large forests of beech, fir and chestnut trees. Wolves, bears, wild boar and deer also call the park home. Don't miss the beautiful garden with mountain flowers.

### Lago Santo (Holy Lake)

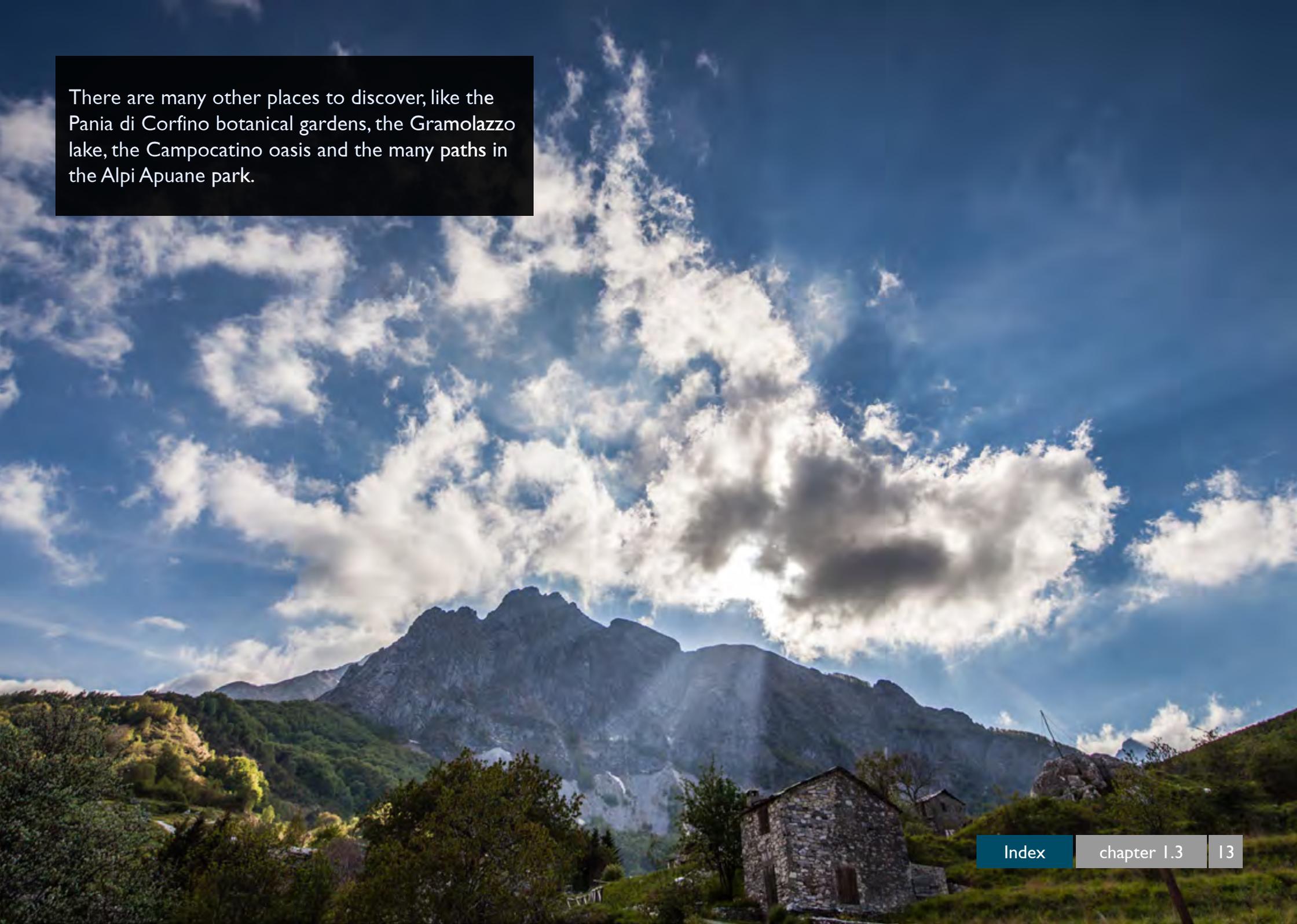
Three streams run into this natural basin. It is set in the green mountains of the Appennino Tosco Emiliano. At 1,500 meters of altitude, it is the perfect place for taking cool summer walks.

