

A scenic view of an Italian villa. In the foreground, two wooden lounge chairs with striped backs and white cushions sit on a grassy terrace. A large tree trunk is on the left, and a tall, thin cypress tree is on the right. In the background, a valley with rolling hills and a small town is visible under a cloudy sky.

10

OF THE BEST

ITALIAN VILLAS

We check out the new crop of luxe residences to rent that give you a taste of the high life, Italian-style.

WORDS EMILY FITZROY

4. LA SCELTA DI GOETHE, ROME

On the top two floors of a palazzo and hidden behind an unassuming door on the central Via del Corso, this Roman residence is the real deal when it comes to five-star service and luxury in a private home. Once the Roman pied-à-terre of the great German writer Goethe, it now consists of two chic suites, the Trinità dei Monti and the Villa Medici. The Trinità dei Monti is lined with art books and a working marble fireplace, and leads onto terraces with wraparound views of the city, taking in the Spanish Steps and the Villa Medici palace. After enjoying the outdoor hot tub, tucked behind a trellis of jasmine and rosemary, breakfast on pastries from the oldest deli in Rome. Both bathrooms are stocked with every possible product from the Santa Maria Novella bodycare range, and the super-king beds ensure the sweetest of sleeps, cocooned from the noise of the city streets below by silk curtains woven in Florence. *Weekly rental Villa Medici \$16,500, Trinità dei Monti \$22,680.*



The rooftop terrace and (inset) the Villa Medici lounge of Rome's La Scelta di Goethe.

