The New York Times Style Magazine WANDERLUST

ITALY

A Monastic Escape in Umbria



Radiant purple allium fills the villa garden at Vocabolo Moscatelli in Umbria, Italy. Jakob Trost

By Jennifer Flowers

Less tourist trodden than neighboring Tuscany, the verdant hills of Umbria, Italy, are filled with quiet hamlets; one of the region's newest hotels, Vocabolo Moscatelli, immerses guests in the quotidian rhythms of the countryside. Opening Aug. 1 in a restored 12th-century monastery 45 minutes from Perugia, the 12-room inn was designed in midcentury Italian style by Jacopo Venerosi Pesciolini of Archiloop studio in Florence. The raw materials and furnishings are also mostly Italian: Bathroom tiles come from Cotto Etrusco, 20 minutes away; canopy beds are the work of Lispi in nearby Città della Pieve; and the iron door frames set within the monastery's original arches were fashioned by Eros, a blacksmith less than a mile up the road. Throughout the public spaces and neutral-hued guest rooms (with original wood-beam ceilings), visitors will stumble across the chromatic works of regional artists, including Massimiliano Poggioni and Edoardo Cialfi, selected for the hotel by the Umbrian curator Matteo Pacini. The restaurant's seasonal lunch and dinner menus are centered around vegetables, which the co-owner Frederik Kubierschky hopes will attract locals, too. A former concierge at Park Hyatt Zurich, Kubierschky was born in Germany but raised in Italy; along with his partner, Catharina Lütjens, he takes a personalized approach to hosting. The couple plan to offer pottery classes for guests at nearby Endiadi Ceramic studio and truffle-hunting excursions with their dog, Wilma, a Lagotto Romagnolo. "Smaller is the future of hospitality," says Kubierschky. "People want somebody who listens to their preferences and can lead them to a beautiful experience." *Rooms from around $327, including breakfast; vocabolomoscatelli.com*.