

Pienza,
Italy

Run to the hills
La Bandita's bella
vista of the rolling
Tuscan countryside



LA BANDITA

Music man **John Voightmann** gave up working with demanding A listers to engage in a two-year battle with Italian farmers, lawyers and local government just down the road from Pienza. He and his wife, travel writer Ondine Cohane, emerged victorious when La Bandita opened this summer. The eight-room luxury bolthole has astounding views (of the scorched **Tuscan hills**), an infinity pool, honesty bar, canopied and decked outdoor dining. Oh, and free cappuccinos. The ultimate chill out location – so remote, we're not sure what Mr Hertz would say about the "rustic" approach road (three character-building kilometres). La Bandita is worth the bumpy ride – John and Ondine are so welcoming you'll forget you've paid for the pleasure.

Michelin-trained chef David Mangan is Glaswegian, not that you'd guess from his spectacular platters. Try the tagliatelle with asparagus and porcini mushrooms (*below*) washed down with a 2001 Sesti Brunello. Just make sure Celtic aren't playing that night, or you'll be fending for yourself. P G-S
From £205, or £1,870 to rent the full property.
La Bandita, Podere La Bandita,
Pienza. 0039 333 404 6704,
www.la-bandita.com