### Monte Forato (Holed Mountain)

This is a fascinating mountain in the Alpi Apuane. It takes its name from the natural arch that connects two peaks. It's easy to reach and very unique because of the hole at the top. It is a big draw for hikers and travelers.



There are many other places to discover, like the Pania di Corfino botanical gardens, the Gramolazzo lake, the Campocatino oasis and the many paths in the Alpi Apuane park.





## OLD-WORLD FLAVORS TAKE SHAPE

**G**enuine cuisine that envelops the senses with unique scents and flavors that will appeal to those looking for new culinary experiences.

Porcini mushrooms, forest chestnuts, wild game, sausage, cheeses, jams and honey are created artisanally according to the oldest, most traditional methods.

Indigenous dishes like spelt soup, polenta, legume soups and fish specialties using fish caught in mountain streams are always accompanied by local wines and exquisite craft beers that are exported around the world.



## Many typical products to enjoy right at the source

The Serchio Valley boasts three foods that are recognized by Slow Food:

### Prosciutto Bazzone (Bazzone Ham)

This ham has a wonderful aroma of acorn and chestnut. It comes from local pigs that have been raised in a natural setting. Its name comes from the shape of the ham, which seems like a “bazza”, a protruding chin.

### Biroldo

This special blood sausage is made with the head of the pig and features flavors like wild fennel, nutmeg, clove, cinnamon and star anise.

### Pane di Patate (Potato Bread)

A rustic bread made more delicate by the use of potatoes. Its intense aroma comes from the way it is cooked in a wood-burning oven. It is made with wheat flour and potatoes that are boiled and then mashed. It is the perfect accompaniment to salami.

Visiting old pork butcher shops, mountain dairies, stone mills and breweries allows one to go on a [tasting discovery experience](#): try genuine products right where they are made using recipes that have been handed down for generations.





Make sure to try the local spelt, chestnut flour, Casciana apples, honey, pecorino cheese, Formenton Otto File corn flour, the Pasimata dessert and the liqueur called Elisir di China di Pieve Fosciana.



## ADVENTURES IN THE WILD

**R**enaissance Tuscan Il Ciocco Resort & Spa offers to the most adventurous guests the possibility to experiment unique emotions in a suggestive and pristine context. All Hotel guests have free access to the “Il Ciocco Estate & Park”, where the Resort is located.

If you want to spend a weekend or a whole week relaxing, if you want to leave behind all the load resulting from work stress and daily routine, if you love walking or cycling in the countryside or on mountain trails in full safety, then, perhaps, you will appreciate a holiday in the Serchio Valley/Garfagnana, an unexploited area geographically located in northern Tuscany, characterized by a predominantly mountainous and hilly territory, nestled between the majestic peaks of the Apuan Alps and the gentlest slopes of the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines.

Even within the bowels of the Valley there are elements of interest (worth a visit to the Grotta del Vento one of the deepest caves in Europe, with its 3 guided tours).



## ADVENTURES IN THE WILD

Do not miss the Orecchiella Park, a natural reserve where you can meet a friendly guest: the brown bear.

This territory offers not only uncontaminated nature to live fully and breathtaking views but also several historical testimonies such as fortresses and stone built strongholds dating back to '400/500, ancient villages perfectly preserved and admirable examples of hermitages and monasteries embedded in the rock of the mountains for example, the Hermitage of Calomini).

The Serchio Valley/Garfagnana will not disappoint anyone, not even those who like to taste typical products, without haste, in perfect “slow” style (mushrooms, Garfagnana’s spelled products made with chestnut flour, the famous native corn “8 file”, and local cured meats and cheeses, spelt beet etc...).

