

## EXTRAORDINARY BOUTIQUE HOTELS IN ITALY



VILLA DELLA PERGOLA, ITALIAN RIVIERA

### Villa della Pergola, Italian Riviera

An amazing arty hotel by the sea in Liguria

You would be forgiven for not having heard of Alassio, but 100 years ago it was one of a string of towns along this stretch of the Mediterranean popular with British artists and writers. Villa della Pergola is a gorgeous, 19th-century patrician landmark built by Scotsman General Montagu McMurdo, and it provides a fascinating insight into the glamorous heyday of this part of the coast. The 12-bedroom hotel is split between three buildings, a villa inspired by a colonial home (the original owner spent time in India), the lovely main house with its



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distinctive Byzantine dome and a garden apartment. The restoration work is impeccable, keeping the architectural bones while creating an airy space with pastel-coloured walls, high ceilings and wooden floors. (The Thomas Suite, with its three sets of windows and glorious sea views, is particularly appealing). The vast grounds are a complete delight, too, with wisteria-covered pergolas, benches framed by climbing roses and fountains gurgling happily. Supper might be simple - grilled sea bass bought from a fisherman before the morning market - but it will be served by a butler. The villa is a wonderful base from which to explore Alassio, with its long seafront promenade, curving strand, family-owned seafood restaurants, and beach clubs with cheery changing sheds and Art Deco signage. Everyone will be made to feel very much at home. *By Ondine Cohane*

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*Price: doubles from about £310*