

# A Great Reason for Every Season

## **TUSCANY** EVENTS & SPECIALITIES GUIDE



FESTIVALS & TRADITIONS  
ART, CRAFTS & MUSIC  
NATURE & SPORT  
FOOD & WINE

Download  
Points of Interest

**GPS**

Download from

by Massimo Pizzardi

# Tuscany

## A Great Reason for Every Season.

*Events & Specialized Guide*

**Copyright ©** 2011 by Communicart.it – Firenze

**Printed by :** Industria Grafica Pistolesi – Ed Il Leccio srl.  
Via della Resistenza, 117- Loc. Badesse Monteriggioni (Siena)

**Author:** Veronica Ficarelli (Communicart.it – Firenze)

**Concept  
Design:** Arch. Nicola Natalizio

**Cover  
Calligraphy:** Betty Soldi

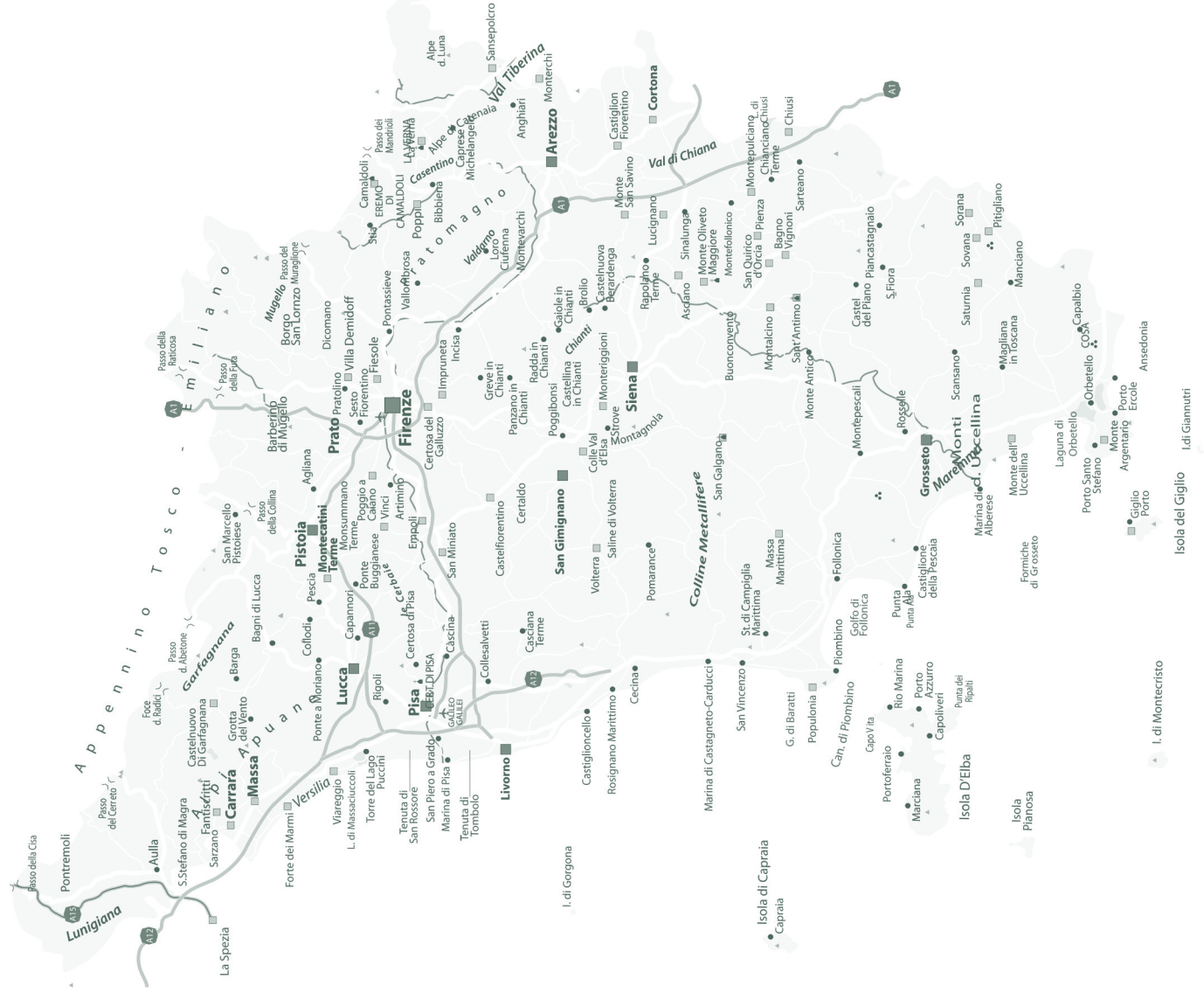
**Editing Team** Veronica Ficarelli, Bess Melendez, Nina Brown,  
Rachel Mascetta

**Translation:** Bess Melendez, Nina Brown, Rachel Mascetta

**Photographs:** Veronica Ficarelli (Communicart.it – Firenze)  
with the unique contribution of Rachel Mascetta & Dave Yoder

Printed in February 2012 by Industria Grafica Pistolesi – Siena





map of Tuscany

*Remembering Santa Lucia,*

*One of the most magical places in Tuscany.  
For me, and for my friends from  
all over the world - a perfect place.*



This book is dedicated to **Mochy**, my dog  
the best everything ever had in my life for over 17 years



“E vanno gli uomini ad ammirare le vette dei monti,  
ed i grandi flutti del mare, ed il lungo corso dei fiumi,  
e l’immensità dell’Oceano, ed il volgere degli astri...  
e si dimenticano di se medesimi”

*(Men go abroad to admire the heights of mountains,  
the mighty billows of the sea, the broad tides of rivers,  
the compass of the ocean, and the circuits of the stars,  
and pass themselves by)*

Sant’ Agostino





— HOW TO CONSULT THE GUIDE —



**Content**

**Introduction**

**Dedicated sections on Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter Events:**

Celebrations & Traditions; Art, Crafts & Music; Food & Wine; Nature & Sport

**Tuscan Specialties from the Producers' Point of View:**

Tradition, Handicraft, Food & Wine, Health & Well-Being, Organic Food & Markets  
Plus Helpful Tips, Suggestions, Recipes, History, and Glossaries  
(useful words and phrases)  
*Veronica's* Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall Trip Tips

**Top Tips Great for Every Season**

**Discover our region in depth and become a real 'Toscano':**

Tips for Travel, Accommodation, Markets  
Year-Round Recipe, Book Stores in Tuscany

**Index by Category**

**Index**

*Throughout The Book You'll Find Special Sections  
On The History Of Tuscan Producers  
And Get Their Insider's Point Of View*



## Content

### Introduction 59

#### The idea 59

#### Specialities throughout the seasons... 60

#### Specialities with tradition and innovation... Movers and Shakers 61

#### Spotlighting our Best 62

#### Festivals & Traditions 62

#### Art, Crafts & Music 62

#### Nature & Sport 63

#### Food & Wine 63

## WINTER 66

### December Events 67

#### Festivals & Traditions Events 67

END OF DECEMBER-BABBO NATALE IN ARNO - Santa Claus on the River Arno-Florence 67

END OF DECEMBER-GIOCO DEL PANFORTE - Game of the Panforte -Pienza (Siena) 67

#### Panforte Historic Tips 67

END OF DECEMBER-PRESEPE VIVENTE DI CASOLE D'ELSA

Casole Live Christmas Crib -Casole d'Elsa (Siena) 68

#### Art, Crafts & Music Events 67

ALL MONTH LONG-SCOPERTA DEI LUOGHI RELIGIOSI ED ARCHEOLOGICI

Discov. The Religious And Archia, Sites Of Fiesole-Fiesole (Florence) 68

#### FIESOLE 69

#### Food in Fiesole 69

VINANDRO

TULLIO

#### Buying Wine in Fiesole 70

BIBI GRAETZ & TESTAMATTA WINE ESTATE

#### Buying Olive Oil in Fiesole 70

BUONAMICI FARMHOUSE

#### Finest Accommodation in Fiesole 71

The Florentine hillside (Fiesole, Florence)-VILLA SAN MICHELE

The Florentine hillside (Fiesole, Florence)-VILLA IL SALVIATTINO

#### Antique Market in Fiesole 71

#### Interesting Gardens in Fiesole 71

VILLA GAMBERAIA

VILLA I TATTI

VILLA PEYRON

VILLA NIEUWENKAMPRIPOSO DEI VESCOVI

VILLA LE BALZE

VILLA MEDICI

VILLA SCHIFANOIA

2ND WEEK OF DEC. (ODD NUMBERED YEARS)BIENNALE DI ARTE CONTEMPORANE

Florence 72

#### Nature & Sport Events 72

ALL YEAR LONG-TRENO NATURA-Nature Train 72

#### Food & Wine Events 73

TRENO DEL VINO-The Wine Train-Montalcino (Siena) 73

DECEMBER (AND SOMETIMES NOVEMBER)-MERCATINI DI NATALE

Christmas Markets-All around Tuscany 73

BEGINNING OF DECEMBER-ANTICA FIERA DI CARMIGNANO

Antiques & Food Festival-Carmignano (Prato) 73

#### CARMIGNANO 74

AMARI Pastry Shop & Due in Carmignano

SAN MICHELE ARCANGELO CHURCH 74

#### Buying Wine in Carmignano 75

CAPEZZANA ESTATE & Carmignano Wine

#### FICHI DI CARMIGNANO-Figs of Carmignano 75

#### PANIFICATO 76

RIGOCCIOLI & their Genuine Jams

1ST WEEK IN DECEMBER-FESTA DELLA CIOCCOLATA-Chocolate Festival-Barga (Lucca) 76

#### BEFANINI DELLA VERSILIA-Special Befana holiday cookies from Versilia 76

1ST WEEK IN DECEMBER-SAGRA DEGLI ANTICHI SAPORI

Antique Flavours Festival-Lastra a Signa (Florence) 77

#### STRAW WEAVING 77

MUSEO DELLA PAGLIA-Straw Museum

#### HATS 78

GREVI & Their Unique Hats

1ST WEEK OF DECEMBER-LA CITTÀ DELLA CASTAGNA

The Chestnut Town-Castelnuovo Garfagnana (Lucca) 79

#### FRITTELLE DI CASTAGNE-Chestnut Fritters 79

1ST WEEKEND IN DECEMBER-CALICI D'INVERNO-Winter Chalice-Massa Marittima (Grosseto) 80

MUSEO DELLE MINIERE-Mining Museum & Technological and Archeological Park of the Metalliferous

Hills-Massa Marittima (Grosseto)

DECEMBER 8-MERCATINO AMERICANO DI NATALE-American Christmas Market-Florence 81

FIRST 20 DAYS IN DEC.-IL MERCATINO DI HEIDELBERG-German Christmas Market-Florence 81

#### BEST TUSCAN PANETTONI & PANDORI-Typical Christmas Cakes 82

AL DOLCE FORNO-LUNARDI

CORSINI

IL CANTUCCIO DI FEDERIGO

PARRINA

SIGNORINI IN PRATO

MID-DECEMBER-ARTISTI NEI BORGHI-Food & Wine Festival-*Torrita di Siena (Siena)* 84

**Buying Cheese in Torrita di Siena** 84

COVERI FARMHOUSE

**CAVOLO NERO RICCIO DI TOSCANA-Black Cabbage** 84

**FETTE COL CAVOLO NERO-Boiled Cabbage served on Toasted Bread, Olive Oil and Pepper** 84

**December Recipe** 85

**FARINATA DI CAVOLO NERO, INFARINATA ALLA GARFAGNANA-Thick Soup with Beans**

## January Events 86

**Art, Crafts & Music Events** 86

END OF JANUARY-PITTI IMMAGINE-Fashion Fair-Florence 86

MUSEO DEL TESSUTO-Prato Textile Museum-Prato

**MANUFACTURE OF TEXTILES OF PRATO AREA** 86

**PRATO** 88

**MORTADELLA** 88

**BISCOTTI DI PRATO OR CANTUCCI DI PRATO** 89

**BISCOTTI DI PRATO-Almond Cookies from Prato** 89

ANTONIO MATTEI & its Biscotti di Prato

**PESCHE DI PRATO-Prato Peaches** 91

NUOVO MONDO PASTRY SHOP

**Excellent Breakfast in Prato** 91

SIGNORINI PASTRY SHOP IN PRATO

**Buying Honey in Prato** 91

LA BOTTEGA DEL MIELE, Fresh Pollen and Honey

LE PAVONIERE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB – Poggio a Caiano, Prato

END OF JAN.-BEG. OF FEBR.-VINTAGE SELECTION-Vintage Fashion Fair-Florence 92

**FIRENZE, FIRENCE** 93

**FIORINO, The Florin** 93

**David, the symbol of Florence** 94

**Finest Daily Accommodation in Florence: HOTELS, B&BS AND SOME APARTMENTS** 95

Florence centre, Duomo area-LE STANZE DI CATERINA

Florence centre, San Lorenzo area-FLORENCE DREAM DOMUS

Florence centre & Fiesole Hill-FLORENCE HOTELS, Fh Hotels:

HOTEL CALZAIUOLI

GRAND HOTEL

MEDITERRANEO

HOTEL VILLA FIESOLE

GRAND HOTEL PALATINO

Florence centre-FOUR SEASONS HOTEL FIRENZE

Florence centre, SMN area-JK PLACE

Florence centre-PALAZZO VECCHIETTI

Florence centre & Poggio Imperiale Hill: WHY THE BEST HOTELS

VILLA CORA GRAND HOTEL

HOTEL SANTA MARIA NOVELLA

HOTEL L'OROLOGIO

HOTEL BALESTRI

HOTEL ROSSO 23

HOTEL UNIVERSO

The Florentine Poggio Imperiale Hill (Florence)-CASADIMINA

Florence - 2 km from the centre (Fiesole)-VILLA SAN MICHELE

The Florentine hillside (Florence)-VILLA IL SALVIATINO

The Florentine hillside (Certosa)-MARIGNOLLE RELAIS

The Florentine hillside (Bagno a Ripoli)-VILLA IL SASSO

**Finest Weekly & Beyond Accommodation in Florence: PRIVATE VILLAS & PRIVATE APARTMENTS in Town** 97

The Florentine hillside (Via Bolognese)-VILLA L'ACACIA

Florence centre, Palazzo Pitti area-PALAZZO BELFIORE

Florence centre, Palazzo Signoria area-MEZZANINO TOWER

Florence centre, Piazza Signoria area-SIGNORIA APARTMENTS

Florence centre, SMN area-PALAZZO ARRIGHETTI APARTMENT

Florence centre, San Niccolò area-LUNGARNO SERRISTORI APARTMENT

Florence centre, Ponte Vecchio area-UFFIZI APARTMENT

**Spas & Thermal Baths in Florence** 99

SOUL SPACE

TROPOS

VIRGIN ACTIVE FLORENCE

TERME DI FIRENZE

YOGA Sanctuary in the heart of Florence

**Interesting Gardens in Florence** 100

BOBOLI GARDENS

VILLA DEMIDOFF

ORTO BOTANICO GIARDINO DEI SEMPLICI-Botanical gardens

**Golf Clubs in Florence** 101

GOLF CLUB PARCO DI FLORENCE

**Antique Markets in Florence** 101

Piazza Santo Spirito Antique Fair

Mercato delle Pulci, Flea Market: Piazza dei Ciompi

Fortezza Antiquaria, Fortezza da Basso

**Food Markets in Florence** 102

SAN LORENZO MARKET

SANT'AMBROGIO MARKET

SANTO SPIRITO MARKET

CASCINE MARKET

MERCATO NUOVO, *Logge del Porcellino*  
 MERCATO DELLE PIANTE, THE PLANT MARKET  
 MERCATO ORTOFRUTTICOLO DI NOVOLI  
 MERCATO DELLE PULCI, FLEA MARKET

