

Word of mouth



Find your marbles

Chic
retreat

A new hotel opening in the aristocratic village of Fiesole, outside Florence, is a rare occurrence. But Il Salviatino, which is due to welcome its first guests this month, looks like it has more than a great location to offer. After an international career developing resorts such as The House in Barbados, hotelier **Marcello Pigozzo** returns to Italy with this **58-room luxury property**, surrounded by 11 acres of rolling Tuscan gardens and parkland. The **15th-century villa** has original frescoes and marble fireplaces, and a Venetian marble sarcophagus (discovered during restoration) now makes for an unusual bathtub in one of the suites. A spa with a year-round heated pool and a creative Italian restaurant complete the Salviatino package. Neighbour Villa San Michele – one of Italy's leading properties – may not be quaking in its boots quite yet, but Il Salviatino promises to be one to watch.

LEE MARSHALL

Above, from left:
Il Salviatino suite;
the villa in 1912;
the white marble
sarcophagus bath

*Il Salviatino, Via del Salviatino 21, Florence, Italy (www.salviatino.com).
Doubles from €632*