

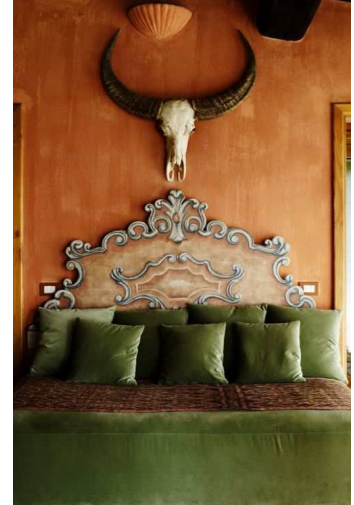


Castello di Vicarello

Luxury Castle Retreat - Tuscany, Italy



Name	Castello di Vicarello
Category	Boutique Retreat
Address	58044 Poggi del Sasso, Cinigiano (Gr), Italy
Contact	t: +39 0564 990718
Website	www.vicarelo.it



Owner

Independently owned by Aurora & Carlo Baccheschi Berti. Aurora worked in fashion producing women's wear in Indonesia for 20 years. Carlo worked in publicity for the fashion business. Both lived in Bali for 18 years until 1993.



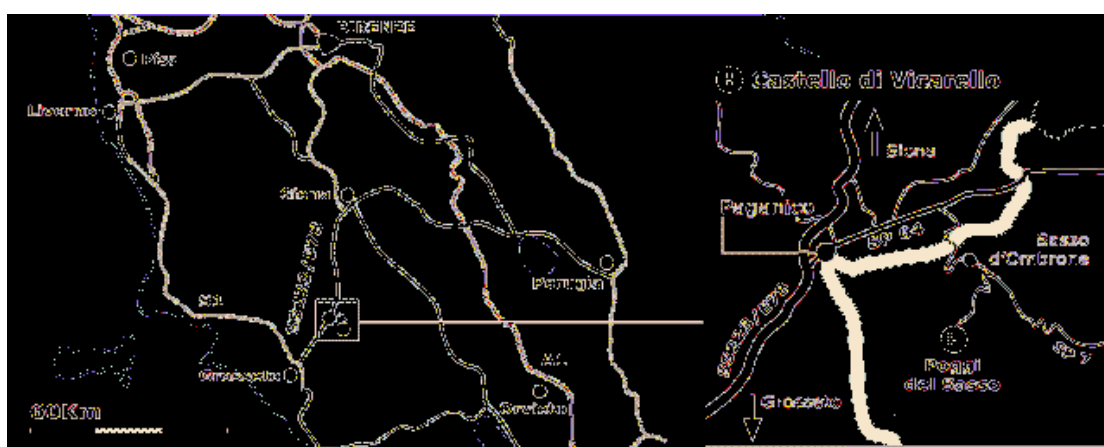
Carlo's passions include the Tuscan landscape, environmental issues, his vineyard and winery, organic farming and hunting. Aurora has a passion for yoga and cooking; both love beauty, tranquility and authenticity. They also have three sons, who love hunting, sailing, and escaping to their parents property.

Opening

Celebrating its 900th anniversary in 2012, Castello di Vicarello opened as a hotel in 2003. The newly built spa opened in 2008.

Location

Located in the Maremma region of southwest Tuscany close to Siena and Grosseto, with 360 degree views over the rolling Tuscan countryside of olive groves and vineyards, this traditional stone castle turned luxury retreat, feels remote and yet is easily accessible. Located outside the village of Poggi del Sasso, between Siena and Grosseto, not far to the seaside town of Castiglione della Pescaia. This area is famous for hot springs such as Terme di Saturnia and Terme di Petriolo.



Perfect for

A romantic honeymoon, a gastronomical journey or hunting experience, hiking, seaside towns, exploring medieval cities or simply to relax and revitalize, family reunions, anniversaries, weddings.

History

This 900-year-old castle was an abandoned ruin, until its transformation into an exclusive country residence in the early 2000's. It was the mysterious Etruscans who first discovered Maremma, and only after several centuries the Romans arrived and constructed a spa on the site of their ancient ruins, upon which in 1112, the present Castello di Vicarello was built.

Vicarello is a place where the eye is continually lost in the undulating green of the countryside, all the way down to the blue Tuscan sea. Castello di Vicarello is a charming residence in which to discover time, silence, and history, as every path, every brick, every wall tells a story.

The Castello has been a holiday home of Aurora and Carlo Baccheschi Berti since 1978. They converted an outbuilding (Villa Chiesina, now one of the suites); however the tower of the castle remained a ruin until they turned it into a hotel retreat for those looking to escape the hustle and bustle of modern life. After the

restoration, a true labor of love, they filled the property with trinkets and treasures, as well as adding two ozone-treated pools and a spa.