PAOLO CARANDINI

**Milk Producer in Florence 102**

MUKKI LATTE

**Food in Florence 104**

**High-End Restaurants in Florence 104**

BUCA DELL'ORAFO

LA GIOSTRA CLUB

NOVE

SANT'AGOSTINO 23

**Organic Markets in Florence 104**

Fierucola Del Pane

Fierucola Dell'Immacolata

La Fierucolina

**Pizza Restaurants in Florence 104**

AMALFITANA

CAFFÈ ITALIANO

FIRENZE NOVA

O'MUNACIELLO

ROCCO E I SUOI FRATELLI

**Tuscan Restaurants, Meat, Soups and Typical Florentine Gastronomic Specialties In Florence 105**

CAMMILLO

CIBREO

I QUATTRO LEONI

IL CARMINE

TINO

**PINZIMONIO-Fresh Vegetables with Extra-Virgin Olive Oil 105**

**Wine Bars in Florence 105**

COQUINARIUS

FUORI PORTA

LE VOLPI E L'UVA

SANTO BEVITTORE & SANTINO

**Buying Wine in Florence 106**

ENOTECA BONATTI

BIBI GRAETZ AND HIS TESTAMATTA WINE

LE SORGENTI WINE ESTATE

PETRETO WINE ESTATE

**Buying Olive Oil in Florence 107**

EATTORIA DI MORELLO

BUONAMICI FARMHOUSE

**Coffee Producers in Florence 107**

CAFFÈ PIANSÀ

JOLLY CAFFÈ

**Outlets in and around Florence 108**

BP STUDIO FACTORY OUTLET

ROBERTO CAVALLI

**Parco delle Cascine 108**

CONTE OF FLORENCE

LORI, CLARA E LORENZO OUTLET

MALO

MAXIS MALL TECNO SPORT DISCOUNT

**Parco De'Renai 110**

**A Walk along the river from the parco delle Cascine to the Parco dei renai in Signa 111**

NANNINI FACTORY OUTLET

NANNINI OUTLET

NANNINI BOUTIQUE

RASPINI VINTAGE OUTLET

RASPINI MAIN SHOP

ALL YEAR LONG-EVENTI, MOSTRE & TOURS A FIESOLE

Events, Exhibitions And Tours In The Town Of Fiesole-*Fiesole (Florence) 114*

**Food & Wine Events 114**

SECOND HALF OF JANUARY, 1ST WEEK IN FEBRUARY-VINO & PIZZA

Wine & Pizza-Empoli and surroundings (Florence) 114

**The Roman Theatre 114**

**January Recipe 115**

**PAPPA AL POMODORO-Tomato soup thickened with Bread, enriched with Olive Oil at the table**

## February Events 116

**Festivals & Traditions Events 116**

ALL MONTH LONG-CARNEVALE DI VIAREGGIO-Viareggio Carnival-Viareggio (Lucca) 116

**Carnevale-Carnival 116**

MUSEO DEL CARNEVALE-Carnival Museum-Viareggio

**VIAREGGIO 118**

**Finest Accommodation in Viareggio 118**

PALACE HOTEL

**A different Aperitif in Viareggio 118**

LA CAPANNA, DI GIOELE E CATERINA BERTOLLI

**Best Pastry shops in Viareggio 118**

GAMBALUNGA BENASSI, ORIGINAL AND ART'DECO' BAR

PATALANI

**Ice cream Parlours in Viareggio 118**

ANISARE

GALLIANO Bar

**Pizzerias in Viareggio 119**

FLAMINIO

IL PACHINO

DA DINO

**CECINA-Chick Pea Flour Savory Pancake 119**

VMB YACHTS, Your Personal Sailing Guide in Tuscany's land and seascape.

**Best Schiacciatine in Viareggio 120**

ADONE

**Where to buy the best fish in Viareggio 120**

VOLPE GOFFREDO Pescheria

BONUCELLI BRUNO LATTERIA & ALIMENTARI SHOP

**Fish... & Sea-food Restaurants in Viareggio 120**

BUONAMICO

CABREO

DA CICERO

GIORGIO

MEZZOMARINAIO

TRATTORIA LA ROTONDA, the restaurant of BAGNO PINOCCHIO

LA BARCHINA FISH & FRIED

BAGNO PINOCCHIO

3RD TO LAST SUNDAY OF FEBRUARY-CARNEVALE

Carnival-Foiano della Chiana (Arezzo) 123

**Art, Crafts & Music Events 123**

END OF FEBRUARY-DANZA IN FIERA-Dif, Dance The Future-Florence 123

**Food & Wine Events 124**

FEBRUARY-FESTA DEL CIOCCOLATO ARTIGIANALE-Artisan Chocolate Festival-Florence 124

**CHOCOLATE 124**

AMEDEI

CATINARI

DE BONDIT

LA MOLINA – LUNARDI

LUCA MANNORI

PISTOCCHI

SLITTI

VESTRI

L'ARTIGIANO DI GARDINI

**CHOCOLATE & BEER 129**

CAJÙN BREWERY di Amadori Gianfranco e Walter Scarpi

**CHOCOLATE & SPA TREATMENTS in Florence 129**

SOULSPACE

BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY-CIOCCOLOSTÀ-Chocolate Event -Monsummano Terme (Pistoia) 130

**MONSUMMANO & MONTECATINI AREA 130**

**Finest Accommodation in Monsummano 130**

GROTTA GIUSTI NATURAL SPA RESORT

**Finest Accommodation in Montecatini Terme 132**

GRAND HOTEL & LA PACE

GRAND HOTEL FRANCIA & QUIRINALE

CAVE DI GROTTA GIUSTI-Grotta Giusti Natural Caves

GROTTA MAONA-Naturalistic Cave

GROTTE DI BAGNI CALDI-Bagni Caldi Thermal cure caves

**Spas & Thermal Baths in The Area of Lucca & Montecatini 133**

GROTTA GIUSTI

TERME DI MONTECATINI

**CIALDE DI MONTECATINI-Montecatini Almond Filled Wafer Cookies 134**

BARGILLI

**Food in Montecatini 135**

PIETRE CAVATE

**BEFANOTTI and the GIOVANNINI Pastry shop 135**

**Outlets in the Montecatini area 135**

IPAC & SILICONFEZIONE OUTLET

FREEPORT

**SKIING & MOUNTAINS in Tuscany 136**

ABETONE E VALDILUCE

MONTE AMIATA

**SKIING & MOUNTAINS in Emilia Romagna 136**

MONTE CIMONE MODENA

CORNO ALLE SCALE – BOLOGNA

SUNDAY IN MID FEBRUARY-GUSTANDO LO STUFATO

San Giovanni Stew Festival-San Giovanni Valdarno (Arezzo) 137

**STUFATO ALLA SANGIOVANNESE-Stew San Giovanni Style 137**

MID-FEBRUARY-BENVENUTO BRUNELLO-Welcome to Brunello-Montalcino (Siena) 137

**BRUNELLO DI MONTALCINO 138**

**MONTALCINO 140**

**Finest Accommodation in The Surroundings Of Montalcino 140**

Montalcino (Siena)-IL PARADISO DI FRASSINA

Montalcino (Siena)-LE RAGNAIE DI CAMPINOTTI RICCARDO

Buonconvento (Siena)-PODERE SALICOTTO

**Food in The Surroundings of Montalcino 142**

POGGIO ANTICO

L'ENOTECA

IL POZZO Trattoria

**SANT'ANTIMO ABBEY 143**

**Buying Wine in Montalcino 142**

ALTESINO WINE ESTATE & their Unique Wine Tours

STELLA DI CAMPALTO & PODERE SAN GIUSEPPE, A Star in the Wine Production

POGGIO DI SOTTO & the Excellence of the Brunello Wine

LE CHIUSE DI SOTTO by Gianni Brunelli and Laura of the Le Logge Restaurant in Siena

PODERE SALICUTTI

LE RAGNAIE WINE ESTATE di Riccardo Campinoti

UCCELLIERA WINE ESTATE DI ANDREA CORTONESI, A Wine with Wings

CASATO Restaurant in Siena

MASTROJANNI, the Illy family and the Brunello

**EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL D.O.P. 148**

**EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL IGP 148**

PARADISO DI FRASSINA WINE ESTATE & The Music Therapy in the Vineyards

TENIMENTI ANGELINI & Busillis White Wine

**Buying Cheese near Siena 152**

SOELLI FARM

3RD WEEKEND IN FEBR.-SAGRA DEL CHIODO DI MAIALE ALLA QUERCIA DI AULLA

Aulla Food Festival-Aulla (Massa) 152

**TESTI DI TERRACOTTA 152**

**February Recipe 153**

**RIBOLLITA, MINESTRA DI PANE, ZUPPA DI PANE -Tuscan Bread Soup with Vegetables**

**Veronica's Trip Tips: Winter 154**

**SPRING 155****March Events 156**

**Festivals & Traditions Events 156**

END OF MARCH-PALIO DEI SOMARI-Donkey Palio-Torrita di Siena (Siena) 156

**Donkey Paintings...and other animals 156**

BOB MARONGIU, Illustrator and Painter

**Art, Crafts & Music Events 157**

1ST WEEK OF MARCH-SALONE DEL MOBILE-Furniture Exhibition-Florence 157

END OF MARCH-OROAREZZO-International Fine Jewellery Trade Expo-Arezzo 157

MUSEO STORICO AZIENDALE GORI & ZUCCHI-Italian Goldsmiths' Museum

PAMPALONI, Classic and Design Silverware

**AREZZO 158**

**Food in Arezzo 158**

AL CANTO DE'BACCI

FIASCHETTERIA DE' REDI

LA FORMAGGERIA

LA TORRE DI GNICCHE

LOGGE VASARI

**Food in the Surroundings of Arezzo 158**

ALBEROTONDO - PIETRO

IL CANTO DEL MAGGIO Osteria

**Ice Cream Parlours in Loro Ciuffenna 159**

CASSIA VETUS GELATERIA TRADIZIONALE & the Gelitteraneo Ice Cream

**Finest Accommodation in The Surroundings Arezzo 160**

Pomaio (Arezzo)-ANTICO PODERE DI POMAIO

**Arezzo and Gold 160**

Bucine (Arezzo)-POGGIO CENNINA RESORT

Bucine (Arezzo)-BORGO IESOLANA

**Coffee Producer in Arezzo Area 162**

CORSINI, The High-Quality Coffee

**Antique Market in Arezzo 162**

**Food Market in Arezzo 162**

**Outlets in the Surroundings of Arezzo 163**

SPAZIO LORJ

I PELLETTIERI D'ITALIA-PRADA - SPACE OUTLET

DOLCE & GABBANA

THE MALL

VALDICHIANA OUTLET

IL PERACCIO farmhouse

ANTICA FARMACIA DEL MONASTERO DI CAMALDOLI

Ancient Pharmacy of the Camaldoli Monastery

BONCI PASTRY SHOP & the Pan Briacone

TENUTA IL PALAGIO

ANTICA SPEZIERIA DELLO SPEDALE SERRISTORI-The Spedale Serristori Antique Pharmacy

**Nature & Sport Events 167**

WEEKENDS IN MARCH-MOSTRA DELLE ANTICHE CAMELIE DELLA LUCCHESIA

Antique Camelia Flowers Festival-Caparnori (Lucca) 167

ALL MONTH LONG-VISITE AI GIARDINI DI FIESOLE-Visit The Fiesole Gardens-Fiesole (Florence) 167

END OF MARCH-FESTA DI SAN GIUSEPPE

Festival of St. Joseph, Springtime Agricultural Fair-Vernio (Prato) 167

**A Brief History of the Festival of St. Joseph 167**

ALL MONTH LONG-TRENO NATURA DEL TARTUFO MARZUOLO

Nature Train, Marzuolo Truffle Train From Siena to San Giovanni d'Asso 167

**Food & Wine Events 168**

FEBRUARY, MARCH-GIROGUSTANDO-Food Festival-Siena 168

END OF FEBRUARY -1ST WEEKEND OF MARCH-GUSTOPOLIS

Food & Wine Festival-Montopoli Valdarno (Pisa) 168

**Water from the Montopoli Area 168**

ACQUA TESORINO

1ST WEEKEND OF MARCH-VERDE ORO: OLIO D'OLIVA E DINTORNI

Olive Oil Event-*Rosignano Marittimo (Livorno)* 169

1ST SUN. OF LENT' (BEG. OF MARCH)-RIEVOCAZIONE STORICA DELLA PULENDINA

Historic Pulendina Festival-*Vernio (Prato)* 169

**POLENTA FICCA-Soup with vegetables, beans and white and yellow corn flour** 169

BETWEEN THE 1ST - 2ND WEEKENDS IN MARCH-DOLCEMENTE PRATO

Pastry Festival-*Prato* 170

MID-MARCH-TASTE-Italian Quality Food & Wine Festival-*Florence* 170

MARINA CALAMAI, A 'Sweet' Painter

**FOOD IN TUSCANY** 171

**TRADITIONAL TUSCAN DISHES** 176

MID-MARCH-FESTA DEL TARTUFO MARZUOLO-March Truffle Festival-*Cigoli (San Miniato, Pisa)* 178

SECOND HALF OF MARCH-SAGRA DEL TARTUFO MARZUOLO

March Truffle Festival-*Certaldo (Florence)* 178

**TARTUFO MARZUOLO, BIANCHETTO-Marzuolo - March White Truffle**

MARCH 19-SAGRA DELLE FRITTELLE-Sweet Fritters Festival-*Montefioralle (Greve, Florence)* 179

**FRITTELLE-Sweet Fritters** 179

MARCH 25-SAGRA DEL NECCIO-Neccio Festival-*San Quirico di Pisia (Pistoia)* 179

**FARINA DI NECCIO DELLA GARFAGNANA-Chestnut Flour from Garfagnana** 179

STEFANO BRESCIANI

IL MULINO DI ERCOLANO REGOLI

PODERE SAN BIAGIO

**CHESTNUT FLOUR & BEER** 181

CAJÙN Brewery

END OF MARCH-VERSILIA WINE ART FESTIVAL-*Pietrasanta (Lucca)* 182

**SCOPPOLATO DI PEDONA CHEESE** 183

**IL PENITENTE HAM** 183

GOMBITELLI

END OF MARCH-CIBO IN STRADA-Street Food Festival-*San Giovanni Valdarno (Florence)* 182

END OF MARCH-FESTA DEL CEDRO E PALIO DELLE BOTTI

Historical Citric Fruit Festival-*Bibbona (Livorno)* 184

**PEPERONCINO-Chilli Peppers** 184

PEPERITA by RITA SALVADORI & the Chilli Pepper from Organic and Biodynamic Farming

PEPERITA Sales Point

BIOPEPERITA OSTERIA

**Food in Bibbona** 184

LA PINETA di LUCIANO ZAZZERI

**Finest Accommodation in Bibbona** 185

RELAIS SANT'ELENA

**March Recipe** 186

**NECCI DELLA GARFAGNANA E LUNIGIANA**

Chestnut Small Flattened Focacce from Garfagnana and Lunigiana

## April Events 187

**Festivals & Traditions Events** 187

APRIL 25-FESTA DELLA STAGIONE BONA-Historic Pageant-*Panzano in Chianti (Florence)* 187

**CHIANTI** 187

**Golf Clubs in Chianti** 188

UGOLINO GOLF CLUB

**Chianti Classico Wine** 188

**CIPRESSI-Cypresses** 188

**Buying Wine in Chianti** 189

RAMPOLLA CASTLE & One of the Best Wines of the World

MARCHESI MAZZEI, FONTERUTOLI Wine Estate & the Exclusivity of their Wine Club

Osteria di Fonterutoli

Enoteca di Fonterutoli

ISOLE E OLENA

AZIENDA AGRICOLA MONTERAPONI & their Excellent Chianti Classico Red Wines

BRAGANTI ANTONIO SRL, Fabbrica Argenteria-Silversmith

SAN GIUSTO ARENTENNANO (alle MONACHE), Chianti Classico Wine & 'Vin San Giusto'

LE CANTINE DI GREVE IN CHIANTI & The Wine

**ACETO BALSAMICO-Balsamic Vinegar** 196

**PIEVE** 197

**BADIA A PASSIGNANO** 197

APRIL 25-GIOCO DELLA RUZZOLA-Ruzzola Game-*Petricci, Semproniano (Grosseto)* 198

**Ruzzola** 198

EASTER SUNDAY MORNING-SCOPPIO DEL CARRO-Explosion of the Cart-*Florence* 198

APRIL 28-FESTA DI SAN LUCCHESE-Festival of San Lucchese-*Poggibonsi (Siena)* 198

**Art, Crafts & Music Events** 199

MONDAY AFTER EASTER-MERCATINO DELLE COSE DEL PASSATO

Antiques fair-*Greve in Chianti (Florence)* 199

SUNDAY AFTER EASTER-LA FESTA DEGLI AQUILONI-Kite Festival-*San Miniato (Pisa)* 199

