

The M Collective

Publication: Country Life

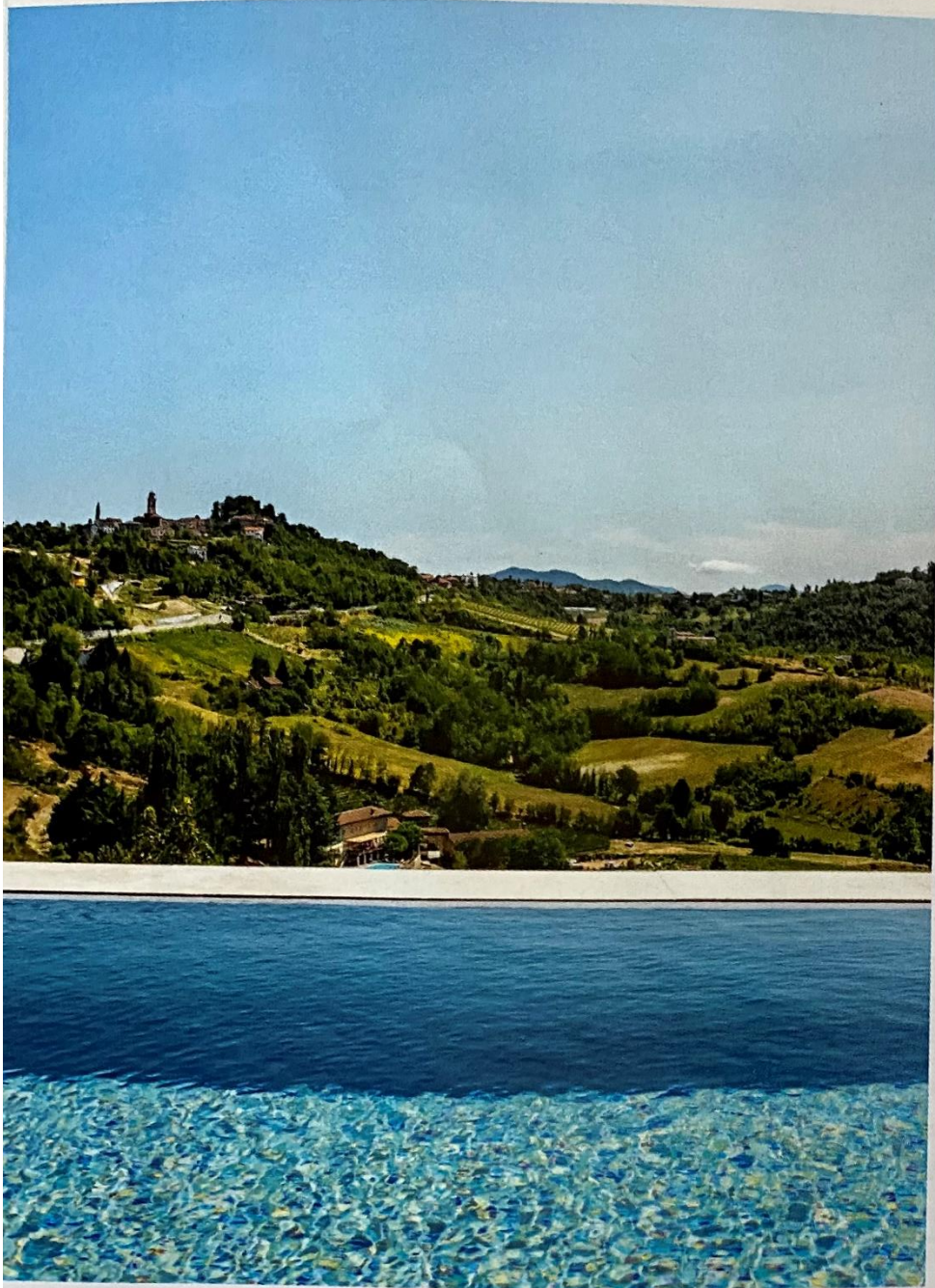
Country: UK

Date: 17 November 2021

Circulation: 40,317

AVE: £ 8,000





Pack your bags

Nordelaia, Piedmont, Italy

UNTIL now, Piedmont—a place of slow food, white truffles and red wine, of rolling hills and ancient castles—has had to put up with a rather impoverished hotel scene. Enter Nordelaia, all warm-pink walls built over the course of three years around an 800-year-old farmhouse, with views of the impressive 13th-century castle of Cremolino. There are only 12 suites (and a fine-dining restaurant and a bistro), designed by London-based firm These White Walls. Some bedrooms have four-poster beds; some of the bathrooms have free-standing tubs. All feel very much of the place they are in, crowded with local Italian, artisanal furniture.

Outside, there's an infinity pool (from which you can spy the Alps in the distance on a clear day), hammocks that swing lazily between the trees and *cabañas*, where you can enjoy lunch and cocktails. Sample some

Best time to go

The autumn, when the white-truffle season begins and the endless vineyards turn a fiery red

of the region's famous white truffles at one of the many restaurants in the area, such as San Marco Ristorante in Canelli (www.sanmarcoristorante.it), or find your own on a truffle-hunting course with a local *trifulao* and their dog. The nearby town of Acqui Terme is well worth a visit, too—don't miss the beautiful Virgin of Montserrat triptych by Bartolomé Bermejo, which hangs hidden in the cathedral's sacristy. *Mary Lussiana*

Doubles from €205 (£173), including breakfast (00 390 14 303 8045; www.nordelaia.com)

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