



## Castello di Ugento

**A pinnacle of luxury, gourmet food and epic history, all brought together in a  
UNIQUE DESTINATION**



After 1,000 years in the making, Castello di Ugento, in the southern tip of Puglia, known as Salento, has been immaculately restored to its rightful place as a sparkling jewel in Italy's crown.

The result is a luxurious, contemporary and state-of-the-art castle, now open to a new generation of guests, visitors, artists and gastronomes.

Protecting and standing tall over the town of Ugento for over 1000 years, the 17th century castle turned palazzo is now the home to a Luxury Boutique Hotel, the cutting-edge Puglia Culinary Teaching Centre, in an exclusive partnership with the Culinary Institute of America, as well as over 1,000 sq. meters of exclusive exhibition space, adorned with fine baroque frescoes.



Co-founders Massimo Fasanella d'Amore and Diana E. Bianchi have left no stone unturned in their loving and painstaking restoration of this magical monument. It is the ultimate fusion, and meeting point, of history and contemporary excellence. Not to mention teaching kitchens with world-class House Chef Odetta Fada at the helm.

Massimo Fasanella d'Amore: "Castello di Ugento is now an example of 21st century contemporary luxurious comfort. We have the finest bedrooms, the most exquisite bathrooms, a magical kitchen garden and state of the art technology in our kitchens. And we are honoured to be the Culinary Institute of America's campus in Italy. But we also want it to be a home away from home, a place where our guests can unwind and relax and enjoy the beauty of this authentic region".



Indeed, the property has been in the d'Amore family since the 17th century, but now it is time for a new chapter in the Castello's history, and a new family. A family who are there 365-days a year, working with the local community and standing tall as part of the new era of Salento.



Diana E. Bianchi: "Since day one, authenticity and elegance have been important to us and our team. Whilst our ambition has been to create a very contemporary space, we've done it with no disruption to the building's infrastructure, which was the challenge imposed by the historical monuments national trust. We have the most up-to-date design, security and comfort, using Geothermal energy and the latest data technology to be easily connected with the world. It is a beautiful, sacred place we want to celebrate and breathe new life into".



Diana and Massimo came together with a shared love for their native Italy and a passion to restore this completely derelict building to its former glory. Bianchi has a background in Marketing and Luxury, with Colgate Palmolive and Christofle, while d'Amore was CEO of PepsiCo Americas Beverages. Without their intervention, it would have eventually been lost. They have brought year-round jobs to a region where traditionally only seasonal tourism existed, alongside creating exclusive cultural experiences of eno-gastronomy, art, design and a boutique hotel.



There is an undefinable, unquantifiable magic to Castello di Ugento. It evokes a feeling, an atmosphere, an experience like no other. A diamond in the rough no longer.

**Castello di Ugento now offers:**

- **A Luxury Boutique Hotel** comprised of nine suites, with the pinnacle of contemporary design, comfort, security and technology, whilst never compromising the ancient walls or grounds.





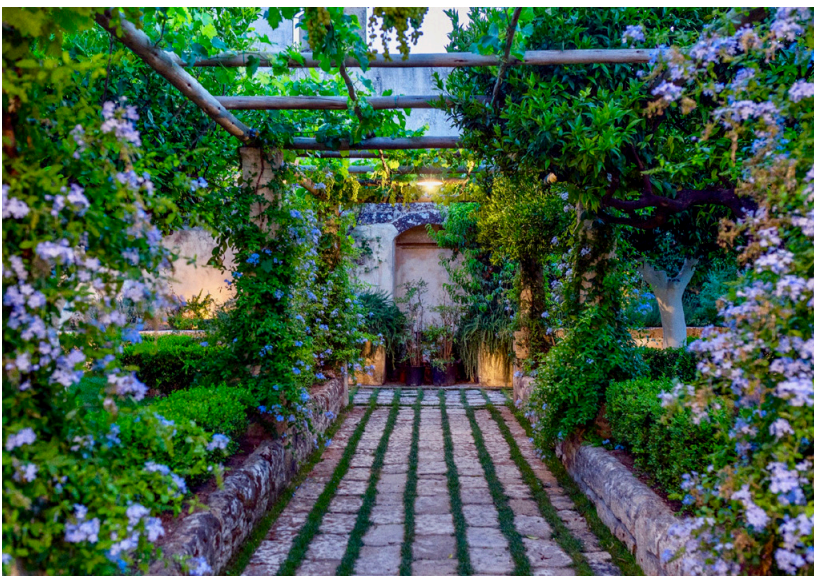
- **The Puglia Culinary Centre**, with its brand new, state-of-the-art kitchens and “Pasticceria”, in collaboration with the Culinary Institute of America. The ancient Pugliese art of cooking taught by renowned House Chef Odette Fada.



- **The museum wing** with its meticulously restored frescoes, will be able to host exhibits and events, and a permanent exhibition of 20th cent. Italian art. The focus will be on creating “art conversations” between the ancient frescoes and 20th and 21st century installations.



- **A working 17th century Kitchen Garden** with over 100 kinds of herbs, fruit trees and vegetables ready to be chosen by the students and Chefs, who will prepare them.



- **A business conference or event area**, in one of the oldest parts of the castello ready to seat up to 75 guests with the finest audio/video equipment.



- **A unique experiential stay** in the Castello’s rooms, or at the nearby restored farmhouse Masseria Le Mandorle, with pool, tennis court and fruit garden.
- **A stone’s throw** to the stunning beaches of the Ionian Sea, with its sparkling turquoise waters.



### Historical notes:

The last 100 years has seen slow decay for the Castello di Ugento, until 5 years ago.

Evolving along the way from Norman fortress to elegant Baroque palazzo, as the delicate restoration work has progressed, archaeologists, specialist restorers and art historians have peeled back layer upon layer of history. An archaeological dig unearthed the remains of a 12th-century Norman tower in the foundations along with Bronze Age artefacts. The castle’s setting is now proven to date back to the Messapians in the 6th century BC.

Nicola and Francesco d’Amore transformed the military fort into a lavish palace in the late 1600s. The elegant salons on the first floor, the ceilings soaring into the star-shaped vaults typical of Salentine architecture, were decorated with a glorious mythological cycle of frescoes. The original majestic staircase, or “Scalone”, of the Neopolitan school, leads up to the first-floor salons and is adorned with the d’Amore family coat of arms and intricate stucco work.

Like a book, their stories provide a window on the 17th and 18th century decorative art treasured by the d’Amore family through the iconography, mythological and literary allusions they portray.





## *Masseria Le Mandorle*



### **Masseria Le Mandorle**

Three hundred years ago, this old farmhouse was surrounded by blossoming almond trees or mandorli. Today, the bright, white walls and towers of the masseria nudge up against the town of Ugento, while silvery olive groves reach out to the sea in the open countryside. Restored and converted into a boutique hotel, the masseria is the little sister of the magnificent Castello di Ugento in the heart of town.

Only 10 minutes walking distance from Castello di Ugento, from April to September the 12 chic, contemporary rooms are open for summer. Guests here can experience all the understated luxury and stellar sports facilities of the masseria – as well as privileged access to the Castello.

With both these properties restored and designed with high comfort and detail, as well as bespoke luxury services offered to their guests, the 20 rooms between them offer a perfect destination for family gatherings, private and business events, weddings and cultural exhibitions.



[www.castellodiugento.com](http://www.castellodiugento.com)

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For more information or images please contact:

[beverley@beverleyluckings.com](mailto:beverley@beverleyluckings.com)

Tel Italy: +39 333 6778230

UK: +44 7472 916283

**The new in the old lies concealed, the old in the new is revealed.**