END OF APRIL, BEG. OF MAY-MOSTRA MERCATO DELL'ARTIGIANATO DELLA VALTIBERINA

TOSCANA-Antiques Fair-*Arghiari (Arezzo)* 199

BUSATTI, Antique Artisanal Fabric Company & their shops in Tuscany

2ND HALF OF APRIL-FIERA DEL FIORE E DELL'ARTIGIANATO ARTISTICO

Flower and Craft Fair-*Foiano della Chiana (Arezzo)* 201

LAST WEEK IN APRIL, FIRST WEEK IN MAY-A.R.T.-Artisans Fair-*Florence* 201

END OF APRIL - FIRST DAYS OF MAY-RASSEGNA DELL'ANTIQUARIATO

Antiques Fair-*Impruneta (Florence)* 201

**HAND CRAFTED ITEMS & ARTISANS in Tuscany** 202

OSSERVATORIO DEI MESTIERI D'ARTE (OMA) © ENTE CASSA DI RISPARMIO DI FIRENZE

END OF APRIL, END OF JUNE-MAGGIO MUSICALE FIORENTINO

Maggio Fiorentino Music Festival-*Florence* 204

**TEATRO COMUNALE** 204



**The Maggio Musicale & The New Florence Opera House 204****Nature & Sport Events 205**

BEGINNING OF APRIL - I GIARDINI DI CARUSO-The Caruso Gardens-*Lastra a Signa (Florence)* 205

3RD WEEKEND IN APRIL-MOSTRA MERCATO DELLE AZALEE

*Azalea Fair-Borgo a Mozzano (Lucca)* 205

APRIL 25, END OF MAY-MOSTRA DELL'IRIS-Iris Festival-Florence 206

**IRIS GARDEN**

1ST WEEK OF MAY: Il Concorso Internazionale dell'Iris *Premio Firenze-Iris Award-Florence* 206

DURING THE LAST WEEK IN APRIL-AGRIFIERA

*Agricultural Fair-Pontassierchio, San Giuliano Terme (Pisa)* 207

LAST WEEK IN APRIL, BEG. OF MAY-MOSTRA DEI FIORI DELL'ORTICOLTURA

*Horticulture and Flower Festival-Florence* 207

**Spas & Thermal Baths in San Giuliano Terme 207**

TERME DI SAN GIULIANO

GIARDINO DELL'ORTICOLTURA-Horticultural Botanical Garden

**Food & Wine Events 208**

FIRST WEEKEND IN APRIL-RASSEGNA ENOGASTRONOMICA MUGELLANA

*Mugello area Food & Wine Festival-Scarperia (Florence)* 208

3RD WEEKEND IN APRIL-ENOLIA-Food & Wine Festival-Serravezza (Lucca) 208

2ND SUN. OF APRIL-SAGRA DEL CIAMBELLINO VERO DI RIGOMAGNO

*Real Ciambellino of Rigomagno Festival-Rigomagno, Sinalunga (Siena)* 208

**Ciambellino-Ring Cake 209**

STEFANELLI CARLO HONEY

APRIL 23-FESTA DELLA PINA-Pine Cone Festival-Arcidosso (Grosseto) 210

APRIL 25-RASSEGNA DELLA PASTORIZIA-Cheese and Dairy Products Festival-Catigliano (Pistoia) 210

APRIL 25-FIERA DEL GUSTO-Food Festival-Fucecchio (Florence) 210

**BUGLIONE-Lamb Stew 210**

APRIL 25 AND THE SUNDAY-AFTER APRIL 25-FESTA DEL CARCIOFO

*Artichokes Festival-Chiusure (Siena)* 211

**CARCIOFO DI CHIUSURE-Chiusure village Artichokes 211**

AZ. AGR. MONACI ILDO

**CHIUSURE 212**

CARCIOFINI SOTT' OLIO-Artichoke hearts in Olive Oil 213

LAST TWO WEEKENDS OF APRIL-SAGRA DEL TORTELLO

*Tortello Festival-Scarperia (Florence)* 213

TORTELLI DI PATATE ORMUGELLANI-Potato Tortelli are square-shaped, like ravioli 213

LAST WEEK IN APR., BEG. OF MAY-CASTAGNETO A TAVOLA

*Food & Wine Festival-Castagneto Carducci (Livorno)* 215

**CASTAGNETO CARDUCCI 216**

Food in Castagneto Carducci 216

DA UGO

Buying Wine in Castagneto Carducci 217

MICHELE SATTA & The Simplicity Of Sophisticated Wines

TENUTA ARGENTIERA & the D.O.C. Bolgheri Wines

GUADO AL TASSO and the Bruciato wine

**Finest Accommodation in Castagneto Carducci 219**

Castagneto Carducci (Livorno)- TOMBOLO TALASSO RESORT

END OF APRIL, 1ST OF MAY-SLOWMARKET-Food Festival-Florence 220

END OF APRIL, END OF MAY-SAPORI DELLE CRETE SENESI

*Crete Senesi Flavours-Towns Near Asciano (Siena)* 220

END OF APRIL-I VINI DEL CASTELLO-The Castle Wines Montefioralle (Greve in Chianti) 220

**April Recipe 221****CARCIO FIRITTI-Upright artichokes****May Events 222****Festivals & Traditions Events 222**

1ST SUNDAY IN MAY-PALIO DEI MICCI-Donkey Palio-Querceta, Serravezza (Massa) 222

SISTEMA ARCHEOMINERARIO DELLE ALPI APUANE

*Apuan Alps Archaeology and Mining-Structure-Levigiani di Stazzema (Lucca)*

**FRIGÒ DI SERRAVEZZA-Vegetable Soup with Potatoes, Onions and Tomatoes and Olive Oil 222****LINEA GOTICA-Gothic line 223**

1ST SUNDAY-AFTER MAY 15-MAGGIO CAMPIGLIESE

*May in Campiglia Campiglia Marittima (Livorno)* 223

**CAMPIGLIA MARITTIMA 224****Finest Accommodation & Restaurant in Campiglia Marittima 224**

LOCANDA IL CANOVACCIO

**Spas & Thermal Baths in Campiglia Marittima 224**

TERME CALIDARIO

DAALCIDE, A Food Tip in Venturina

PARCO ARCHEOMINERARIO DI SAN SILVESTRO-San Silvestro Archaeological and Mining Park

4th SUN. OF MAY (2nd SUN. OF AUG.)-BALESTRO DEL GIRIFALCO

*Crossbow Challenge-Massa Marittima (Grosseto)* 225

**SAN GALGANO ABBEY 225****Opera Festival in San Galgano 225****The Legend of the Sword in the Stone 226****Buying Wine in Scarlino 226**

LA PIEROTTA WINE ESTATE & The Monteregio Wine

**Spas & Thermal Baths in Southern Siena 226**

TERME DI SAN GIOVANNI RAPOLANO

TERME DI MONTICIANO PETRIOLO

TERME SAN FILIPPO

MID MAY AND THE WEEKEND AFTER-FIERA MEDIOEVALE ALLA ROCCA DI CASTROCCIO

*Medieval Fair in the Rocca di Castroccio-Serravalle Pistoiese (Pistoia)* 227

**Rocca di Serravalle 227**



## LAST WEEK OF MAY-LA BATTAGLIA DI SCANNAGALLO

The Battle of Scannagallo-Pozzo della Chiana (Arezzo) 228

### The battle of Scannagallo 228

LAST SUNDAY IN MAY-CANTAMAGGIO-Medieval Music Festival-Barberino del Mugello (Florence) 228

### MUGELLO 229

AUTODROMO INTERNAZIONALE DEL MUGELLO-Mugello Motor Racing Track

POGGIO DEI MEDICI GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

### CHESTNUTS OF THE MUGELLO AREA 230

MCARTHUR GLEN'S BARBERINO DESIGNER OUTLET

Water from the Mugello area 231

ACQUA PANNA

SORGENTE PALINA SAS

Buying Cheese in the Mugello area 232

PODERE MONTECHIARANO & the Cows Milk Cheeses of Rocchi Luciano Organic Farm

IL PALAGIACCIO FARMHOUSE, Meat, Cheese & Milk

Milk Producer in Mugello 232

IL PALAGIACCIO FARMHOUSE

Food in Mugello 233

LA CASA DI CACCIA FARNETO ROTTI

TIRABARALLA Osteria

LA CASA DEL PROSCIUTTO

Buying Wine in Mugello 233

PODERE FORTUNA, the Pinot Nero Grape in Mugello

The Pinot Nero 234

Finest Accommodation in Mugello 234

Vicchio del Mugello (Florence)-VILLA MEDICEA POGGIO BARTOLI

Borgo San Lorenzo (Florence)-MONSIGNOR DELLA CASA

San Piero a Sieve (Florence) - PODERE SORCIGLIANO

Spas & Thermal Baths in Mugello 236

HOTEL DEI VICARI

END OF MAY, BEG. OF JUNE-PALIO DELLA FORTEZZA E FESTA DEL REGOLO

Medieval Festival-San Piero a Sieve (Florence) 236

END OF MAY-GIOCO DELL'OCA VIVENTE-Live Goose Game-Poggibonsi (Siena) 236

END OF MAY, BEGINNING OF JUNE-MOSTRA DEL CHIANTI

Chianti Festival-Montespertoli (Florence) 237

Buying Wine in the area of Montespertoli 237

SAN MICHELE A TORRI Organic estate, Wine, Vinsanto, Olive Oil, Honey and Chianina

Aleatico 238

What a Vinsanto 239

Food in the Surroundings of Montespertoli 237

LA TENDA ROSSA

Outlets in the area of Montespertoli 239

## TAU

### Art, Crafts & Music Events 240

1ST OF MAY 2010-FIERA NAZIONALE DEL RAME-National Copper Fair-Cortona (Arezzo) 240

MID-MAY-FESTA DI CIAMBRAGINA-Historical Festival-Serre di Rapolano (Siena) 240

MID-MAY-MOSTRA MERCATO DELLA TERRACOTTA-Terracotta Fair-Petroio (Trequanda, Siena) 240

### TREQUANDA 241

BUONGUSTO & its Artisanal Fruit Creams workshop in Val d'Orcia

MUSEO DELLA TERRACOTTA-Terracotta Museum-Petroio, Trequanda (Siena)

2ND HALF OF MAY-ARTIGIANATO E PALAZZO-Arts and Crafts Fair-Florence 242

END OF MAY-IN-CANTI & BANCHI-Medieval Music Festival-Castelfiorentino (Florence) 242

MID-MAY, MID-SEPTEMBER-MOSTRA DEI FERRI TAGLIENTI

Cutting Tools Fair-Scarperia (Florence) 243

SCARPERIA, the Knife Village 244

CUTLERY & ARTISANS 245

LA BOTTEGA DEL COLTELLINAIO

SALADINI s.a.s. COLTELLERIA

MUSEO DEI FERRI TAGLIENTI-Museum of Cutting Tools

BERTI spa. COLTELLERIE

CONAZ S.n.c.

GIGLIO COLTELLERIE

I COLTELLI DELL'ARTIGIANO

END OF MAY-FESTA MEDIEVALE DI MAMMANTILE

Medieval Festival-Mammantile, Lastra a Signa (Florence) 243

Nature & Sport Events 247

MAY 1-MERCA DEL BESTIAME-Cattle Fair-Alberese (Grosseto) 247

Butteri-Cowboys 247

1ST WEEK IN MAY-DEMTRA: MOSTRA DELLA FRAGOLA, DEI FIORI

Demetra, Flowers and Strawberry festival-Camaione (Lucca) 248

PARKS IN TUSCANY 247

PARCO DELL'APPENNINO TOSCO - EMILIANO-Tosco-Emilian Appennine National Park

ANTRO DEL CORCHIA-Naturalistic Cave

GROTTA ALL'ONDA CASOLI-Naturalistic and

GROTTA DEL VENTO-Naturalistic Cave

2ND WEEKEND OF MAY-I PROFUMI DI BOBOLI-The scents of Boboli-Florence 249

MAY 10-GUARDA FLORENCE-Discover Florence -Florence 249

2ND HALF OF MAY-RADUNO INTERNAZIONALE DI MACCHINE AMERICANE

American Vehicles Gathering-Bivigliano (Vaglia) 250

LAST TWO SUNDAYS IN MAY-LA MAGGIOLATA-Flowers Festival-Lucignano (Arezzo) 250

2ND HALF OF MAY-RURALIA-Rural life Fair-Vaglia (Florence) 250

LAST SUNDAY IN MAY-INFIORATA-Flower Festival-Scarperia (Florence) 250

END OF MAY-MILLE MIGLIA-Antique Cars Race

Passing through Tuscan towns from Radiconfani to Siena to Florence 251

**Food & Wine Events 251**MAY 1-FESTA DEL 1 MAGGIO-May Day Festival-*Braccagli (Grosseto)* 251**FRIED PASTA 251****THE ORIGINE & SPREAD OF PASTA 252**

GIOVANNI FABBRI &amp; His Pasta Workshop in the Chianti area

RENZO MARINALI: San Martino a Cecione, Wheat &amp; Wine

MORELLI, an Antique Pasta Maker

BEGINNING OF MAY-FESTA DEL PANE-Bread Festival-*Altopascio (Lucca)* 255**BREAD & HOSPITALITY 255****PANE DI ALTOPASCIO-Altopascio Bread 255**

Chiesa di San Jacopo Maggiore, dei Cavalieri del Tau

San Jacopo Maggiore Church, the Church of the Knights of Tau 256

**PILGRIMAGE & THE VIA FRANCIGENA 256**

GIANNOTTI

IL BUON PANE

RISERVA NATURALE DEL LAGO DI SIBOLLA-Lake Sibolla Nature Reserve

ALL MONTH LONG-I SAPORI DEL MONTE CETONA

The Flavours of Monte Cetona-Towns in the Province of Siena 258

2ND WEEKEND IN MAY-ROSE, PANE E VINO

Roses, Bread &amp; wine-San Casciano Val di Pesa (Florence) 259

**Food in the Surroundings of San Casciano 259**

LA TRATTORIA DEL PESCE

CASA MIA

PIZZERIA LA FORNACE

**Buying Wine in The Surroundings Of San Casciano 260**

FATTORIA CASTELVECCHIO &amp; Otto (Eight) Wine

SANT'APIANO WINE ESTATE

BOJOLA &amp; FRANCESCO BOJOLA High-Quality Women's Belts

**SEMIFONTE 262**

CANTO DI BACCIO Wine Bar

**Finest Accommodation in Val di Pesa area 263**

Bargino (Florence)-AZIENDA AGRICOLA VILLA HERITAGE,

San Casciano Val di Pesa (Florence)-VILLA SAN CASCIANO, IL CONVENTINO 234

San Donato (Monsanto)-QUERCIA AL POGGIO Farmhouse

MAT' &amp; VINKLUBBEN' WINECLUB

**Buying Cheese in San Casciano Val Di Pesa 265**

CORZANO E PATERNO...Cheese and more

**Interesting Gardens In San Casciano 265**

VILLA POGGIO TORSELLI

**Organic Market in San Casciano 265**

MID MAY-MEDOLIVA-Olive Oil Event-Arezzo 266

2ND HALF OF MAY-PALAMITA-Seafood Festival-San Vincenzo (Livorno) 266

**BACCALÀ ALLA LIVORNESE**

Livorno Style Baccalà, Stockfish with Tomato, Garlic and Olive Oil 267

**SAN VINCENZO 267****Food in San Vincenzo & Surroundings 267**

ZANZIBAR

LA PERGOLA

PARCO ARCHEOLOGICO DI BARATTI E POPULONIA-Archaeological Park of Baratti and Populonia

Spas &amp; Thermal Baths in Marina Di Castagneto Carducci 268

GRAND HOTEL IL TOMBOLO

2ND TO LAST SUNDAY IN MAY-PANE E COMPANATICO-Bread Festival-Marradi (Florence) 269

**BREADS 269**

TUSCAN BREAD-Pane Toscano 270

PANE DI PATATE DELLA GARFAGNANA-Potato Bread from Garfagnana 271

**FOCACETTE DIAULLA**

Flat Loaves Of Leavened Wheat Flour And Cornmeal Cooked In The Traditional Testi 271

**PAN DI RAMERINO-Rosemary Bread 272**

2ND TO LAST WK MAY-FESTA DEL GIAGGIOLO &amp; SAPORI DI SAN POLO

Iris Festival of San Polo-San Polo (Greve, Florence) 273

PRUNETTI FARMHOUSE &amp; the Tuscan Extra-Virgin Olive Oil

**IRIS 274**

2ND TO LAST WEEKEND IN MAY-ALLA CORTE DEL VINO

Wine Festival-Villa Le Corti, San Casciano (Florence) 275

LAST WEEKEND OF MAY-LA VALLE DEL GIGANTE BIANCO

Chianina Cattle Breed Event-Bettolle (Siena) 275

**CHIANINA 276**

LAST SUNDAY IN MAY-CANTINE APERTE-Open Cellars Wine Festival-All around Tuscany 276

END OF MAY-BEGINNING OF JUNE-TOSCANELLO D'ORO-Wine Festival-Pontassieve (Florence) 277