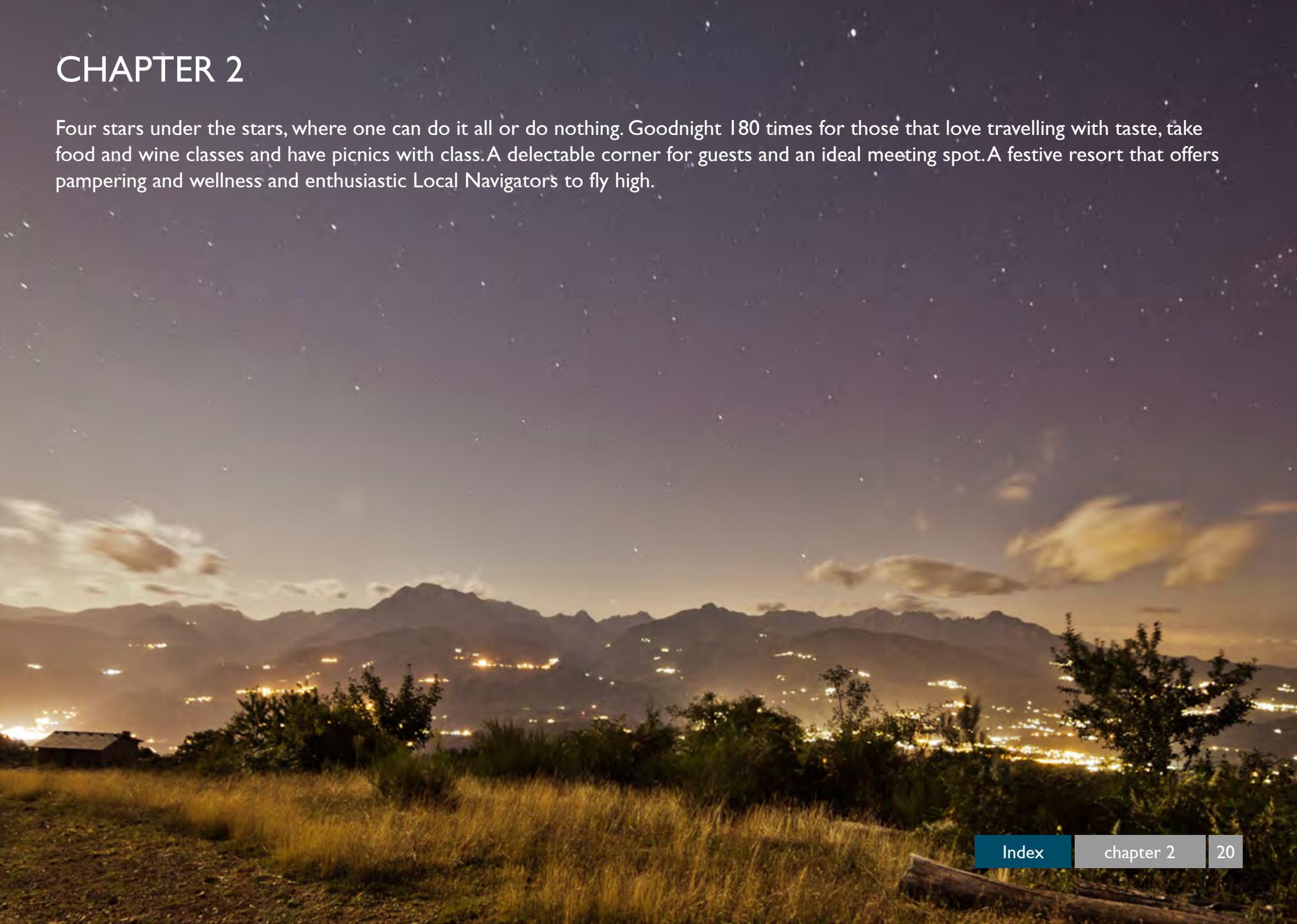


Other activities to try include paragliding, hang gliding, canyoning, rafting, wild-trout fishing and even spelunking, where you can take part in excursions that allow you to visit the depths of Mother Earth.



# CHAPTER 2

Four stars under the stars, where one can do it all or do nothing. Goodnight 180 times for those that love travelling with taste, take food and wine classes and have picnics with class. A delectable corner for guests and an ideal meeting spot. A festive resort that offers pampering and wellness and enthusiastic Local Navigators to fly high.





