

# The best hotels in Puglia

*For anyone looking for stylish places to stay, good food and wine, beach clubs, history, culture and natural beauty, this robustly rustic land is difficult to beat*

BY LEE MARSHALL  
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Back in the 1980s, when everyone was going to Chianti on villa holidays, few of us had even heard of **Puglia**. A decade later, word got out about the southern Italian region of fertile red earth, gnarled olives, turquoise seas, beautiful trulli and pioneering masseria **hotels**. All of a sudden, Puglia was proclaimed the New **Tuscany** - a little before it was ready. But in the aftermath of such hype, it has come into its own, maturing quietly and steadily out of the limelight. Now all those trailblazing converted farmhouses have been joined by sophisticated new arrivals that combine world-class design with the warmth and originality of the area. Our resident expert, who has lived in **Italy** for 30 years, lifts the lid on the best hotels in Puglia.



Palazzo Luce, Lecce

Milanese art collector Anna Maria Enselmi embarked on a four-year project to create this seven-suite hotel (and some-time exclusive rental) and living art gallery. Works by William Kentridge, Giuliano Dal Molin, Marina Abramović, Vanessa Beecroft, Marzia Migliora and Thomas Ruff, as well as 20th-century Italian furniture, dazzle in its rooms and cavernous salon. Two libraries, a small spa with hammam and Pilates studio, a bar in metal cabinetry and a lap pool overlooking the Roman theatre have been added.

**Address:** Via Del Palazzo dei Conti di Lecce, 4, 73100 Lecce LE, Italy