MANETTI TIZIANA PASTRY, Milk, Pastries and more

**Il Sentiero delle Burraie di Santa Brigida, Santa Brigida Buttery Trail 276****Buying Wine in Rignano sull'Arno 277**

CASTELLO DI VOLOGNANO, Wine &amp; Olive Oil Tours

LAST WEEKEND IN MAY, BEGINNING OF JUNE-I PROFUMI DI LAMOLE

Scents of Lamole-Lamole (Florence) 278

**Buying Wine in Lamole 279**

I FABBRI, The Grassi &amp; the Quality of the Wine

CASTELLO DELLE STINCHE &amp; Lamole Wine Estate

**Food in Lamole 279**

RISTORO DI LAMOLE

**GREVE 280****Food in Greve 281**

FUORIPIAZZA ENOTECA

GIOVANNI DA VERRAZZANO

MANGIANDO MANGIANDO

LA CANTINA PIZZERIA

**Finest Accommodation in Greve** 281

Greve (Florence)-VILLA BORDONI

Greve (Florence)-AZIENDA AGRICOLA SANTO STEFANO

Greve (Florence)-VILLA DI PRENZANO

Greve (Florence)-ANTICO BORGO DI SUGAME

**Food in the Surroundings of Greve** 282

ALLA PIAZZA Osteria

**Buying Wine in Greve** 283

SANTO STEFANO WINE ESTATE

ANTICO BORGO DI SUGAME, Wine Estate & the Biologic Wine

LE CANTINE di Greve in Chianti

FALORNI, The Butcher shop

PASTA D'AUTORE & its Homemade Pasta

CORTE DI VALLE & The Production of Saffron

**Amazing Food in Greve** 286

**Buying Cheese in Greve** 287

PODERE LE FORNACI, Organic Goat Cheese

**Antique Market in Greve** 287

**Food Market in Greve** 287

**Organic Market in Greve** 287

**Interesting Sights in the Surroundings of Greve** 288

MONTEFIORALLE 288

**Food in Montefioralle** 288

LA CASTELLANA

**New York Bay and the Monument to Verrazzano** 288

**Castello di Verrazzano** 288

**Verrazzano Castle** 288

**Giovanni da Verrazzano** 289

MUSEO DEL VINO DI GREVE IN CHIANTI-Greve in Chianti's Wine Museum

**The Lucky Piglet** 290

LAST WEEKEND IN MAY-PENTECOSTE A CASTELLINA

Pentecost in Castellina-Castellina in Chianti (Siena) 291

**CASTELLINA In CHIANTI** 291

**Food in Castellina** 291

GALLOPAPA

**Ice Cream Parlours in Castellina** 291

L' ANTICA DELIZIA, Artisanal Ice Cream Parlour

MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO-Archeological Museum-Castellina in Chianti

END OF MAY-VINARIA-Lucchese D.O.C. Wines Festival-Montecarlo (Lucca) 292

**Barriques** 292

**Wine Press** 292

**Wine Cart** 292

END OF MAY, BEGINNING OF JUNE-FESTA DELLA CILIEGIA-Cherry Festival-Lari (Pisa) 293

**LARI** 293

**CILIEGIE DI LARI-Cherries from Lari** 293

MARTELLI FAMIGLIA DI PASTAI & its Artisanal Pasta Production

**May Recipe** 295

**FOCACCIA, SCHIACCIATA or CIACCINO-Traditional Focaccia Bread, Flattened Bread with Olive Oil and Salt**

## June Events 296

**Festivals & Traditions Events** 296

JUNE 2-FESTEGGIAMENTI PER GARIBALDI

Festivities in honor of Giuseppe Garibaldi-Sarteano (Siena) 296

BEGINNING OF JUNE-TAPPETI DI SEGATURA-Sawdust Carpets-Camaione (Luca) 296

WEEKENDS IN JUNE-SAGRA DELLA MISERIA-Food Festival-Colle Val d'Elsa (Siena) 296

JUNE 16-LUMINARA DI SAN RANIERI-San Ranieri Festival-Pisa 297

MUSEO PIAGGIO 'GIOVANNI ALBERTO AGNELLI'-Giovanni Alberto Agnelli Piaggio Museum

**The Piaggio Foundation** 298

MUSEO DELLE MINIERE DI MONTECATINI-Museum of the Montecatini-Val di Cecina Mining area

JUNE 17-REGATA STORICA DI SAN RANIERI-Historical Regatta of San Ranieri-Pisa 299

3RD THURSDAY IN JUNE-STELLE E MERCANTI

Stars and Crafts - Night Artisan Market-Greve in Chianti (Florence) 300

2ND HALF OF JUNE-FIERA DELLE MESSI-Historical Pageant-San Gimignano (Siena) 300

**SAN GIMIGNANO** 301

**Food in San Gimignano** 302

LOCANDA LA MANDRAGOLA

ARNOLFO

BEL SOGGIORNO

**Buying Wine in San Gimignano** 303

TENUTA TORCIANO

TENUTE NICCOLAI

MONTEPIDOLI WINE ESTATE and their Excellent Vernaccia di San Gimignano

**Art and Handicraft Market San Gimignano** 304

POGGIO ALLE FONTI ORGANIC FARM & their Sauces, Jams and Vegetable Preserves

MUSEO SPEZIERIA DI SANTA FINA-The Spezieria (Pharmacy) of Santa Fina

LAST SUNDAY OF JUNE (& FIRST SUNDAY IN SEPT.)-GIOSTRA DEL SARACINO

Saracen Jousting-Arezzo 306

JUNE 24-FESTA DI SAN GIOVANNI-Saint John's Day with fireworks-Florence 306

END OF JUNE AND 24TH OF JUNE-CALCIO STORICO FIORENTINO

Florentine Historical Soccer-Florence 307

JUNE 24-GIOCO DEL PONTE-Game of the Bridge-Pisa 308

**PISA & LIVORNO 308****Food in Pisa and Livorno area 308**

LA GROTTA

OSTERIA DI CULEGNA

RE ARTÙ

CAGLIOSTRO

**Finest Accommodation in Pisa 309**

ROYAL VICTORIA HOTEL

**Sea-Food Dinner Near Pisa-Livorno 310**

DA GINO

VECCHIA LIVORNO

SUNSET CAFÉ

**Water from the Pisa area 310**

ACQUA E TERME ULIVETO SPA

**Food Market in Pisa 310**

MID JUNE-MILONGA SOLIDARIA-Livorno 310

CENTRO DI PREPARAZIONE OLIMPICA DI TIRRENIA, C.P.O.-Centre for Olympic Preparation

COSMOPOLITAN GOLF &amp; COUNTRY CLUB

**Spas & Thermal Baths in The Surroundings Of Pisa 312**

PARCO TERMALE DI ULIVETO

TERME DI SAN GIOVANNI

TERME DI CASCIANA

**La Certosa Di Calci-The Charterhouse of Calci 312**

3RD WEEKEND IN JUNE-FESTA DI BARBAROSSA

Barbarossa Pageant-*San Quirico d'Orcia (Siena)* 313**BAGNO VIGNONI 313****Spas & Thermal Baths in Bagno Vignoni 313**

TERME DI BAGNO VIGNONI

**Finest Food/Accommodation in Bagno Vignoni 314**

LA LOCANDA DEL LOGGIATO

OSTERIA DELLA MADONNA

OSTERIA DEL LEONE

**Art, Crafts & Music Events 314**

SECOND HALF OF JUNE-FESTA INTERNAZIONALE DELLA CERAMICA

International Ceramics Festival-*Montelupo Fiorentino (Florence)* 314**CERAMICS 314**

MUSEO ARCHEOLOGICO E DELLA CERAMICA

Museum of Archaeology and Ceramics-Montelupo Fiorentino (Florence)

**Siena and the minor centres in its territory 316****Outlets in the area of Sesto Fiorentino 316**

BOTTEGUCCIA - RICHARD GINORI

**KILNS OF IMPRUNETA 317**

MITAL

ELLI MASINI

POGGI UGO

**IMPRUNETA 319****Food in Impruneta 319**

BELLAVISTA Hotel &amp; Restaurant

**Spas & Thermal Baths in Impruneta 319**

TERME DI FIRENZE

**PEPOSO ALL'IMPRUNETINA-Black Pepper Beef Stew From Impruneta 319****Nature & Sport Events 320**FIRST SUNDAY IN JUNE-REGATA STORICA IN ARNO-Historic Boat Race-*Calcinaia (Pistoia)* 320

BEGINNING OF JUNE-GRAN PREMIO D'ITALIA DI MOTOCICLISMO

Italian Grand Prix Motorcycle Race-*Scarperia (Florence)* 3201ST WEEK IN JUNE-COPPARISIATORI-Historic Boat Race-*Livorno* 320**PONCE ALLA LIVORNESE-Hot Coffee with a Sort of Rum and Lemon Rind 321**

BAR CIVILI

**Food & Wine Events 323**BEGINNING OF JUNE-SAPORI-Traditional Food and Wine Festival-*Fivizzano (Massa)* 323**Spas & Thermal Baths in Fivizzano 323**

TERME DI EQUI

PARCO CULTURALE DELLE GROTTI DI EQUI TERME-Cultural Park of the Equi Terme Caves

**AMARO CLEMENTI OF FIVIZZANO 324**

ANTICA FARMACIA CLEMENTI

**MIELE DELLA LUNIGIANA-Honey from Lunigiana 325**

GIACOMO COSTA

ANGELA PIERONI

**TORTA D'ERBI-Green Pie-Wild and cultivated green vegetables 325****TESTAROLI-Ancient Type Of Unleavened Bread 326****CACIOTTA CHEESE FROM LUNIGIANA 326**FIRST WEEKEND OF JUNE-RADDANEL BICCHIERE-Radda in the Glass-*Radda in Chianti (Siena)* 327**Buying Wine in Radda 327**

COLLE BERETO Wine Estate, A Little 'Jewell' of a Wine Estate

LA CANTINA DI COLLE BERETO Restaurant &amp; Wine Bar

MONTERAPONI Wine Estate &amp; One Of The Best Chianti Classico Red Wines

VAL DELLE CORTI, The Borgogna of Radda

FATTORIA MONTEMAGGIO

BEGINNING OF JUNE-CAMMINAR MANGIANDO, MAGNALONGA

Walking and Eating Celebration-*Capoliveri (Isola d'Elba)* 329

ELBA GOLF CLUB DELL'ACQUABONA

PARCO MINERARIO DELL'ISOLA D'ELBA-Isola of Elba Historic Mining Area

**SCHIACCIA BRIACA DELL'ELBA-Grape Cake from Elba 330**FIRST TEN DAYS IN JUNE-SAGRA DEL PESCE-Seafood Festival-*La Casetta (Livorno)* 330

DOTTOR PESCIA & the Production of Honey

**TRIGLIE ALL'ALIVORNESE-Herring Livorno-style with Olive Oil, Garlic and Tomato** 331

PARCO DELL' ARCIPELAGO TOSCANO-Tuscan Islands Marine Park

2ND WEEK IN JUNE-FESTA DEI SAPORI DI PRATO-Festival of the Flavours of Prato-Prato 332

MID-JUNE-SAPORBIO-Organic Festival-Towns of the Lucca area 332

**FORTE DEI MARMI & VERSILIA** 333

**Food Market in Forte dei Marmi** 333

**Food in Forte dei Marmi** 334

DA VALÈ

PIZZERIA ORLANDO

**Food in the Surroundings of Forte dei Marmi** 335

LA DOGANA

LE TRE TERRAZZE

EMILIO E BONA

LO SCORFANO

LA COMPAGNIA DEI BALENIERI

**Ice cream Parlours in Forte dei Marmi** 336

CARABÉ

**Spas & Thermal Baths in The Surroundings Of Forte Dei Marmi** 336

TERME DI SAN CARLO

TERME DI EQUI

3RD WEEK IN JUNE-SAGRA DELLA PECORA ZERASCA

Zerasca Sheep Festival-Chiesa di Rossano, Zeri (Massa) 337

**AGNELLO DI ZERI-Zeri Lamb** 337

3RD SUN. IN JUNE-FESTA DEL CIAFFAGNONE-Ciaffagnone Festival-San Casciano dei Bagni (Siena) 338

**CIAFFAGNONE** 338

**Finest Accommodation in San Casciano Bagni** 338

San Casciano Bagni (Siena)-FONTEVERDE NATURAL SPA RESORT

LAST WEEKEND IN JUNE-SAGRA DELLA FICATTOLA-Ficattola Festival-Montespertoli (Florence) 339

**FICATTOLE-Small Flattened Tuscan peaces of Bread Fried in Olive Oil with Salt** 339

**June Recipe** 340

**CACCIUCCO**, alla Livornese'-Spicy Fish Stew that contains a combination of fish, squid, cuttlefish, mussels and any assortment of other fish

**Veronica's Trip Tips: Spring** 341



## SUMMER 342

### July Events 343

**Festivals & Traditions Events** 343

BEG. OF JULY-DISFIDA DEGLI ARCIERI DI TERRA E CORTE FIVIZZANO

Archery Challenge Pageant-Massa 343

JULY 2nd (& AUGUST 16)-PALIO DI SIENA (PALIO DI PROVENZANO) Histor. Horse Race-Siena 343  
**SIENA** 345

**La Lupa-The Female Wolf** 345

**A spectacular view of the city of Siena** 346

**Le Contrade-Contradas** 346

**LE FONTI DI SIENA-Fountains Throughout Siena** 347

**Torre del Mangia** 348

**Duccio da Buoninsegna** 348

**I BOTTINI DI SIENA-The Underground Waters** 349

LABIRINTO DI PORSENNIA-Porsenna's Labyrinth

GALLERIA DELLE FONTI DELL'ABBONDANZA MASSA MARITTIMA-Fountains of Abundance

MUSEO CIVICO DI CHIUSI-Chiusi Civic Museum, Etruscan Tunnels

**The Duomo of Siena** 351

**Antique Market in Siena** 351

**Food Market in Siena** 350

**Finest Accommodation in Siena and Surroundings** 352

Siena centre-PALAZZO BRUCHI

Siena centre-PIAZZA DEL CAMPO APARTMENT

Siena centre-GRAND HOTEL CONTINENTAL

Strada di Certosa (Siena)-CERTOSA DI MAGGIANO HOTEL

TUSCANY EXPERTS

Querce Grossa (Siena)-VILLA DI PETROIO

Monastero d'Ombone (Siena) - CASTEL MONASTERO

Surroundings of Siena - TENUTA DI VICO D'ARBIA & LARNIANO

**Interesting Gardens in Siena** 355

VILLA DI GEGGIANO

MUSEO ORTO BOTANICO E ERBARIO-Botanical Garden and Herbarium

**Song in Siena** 356

**Basketball in Siena** 357

**Movies in Siena** 357

**Typical Products of Siena** 358

**PICI** 358

**CINTA SENESE** 362

**PANFORTE** 359

**RICCIARELLI** 358

**CAVALLUCCI, TORTA DI CECCO** 359

**Best Pastry Shops in Siena** 358

BUTTI PASTRY SHOP

PIERINI PASTRY SHOP

**Food in Siena** 360

CASATO

COMPAGNIA DEI VINATTIERI

HOSTERIA IL CARROCCIO

I TERZI Enoteca

LIBERAMENTE OSTERIA Wine Bar

L'OSTERIA

LA TAVERNA DEL CAPITANO

LE LOGGE

SAN DESIDERIO

**Buying Wine in Siena** 361

ENOTECA ITALIANA

ARTELIQUIDA & MONTE CHIARO WINE ESTATE, Terre della Grigia

CERTOSA DI BELRIGUARDO, Gianna Nannini, Singer and Wine Maker

**Spas & Thermal Baths in the Surroundings of Siena** 362

TERME DI CHIANCIANO

TERME DI MONTICIANO PETRIOLO

TERME DI SAN GIOVANNI RAPOLANO

TERME DI SAN CASCIAO DEI BAGNI

FORTEVERDE NATURAL SPA RESORT

**MONTAPERITI** 363

**Guelph Vs Ghibelline** 363

**The Palio of Siena** 364

**Palio di Siena- Useful Terms** 368

**The other race...The Masgalano** 366

BEGINNING OF JULY-ASPETTANDO LA BATTAGLIA-Waiting for the Battle-Cascina (Pisa) 367

2ND SUNDAY IN JULY-PALIO DI CASOLE D'ELSA-Historical Horse Race-Casole d'Elsa (Siena) 370