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## FOUR STARS UNDER THE STARS

Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa is a resort of great appeal where the Renaissance Hotel's signature modern design meets nature's colors, scents and shapes in the greenest and most uncontaminated part of Tuscany.

The Ciocco Estate and Park, where this luxury resort is located, is full of life, and always has been. Walking through it, you won't find a place man's knowing hand hasn't left its mark: chestnut groves, planted for wood and fruit, terraced vineyards and olive groves, or the ruins of old stone drying sheds and hamlets that tell stories of migration and a love for the land. Overlooking the park, there's an old elementary school with chimneys and woodburning ovens that echoes real life and the desire to grow. Over the decades, there have been those that have very patiently preserved the legacy of past centuries to keep it alive and give it to the future. This is the Ciocco Living Mountain that, along with the resort, offers its guests many sensations in one big journey they wish would never end.



## DO IT ALL OR DO NOTHING

**R**enaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa has 180 rooms, a wellness center with an internal heated pool, a beauty spa, an outdoor pool, two restaurants, 11 meeting rooms, and the Salone Pascoli.

Guests really looking to **relax** can let themselves be enveloped by a warm, elegant atmosphere or immerse themselves in the tranquil nature of the park, putting off taking part in the various activities this resort offers to another day.

The hotel is situated on a hill and overlooks the characteristic and lively medieval town of **Barga** while the beautiful cities of **Lucca**, **Pisa** and **Florence** are only an hour away.



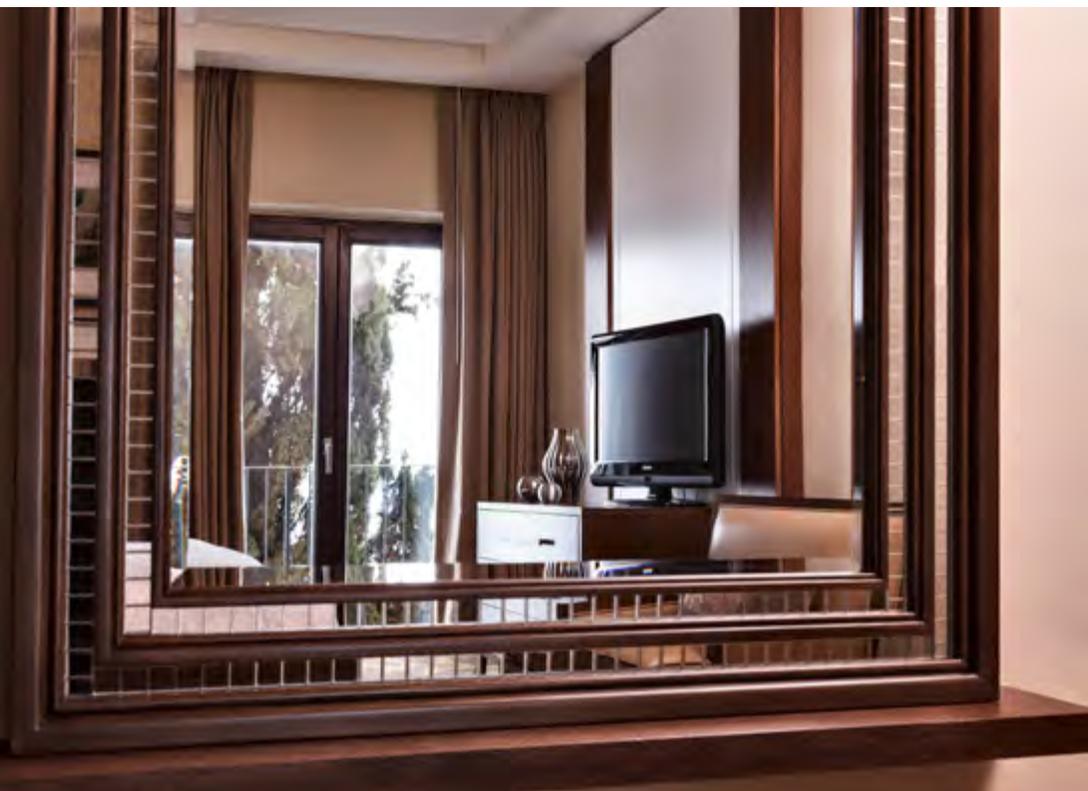


## GOODNIGHT 180 TIMES

**R**enaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa has 180 rooms including Suites, Junior Suites, Renaissance Chic and Standard rooms that accommodate many explorers with varying needs.