Region/ Surroundings

Castello di Vicarello lies in the heart of the Maremma region of Tuscany, where ancient traditions have survived, and Tuscan culture is preserved. In ancient times, Maremma was isolated from the rest of the world, cut off by extensive marshlands and menacing highwaymen, but now it is an ideal holiday destination. The province is also home to an unspoiled nature reserve and boasts incomparable landscapes including sea-pine forests, beaches and rolling hills.

Siena – 50 min. drive from Castello di Vicarello

Highlights include The Piazza del Campo, the Cathedral and Baptistery, Pinacoteca and Art Gallery, Palazzo Pubblico with famous frescoes by Simone Martini, Santa Maria della Scala.

Grosseto – 35 min. drive from Castello di Vicarello

Grosseto is recognized as the principal town of Maremma. Once the archeological area of Roselle, considered as one of the most important Etruscan city in the area, this ancient town was known for its commerce and terracotta workshops; the remains of which are now on display for visitors to see all year round.

Campagnatico – 30 min. drive from Castello di Vicarello

The walls of this village were built in the 12th and 13th Centuries. The village includes the commanding Aldobrandeschi Castle, founded in the 10th Century; Church of *Santa Maria della Misericordia*, known from 1188. *Pieve (Church) of San Giovanni Battista* - houses a 13th Century *Madonna with Child* by Guido di Graziano and a wooden ciborium from the 16th Century.

Roccastrada – 40 min. drive from Castello di Vicarello

This village has a thousand-year-old history: it has been populated since the 5th century B.C.

Architecture and Design

Built in 1112, Castello di Vicarello has been renovated into a sophisticated and modern retreat, offering every comfort and exclusive amenity in a natural surrounding. The careful restoration of the castle incorporated red brick and old stone work, the original wood beams and terracotta tiling to their best effect, while the interior's furnishing is born out of a marriage between antique furniture and frescoes, modern design and decorative elements garnered from every corner of the globe. The garden is a central component in the architectural restoration work,

partially created by garden designer Giuppi Pietromarchi. Despite being well maintained, there is no clear demarcation where the garden ends and the natural vegetation of the reserve begins. The result is dramatic yet offers harmony and balance - a multitude of scented flowers, centuries-old olive trees and lush lavender and jasmine complete the scenery, leaving space for two swimming pools and the exclusive SPA, sensitively integrated into the surroundings.

The Management Team

Aurora & Carlo Baccheschi Berti (owners and managers)

Michela Di Marcello (reception manager)

The Accommodation

The accommodation of the Castello offers two rooms and five suites, including one villa.

VILLA CHIESINA (4 guests)

A lovely accommodation combining Suite Chiesina (as above) and a Deluxe Double room - La Grotta.

Perfect accommodation for a family with teen agers or four adults

SUITE CHIESINA (2 guests)

A large two-story villa with a fully equipped kitchen, living room, grand master bedroom with balcony overlooking the Tuscan hills, and bathroom with bathtub. There is also a panoramic terrace off the living room where one can sit in the evening underneath the stars, and during the day, enjoy tea underneath the pergola in the gardens. The suite is near the travertine infinity swimming pool, amongst the castle's gardens, and is furnished in an 18th century style with modern art paintings. A perfect retreat for guests seeking complete privacy and relaxation.

LA GROTTA (2 guests)

A large double room nestled in the lower level of Suite Chiesina. The walls are made of stone and the furniture is in an Italian Venetian style. The room has a private outdoor sitting area hidden amongst the gardens. Includes bathroom with bathtub, small kitchenette and minibar. With two large double beds this room can be perfect for friends (or for families when rented with Suite Chiesina to create Villa Chiesina, as above, a large private villa).

SASSI (2 guests)

A suite of windows. The living room, bedroom and bathroom share the same panorama of the Tuscan hills down to the sea. Situated in an independent building, this suite has a Mediterranean style and is surrounded by the lush gardens close to the travertine infinity swimming pool. There's a large bathroom with bathtub and shower, small fireplace, kitchenette and minibar. A wonderful place to relax and immerse yourself with nature.

Independent building, perfect for honeymooners

SPRONE (2 guests)

Arranged over two levels and situated off the castle's courtyard, the bedroom has design influences from the 50's and 70's and the living room features an antique four-poster bed with an 18th century table near a modern fireplace – an eclectic yet tasteful mix of styles. There are lovely views over the garden and surrounding hills. Bathroom with bathtub, kitchenette and minibar. On request, Suite Sprone can be connected to the adjacent Suite, Il Giardino Segreto resulting in a large, family apartment.