JULY 11 TO 12-PALIO DI SAN PAOLINO-Challenge of the Crossbow-Lucca 370

**CIGARS** 370

2ND SUNDAY IN JULY-PALIO MARINARO-Naval Palio-Livorno 371

JULY 15-PALIO DI BIENTINA-Historical Horse Race-Bientina (Pisa) 371

MID-JULY-FESTA DELLA TREBBIATURA-Grain Harvest Festival-Casciano di Murlo (Siena) 371

**Buying Wine in Casciano di Murlo** 371

CASABIANCA & The Canaiolo Luccareto Wine

JULY 21 TO 22-LIZZATURA STORICA-Historical Lizzatura-Resceto (Massa) 372

**MARBLE** 372

MUSEO CIVICO DEL MARMO-Civic Museum Of Marble

**PIETRASANTA** 373

**Food in Pietrasanta** 373

ALLA GIUDEA

ENOTECA MARCUCCI

IL GAITTO NERO

MARZOCCO

PINOCCHIO A PIETRASANTA

ARTEBIANCA

**Tavole da surf, Surfboards** 374

OLA SURFBOARD

MUSEO DEI BOZZETTI-Sketches Museum

PARCO DELLE ALPI APUANE-Regional Park of the Apuan Alps

JULY 25-LA GIOSTRA DELL'ORSO-The Bear Challenge-Pistoia 376

AL DOLCE FORNO, the LUNARDI

PISTOIA ZOO

WWF TOSCANA

**Water from the Pistoia area** 377

SORGENTE LENTULA SPA

ACQUA SAN FELICE

**Organic Market in Pistoia** 377

**FIORI DI ZUCCA FRITTI-Fried Pumpkin Flowers** 377

**Antique Market in Pistoia** 377

JULY 21 TO 25-PALIO DI SAN JACOPO-San Jacopo Festival-Galliciano (Lucca) 378

3RD WEEKEND IN JULY-MONTERIGGIONI DI TORRI SI CORONA

Medieval Fair-Monteriggioni (Siena) 378

LAST WEDNESDAY IN JULY-RIEVOCAZIONE DEL VOLO DI CECCO SANTI

Pageant of the Flight of Cecco Santi-Vinci (Florence) 378

LAST WEEK IN JULY-SERATE E NOZZE MEDIEV-Medieval evenings and wedding-Suvereto (Livorno) 379

**Art, Crafts & Music Events** 379

END OF JUNE-PITTI IMMAGINE-Fashion Fair-Florence 379

END OF JUNE-TORRITA BLUES-Blues Music Festival-Torrita di Siena (Siena) 380

BEGINNING OF JULY-VINTAGE SELECTION-Vintage Fashion Fair-Florence 380

BEGINNING OF JULY-ISOLA D'ELBA JAZZ FESTIVAL-Marciana Marina (Isola d'Elba) 380

MID-JULY-MONTALCINO JAZZ & WINE-Montalcino (Siena) 380

ALL OF JULY-LUCCA SUMMER FESTIVAL-Pop Music Festival-Lucca 381

MID-JULY-PISTOIA BLUES-Blues Music Festival-Pistoia 381

MID JULY- MONTISI MUSIC FESTIVAL-Montisi (Siena) 381

**EMBROIDERY in Pistoia area** 381

MUSEO DEL RICAMO-Museum of Embroidery

MID-JULY-ON THE ROAD FESTIVAL-Music and Artistic Festival-Pelago (Florence) 382

LA TORRE, Artisanal Wood Oven Bakery

IL PERACCIO, Accommodation at Castel Sofia Agriturismo, Wine & Olive Oil Production

3RD WEEK IN JULY (7 DAYS)-MERCANTIA-Medieval Festival-Certaldo Alto (Florence) 383

**CIPOLLA DI CERTALDO-Onion of Certaldo** 384

3RD THURSDAY IN JULY-STELLE E MERCANTI, STARS AND CRAFTS

Night Artisan Market-Greve in Chianti (Florence) 384

LAST 10 DAYS OF JULY-INCONTRI IN TERRA DI SIENA

Siena Music Festival-(Chianciano Terme, Pienza, Siena) 385

END OF JULY - BEG. OF AUG.-CANTIERE INTERNAZIONALE D'ARTE

Music Festival-Montepulciano (Siena) 385

END OF JULY-TREBBIATURA SOTTO LE MURA-Harvest Pageant -*Buonconvento (Siena)* 385

END OF JULY, BEG. OF AUGUST-TEATRO POVERO DI MONTICCHIELLO

Poor Theatre of Monticchiello-Monticchiello (*Pienza, Siena*) 386

TEPOTRATOS, SCENE DEL TEATRO POPOLARE TRADIZIONALE TOSCANO

Scenes from Tuscany's Traditional Popular Theatre

**MONTICCHIELLO** 387

JULY, AUGUST-LUNATICA-Music Festival-*Carrara (Massa)* 387

JULY, AUGUST-FESTIVAL DEL LAGO PUCCINI-Lago Puccini Opera Festival-*Torre del lago (Lucca)* 387

JULY, AUGUST-ESTATE FIESOLANA

Fiesole Music & Dance Festival-*Teatro Romano di Fiesole, Fiesole (Florence)* 387

JULY, AUGUST-LA VERSILIANA-Variety and Talk Show-*Marina di Pietrasanta (Lucca)* 388

JULY-AUGUST-FESTIVAL DI MUSICA DA CAMERA DI PIEVE A ELICI

Chamber Music Festival of Versilia-Pieve a Elici (*Massarosa*) 388

**Food & Wine Events** 388

2 WEEKS, BETWEEN THE END OF JUNE AND THE BEG. OF JULY-FESTA DEL BICO

Bico Festival-*Piazzale (Cetona, Arezzo)* 388

**BICO-A Special type of Bread** 388

**Finest Accommodation in le Piazze** 389

TENUTA DI CAMPORSEVOLI

GAROFANI MASSIMO BUTCHER

PARCO ARCHEOLOGICO NATURALISTICO DI BELVERDE-Belverde Archaeological Nature Park

FIRST 2 WEEKENDS IN JULY-FESTA PINOLO-Organic Pine Nuts Festival-*San Piero a Grado (Pisa)* 390

**PINOLO DEL PARCO DI MIGLIARINO SAN ROSSORE**

**The Pine Nut of the Migliarino San Rossore Park** 390

PARCO DI MIGLIARINO, SAN ROSSORE, MASSACIUCCOLI

Migliarino, San Rossore, Massaciucoli Park

**CHOCOLATE & PINE NUTS** 390

DE BOND T

**SAN PIERO A GRADO** 392

**TORTA CO' BISCHERI-Tart with Chocolate, Sultanas, Candied Peel and Pine Nuts** 392

**BRUTTO BUONO AI PINOLI-Kinzica, the Brutto Buono is a Small Ball of Pine Nut Paste** 393

JULY 14 TO 16-PANIGACCI SOTTO LE STELLE-Panigacci Under the Stars-Podenzano (*Massa*) 393

**PANIGACCI DI PODENZANA-Flattened Small Focacce From Lunigiana With Flour** 393

MID-JULY-LE CONTEE DEL FARRO IGP DELLA GARFAGNANA

Emmer Wheat Festival-*Piazza al Serchio (Lucca)* 394

**FARRO DELLA GARFAGNANA-Garfagnana Emmer Wheat** 394

CONSORZIO PRODUTTORI FARRO DELLA GARFAGNANA

**TORTA DI FARRO DELLA GARFAGNANA-Emmer Wheat Tart from the Garfagnana** 395

**MINISTRA DI FARRO-Emmer Wheat Soup** 395

**FARRO & BEER** 396

LA PETROGNOLA BREWERY

**GARFAGNANA** 396

**BARGA** 397

**BAGNI DI LUCCA** 397

**PARCO DELLE APUANE** 397

**BIROLO DELLA GARFAGNANA-Fine Sausage made of Pork, Spices and Blood** 398

**ORRIDO DI BOTRI-Botri Canyon** 398

**PECORINO DELLA GARFAGNANA-Pecorino Cheese from Garfagnana** 399

ANDREA BERTUCCI, Researcher of typical cheeses of the Apuans

**ACCASCIATO CHEESE** 399

**Buying Cheese in Garfagnana** 399

BERTAGNI, an Exceptional Cheese maker

**GARFAGNANA BREADS:**

**PANE DI PATATE DELLA GARFAGNANA, PANE MAROCCO & PANI from LUNIGIANA** 400

FRANCO ACHILLI

ANGELA

GIOVANNI BONOTTI

**Buying Wine in Lunigiana** 401

CIMA WINE ESTATE & The Candia Colli Apuani Wine

**CANDIA COLLI APUANI D.O.C. WINE** 401

TERENZUOLA WINE ESTATE, A wine between Liguria and Tuscany right on the coast!

**VERMENTINO WINE** 402

**Buying Cheese in Lunigiana** 402

NATURALMENTE LUNIGIANA, Cheeses & Typical Lunigiana Products

**July Recipe** 403

**PANFORTE DI SIENA-A Round Cake, Shallow and Compact**

## August Events 404

**Festivals & Traditions Events** 404

FIRST 10 DAYS OF AUGUST-EFFETTO VENEZIA-Livorno's Venetian Festival-*Livorno* 404

**Coffee Producer in Livorno Area** 404

LE PIANTAGIONI DEL CAFFÈ, High-Quality lity Tuscan Coffee Factory

1ST SATURDAY IN AUGUST-GIOCO DELLA QUINTANA CYBEA

Quintana Cybea Historical Game-Massa 404

**TORTA CYBEA DI MASSA-Chestnut Flour Pie With Marron Glacés** 404

**Water from the Massa area** 405

ACQUA FONTEVIVA

1ST WEEKEND IN AUGUST-TORNEO DELLA PALLA EH! & SAGRA DEL CIACCINO

Ball Eh! Game and Focaccia Bread Festival-Ciciano (*Chiusdino, Siena*) 405

10 AGOSTO-PALIO MARINARO-Marine Palio-Giglio Porto, *Isola del Giglio (Grosseto)* 405

**ISOLA DEL GIGLIO** 406

**How to reach Il Giglio Island** 406

**Boat to reach the Il Giglio Island** 406

TOREMAR



## MAREGIGLIO

**Buying Wine in Il Giglio Island** 407

TESTA MATTA ESTATE & THE BUGIA WINE

2ND SUN. OF AUG. (4TH SUN. OF MAY)-BALESTRO DEL GIRIFALCO

Crossbow Challenge-Massa Marittima (Grosseto) 407

**CASTIGLIONE DELLA PESCAIA-SOUTH MAREMMA** 407

**SCOTTIGLIA-Meat Stew, is the Cacciucco of Maremma** 408

IMMOBILIARE LA TORRETTA

**UCCELLINA PARK** 408

**TORTELLI MAREMMANI-Raviolo with Spinach** 409

**Food in Castiglione della Pescaia** 409

NEL BUCO

**BURRO E SALVIA-Sage and Butter sauce** 409

**GNUDI or RAVIOLI NUDI-Naked Ravioli** 409

PARCO DELLA MAREMMA-Uccellina Park

PARCO MINERARIO NATURALISTICO DI GAVORRANO-Archaeological Park

PARCO ARCHEOMINERARIO DI MONTIERI-Tuscan Mining Geopark

AUGUST 12-PALIO DI SAN CASSIANO-Historical Game-San Casciano dei Bagni (Siena) 411

AUGUST 15-GIOSTRA DEL SARACINO-Saracen Challenge-Sarteano (Siena) 411

AUGUST 15-PALIO MARINARO DELL'ARGENTARIO

Argentario Marine Palio-Porto Santo Stefano (Monte Argentario, Grosseto) 411

AUGUST 16 (& JULY 2nd)-PALIO DI SIENA (PALIO DELL'ASSUNTA)-Historical Horse Race-Siena 412

AUGUST 19-LA CARRIERE DEL 19-Historical Pageant-Scarlino (Grosseto) 412

1-15 AUGUST-WILD BOAR & TORTELLO FESTIVAL- Montepescoli (Grosseto) 412

3RD SUNDAY IN AUGUST-PALIO DEI CASTELLI-Palio of the Castles-Badia Tedalda (Arezzo) 412

LAST SUNDAY IN AUGUST-BRAVIO DELLE BOTTI

Historical Rolling Barrels Game-Montepulciano (Siena) 413

**MONTEPULCIANO** 414

**Food in Montepulciano** 414

LA LOCANDA DEL VINO NOBILE

LOGGE DEL VIGNOLA

OSTERIA ACQUACHETA

LA GROTTA

**Finest Accommodation in Montepulciano** 415

Montepulciano (Siena)-PODERE MONTI

Montepulciano (Siena)-VILLA POGGIANO

Montepulciano (Siena) - MONTORIO

**Buying Wine in Montepulciano** 417

SALCHETO Wine Estate

TENUTA VALDIPIATTA

PODERE LE BÉRNE & the

DEI Wine Estate, Wine of the 'Gods'

ICARIO Wine Estate, Wine & Art

CROCE DI FEBO

**Buying Cheese in Montepulciano** 420

CUGUSI CHEESE MAKER

MALEDETTO TOSCANO, the Cigar Club

**Cigar Rolling: a craft that gave rights to women** 421

**Antique Market in Montepulciano** 422

**Food Market in Montepulciano** 422

**VINO NOBILE DI MONTEPULCIANO** 423

SAN BENEDETTO FARMHOUSE and the Genuineness of the Jams

**Spas & Thermal Baths in The Surroundings Of Montepulciano** 423

TERME DI MONTEPULCIANO

TERME DI CHIANCIANO

TERME DI BAGNO VIGNONI

TRENO NATURA-Nature Train: All year long-Siena-Val d'Orcia

**VAL D'ORCIA PARK** 424

**VAL D'ORCIA TRADE MARK** 425

**Art, Crafts & Music Events** 426

BEGINNING OF AUGUST-LIRICA IN PIAZZA-Opera in the Square-Massa Marittima (Grosseto) 426

ALL AUGUST-AMIATA PIANO FESTIVAL -Poggi del Sasso, Cinigiano (Grosseto) 426

**Finest Accommodation in the Surroundings of Cinigiano** 426

PODERIFIRENZE, a Charming B&B in the Maremma area

MID-AUGUST-BRUSCELLO POLIZIANO 'CALANDRINO'-Montepulciano (Siena) 427

2ND, 3RD AND 4TH WEEKENDS IN AUGUST-FESTIVAL DELLE CRETE SENESI

Crete Senesi Musical and Theatrical Event-Siena province 427

LAST WEEK IN AUG. /FIRST WEEK SEPT.-CORTONANTIQUARIA

Cortona Antiques Fair-Cortona (Arezzo) 427

**CORTONA** 428

**Buying Wine in Cortona** 428

TENIMENTI D'ALESSANDRO WINE ESTATE & the Syrah Wine

STEFANO AMERIGHI

**Food in Cortona** 428

TONINO

3RD THURS.-IN AUGUST-STELLE E MERCANTI-Night Artisan Market-Greve in Chianti (Florence) 428

END OF AUG. TO-1ST WEEKEND IN SEPT.-SETTEMBRE RAPOLANESE

September in Rapolano-Rapolano Terme (Siena) 429

**THE TRAVERTINE** 429

**Spas & Thermal Baths in The Surroundings Of Cortona** 429

TERME DI SAN GIOVANNI RAPOLANO

TERME DI CHIANCIANO

MUSEO DELLA GRANCIA-Granges Museum

**Nature & Sport Events** 430



MID-AUGUST-FESTAMBIENTE-Musical & Organic Food & Wine Festival-*Rispecchia (Grosseto)* 430

**Food & Wine Events** 430

1ST SUNDAY IN AUGUST-SAGRA DEL CROSTINO-Crostino Festival-*Castiglione d'Orcia (Siena)* 430

**CROSTINI TOSCANI**-Tuscan bread slices with chicken liver paté 430

1ST TUES. AND WED. IN AUGUST-SAGRA DEL BRIGIDINO

Brigidino Festival-*Lamporecchio (Pistoia)* 431

**BRIGIDINI di LAMPORECCHIO**-Wafer Cookies from Lamporecchio 431

CARLO Pastry shop

SANDRO VERO

**BERLINGOZZO** Flat round ring made with the same ingredients as brigidini 432

AUGUST 10-CALICI DI STELLE-Chalices of Stars-*All Over Tuscany* 432

**THE SKY & THE STARS** 433

MUSEO DI GALILEO & DI STORIA DELLA SCIENZA-Galileo Museum & Institute and Museum of the History of Science-Florence

OSSERVATORIO ASTROFISICO DI ARCETRI-Arcetri Astronomy and Space Science Department Florence

PLANETARIO-The Planetarium-Florence

2ND WEEK IN AUGUST-TOVAGLIA A QUADRI-The Check Tablecloth-*Anghiari (Arezzo)* 432

**Buying Cheese in Anghiari** 433

ABCHEESE, VALLE DI MEZZO & Goat milk cheeses

AUGUST 14- TRADIZIONALE FESTA DI NOCCHIOLO-Traditional Food festival-*Panzano (Florence)* 433

**PANZANO** 434

DARIO CECCHINI, Antique butcher's shop

**Food Market in Panzano** 434

**Food in Panzano** 435

OLTRE IL GIARDINO

SOLO CICCIA

IL VESCOVINO

DARIO D.O.C.

