

The Tarot Garden



OUT OF TOWN Set aside a day for a spectacular excursion that includes fantastical sculptures, an exquisite medieval village, and the crystal waters of the Tyrrhenian Sea. **Tiffany Parks** has the details.

If you love Gaudí, Tuscany, and monumental parks, don't miss the **Tarot Garden**. Located in the southern Tuscan countryside, about 60 miles northwest of Rome and just a short drive from the sea, the park was the culmination of the life's work of Niki de Saint Phalle, a French sculptor who was highly inspired by Spanish architect Antoni Gaudí. After visiting Gaudí's Park Güell in Barcelona, De Saint Phalle was inspired to create her own monumental sculpture garden, and construction began in 1979. The park contains 22 imposing works in steel and concrete decorated with glass, mirrors, and ceramics, each one representing or inspired by a different symbol from the tarot deck. The vibrant works explode with color and celebrate life, fantasy, and feminine power.

Since the tarot garden is only open in the afternoon, start your day with a morning at the beach; it's August after all! **Ultima Spiaggia** (literally the "last beach") is a seaside establishment along a 5-mile stretch of pristine sandy beach. Its out-of-the-way location means it doesn't get as

crowded as the beaches closer to Rome, and plenty of umbrellas for rent will protect your skin from those fierce August rays. When you've had your fill of sand and sea, hop over to the neighboring town of **Capalbio**. This tiny medieval village is impeccably preserved and has so few international tourists that you'll feel you've stepped back in time. Have a hearty meal atop a medieval stone tower – with a view of the rolling hills that Tuscany is famous for – at **Trattoria La Torre da Carla** (Via V. Emanuele, 33), sample Tuscan specialties at **Trattoria al Pozzo** (Via V. Emanuele, 17), or indulge in Mediterranean cuisine at homey **Il Cantinone** (Piazzetta Porticina, 4). Then wander the quaint narrow streets to work off your lunch before heading to the main attraction.

Getting there: By car: Via Aurelia (A12/S1), direction Civitavecchia/Grosseto. Take exit Pescia Fiorentina and follow indications.

» INFO

● **Tarot Garden:**
Open daily, 2:30–7:30pm.
€12 (€7 reduced).
Strada Garavicchio (GR).
www.giardinodeitarocchi.it
● **Ultima Spiaggia:**
Località Chiarone Marina (GR).
Tel 0564890295.
www.ultimaspiaggia.com