

## Inland Istria



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While first-time visitors to Istria make a beeline for the coast, those in the know swear by the peninsula's green interior. As soon as you hit the curvy country roads through the woods, vineyards and olive groves, you'll see why. It's easy to swoon over its bucolic charm, Medieval towns strewn across the hilltops, and shady forests where prized truffles hide. Luxury villa rentals tucked away in the countryside of Istria are increasingly popular hideaways. Take [Vinella Estate](#), the gorgeously renovated abandoned hamlet turned rustic-chic retreat, with wabi sabi-inspired interiors and an infinity pool that overlooks the postcard-pretty town of Motovun on the hill across. For a slow food meal of Istrian mainstays, book ahead at Toklarija, an age-old olive mill turned tavern on the hilltop of Sovinjsko Polje village.