OFFICINA DELLA BISTECCA

**Buying Wine in Panzano** 437

LA MASSA WINE ESTATE & The Giorgio F Wine

RAMPOLLA CASTLE & The Excellence of One of the Best Wines in the World

RENZO MARINAI: San Martino a Cecione, Wheat & Wine

**Buying Cheese in Panzano** 438

LA CIPRESSAIA, a Sardinian Cheese Producer in Chianti

**Breakfast and Great Cakes in Panzano** 439

SIENI PASTRY SHOP

**VOLPAIA** 440

**Food in Volpaia** 440

LA BOTTEGA

BAR UCCI

AUGUST 14 TO 15-SAGRA DELLA BISTECCA-T-Bone Steak Event-*Cortona (Arezzo)* 440

**PENNE STRASCICATE**-‘Shuffled’ Penne 440

**TUSCAN SALUMI** and its uses... 441

**POLPETTE & POLPETTONE**-Meatballs and Meatloaf 441

**PORCHETTA**-Roast Pork 441

**PROSCIUTTO TOSCANO**-Ham 441

**FEGATELLI DI MAIALE**-Pork Liver Skewers 441

**LESSO RIFATTO**, also called ‘FRANCESINA’-Onion and Beef Stew 441

**SALAME TOSCANO**-Tuscan Sausage 442

**SALSICCIA**-Classic Tuscan Sausage 442

**CROSTINO DI STRACCHINO & SALSICCIA**

Pork Sausages with Stracchino Cheese and Tuscan Bread 442

**FINOCCHIONA**-Rather fatty, but intensely flavored Salami seasoned with Garlic and Fennel Seeds 442

**SBRICIOLONA** 442

SUNDAY FOLLOWING-AUGUST 15-SAGRA DEL LARDO-Lard Festival-*Colonnata (Massa)* 443

**LARDO DI COLONNATA**-Colonnata Herb-infused Lard 444

**COLONNATA** 444

ASSOCIAZIONE TUTELA LARDO DI COLONNATA

GINO BATELLA

ALGERIA BERTEI

ANITA CORSI

GUADAGNI

ADA GUADAGNI

3RD WEEKEND IN AUGUST-A TAVOLA SULLA SPIAGGIA

Food Festival on the Beach-*Forte dei Marmi (Lucca)* 445

END OF AUGUST-FESTA DEL FAGIOLO-Sorana Bean Festival-*Sorana (Pescia)* 445

**BEANS** 445

**FAGIOLI DI SORANA**-Beans of Sorana 446

**FAGIOLI AL FIASCO**-Flask Beans 446

**FAGIOLI all’UCCELLETTO**-White Beans cooked with Tomatoes, Garlic and Sage 447

**FAGIOLI O CECI ALL’OLIO**-Beans or Chickpeas in Olive Oil 447

**TONNO e FAGIOLI**-Tuna and Bean Salad 447

**FAGIOLO ZOLFINO**-Zolfino Beans 447

END OF AUG., BEG. SEPT.-FESTA PASSATO E PRESENTE

Medieval Festival-*Cassetta & Monteperti villages of Castelnuovo Berardenga area (Siena)* 448

**Buying Wine in Castelnuovo Berardenga** 448

FATTORIA DI FELSINA, a Light in a Wine

MUSEO DEL PAESAGGIO-Landscape Museum

**August Recipe** 449

**PANZANELLA**-Salad made with Tomatoes, Basil, Cucumber, Onion, and Stale Bread crust, dressed with Extra-Virgin Olive Oil

Veronica's Trip Tips: Summer 450



## FALL 451

### September Events 452

#### Festivals & Traditions Events 452

1ST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER-FESTA MEDIEVALE-Medieval Festival-Vicopisano (Pisa) 452

THE 1ST AND 2ND WEEKS IN SEPT.-SETTEMBRE IN PIAZZA DELLA PASSERA

September in Piazza della Passera-Florence 452

#### Piazza della Passera 453

MARIATERESA MELONI, Portrait Painting & Fine Drawing

ILARIA FRANCHINI, Florentine Portrait Photographer

1ST WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER-FESTA DI VERTINE E LECCHI

Vertine & Lecchi Musical and Medieval Food Festival-Vertine (Siena) 454

#### VERTINE 454

FIRST SUNDAY IN SEPT. (& LAST SUN. OF JUNE)-GIOSTRA DEL SARACINO

Saracen Jousting-Arezzo 454

1ST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER-ASTILUDIO-Flag Throwing Contest-Volterra (Pisa) 455

#### VOLTERRA 455

MUSEO ETRUSCO GUARNACCI-Guarnacci Archaeological Museum-Volterra (Pisa)

LA COLLEZIONE GUARNACCIANA, GUARNACCI COLLECTION

#### Buying Cheese in Volterra 457

CASTROGIOVANNI MARIA

#### VOLTERRA & the ALABASTRO 457

#### ALABASTRO IN VOLTERRA, The Trademark 458

ECOMUSEO DELL'ALABASTRO-Ecomuseum of Alabastro-Volterra (Pisa)

ALABARTE SNC

ALABASTRI PECCHIONI

BAVONI GIAMPIERO LAVORAZIONE ALABASTRO

CERONE OMERO

DELL'OMO ROBERTO

#### Larderello 459

MUSEO DELLA GEOTERMIA-Museum of Geothermal Energy-Larderello (Pisa)

1ST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER-PALIO DEI RIONI-Local Palio-Pescia (Pistoia) 460

SEPTEMBER 7-FESTA DELLA RIFICOLONA-Historic Childrens Festival-Florence 460

SEPT. 8-OSTENSIONE DELLA SACRA CINTOLA-Celebrations of Mary's sacred belt-Prato 460

WEEKEND NEAREST TO SEPT. 8-PALIO DEI CIUCHI-Donkey Palio-Mensano, Casole d'Elsa (Siena) 461

2ND SUNDAY IN SEPT.-PALIO DELLA BALESTRA-Crossbow Palio-Sansepolcro (Arezzo) 461

#### Palio Della Balestra - Historical information 462

#### The Crossbow 463

Piero della Francesca 463

SEPTEMBER 13-LUMINARA DI SANTA CROCE-Holy Cross Candlelit Procession-Lucca 646

#### PAPER 464

MUSEO DELLA FIGURINA DI GESSO E DELL'EMIGRAZIONE

Museum of Plaster Statuettes and Emigration-Coreglia Antelminelli (Lucca)

#### CALLIGRAPHY 465

BETTY SOLDI, ideas between Tradition & Modernity

MUSEO DELLA CARTA-Paper Museum-Pietrabuona, Pescia (Lucca)

15 SEPTEMBER-FESTA DI SAN MAMILIANO

San Mamiliano Festival-Giglio Castello, Isola del Giglio (Grosseto) 465

CRISTINA E I SUOI COLORI & her Unique Hats

2ND OR 3RD SUN. IN SEPT.-DISFIDA CON L'ARCO-Archery Challenge-Montopoli in Val d'Arno (Pisa) 466

2ND AND 3RD WEEKS IN SEPT.-PALIO MARINARO-Marine Palio-Capraia & Limite (Florence) 466

#### ORIGINS OF THE NAMES OF CAPRAIA & LIMITE 467

#### Historic Tips of Capraia & Limite 467

3RD SUNDAY IN SEPT.-PALIO DEI CARRETTI, SAGRA DEL VINSANTO E DEL CIAMBELLO

Cart Race and Vinsanto Festival-Valiano, Montepulciano (Siena) 468

#### VINSANTO-Holy Wine, Traditional Tuscan Dessert Wine 468

ISOLE E OLENA WINE ESTATE: the excellence of vinsanto, and not only

SIGNORINI PASTRY SHOP OF PRATO & its Torta Briaga al Vinsanto

#### Art, Crafts & Music Events 470

1ST WEEK IN SEPTEMBER-FESTIVAL DELLA MUSICA INTERNAZIONALE

International Music Festival-Castagneto Carducci (Livorno) 470

BEGINNING OF SEPT.-BIENNALE EUROPEA D'ARTE FEBBRILE

Biennial European Blacksmith event-Stia (Arezzo) 471

MUSEO DELL'ARTE DELLA LANA-Wool Museum-Stia (Arezzo)

2ND WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER-FRAGRANZE-Fragrances-Florence 471

FARMACIA SS.ANNUNZIATA FROM 1561

2ND WEEKEND IN SEPT.-CORTO FICTION-Chianciano Terme (Siena) 472

MARABISSI PASTRY & its Torta Chianciano

#### Water from the Chianciano area 472

TERME SANT'ELENA SORGENTE S. ELENA S.P.A.

2ND WEEKEND IN SEPT.-FESTA DELLA RANA D'ORO-Golden Frog Festival-San Sano (Siena) 473

#### Finest Accommodation in San Sano 473

San Sano, Gaiole in Chianti (Siena) - RELAIS CASTELLARE DE' NOVESCHI

#### Food in San Sano 473

LA GROTTA DELLA RANA

#### Buying Wine in The Surroundings of San Sano & Gaiole 473

SAN GIUSTO A RENTENNANO (alle MONACHE), Chianti Classico Wine & 'Vin San Giusto'

MID SEPTEMBER-BOLGHERI JAZZ-Castagneto Carducci (Livorno) 474

#### BOLGHERI 474

#### Food in Bolgheri 475

LA TAVERNA DEL PITTORE

**Buying Wine in Bolgheri 476**

LE MACCHIOLE WINE ESTATE & The Paleo Wine

MUSEO DEL MENU'-Menù Museum-Bolgheri (Livorno)

**IPARCHI DELLA COSTA DEGLI ETRUSCHI-The Parks of the Etruscan Coast 476**

PARCO ARCHEOLOGICO DI BARATTI E POPOLONIA-Archaeological Park of Baratti & Populonia

PARCO COSTIERO DELLA STERPAIA-The Coastal Park of Sterpaia

PADULE DI BOLGHERI-Marshes of Bolgheri

MID SEPTEMBER-CRISTALLO TRA LE MURA-Crystal Market Fair-*Colle Val d'Elsa (Siena)* 478

MUSEO DEL CRISTALLO-Crystal Museum

**GLASSWARE IN TUSCANY 478**

MUSEO DEL VETRO-Glass Museum

**Fiascaie 480**

MOSTRA PERMANENTE 'LA PRODUZIONE VETRARIA A GAMBASSI'

'Glass Production' in Gambassi Permanent Exhibition

**CRYSTAL IN VAL D'ELSA 481**

ARNOLFO DI CAMBIO

COMPAGNIA ITALIANA DEL CRISTALLO SRL

RCR CRISTALLERIA ITALIANA

RCR CRYSTAL outlet (CALP)

**Spas & Thermal Baths in Gambassi 481**

GAMBASSI TERME STABILIMENTO ACQUA DI PILLO

SEPTEMBER 29-FESTA DI SAN MICHELE, PALIO DEI CIUCHI

San Michele Festival & Donkey's Palio-*Carnignano (Prato)* 481

END OF SEPTEMBER (FOR ONE WEEK)-SAGRA DELLA VALDARBIA

Valdardia Festival-*Buonconvento (Siena)* 481

**BUONCONVENTO & VAL D'ORCIA 482**

Buonconvento (Siena)-BORGO FINOCCHIETO

"La Mia Terra, My Land" 483

FATTORIA RESTA & Martin del Nero D.O.C. Orcia Superwine

**MONTE OLIVETO MAGGIORE ABBEY 484**

The 'EROICA', The Vintage Bike Race 485

**THE MEZZADRIA 485**

MUSEO DELLA MEZZADRIA-Mezzadria Museum-Buonconvento (Siena)

MUSEO ETNOGRAF. BOSCO E MEZZADRIA-Ethnographic Museum-Orgia, Sovicille (Siena)

**Buying Cheese in Monteroni d'Arbia 486**

SANNA FRATELLI

**Best Pastry Shop in Buonconvento 486**

LE DOLCEZZE DI NANNI

**Buying Cheese in Sovicille 488**

PODERE CAMPRIANO

**Mercatale Di Sovicille-Special Market in Sovicille for the promotion of local products 488**

SEPT.& OCT.-BIENNALE INT. DEL MERLETTO

International Lace Biennial-*Sansepolcro (Arezzo)* 488

**Finest Accommodation in Sansepolcro 489**

Valtiberina (Arezzo)-ANTICO BORGO DE' ROMOLINI Apartments & Convention hall

LATE OCTOBER-EARLY NOVEMBER-I CENTOGUSTI DELL'APPENNINO

Wine and Food Festival-*Anghiari (Arezzo)* 489

MAY, ALL MONTH-LA SCAMPANATA-Ringing the Bells-*Anghiari (Arezzo)* 490

**Nature & Sport Events 490**

1ST WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER-MURABILIA-Flower Exhibition-*Lucca* 490

SEPTEMBER 8-FIERA DI SAN CELESTINA

Hot Air Balloon Festival-*San Marcello Pistoiese (Pistoia)* 490

2ND WEEK OF SEPT FOR 10 DAYS-POMARIUM, VIVAI BELFIORE

Fruit Festival-Loc. *San'Illario, Lastra a Signa (Florence)* 490

AEROSTATI FIRENZE & Hot Air Ballooning

SEPTEMBER 29-FIERA DELLE CIVETTE-Owls Festival-*Crespina (Pisa)* 492

LAST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER-CORRI LA VITA-Walkathon-Marathon-*Florence* 492

**Food & Wine Events 492**

1ST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER-FESTA DEL CACIO PECORINO

Pecorino Cheese Festival-*Pienza (Siena)* 492

**PIENZA 493****Food in Pienza 493**

DAL FALCO

**Organic Market in Pienza 493****PECORINO Sheep's Milk Cheese 494****PECORINO e BACCELLI-Young Broad beans and Pecorino Cheese 494**

PINZANI CHEESEMAKER & Its Great Cheeses from 'Raw' Sheep's Milk

**Raw Milk - Latte Crudo 497****Suggestions by Guido Pinzani for cheese Conservation 497****IL TUFO, THE TUFF 498****VETULONIA 498**

MUSEO CIVICO ARCHEOLOGICO-Archaeological Civic-Museum-Vetulonia (Grosseto)

**PITIGLIANO 499**

2ND WEEK IN SEPTEMBER-RASSEGNA DEL CHIANTI CLASSICO

Chianti Classico Wine Festival-*Greve in Chianti (Florence)* 499

**CHIANTI CLASSICO WINE 499****D.O.C.G. REGULATIONS 500****SANGIOVESE, the Grape of Chianti Classico 502**

2ND WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER-SETTIMANA DEL MIELE-Honey Festival-*Montalcino (Siena)* 503