The rooms have been designed down to the last detail offering the guests a **comfortable** environment that is at the same time **refined** in terms of materials and colors.

Each room features spacious, comfortable beds, LCD HD televisions, Wi-Fi, minibars and, last but not least, a **spectacular view** of the Serchio Valley mountains for those who love the countryside.





## TRAVEL WITH TASTE

In Tuscany, one can travel with taste. Especially in places that carry on the culinary traditions of the Serchio Valley which boasts three Slow Food presidia.

In the [Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa](#) restaurants, guests can savor the atmosphere and abundance of traditional dishes that reflect the culinary traditions of the area.

Or they can try new, delicious dishes with unique flavors.

[Le Salette](#) is a romantic restaurant with panoramic views that offers a menu rich in ancient Tuscan traditions created strictly with local products and a vast selection of wines.

For those that want international or Mediterranean cuisine in a sophisticated setting, [La Veranda](#) is the perfect place.

It was not just conceptualized for romantic dinners, but primarily for business dinners and events like birthdays, religious confirmations and weddings.



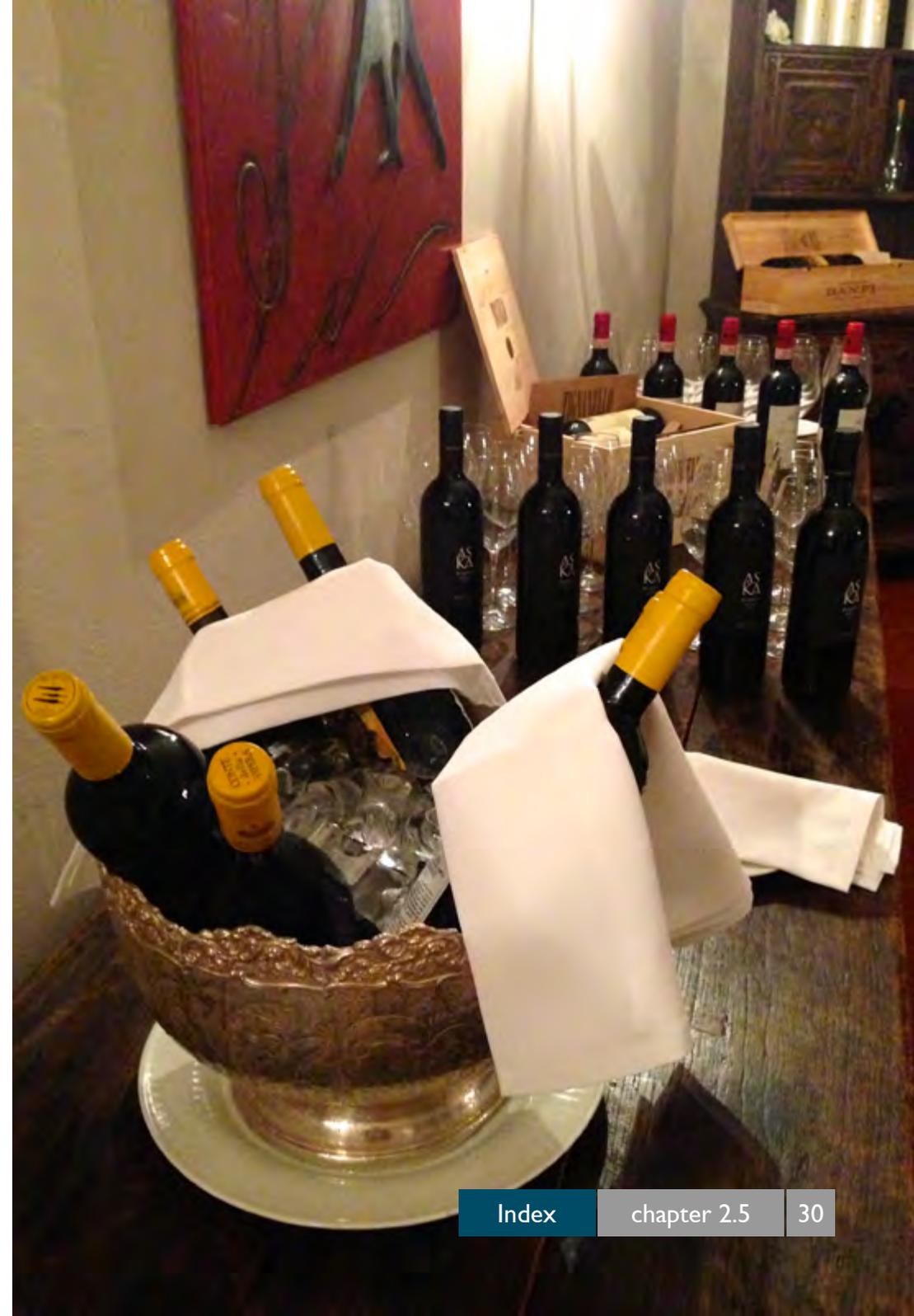


## FOOD AND WINE CLASSES AND PICNICS WITH CLASS

**T**he Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa periodically organizes food and wine events that are a true delight for the palate.

**Cooking Classes** are real cooking and pastry courses that teach individuals and small group of people, the recipes of Tuscan culinary art, while courses for **sommeliers** introduce people to the art of appreciating the famous regional wines. Those that don't like to learn in a classroom setting can participate in the **Serate del Gusto** and taste the typical products of the Serchio Valley while sipping carefully selected wines, craft beers and liqueurs from the area.

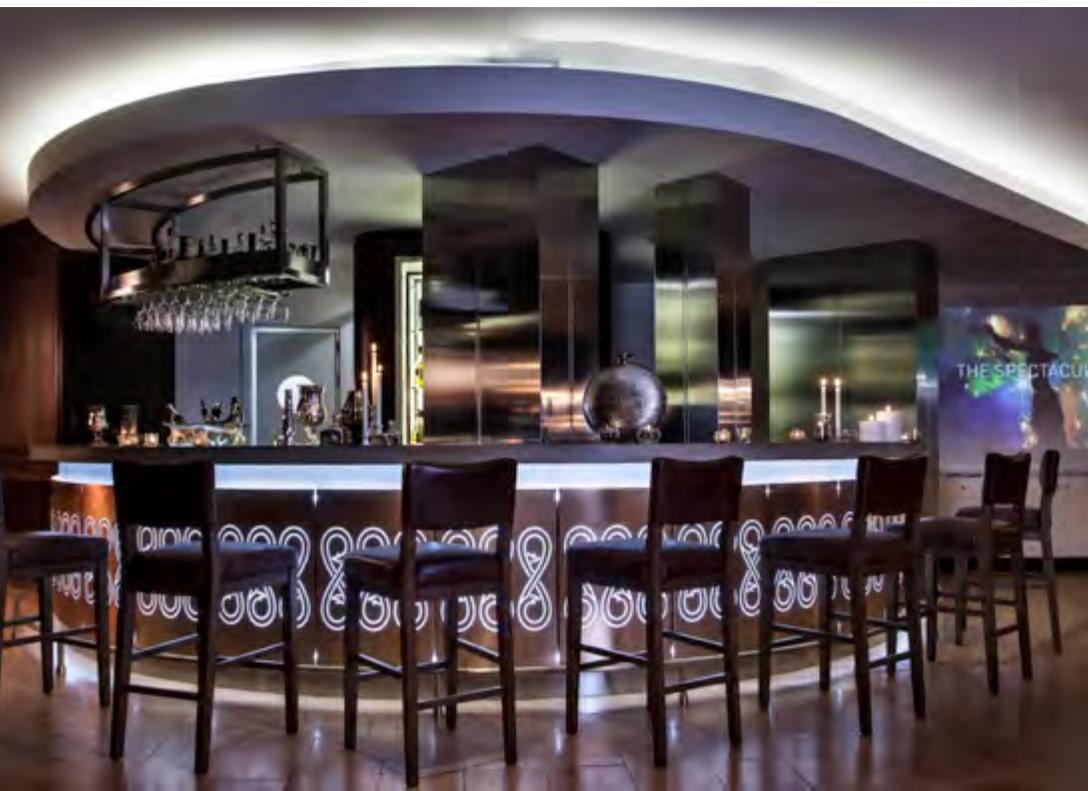
Also, the resort's magnificent estate lends itself to cheerful outdoor **picnics** for which the guests don't have to think about anything except finding the ideal spot to relax and enjoy their picnic basket.





