

since 1850

Ottmanngut: a precious gem in a mountain setting The elegance of Merano and the individuality of a private residence

Located just outside the spa city of Merano in northern Italy's Alto Adige region, Ottmanngut is a splendid country residence full of history and charm. For several generations it has belonged to the Kirchlechner family, whose devotion to the art of hospitality has long been legendary. Staying at Ottmanngut revives the body and lifts the spirits. You arrive as a guest, and the next day you already feel you belong there. Following extensive renovation, Ottmanngut now offers eleven highly individual, airy suites, an elegant breakfast area, and plenty of room for reading, chatting or simply dreaming. There is also a classical example of conservatory design that creates an inviting spot in which to while away the time of day: the Orangerie, which links the house to the magnificent gardens.

The house: A dwelling of great character, where everything contributes to the atmosphere of ease and elegance. Carefully selected over several generations, the furnishings, fabrics and paintings all speak for the Kirchlechners' pleasure in welcoming discerning guests to their family home. Theirs is an approach to hospitality typical of Merano, where the idea of taking the waters has always been connected with spiritual as well as bodily wellbeing. Each of the eleven rooms at Ottmanngut has a personality of its own, with furnishings that range from 18th century neoclassicism to Biedermeier and Jugendstil. Little wonder that guests often develop preferences for a particular suite, returning whenever they can to savour the restorative joy of feeling totally at home.

The history: A document dated 1290 bears witness to the existence of a country property known as Psorengütl located just outside the city walls of Merano. By the 16th century, the name had changed to Ottmanngut and the property had become one of five such farmhouses in the area. In 1850, the estate was bought by Alois Kirchlechner, a wealthy Meranese merchant who rebuilt the house, created a fine Mediterranean garden, and began producing an excellent red wine. With so much to offer, the Kirchlechners naturally felt inclined to share their verdant haven with quests. One and a half centuries later, the tradition continues, and the stories multiply.

The surroundings: Although the setting is pleasantly rural, Ottmanngut is in fact very close to the city center. On the one hand guests can enjoy walking up the cypress-flanked Tappeinerweg path that leads though palm and olive groves to a belvedere offering wonderful views over the South Tyrolese landscape. But they can also opt for an agreeable five-minute walk into Merano, with its lovely old houses and charming porticoed shops.

Gardens and vineyard: It's the mild Mediterranean climate of Merano that accounts for the luxuriance of the Ottmanngut gardens. The combination of ancient palm trees, soaring cypresses, colourful oleanders, rhododendrons and hydrangeas, and sweet-scented jasmine so inspired the 19th century German artist Friedrich Wasmann that he often returned to Ottmanngut to paint the garden. In the warm months it is here that breakfast is served. Apart from the many delightful spots equipped with chairs and tables for reading, chatting or snoozing, this haven of greenery also harbours a path leading up to the estate vineyard.

For the palate: A magnificent breakfast featuring the best local produce, no buffet, but served on your table in three courses, every day different, exquisite snacks, like a good cheese plate, to take the edge off hunger during the day, suggestions for the finest restaurants in the area to ensure plenty of memorable dining: at Ottmanngut the pleasures of the table reflect and respect the Slow Food philosophy.

The Spa town of Merano: Merano is a small city that marries a magnificent Alpine setting with a singularly mild climate. The fully renovated Spa complex occupies an ample park, like a oasis of greenery in the centre of town. The Gardens of Trauttmansdorff Castle are another great attraction: 12 hectares of gently sloping land comprising 80 different natural environments offering some wonderful views and perspectives. Moreover, the cultural scene is also very lively, with a wide range of concert series, theatre and literary events.

Further information:

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