**HONEY & BEER 503**

RHYTON Brewery & The Beer of the Pharaohs

**CHOCOLATE & HONEY 504**

DE BONDT

2ND WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER-CAMPIONATO DEL VINO

Wine Championship-*Fiesole (Florence)* 505  
 2ND WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER-FESTA DELLA BRUSCHETTA  
 Bruschetta Festival-*Vagliagli, Castelnuovo Berardenga (Siena)* 505  
**FETTUNTA or BRUSCHETTA-Toasted Tuscan Bread Drizzled with Olive Oil** 505  
 THROUGHOUT AUTUMN-TRENO DEL VINO-The Wine Train-*Montalcino (Siena)* 505  
 2ND HALF OF SEPT.-MOSTRA DELL'AGRIC. E DEL TERRITORIO LUCCHESI  
 Agricultural Fair-*Lucca* 506  
 MID SEPTEMBER-VENDEMMIA DELLE UVE-Grape harvest-*All around Tuscany* 506  
 MID SEPTEMBER-VILLAGGIO DELLA BIRRA-Artisan Beer Festival-*Buonconvento (Siena)* 506  
**BEERS OF TUSCANY** 507  
 FERMENTO BIRRA  
 MID SEPTEMBER-ASSEDIO ALLA VILLA-Historic Festival-*Poggio a Caiano (Prato)* 508  
 3RD WEEKEND IN SEPTEMBER-VINO AL VINO-Wine to Wine -*Panzano (Florence)* 508  
**A Short Glossary for Wine Tasting** 509  
**WINE & GRAPES** 511  
**Wine Spa Treatments in Florence** 511  
 SOULSPACE  
**SUPER TUSCANS** 512  
**TUSCAN GRAPE VARIETIES** 513  
**ALEATICO**  
**CANAIOLO NERO**  
**CILIEGIOLO**  
**COLORINO**  
**PRUGNOLO GENTILE**  
**SANGIOVESE**  
**TREBBIANO TOSCANO**  
**MALVASIA BIANCA LUNGA**  
**VERNACCIADI SAN GIMIGNANO**  
**LE STRADE DEL VINO DI TOSCANA-Wine Trails in Tuscany** 516  
 END OF SEPTEMBER-WINE TOWN-*Florence* 516  
**READING A TUSCAN WINE LABEL** 518  
 END OF SEPTEMBER-FESTA DELL'UVA-Grapes Festival-*Rufina in Valdarno (Florence)* 520  
**Buying Wine in Rufina** 520  
 GALIGAE VETRICE WINE ESTATE by Grati  
 MUSEO DELLA VITE E DEL VINO-Rufina Museum of Vine and Wine  
 LAST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER-FESTA DELL'UVA-Grape Festival-*Impruneta (Florence)* 521  
**PANE, VINO E ZUCCHERO-A Slice of Bread with Red Wine & Sugar** 521  
 END OF SEPTEMBER-FESTA DELL'UVA-Grape Festival-*Scansano (Grosseto)* 521  
**ACQUACOTTA-Soup With Oil, Onion, Eggs, Herbs And Sugar** 521  
**SCANSANO** 522  
**MORELLINO DI SCANSANO** 522  
**Food in Scansano** 522

IL GROTTONE  
 L'ANTICA BOTTE  
**Buying Wine in The Surroundings of Grosseto** 523  
 CAMPI NUOVI WINE ESTATE & Montecucco Wine  
 DON MANINI, The D.o.c. Wine from Montecucco dedicated to Don Giuseppe Manini  
 MAGLIANO WINE ESTATE & Vermentino Wine  
 LE PUPILLE WINE ESTATE & The best morellino wine  
 SALUSTRI WINE ESTATE for Montecucco Wine lovers  
**Buying Cheese and not only in The Surroundings of Grosseto** 525  
 TENUTA LA PARRINA  
 IL FIORINO Cheese producer  
**Milk Producer in Maremma** 526  
 LATTE MAREMMA  
**Spas & Thermal Baths in The Surroundings Of Grosseto** 526  
 TERME DI SATURNIA  
**Skying and Mountains in The Surroundings of Grosseto** 526  
 MONTE AMIATAGROSSETO  
 END OF SEPT.-OR SOME YEARS IN NOV.-FLORENCE WINE EVENT-*Florence* 526  
**September Recipe** 527  
**SCHIACCIATA CON L'UVA-Sweet Focaccia with freshly Harvested Grapes**

## October Events 528

**Art, Crafts & Music Events** 528  
 BEGINNING OF OCTOBER-BIENNALE DELL'ANTIQUARIATO-Biennial Antiques Fair-*Florence* 528  
 2ND WEEK IN OCTOBER-MERCATINO DELLE COSE DEL PASSATO  
*Antiques Fair-Greve in Chianti-(Florence)* 528  
 1ST WEEKEND IN OCTOBER-FESTA DELLA CERAMICA E FIERUCOLA-Ceramics Fair-*Florence* 529  
 END OF OCTOBER, BEG. OF NOV.-LUCCA COMICS AND GAMES-*Lucca* 529  
 MUSEO NAZIONALE DEL FUMETTO-Italian Comics Museum-Lucca  
**Nature & Sport Events** 529  
 FIRST WEEK IN OCT.-MOSTRA DEI FIORI AL GIARDINO DELL'ORTICOLTURA  
*Flower Show-Florence* 529  
 2ND WEEKEND OF OCTOBER-PALIO DEL PAPERIO-Duck Palio-*Balconevisi, San Miniato (Pisa)* 530  
**Food & Wine Events** 530  
 1ST SUNDAY IN OCTOBER-FESTA DEL TARTUFO DI CORAZZANO  
*Corazzano Truffle Festival-Corazzano, San Miniato (Pisa)* 530  
 1ST WEEK IN OCT.-MOSTRA MERCATO VINO D.O.C. MONTESCUDAIO  
*Montescudaio Wine Festival-Montescudaio (Pisa)* 530  
 1ST TWO WEEKENDS IN OCTOBER-BOCCACCESCA-Wine Festival-*Certaldo (Siena)* 531  
**CERTALDO & THE ONION** 531  
 FORME D'ARTE  
 CACIOTECA FORME D'ARTE

EVERY SUNDAY IN OCTOBER-FESTA DELLE CASTAGNE-Chestnut Festival-*Marradi (Florence)* 535

## **CHESTNUTS** 532

### **CHESTNUT ARTISANAL BEERS** 534

RHY'TON BREWERY

CAJÙN BREWERY

AMIATA BREWERY

MID OCTOBER, END OF NOVEMBER-VOLTERRA GUSTO-Food Festival-*Volterra (Pisa)* 536

OCTOBER 11 TO 18-FESTA D'AUTUNNO-Fall Fair-*Abbadia San Salvatore (Siena)* 536

MID-OCTOBER-FIERA DI SAN LUCA-San Luca Festival-*Impruneta (Florence)* 537

MID-OCTOBER-FESTA DEL FUNGO E DELLA CASTAGNA

Mushroom and Chestnut Festival-Vivo d'Orcia (Siena) 537

## **PORCINI MUSHROOMS** 538

2ND WEEKEND IN OCTOBER-DOLCE VERNIO-Sweet Vernio-*Vernio (Prato)* 538

MID-OCTOBER-MONTECARLO CHOCOLATE-*Montecarlo (Lucca)* 539

MID-OCTOBER, 1ST WEEK-IN JANUARY-L'OLIO E I TESORI DI LUCCA

The Oil and the Treasures of Lucca-*Lucca* 539

3RD WEEKEND IN OCTOBER-DOLCEMENTE-Desserts and Sweets of Pisa-*Pisa* 539

3RD SUNDAY IN OCTOBER-SAGRA DEL TARTUFO E DEL FUNGO

Truffle and Mushroom and Festival-San Miniato (Pisa) 540

3RD AND 4TH WEEKENDS IN OCTOBER-I GIORNI DI BACCO

Days of Bacchus-*Castiglion Fiorentino (Arezzo)* 540

## **PANNO CASENTINO** 540

SIMONE FRACASSI, Butcher shop since 1927

### **PROSCIUTTO DEL CASENTINO-Ham from Casentino** 541

#### **Finest Accommodation in Casentino** 542

Poppi (Arezzo)-BORGO CORSIGNANO

### **CASENTINO AREA** 543

#### **THE CASENTINO GREY** 543

#### **History of Casentino** 544

#### **Art in Casentino** 544

POPPI ZOO PARK

PARCO DI CAVRIGLIA-Cavriglia Park-Cavriglia (Arezzo)

PARCO DELLE FORESTE CASENTINESI, MONTE FALTERONA

Foreste Casentinesi, Monte Falterona Park

MUSEO DEL SANTUARIO DE LA VERNA-Museum of La Verna

#### **Water from the Casentino area** 546

SORGENTE VERNA S.R.L. DOSSO ALTO SPA

LAST SUNDAY IN OCTOBER-SAGRA DEL TORDO-Thrush Festival-*Montalcino (Siena)* 547

LAST SUNDAY OF OCTOBER-FESTA DEL TARTUFO E DELLE CASTAGNE

Truffle and Chestnut Festival-Montaione (Florence) 547

## **SAGRE** 547

### **STREET VENDORS** 547

LAST SUNDAY IN OCTOBER-FESTA DEL MARRONE-Chestnut Festival-*Campiglia d'Orcia (Siena)* 548

### **Buying Wine in Campiglia d'Orcia** 548

CAMPOTONDO WINE ESTATE and the Banditone Wine

LO SPICCHIO Organic Farm, not just Jams and Conserves

### **Marmalades & Conserves** 549

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER-ANDAR PER FRANTOI E MERCATINI

Olive Oil Markets-Various Villages in Tuscany 549

END OF OCTOBER, BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER-GIALLO COME L'ORO

Saffron Festival-San Gimignano (Siena) 549

## **SAFFRON** 549

### **Best Saffron Producers** 550

PRUNETTI farmhouse, Saffron Production in Chianti

CORTE DI VALLE farmhouse, Saffron Production in Chianti

ANTICO PODERE DI POMAIO farmhouse, Saffron Production in Valdarno

END OF OCTOBER, BEG. OF NOVEMBER-FRANGITURA OLIVE

Olive Harvest-All around Tuscany 550

END OF OCT, BEG. OF NOV-MOSTRA MERCATO DEL TARTUFO BIANCO

White Truffle Festival-*Volterra (Pisa)* 550

END OF OCTOBER, END OF DECEMBER-TESORI DI SAN GIMIGNANO

Treasures of San Gimignano-San Gimignano (Siena) 551

### **October Recipe** 552

#### **PASTA PORRIE ZAFFERANO-Pasta with Leeks and Saffron**

#### **BISCOTTI ALLO ZAFFERANO-Saffron Cookies**

## **November Events** 553

### **Art, Crafts & Music Events** 553

MID-NOVEMBER-FESTIVAL DEI POPOLI-Film Festival-*Florence* 553

### **Nature & Sport Events** 553

END OF NOVEMBER-FIRENZE MARATHON-Florence Marathon-*Florence* 553

BEG. OF NOV-FIERA DEI PASTORI, DELLE LANE E DEGLI INTRECCI

Pastoral living and Wool Festival-*Florence* 553

CASHMERE GOAT FARM

MAGLIERIA ARTIGIANA SOMERS

813 ANNALISA GIUNTINI

NOVEMBER 1ST, END OF DEC-VISITE AL FRANTOIO, DEGUSTAZIONE OLIO NUOVO

Guided Visits to the Olive Mill and Olive Oil Tastings-*Fiesole (Florence)* 555

1ST OF NOVEMBER, 1ST WEEK IN DECEMBER-CRETE D'AUTUNNO

Autumn in the Crete Senesi-Crete Senesi (Siena) 556

### **THE CRETE SENESI** 556

#### **CRETE SENESI PAINTINGS** 557

LUCLANO NICOLA COMI, Interior Design

### **Buying Cheese in Crete Senesi** 558

## VERGELLE

BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER-CRATATONE-Chestnut Festival-*Piancastagnaio (Siena)* 558

**CASTAGNACCIO-Chestnut Flour, Rosemary And Pine Nut Cake** 559

MINIERA DEL SIELE RISERVA NATURALE DEL PIGELLETO-Pigelleto Archaeological and Mining area

**Buying Honey in The Surroundings Of Siena** 559

DOLCEZZE DELL'AMIAIA and their Production of Honey

1ST WEEKEND IN NOVEMBER-PRIMO OLIO E ALTRO ANCORA

New Olive Oil and Much More-*Montisi (Siena)* 559

**OLIVES & OLIVE OIL** 560

ASSOCIAZIONE NAZIONALE CITTÀ DELL'OLIO

**TUSCAN EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL TOURS** 560

**Buying Olive Oil in Val d'Orcia** 561

LA GRANCIA ESTATE in MONTISI and its wonderful Extra-Virgin Olive Oil  
GRANCIA

GUERRINI IVO

COSMES ART & COSMETICS WITH OLIVE OIL

**Olive Oil & Spa Treatments in Florence** 563

SOULSPACE

**Olive Oil & Beauty** 568

**THE OLIVE OIL IN TUSCANY** 564

1ST SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER-FESTA DELLA DICIOCATURA

Artichoke 'Diciocatura' Festival-*Chiusure (Siena)* 568

**Buying Cheese in Torre a Castello (Siena)** 569

LA FONTE Cheese Producer

**Organic Market in Asciano** 569

BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER-CASTAGNE E VINO NOVELLO

Chestnuts and New Wine Festival-*Camaiole (Lucca)* 569

1ST AND 2ND WEEKENDS IN NOV-MOSTRA MERCATO DEL TARTUFO

Truffle Festival-*Scarperia (Florence)* 569

2ND WEEKEND IN NOVEMBER-FESTA DEL VINO NOVELLO

New Wine Festival-*Montespertoli (Florence)* 570

2ND WEEKEND IN NOVEMBER-NOVELLO IN FESTA

Novello Wine Festival-*Cenaia di Crespina (Pisa)* 570

MID-NOVEMBER-MOSTRA MERCATO DEL TARTUFO BIANCO

White Truffle Festival-*Borgo San Lorenzo (Florence)* 570

**VINO NOVELLO-First Wine Of The Year's Vintage** 570

TRUFFLES & MONSIGNOR DELLA CASA, COUNTRY RESORT & SPA

**Tuscan Truffle History** 571

MID-NOVEMBER-FESTA DI SAN MARTINO E DEL BUON VINO

San Martino & Good Wine Festival-*Palazzuolo sul Senio (Florence)* 573

MID-NOVEMBER - NOVEMBER 30th-BIENNALE ENOGASTRONOMICA

Biennal Food & Wine Festival-Florence 573

MID-NOVEMBER-LA GIOSTRA DEI SAPORI Flavours Festival-*Arezzo* 573

LAST WK IN NOV. IN REGGELLO-RASSEGNA DELL'OLIO EXTRAV.D'OLIVA DI REGELLO

Extra-Virgin Olive Oil Festival-*Regello (Florence)* 574

**Buying Olive Oil in Reggello** 574

VILLAI BONSI farmhouse & Olive Oils

PODERE DI POMAIO & The Honey at the BOTTEGHINA

2ND AND 3RD WEEKS IN NOV-MOSTRA MERCATO DEL TARTUFO BIANCO

Truffle Festival-San Giovanni d'Asso (Siena) 575

**TRUFFLES** 575

MID NOV. - END OF NOV-MOSTRA MERCATO DEL TARTUFO BIANCO

Prized White Truffle Festival-San Miniato (Pisa) 576

PARCO ARCHEOLOGICO 'CITTÀ DEL TUFO' SOVANA-Sovana "Tufa town" Archaeological Park  
MUSEO DEL TARTUFO-Truffle Museum

**SANMINIATO** 578

MAURIZIO PASTRY SHOP and the Torta di San Miniato speciality

SERGIO FALASCHI BUTCHER since 1925

IL CANTUCCIO DI FEDERIGO, Passion and Tradition in a Real Genuine Pastry & Wine Boutique

**The Morselletti** 582

**SANMINIATO TRUFFLES** 582

MID-NOVEMBER-FESTA SAPORI E COLORI DEL MONTALBANO

Flavours and Colours of Montalbano Festival-*Various Towns around Vinci (Florence)* 584

**VINCI** 585

**LEONARDO DA VINCI** 585

MUSEO DI LEONARDO DA VINCI-Leonardo Da Vinci Museum-Vinci (Florence)

**The Battle of Anghiari** 585

**Outlets in the area of Vinci** 586

ALLEGRI FACTORY OUTLET

**Finest Accommodation in Vinci** 586

Vinci- VILLA DIANELLA

**Buying Wine in Vinci** 587

DIANELLA FUCINI WINE ESTATE

**Preserved Seafood Producer in the Vinci Area** 588

GHEZZI, Seafood Specialities

MID NOVEMBER-FESTA DEI SAPORI D'AUTUNNO A MONTICIANO

Monticiano Fall Flavours Festival-Monticiano (Siena) 588

MID-NOVEMBER-PANEOLIO E LA MOSTRA DEL TARTUFO BIANCO

Food and Truffle Festival-Montespertoli (Florence) 588

MID-NOVEMBER, MID-DECEMBER-IL DESCO-Food Festival of the area of Lucca-*Lucca* 588

**LUCCA** 589

**Food in Lucca** 589

BUCA DI S. ANTONIO



CANTINE BERNARDINI, Wine bar & Restaurant

DALEO

IL CUORE RESTAURANT

GASTRONOMY IL CUORE

**Finest Accommodation in Lucca** 591

Lucca - VILLA LA CHIUSA

**CHINA MASSAGLI** 592

SANTI GUERRIERI, Hats in Lucca

**BUCCELLATO-Sweet Bread** 593

TADDEUCCI, The Pastry shop of the Buccellato

**Spas & Thermal Baths in the Surroundings of Lucca** 594

TERME DI BAGNI DI LUCCA

**Interesting Gardens and parks in the Surroundings of Lucca** 594

PINOCCHIO PARK

VILLA GRABAU

VILLA OLIVA-BUONVISI

VILLA REALE DI MARLIA

MUSEO DEL CASTAGNO-Chestnut Museum-Colognora (Lucca)

**Antique Market in Lucca** 596

**Food Market in Lucca** 596

LAST SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER-RASSEGNA DEL VINSANTO D.O.C.

