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DEPARTURES DISPATCHSM

FROM THE EDITORS OF *DEPARTURES*

THE TOP VILLAS IN TUSCANY

AND 4 OTHER ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW THIS WEEK

MAY 10 - MAY 16



Travel

The Top Villas in Tuscany

By Lee Marshall

When it comes to deciding which villa to rent, it's easy to get lost in the maze of possibilities. The recommendations are so profuse—one friend says this, another that, while agents try to make their inventory so comprehensive, all they create is confusion. Which is why we have sifted through dozens of properties in order to select ten of the best. Our list comprises not necessarily the most expensive or luxurious villas, nor are they all in the deeply sculpted and panoramic Val d'Orcia, Tuscany's super-fashionable heartland. Rather, we have looked farther afield, to the southern Tuscan coast, and delved deep into classic Chiantishire (so named for the number of seasonal British residents in these pretty wooded parts), and at the end of our endeavors, we are left with no doubt that the villa tradition is one that works best in this part of the world. [Read more »](#)



Food

World's Top Tasting Menus

From modern *kaiseki* in Los Angeles to molecular gastronomy in Rome, tour the world with ten unforgettable tasting menus.

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Travel

Lumeria Maui Opens

Lumeria Maui offers its guests a restorative retreat and the chance to learn like locals.

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Food

Kitchit Brings Bespoke Dinner Parties to N.Y.C.

The California-based website, which allows its members to hire top chefs for their private dinner parties, expands to New York City.

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Festivals

A Toast to the Paso Robles Wine Festival

California wine country comes together for a weekend of events, seminars and—of course—tastings.

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