

THE BEST HOTELS IN NOTO

CREDIT: ANA LUI



DIMORA DELLE BALZE

The [Dimora delle Balze](#) was a 60th-birthday present from owner Elena Lops's husband. She got goosebumps when she first saw the crumbling shell of a 19th-century masseria just north of Noto and embarked on a rescue mission that took the best part of a decade. During the meticulous restoration of the manor house, its outbuildings and several cortiles, arched doorways were unblocked, Byzantine columns unearthed and fresco fragments revealed in cool, vaulted reception rooms. Lops designed this retreat as a [family](#) home ('somewhere to have big parties'); it has only 12 bedrooms, but they come with a huge amount of communal space, both indoors and out.

The place is filled with contemporary-design originals from Draga Obradovic, Luca Turrini, Flos and Kettal, which sit well with local market finds, handmade cementine tiles from [Marrakech](#) and banana palms in vast pots. After a hot day exploring the area, you can relax with a massage or kick back with a Campari spritz by the saltwater pool, surrounded by the earthy smell of evergreen Mediterranean *macchia*. Then dinner is served on a terrace with widescreen views over the unspoilt Manghisi valley – pasta with red mullet, capers and wild fennel, followed by local lamb and organic vegetables from the garden.

Address: Dimora delle Balze, SS287, 96017 Noto SR, Italy

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Prices: Doubles from about £355