

CLARINS

The perfect gift for Mother's Day with all orders over £50*

Code: MUM18

SHOP NOW

WORTH OVER £18

*See T&C on Clarins.com

Travel | Travel reviews

Lazy days in the hills of Umbria

A relaxing break in a luxury villa, nestled in a quiet corner of Italy



By **Kate Fielder**
14:04, 12 Feb 2018

TRAVEL



Segreto Gelsomino, Umbria (image: ©Tuscany Now and More Ltd)



Get **Daily** updates directly to your **inbox**

Enter your email

Subscribe

Villa holidays have a definite air of sophistication - the thought of having a home from home experience, with a hefty dose of luxury is a box-ticker.

Add the prospect of a week or two in a sunnier clime, and you have a winning formula for every occasion.

Having never experienced a holiday home outside of the UK, I found myself spoilt holidaying with London-based **Tuscany Now & More** - an award winning specialist villa rental firm. With a portfolio offering 139 luxury, homely, yet sometimes palatial style properties, dotted all over Italy, it is hard not to be wowed by the collection.

Staying at Segreto Gelsomino - a converted stone farmhouse high up in the hills of Umbria, with nothing but olive trees and farmland surrounding the area - was the perfect relaxing late summer holiday.



Segreto Gelsomino, Umbria (image: ©Tuscany Now and More Ltd)

fitflop

SHOP NOW

FITFLOP.COM

RECOMMENDED

Work On Your Own Schedule

Elegance, sophistication - and the best Lake District views at the Beisfield

New Eurostar Amsterdam route direct from London launches for 2018

Travel review: Cedar Manor Hotel, Windermere

Thinking about getting a smart meter?

powered by Smart Energy

The Escape Lounge at Manchester Airport: How much is it and what do you get for your money?

These are 20 cheapest places to fly to from Manchester

How to get fast track through Manchester Airport security

Manchester Airport lounges - how much do they cost and what do you get?

Innsbruck: How to get there, where to stay, and what to do

PROMOTED STORIES



After flying into Ciampino Airport in Rome, we headed for the hills.

After navigating the roads and motorways for under two hours, we reached the property, along with the delightful and efficient Cristina who manages the home on behalf of Tuscany Now and More. Cristina also offered regular contact and advice, answering queries we may have had about the area or the property for the duration of our stay.

We were greeted by beautifully landscaped gardens, and home-grown and aromatic plants, shrubs and herbs led the way to the property. It was a wonderful assault on the senses.

Several outdoor seating/relaxing spaces were dotted around the postcard pretty property, including the most magnificent infinity pool complete with sun loungers, pool table, working fridges and sink - all with breathtaking views of the surrounding countryside - jaws dropped, and we hadn't even left the car park yet.



Segreto Gelsomino, Umbria (Image: ©Tuscany Now and More Ltd)

From then on, it was hard not to be impressed with your surroundings - the house consistently balanced effortless comfort and high end luxury exceptionally well.

With under floor heating (and cooling) and the most beautifully designed kitchen leading into an open plan living room - complete with lots of traditional entertainment options, as well as a Sonos sound system wired up throughout the property, and complimentary wi-fi for guests.

Styling stayed true to its origins as a farmhouse, while still being luxurious. All bedrooms are traditionally designed but with modern en suite bathrooms, and the master bedroom also had a jacuzzi overlooking the lush Italian landscape. There was even an apartment in the basement with its own living area.



Segreto Gelsomino, Umbria (Image: ©Tuscany Now and More Ltd)

READ MORE

► Now that's what I call a room with a view...

There were special local experiences available for booking, including truffle hunting, wine tasting, specialist local tours, and dinners. We booked a traditional Italian dinner at the villa. Caterers came to cook up a storm - quite literally, as crazy hail stones thrashed the area outside and bolts of bright lightning lit up the sky. We were cosy and happy in food heaven, being served a four course dinner - with the most wonderful homemade ravioli. Each dish complimented with the herbs grown in the garden.

Location wise, the closest village to the villa is Canale, with just one shop and one cafe bar. The property itself, although secluded, is peaceful and pleasant. We came across very little human life in the surrounding area, apart from workers and farmers in the neighbouring land.

Just a picturesque ten minutes drive away though, and we were in Orvieto - a small but perfectly formed city. The new town was below with all the amenities you could need, and the old town was perched elegantly on a cliff top. A well-connected train station also included a complimentary car park - one rainy day I parked up and a quick 90 minute train ride away and I was in the centre of Rome, in the sunshine!



Why Brits Are Rushing To Get £200,000 of Life Insurance for £10/Month

Insurist Life



Halifax Customers Are Being Refunded Thousands In Mis-Sold PPI

Moneytips Online



The Pawn Star Find That Made Chumlee Rich

Definition



Best small 4x4s 2017

Auto Express

Sponsored Links by Taboola



TRAVEL ALL

Most Read Most Recent



TRAVEL REVIEWS

1 Elegance, sophistication - and the best Lake District views at the Belsfield

2 TRAVEL REVIEWS
New Eurostar Amsterdam route direct from London launches for 2018

3 TRAVEL REVIEWS
Travel review: Cedar Manor Hotel, Windermere

4 MANCHESTER AIRPORT
The Escape Lounge at Manchester Airport: How much is it and what do you get for your money?

5 TRAVEL REVIEWS
These are 20 cheapest places to fly to from Manchester





Segreto Gelsomino, Umbria (Image: ©Tuscany Now and More Ltd)

Orvieto Old Town is magnificently medieval and has stood the test of time well.

The Orvieto Funicular, just by the train station, offers regular and scenic trips up to the top to see this part of the city.

The medieval grandeur hits you as soon as you disembark. Sitting proudly, and so it should, it is a perfectly preserved piece of ancient Italian architecture.

Buses are available to catch by the cable car exit, but it's a pleasant walk along the winding pavements up into the centre of town - and the star of the town, the intricately detailed Duomo di Orvieto.

Construction on this cathedral started in 1290 - it is a gothic masterpiece - the design is unique, a jaw-dropping mosaic of colours and textures, looking as elegant as it does fascinating.

Bijou gift shops, pavement bars and restaurants fill the narrow winding streets, it was a lovely day out just appreciating this small city with its magnificent presence.



Segreto Gelsomino, Umbria

READ MORE

► Milan - how to get there, where to stay, and what to do

After an afternoon of exploring the local neighbourhoods it was back to the villa, to stoke up the outdoor pizza oven and barbecue.

We relaxed poolside, while listening to some music and catching the last rays of the evening sun with a cold glass of local wine, embracing the peace and tranquility of Segreto Gelsomino.



Booking is super easy, the site cleverly lists properties in any order you want - whether it's all about the location, or all about the heated pool, or you need, a fully staffed villa options will be there for the taking.

The toughest decision is choosing which villa to go for...

Tuscany Now & More (020 7684 8888) offer Segreto Gelsomino from £3,218 per week based on 10 people sharing

RECOMMENDED



Lapping up luxury in The Lakes



Travel review: Champoluc, Italy



Virgin Trains sale offering £10 tickets from Manchester to London



Work On Your Own Schedule



Padding with sharks in Cape Verde



A new route from Manchester Airport to Seattle is being launched



The cheapest flights from Manchester Airport in February 2018



Why you should get a smart meter



Travel review: Dutch Center Parks and Amsterdam



A new direct flight from Manchester Airport to Cuba is being launched



Your guide to Funchal - how to get to Madeira's capital, and what to do while you're there



Virgin Trains Black Friday sale includes a first class ticket from London to Manchester for just £30

