



THINGS TO DO

The region is amongst the world's richest in natural, historical and artistic attractions, offering numerous destinations in all fields of interest - history of art to shopping, wine tasting to cycling, sightseeing to gourmet dining, music to photography. Most of them are only a short drive away, thanks to the free highway that runs 5 km from the property and cuts across Tuscany and Umbria.

Here's a taste of the many and varied activities on offer within reach of Podere Marella:

- For a journey through time visit the beautiful ancient villages scattered throughout Umbria and Tuscany, where you will have the chance to see countless masterpieces of Italian art - Etruscan to Renaissance - spanning nearly 3000 years. Among them Castiglione del Lago, Cortona, Montepulciano, Chiusi, Panicale, Pienza, Cetona, Città della Pieve, Assisi, Bevagna, Orvieto, Gubbio, Todi, Spoleto - just to name a few...
- The cities of Arezzo, Perugia and Siena with their amazing heritage are also easily reached, and even Florence and Rome are less than 2 hours away.
- Not many people know that the region was the birthplace of masters of 20th century art. Gino Severini was born in Cortona, whereas Alberto Burri's home was in Città di Castello. Today the town hosts an impressive collection of the artist's work at Palazzo Albizzini, and most notably at the Ex Seccatoi del Tabacco, a huge converted tobacco drying barn where some of his greatest works are on display in a breathtaking setting.
- For a day at the spa, you have a choice between the resorts of Chianciano Terme, Bagno Vignoni, Rapolano Terme, Bagni San Filippo and San Casciano dei Bagni.
- As for shopping, on top of many top wineries and oil mills, the area is rich in local artefacts, especially hand painted pottery and textiles (particularly good shops can be found in Cortona). Right next to the Valdichiana motorway exit (20 km from the estate on the free highway) there is also a large Outlet Village selling all categories of goods from top brands.

- Fashionistas will be happy to know that Umbria and Tuscany are the home of many top names of Italian fashion, who run their factory stores locally (among them Prada, Gattinoni, Dolce e Gabbana, Valentino, ...).
- Village fairs take place throughout the summer. Not to be missed for a real taste of local village life! Major international festivals and exhibitions take stage throughout the year. Among them Umbria Jazz, the Spoleto Music Festival, Cortona on the Move and the International Antiques Fair in Cortona.
- The antiques market in Arezzo is among the best known in Italy. It takes place in the city centre on the first week-end of every month and hosts over 500 stalls.
- Should you be tired of swimming in the pool and feel like unbounded freedom, the nearest sandy beach on the Trasimeno lake is only 6 km away, while more extensive water sports facilities can be found in Castiglione del Lago and other villages nearby. Even the sea is not too far, as both the Tyrrhenian and the Adriatic shores can be reached in approximately 2 hours.
- There are several golf courses in the area. The best known and most scenic is Golf Club Antognolla - 18 holes, in San Giovanni del Pantano, a hilly course designed by Robert Trent Jones jr by the Medioeval castle of Antognolla. Other options are Golf Club Valdichiana - 9 holes, in Bettolle, Golf Course Lamborghini - 9 holes, in Panicarola, and Golf Club Perugia - 18 holes, in Ellera Umbra.
- Should you be visiting during the winter season, the Amiata ski resorts (Cantore, Marsiliana, Macinaie and Contessa - 12 km of ski slopes, 2 chairlifts, 10 ski lifts and 2 cross-country trails) are approximately 65 km away. Easy and not-so-easy slopes for the family are available on this dormant volcano.
- Many other sports can be practiced locally, from sailing and water skiing to cycling and horseback riding. The Estate Manager will be happy to provide further information.
- Finally, in the hamlet of Ferretto Francesca, the excellent chef-patron of the restaurant La Casa di Francesca, organizes cooking classes on regional specialties and local ingredients, including truffle and home made pasta.