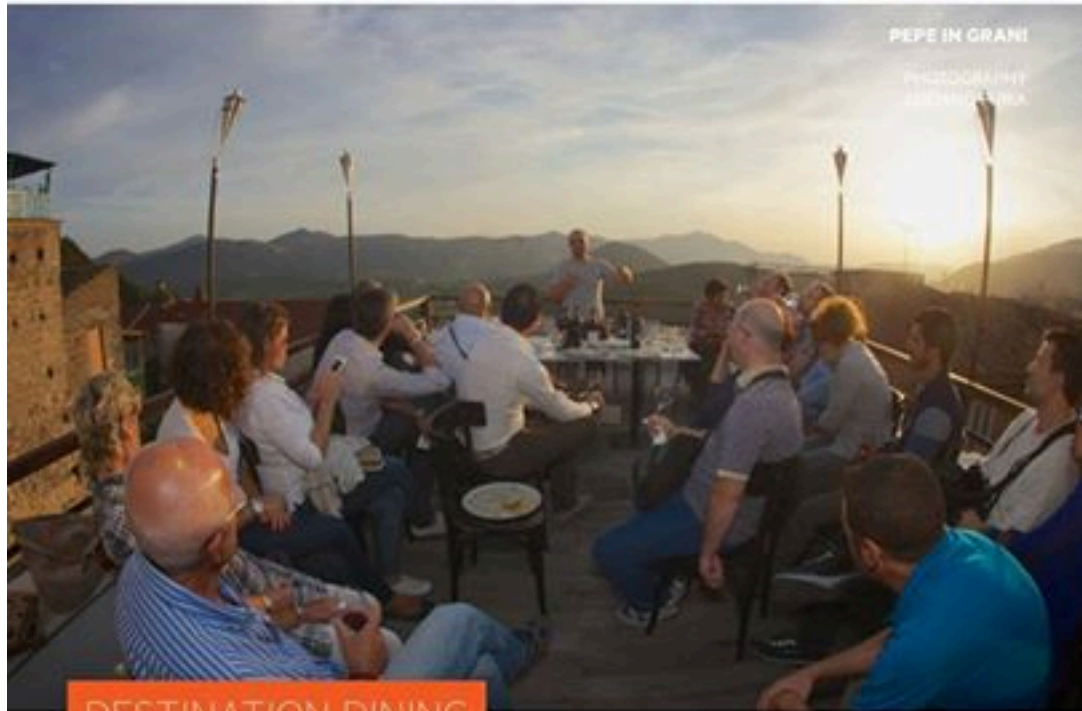


travelNEWS



PEPE IN GRANI

PHOTOGRAPHY
JESSICA WILSON

DESTINATION DINING

And so to bed

After a memorable meal in the Italian countryside, simply retire upstairs. Some of Italy's finest kitchens and vineyards are *fuori pista*, so off-piste that finding a place to stay after a languorous meal or wine-tasting can be a challenge. A handful of entrepreneurs have responded by adding rooms to their menus.

When Franco Pepe, a third-generation baker and well-respected *pizzaiolo*, opened **Pepe in Grani** in October 2012 in his native Caiazzo, 50 kilometres north-west of Naples, diners flocked from all over Italy. They came to taste his flawlessly executed thick-rimmed pizza topped with locally sourced mozzarella, heirloom tomatoes, seasonal produce and cured anchovies. There was only one problem: there was no place to sleep off their pizza dinner. A first in Caiazzo, Pepe in Grani opened two simple yet comfortable rooms above the pizzeria in December, using local artisans to fit and furnish.