IL GIARDINO SEGRETO (2 guests)

Romantic Suite with its own private garden facing south - even in winter this corner is very peaceful and warm. Arranged over two levels situated off the castle's courtyard the suite includes beautiful furnishings such as a four-poster bed, a terracotta wood-fired stove and comfortable old leather armchairs and a couch in the living room. From the windows you can take in the beautiful view of the surrounding hills which can even be enjoyed while relaxing in the bathtub. Bathroom, bathtub, Kitchenette and minibar. On request, this suite can be connected to the adjacent Suite Sprone, resulting in a large, family apartment.

This is an intimate and cosy suite, very romantic.

VICARIO (2 guests)

A wonderful and large two-room suite located off the castle's courtyard. Both rooms are full of light with beautiful views of the Tuscan hills, and at sunset the room turns a golden colour. The lounge room boasts a stunning four-poster bed opposite a magnificent stone fireplace creating the perfect place to relax, books and soft lighting create a welcoming mood. The bedroom offers an eclectic mix of '70s designs and wooden antique furniture. Large bathroom with bathtub, kitchenette and minibar.

This is also wonderful for honeymooners, as it has much privacy being at the first floor

CHINESE ROOM (2 guests)

Double bedroom with a wonderful antique Chinese bed. A two-level room set in the courtyard of the castle. Windows with views overlooking the valley.

Bathroom with shower only.

EXCLUSIVE HIRE OF CASTELLO DI VILLARELLO (14 pax)

Castello di Vicarello can be hired for weddings, family reunions or special events. The daily rate for the 7 rooms and suites is **€ 6.300 per night**.

PARTIAL HIRE OF CASTELLO DI VICARELLO (6 pax)

There is also an option to rent Villa Chiesina and Suite Sassi, which are located next to the infinity pool in the southern part of the property. The daily rate for the three suites and the exclusive use of the infinity swimming pool is **€ 3,200 per night**.

Extra persons

We can accommodate few more guests with extra beds. Please see costs indicated in the rack rates

Air conditioning.

There is no A.C. however each Suite has several windows and most have ceiling fans, (plus there is a lovely breeze in the evenings from the sea).

The Kitchen

At *Castello di Vicarello*, food is not only a passion; it is an organic way of life. The retreat grows its own vegetables, produce award-winning wine and olive oil, and the kitchen offers home-cooked Tuscan meals using local and seasonal ingredients.

On a regular basis the owner of the retreat, Aurora, a renowned cook with her own international cookbook, can offer tailor-made cooking classes to guests.

The menu for the cooking classes usually consists of an entrée, a first course, a main course and a dessert. Guests can also learn how to make fresh pasta, breads and focaccia. For those who want to take a piece of Tuscany home, Aurora's cookbook is a must-have. The 2011 launch of her first cookbook took place in New York USA, and the UK.

The Spa

Appearing to almost float above the adjoining field beside the Infinity pool, The Spa at Vicarello is constructed entirely in wood and glass and is a refined example of modern architecture that blend with its surroundings: an elegant structure enjoying a breathtaking panorama.

Using only the finest natural and eco-friendly materials, ensuring low energy-consumption, a respect for the environment and surrounding countryside are the tenets of Vicarello's philosophical outlook, which is evident not only in the Spa but in the whole retreat itself.

The spa itself offers a range of massages from the stimulating and invigorating to the relaxing, as well as a Hot tub, plantar reflexology and shiatsu. The latter two are arranged by appointment, and are with specialist therapists.

For treatments at the Spa, the therapist uses only hand crafted massage oils and essences using Mediterranean herbs.

Services and Treatments

The Spa features a sauna, steam room and outdoor hot tub.

- Shiatsu massage 60 min
- Reflexology 60 min
- Relaxing massage 60 min
- Toning massage 60 min
- Slimming massage 60 min
- Manicure
- Pedicure

Samira, our wonderful masseuse this year comes from Marrakech, and she knows all the secrets for attaining skin as smooth as silk. She has been working for several years in a Relais & Chateaux Hotel in Marrakech, and now she has decided to join our team at Castello di Vicarello for the joy of our guests.

Yoga Retreat in Tuscany

Set amongst century-old olive groves, surrounded by vineyards and lush gardens, the location of the spa and the castle offers a perfect retreat for guests to unwind. Yoga teachers are welcome with their own groups. Vicarello is open all year round and special diets can be followed and bespoke menus can be prepared, depending on the season. Castello di Vicarello offers four different daily yoga classes for guests to take part in – all for just a daily fee of Euro 40. The classes are provided by an authentic Indian Yoga master from Kerala, Vinod, who is available

for yoga and meditation every day. Vinod studied yoga in the ashram of Sai Baba, where he has been for 10 years. He teaches Hatha Yoga and from 2012 he will also teach Kundalini yoga. If participating in Kundalini yoga it is recommended that you have at least one week of daily lessons and practice at Vicarello.

