



PLACES TO EAT IN UMBRIA

Restaurants near Orvieto and Todi and a few a little further afield.

1. Vissani- On the road from Orvieto to Todi, along Lake Corbara just below Civitella del Lago. Vissani has become the most famous chef in Italy and was the personal chef of Massimo D'Alema while the latter was Prime Minister. The food is elaborate, some say pretentious, others say a work of art. The prices are more in line with art than food so I can't give you a first hand impression, but the Restaurant Guide of L'Espresso invented a new top category just for this place, so you might want to try it if you arrived by golden parachute.
2. Trippini- Up the hill from Vissani in the little town of Civitella, Trippini is a wanna be. His prices are a little high and the portions on the small side for this part of the country, but the food is very good and there's a nice panoramic aerial view of the surrounding countryside.
3. Il Re Beve- Castello di Casigliano- Good atmosphere in this old castle/village. They specialize in weddings, etc. The food was OK when we tried it privately but at a banquet it was excellent. Moderate prices although fish menu is far more expensive.
4. L'Umbria- just off the main piazza in Todi. It's the best-known restaurant in Todi, with a nice panoramic terrace and good food, featuring lots of local dishes like wild boar or rabbit.

5. Cavour- Todi- Similar view from some of its several rooms and terraces, but the Cavour is also a pizzeria and while the prices are lower than the Umbria's, the food can be good (but was terrible on our last visit in July 2007). There are outdoor tables in the alley off the main Corso, but the garden side is also pleasant, the rooms inside, less so.
6. Trattoria da Piero & Silvana- Via G. Matteotti, 91- Further down the main street of Todi, just up from the hospital, is this cozy little restaurant, which features excellent traditional Umbrian food.
7. La Penisola- On the road from Orvieto to Todi, near the Corbara Dam. Charming little hotel, which is a scenic, out-of-town place to stay. The food was excellent on our last visit, though service was not as good as the food.
8. La Badia- just south of Orvieto- The setting is remarkable, an old monastery turned into a hotel/restaurant. It's a great place to go, just to be there. The food is good, but maybe not quite as good as the setting and the prices might lead you to expect.
9. Titignano- This is a remote little village which has been turned into an Agriturismo place, sort of a countrified bed, breakfast, dinner and supper. There are good views of the place on their website. You'll probably need reservations on weekends. We dropped in at lunchtime and lucked out. There's no menu; they just bring you a couple types of pasta, meat, vegetables, salad, dessert and fruit. Both red and white wine and carbonated and natural mineral water are on the table. Everything was extremely good, better though simpler, than the food at many of the other places we've tried on this list. Last time we checked, prices ran €17-25/ person. It's not too easy to get to. You take a road between Orvieto and Todi high up on the hills on the west side of the Tiber, which is either extremely panoramic and beautiful, or awfully curvy, depending on whether you're subject to carsickness or not.
10. Le Noci- Grutti- Another small town, this time north of Todi, has a family run restaurant that does a lot of banquets. The décor is unremarkable, and the service can be painfully slow, but the food is excellent.
11. La Cruccola- Acqualoreto now has its own small restaurant featuring local home cooking. It's best to call ahead to see what they have on any given day.
12. Rosa dei Venti- Fiore- The interior is barn-like but the garden is very pleasant for summer dining. They make excellent pizza, to eat in or take out.
13. Semiramide- Melezzole' A small but pleasant restaurant/pizzeria in a beautiful village.
14. La Mulinella- Ponte Naia- a small country restaurant just down the hill on the south side of Todi.
15. Antica Carsulae- San Gemini- Pleasant, rustic restaurant next to the San Gemini bottling plant and near the old Roman ruins.
16. Le Tre Vasselle- Torgiano- The Lungarotti family runs this hotel/restaurant, as well as a wine museum, and one of Italy's finest wineries. We've checked out the museum and the wine, but not the restaurant, which we've heard is excellent. The museum is fun and the wines, mostly Rubesco (red) and Tor di Giano (white) are very good.
17. Tonino- Cortona- We haven't been to this restaurant in the charming town of Cortona, but we have friends who have, and we've been to a few exceptional parties catered by them. We all agree that it provides very high quality food.

18. L'Amoroso at Sintelunga- Gorgeous place south of Siena.
We hear the food is good too, but above all this is a beautiful country hotel.
19. Stroncone- The Taverna di Prima Porta is a rustic but very high quality restaurant in this hill top village 10km. from Terni. tel. 0744-60496.
20. L'Abbazia di San Pietro in Valle- Ferentillo- This abbey, dating back to the eighth century, and rebuilt numerous times through the centuries, now hosts a restaurant and a hotel. Going out from Terni, this place is three kilometers past Ferentillo, up on a mountainside in an unspoiled area of remarkable beauty.

Buon Appetito!