## A DELECTABLE CORNER

**T**he [Nour Lounge](#) is an exclusive spot in the Resort where one can sip cocktails and tickle the palate with local delicacies and typical crisp potato chips accompanied by a variety of dips as is the Renaissance Hotel & Resorts way.





## AN IDEAL MEETING SPOT

**T**he Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa is the ideal place for companies that need to organize business meetings and also want to involve the participants in “extra” activities like team-building initiatives.

The **11 Meeting Rooms** at the resort can hold up to 200 people while the Salone Pascoli can hold up to 900 seated. It has already successfully held conventions, fashion shows, product launches, trade fairs, and exhibitions for national and international companies.

The resort offers companies specialized indoor spaces and customizable outdoor spaces. Available upon request expert **press-office and reception services**. Each location is equipped with the **latest audio/video equipment**. Simultaneous translation and videoconferencing services are available upon request, too.



## A FESTIVE RESORT

**O**ur romantic Serchio Valley setting and professional facilities inspire many couples to celebrate their weddings at the [Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa](#).

The expert wedding planners are professional, competent and courteous as they work side by side with the couple in their choice of each and every detail: the menu, set-up, flower arrangements, bureaucratic papers, music and overnight stays. Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa's halls and outdoor spaces can also host [birthday parties](#).

The Le Salette restaurant, for small, intimate parties, or the La Veranda restaurant for larger groups, perfectly lend themselves to uniting the happy couple with their guests in a romantic setting or one with a sophisticated design enlivened by Renaissance Resorts' musical style. And finally, for 5-star birthday bashes that will be remembered by every single person, the [disco theatre](#) in the Salone Pascoli is the perfect location.



## PAMPERING AND WELLNESS

**A**t the Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa, pampering guests is an art carried out with professionalism and great passion.

Guests can work out on the latest Technogym exercise equipment or relax in the Wellness Area, which is equipped with a gym, heated pool, whirlpool, countercurrent swimming machine and neck-massaging waterfalls.

There is also a soft sauna, sensory showers with color therapy and aromatherapy, ice baths and Turkish baths. In the elegant Beauty Spa, beauty treatment lovers can choose from among several therapies, including purifying body and face masks in a private couples' room with steam baths, chromotherapy, and aromatherapy followed by a hydrating hydro-massage with milk, honey and rose essential oil. The most advanced, all-natural treatments are based on quality active ingredients and performed by a highly qualified staff.





## LOCAL NAVIGATORS

**N**obody knows how to tell the story of an area and come up with perfect itineraries better than locals. At the [Renaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa](#), the Navigators by Renaissance are those people. They are dedicated to planning outings, giving suggestions about the area and creating itineraries that highlight the interesting features in the region. The [secrets](#) of the area around the resort – the Serchio Valley and the medieval village of Barga, Castelvechio Pascoli and other suggestive towns in the province of Lucca and beyond – are revealed to guests along with suggestions on where to [visit](#), where to [eat](#), where to [shop](#) and where to [have fun](#).



## TO FLY HIGH

**R**enaissance Tuscany Il Ciocco Resort & Spa flies you high! The heliport Tenuta Il Ciocco and Park, which is located within the private estate offers helicopter services and transfers almost everywherechapter.



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