The Environment

Vicarello prides itself on being organic and natural wherever possible. The cuisine uses local and seasonal products, the vegetables and herbs are from Vicarello's organic vegetable garden. The two swimming pools are chlorine-free.

Activities & Facilities

The Castle:

- 12th Century Castello di Vicarello in the Tuscan hills, with panoramic views
- Five Suites (some with fireplaces), two Double rooms
- Traditional Tuscan cooking using only the finest, organic and local products
- Dining by a fireplace or underneath the stars in the "natural garden"
- Natural Spa with sauna, steam room and massages
- Yoga teacher from Kerala
- Organically grown vineyards and olive groves
- Organic vegetable and flower garden
- Two natural pools – the first facing the Maremman hills, the second nestled within the olive groves
- FREE Wi-fi Internet service throughout

Activities:

- 1300 acres of wild reserve in the Maremma region of Tuscany
- Opportunities for wild boar hunting in the Maremma tradition with professional, local guides and trained dogs
- Cooking classes available with Aurora, now cookbook author and creator
- The "Capanno di Caccia" is a wooden hunting lodge where breakfast and lunch are served (50 minutes drive from Vicarello)

The Wine at Castello di Vicarello

The National Italian Association of Sommelier (A.I.S.) gave the wine "Castello di Vicarello" Vintage 2006 and Vintage 2007 'five grappoli', confirming its world-class high quality. The estate's "Terre di Vico" Vintage 2006 and 2007 received 'four grappoli'. The "Brunello Riserva", vintage 2005, received 'four Grappoli' as well.

These are fantastic achievements; more than 2000 wines are entered, and only 350 receive this kind of awards. The *grappoli* is one of the highest accolades available in the Italian wine industry, and it showcases the finest wines in the country. The Owner, Carlo Baccheschi Berti personally manages and maintains the vineyards, and oversees the making of his award-winning wines.

Getting to Castello di Vicarello

By plane

Several airlines, including Alitalia, EasyJet, British Airways, Ryanair, Jet2, KLM, Lufthansa, and AirFrance frequently fly from multiple UK airports, including Stansted, Heathrow, Gatwick, London City and Manchester into Rome Fiumicino, Florence Vespucci, and Pisa Galilei airports.

Grosseto Beccarini airport is located 45 minutes from Vicarello. It is a very small airport, ideal for domestic, charter or private flights. Castello di Vicarello can organize airport transfers for guests if required. Costs depend on the airport, and the distance from the property.

By road

Approximate travel times to drive from key airports to Castello di Vicarello:

- Rome Fiumicino 2 hours 15 minutes
- Firenze Vespucci 2 hours
- Pisa Galilei 1 hour 40 minutes

By train

The nearest railway station is at Paganico, a 15 minute drive from the property. Another railway station is at Grosseto, 40 km away. Florence or Pisa can be reached in two hours; Siena is a direct train or bus journey away, taking under one hour.

Accommodation rates

Rooms and Suites	Rates 2013
Exclusive Villa Rental	€ 6300
Partial exclusive villa rental	€ 3200
Villa Chiesina **	€ 2000
Suite Chiesina	€ 1480
Suite I Sassi	€ 890
Suite Vicario	€ 890

Suite Sprone	€ 690
Suite Giardino Segreto	€ 690
Chinese Room	€ 390
Deluxe D.Grotta	€ 520

****Villa Chiesina is a combination of Suite Villa Chiesina and Deluxe Grotta**

Continental breakfast	Included
Continental breakfast for a third person	€ 15
Third bed supplement adults over 12yrs old	€ 105
Third bed for children between 2 to 12 yrs old	€ 85

*Rates are quoted in Euros, and are based on two guests sharing, per room per night.
Rates are inclusive of continental breakfast, complimentary mini-bar (soft drinks only),*

wifi internet, and the current applicable VAT, presently at 10%

Commission 10% on the net rates

Cancellation Policy

Cancellation notice up to 60 days or more – no charge

Cancellation notice from 60 to 30 days – 50% of the stay will be charged as penalty

Cancellation notice under 30 days before arrival date – 100% of the stay as penalty

No show – entire stay charge

Reduction of the stay: same conditions as cancellation.

Contact details

Aurora Baccheschi Berti, Owner

Castello di Vicarello

58044 Poggi del Sasso, (Gr), Italy

t: +39 0564 990718 - +39 0564990447

info@vicarello.it

www.vicarello.it