Vinsanto Festival-Montespertoli (Florence) 597

MUSEO DELLA VITE E DEL VINO-Vine and Wine Museum-Montespertoli (Florence)

END OF NOVEMBER-THE 1ST WEEK IN DECEMBER-SAGRA DEL CINGHIALE

Wild boar festival-Suvereto (Arezzo) 598

END OF NOVEMBER, FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER-VISTO E COMPRATO

Food and Antiques Festival-Prato 598

END OF NOVEMBER-MERCATO DI NATALE DELLA CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA

Red Cross Christmas Market-Florence 598

LAST WEEKEND IN NOVEMBER-PANE E OLIO IN FRANTOIO & ...

Olive Oil Event-Many Towns in Tuscany 599

**D.O.P.** 599

**November Recipe** 600

**ZUPPA FRANTOIANA-Autumn Soup made with Herbs (wild Fennel in particular)**

**Veronica's Trip Tips: Fall** 601



## TOP TIPS GREAT FOR EVERY SEASON 604

### Top Tips-TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION 604

**AGRITURISMO** 604

**RENT A VILLA** 605

**AIRLINES** 605

ROME - LEONARDO DA VINCI AIRPORT

MILAN - MALPENSA AIRPORT (MXP)

PISA GALILEO GALILEI AIRPORT (PSA)

SIENA AMPUGNANO AIRPORT

FLORENCE A. VESPUCCI AIRPORT, known as PERETOLA

**TOURISM FACILITIES** 609

**PROMOTION AND MARKETING OF UNIQUE VILLAS AND CHARMING**

**PROPERTIES RENTALS & SALES** 609

COMMUNICART.IT

**CHARMING REAL ESTATE SALES** 610

MARCO TEDESCHI LUXURY HOMES - TOSCANA IMMOBILIARE

**SPECIAL GUIDEBOOKS, MAPS & SUPERMAPS... OF TUSCANY with downloadable POI** 610

CITIES OF ART.COM

**CATERED MEALS & COOKING CLASSES** 611

SECRET-TUSCANY.COM

**CITY TOURS, ART & WINE TOURS** 611

SUNNY TUSCANY

**PARTIES, EXCLUSIVE PERSONALIZED CULT. EXPERIENCES & FAMILY ITINERARIES** 612

ONE STEP CLOSER

**ENGLISH SCHOOL & SUMMER CAMPS IN FLORENCE & TUSCANY** 612

CANADIAN ISLAND

**PERSONALIZED TOURISM SERVICES in ROME** 612

ROMAROUND

ROME URBAN ADVENTURES

**MEETINGS & SPECIAL EVENTS** 613

ENIC

**SAILING CHARTER & NAUTICAL SCHOOL** 614

BLUE DREAM SAILING CHARTER ROMA, Blue Vacation & Courses

**TRAVEL AGENCIES** 614

BAIANA VIAGGI

EYRE & HUMBERT

**TOUR PLANNING & OPERATION SERVICES** 615

BEST TUSCAN TOURS, LLC

**WEB PROMOTION** 615

WEBPROMOTER

## **Top Tips - MARKETS IN TUSCANY** 616

ORGANIC MARKETS IN TUSCANY 616

ANTIQUES MARKETS AND FAIRS AROUND TUSCANY 617

FOOD MARKETS AROUND TUSCANY 618

FOOD MARKETS in FLORENCE 618

ANTIQUES MARKETS AND FAIRS in FLORENCE 618

## **Top Tips - USEFUL TIPS** 619

BUSINESS - INVESTING IN TUSCANY 619

ROSSO19, your architect in Tuscany

GRAPHIC DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE 619

NICOLA NATALIZIO, Architect & Visual Designer

LAWYERS 620

PHILIP LAROMA

PHARMACIES 620

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS 620

MAIL 621

Express mail 621

Regular Mail 621

FILMING LOCATIONS AND MOVIES 622

THE TUSCANY FILM COMMISSION

LOCATIONS 624

MUSIC FAMOUS TUSCAN ROCK/POP MUSICIANS 624

LEO TOLU, DJ FOR HIRE

NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND BOOKSTORES & more... 625

LA NAZIONE

IL CORRIERE

TOSCANA TASCABILE

THE FLORENTINE

FIRENZE SPETTACOLO

FIRENZE MADE IN TUSCANY

CITIES of ART

LA PIAZZA ITALIANA, The Italian Square

BEST FM TUSCAN RADIO 625

BEST FM ITALIAN RADIO 625

PAYPHONE 627

INTERNATIONAL CALL PREFIXES FROM ITALY 627

Year-Round Recipe 628

BISTECCA ALLA FIORENTINA - Traditional T-Bone Steak

## **Top Tips - BOOKSTORES & DISTRIBUTORS IN TUSCANY** 629

BOOKSTORES IN FLORENCE 629

BM BOOKSHOP

BRAC

EDISON

GIUNTI AL PUNTO

IL PARTERRE

LA FELTRINELLI

LA FELTRINELLI INTERNATIONAL

MY ACCADEMIA BOOKSTORE

MELBOOKSTORE

PAPERBACK EXCHANGE

AMREF





PORTA CAMOLLIA, Siena 'Cor Magis Tibi Sena Pandit' - Siena opens its door to you with a large heart



## Introduction

### The idea



Tuscany — the place, the idea, the dream, is famed the world over. Everyone knows about the art, the landscape, the food and drink, and yes, Tuscans are both privileged and blessed. However, in this book I want to shed light on its hidden aspects, on the people whose lives and work have brought such renown to Tuscany.

Our region has kept many of its ancient traditions alive but it is thanks to the work of our Comuni (local governments) and their ideas and initiatives to promote local products, that ancient fairs and markets have taken on new life. There are now more of these local events than ever before, and all of them involve local artisans and producers.

It seemed to me that something was needed that would give a voice to the many small businesses, artisans, restaurants, wine and olive oil makers, and shopkeepers who work tirelessly to strengthen the image of Tuscany as a land of creativity, culture and originality; the real core values of our region. I soon realised that the best people to show us how to produce a work of craftsmanship or make perfect pasta are the people who do it for a living. This is what makes our guide unique:

*An insider's point of view...*

### Specialities throughout the seasons...

The book follows the seasons, because each season is full of events that highlight specific products, flavours, crafts or trade. Our artisans and producers are surrounded by landscapes, ancient churches and castles and art, that give them reason to pass these often difficult traditions and ways of life to the next generation. In the chapters for each season you'll find annual events listed by type – festivals and traditions, art and handicraft, nature and sport, food and wine – and set out month per month. In the various sections there are brief flashes to highlight villages and products. There are recipes linked with food and wine events and special mention for museums, workshops, shops and restaurants. How can you not talk about olive oil in November, when oil is fresh and at its best and festivals, like the one in Montisi, abound? What better excuse for visiting the Val d'Orcia region and discovering its natural beauty?

And what better time to think about tomatoes than in August, when Tuscans enjoy the garden-ripened variety in dishes like Panzanella, the famous salad with bread, tomatoes and olive oil? We think this is the best way to help visitors to Tuscany make the most of their time and experience the best of every season.

### Specialities with tradition and innovation... Movers and Shakers

This book tells the story of people whose life-style is built upon certain core values: the search for quality, the safeguarding of authentic products and flavours, the celebration of taste and the other senses that are fundamental to a country's identity. And these values ring just as true for the crafts and the artisans who make them. In fact Tuscany's approach to modernity has been one of rediscovery and the safeguarding of its traditions. But what do we mean by characteristic? Traditions, innovation, or both? My feeling is that the line between the two is very fine and that it's important to preserve traditions, while at the same time taking advantage of local creativity in order to be authentically Tuscan.

Our idea is to promote what and, especially who, we consider to represent the values of our web community CitiesOfArt.com — people who believe in the value of their own two hands, have faith in their ideas and their cities, who seek to pass on their knowledge and know-how. These are people whose lives are a homage to our region and we want their voices to be heard. We believe that their stories of work and fatigue, as well as great achievement, deserve to be told. We would like to include them all but, after much soul-searching, we've chosen the most significant. We have spent countless hours meeting producers, talking and visiting all the events, and in return we have discovered the authentic flavours of their work...

## Spotlighting our Best



### Festivals & Traditions

Many of the region's festivals centre on pageants, where oftentimes medieval or renaissance events are played out in fantastic settings. Even today, in every city and medieval village the local people keep alive knightly challenges, battles to gain control of bridges (like the one over the Arno in Pisa), competitions of ability on horseback and other contests. The most famous of these festivals is undoubtedly the *Palio in Siena*, which exploits the unique backdrop of the Piazza del Campo to relive the atmosphere of the ancient rivalry between the *contrade*. And then there are the events linked to religious festivals, like the *Exploding Cart* in Florence on Easter Sunday.

### Art, Crafts & Music

Workshops and laboratories, and markets great and small, demonstrate the continuity of tradition in today's Tuscany, where authenticity and originality go hand in hand with technology. The *goldsmiths of Arezzo* and the alabaster sculptors of Volterra carry on trades that date back to the Etruscans. Then there is a world of craft industries from *terracotta* to *wrought iron* where every place has its own speciality. And of course there is the fabulous *leather industry* led by names such as Gucci and Ferragamo who have added lustre to the whole of Tuscan industry and helped to make the Made-in-Italy label world-famous.

## Nature & Sport

Great natural resources: *mountains, hills, plains, vineyards, woods, and blue sea*. Tuscany has it all, from the snow-capped Pistoia mountains to the hills which produce great wine, the forests with their chestnut trees, to the lakes, rivers and waterfalls.

Nature reserves protect the area's different habitats with their distinctive flora and fauna, large island areas, vast stretches of coast, rivers and lakesides, undulating hill-covered landscapes and mountainous heights. Even in, or very near, the city we are pleasantly surprised by the magnificent gardens of noble houses, reminding us of the past when the great families ruled the cities.

### Food & Wine

Our food ranges from simple and healthy to refined and elegant thanks to the land and the high-quality lity of its gifts. *Olive oil, wine, meat and bread* are the main elements in our local cuisine and they are combined in a series of recipes dependent on a few well-chosen ingredients. We should never forget that Tuscan cooking originated in the poor kitchens in the country where nothing was wasted and the leftovers were mixed together to create new dishes, dishes which are now classics and a must on every menu, e.g. *ribollita*, a soup of day-old bread, vegetables and olive oil. Its basic ingredients come from vegetable patches and woodlands, centuries old animal husbandry, olive groves and vineyards. Every corner of Tuscany has its own specific characteristics and local delicacies, and here I hope to show them to you together with the events where they are celebrated.

These are the 4 reasons that make Tuscany, Tuscany. And we will guide you through the events organized by our towns and villages, each with its own speciality, hand crafted object or gastronomic creation, which contribute to our region's renown the world over. In fact, at the end of each season we have included my personal favorite *trip tips* which give a helpful hand in organizing an itinerary based on all the contents and ideas of our guide  
(check out *Veronica's Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall Trip Tips*).

*Now let's look at our 4 seasons  
to truly understand our region...*

## A Great Reason For Every Season. TUSCANY

### Dedicated sections on Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter Events:

Celebrations & Traditions; Art, Crafts & Music; Food & Wine; Nature & Sport

### Tuscan Specialties from the Producers' Point of View:

Tradition, Handicraft, Food & Wine, Health & Well-Being, Organic Food & Markets  
Plus Helpful Tips, Suggestions, Recipes, History, and Glossaries (useful words and phrases)  
Veronica's Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall Trip Tips

"When out and about in Tuscany keep an open mind. The chic and trendy facade may be just that so never be afraid of pushing open the door of an unprepossessing trattoria, bar or shop because once inside you may find a welcome, a meal, an array of products which you never thought possible.

No guarantees of course. But get off the tourist trails and every village or hamlet will provide surprises, great photos, iconic Tuscans. Memories which stay with you. The best experiences are the ones you didn't expect."



*A Special Thanks to  
Ms Nina Brown for her  
insider's point of view*





## — WINTER —

Not many people visit Tuscany in winter, but this is one of the best reasons to come. This is when you can see Tuscany in its most genuine state, simple and straight to the point. It may be cold, but temperatures rarely go below freezing - and besides, what better time to warm up with a glass of red wine by the fire. Tourists are few and far between, leaving those few remaining guests the chance to get a feel for authentic Italian life, far away from lengthy museum queues and long waits for service at restaurants and shops. Winter means *Carnival* with its bright colors and sounds, traditional holiday treats such as *cenci* and *schia-ciata fiorentina*, found in every Florentine bakery and *ricciarelli* and *panforte* in Siena.

The nourishing soups along with roasted meats, are perfect comfort food, not to mention the *cavolo nero* (kale) used in many celebrated dishes like the classic, rib-sticking *ribollita*. This time of year you'll also find various events dedicated to chocolate and the *artisan chocolatiers*. *Markets* become more important now than ever, and every weekend comes to life with a fair or antique market somewhere in Tuscany. These markets serve as the perfect excuse to venture off and explore one of our many *beautiful cities of art*, such as Lucca, Arezzo, and Florence, or *villages and towns* such as Montalcino, Montefioralle, and Montepulciano.

## DECEMBER EVENTS

### FESTIVALS & TRADITIONS EVENTS

☞ END OF DECEMBER  
BABBO NATALE IN ARNO  
Santa Claus on the River Arno  
*Florence*

Each year from the Rowing Club of the Ponte Vecchio a boat with a special team composed of 8 Babbo Natale (Santa Claus) will row along the River Arno between Ponte alla Carraia and Ponte alle Grazie.

Remember that on the 1st of January all the boats of the club will row along the river to welcome the New Year.  
[www.canottierifirenze.it](http://www.canottierifirenze.it)

☞ END OF DECEMBER  
GIOCO DEL PANFORTE  
Game of the Panforte  
*Pienza (Siena)*

The Game takes place in the Piazza Pio II Loggiato del Comune and consists in throwing a panforte cake to a table, from 4-5 metres distance by the various teams. He who throws it closest to the edge of the table wins!  
[www.comunedipienza.it](http://www.comunedipienza.it)

### Panforte Historic Tips

Known since the Middle Ages, this traditional cake is made with almond paste and honey. It was often offered to special guests.



## ☛ END OF DECEMBER

### PRESEPE VIVENTE

#### DI CASOLE D'ELSA

Casole Live Christmas Crib

*Casole d'Elsa (Siena)*

A portion of the ancient borgo is transformed in to an antique village with more than 150 characters in antique costumes.

Cellars and squares lit by candles and a market with live animals. On the 6th of January the 3 kings arrive with blessed gifts for baby Jesus (a doll).

[www.casole.it](http://www.casole.it)

## ART, CRAFTS & MUSIC EVENTS

## ☛ ALL MONTH LONG

### ALLA SCOPERTA DEI LUOGHI

#### RELIGIOSI ED ARCHEOLOGICI

#### DI FIESOLE

Discovering The Religious And Archaeological Sites Of Fiesole

*Fiesole (Florence)*



Some of the most beautiful cultural attractions in this town open to the public for a limited time with guided tours.

[www.comune.fiesole.fi.it](http://www.comune.fiesole.fi.it)

## ===== FIESOLE

**LAT: 43.80677 - LONG: 11.29266**

Fiesole is a hillside village on the northern edge of Florence. To get there by car follow signs for the *Stadio* (stadium) and then for Fiesole. Or just take Ataf bus number 7 from piazza Stazione in Florence. It's worth a visit to Fiesole for the beautiful view over Florence. Visit the archaeological area with its 1st century Roman theatre, used in the summer for the *Estate Fiesolana* (Fiesole Summer) in a series of concerts and performances throughout the summer months.

## Food in Fiesole

### VINANDRO

Meals, snacks and wine

Vinandro is a tiny restaurant in Fiesole with a marble counter, old style lamps and refectory tables that conjure up the atmosphere of the past. Their specialities are local dishes with red wines by the glass, *frittate* and salami, all served like they were in the old bars. At Vinandro you'll find only typical products, made as nature intended. (Closed Monday)

Piazza Mino, 33

Fiesole (Florence)

Tel. 05559121

**LAT: 43.80650**

**LONG: 11.29294**

## TULLIO

Classic Tuscan Cooking

Originally a fruit and vegetable shop opened in 1958, Tullio has evolved over the years into a well-known, family run trattoria serving up some of the best T-bone steak in Florence. The menu is pure Tuscan, offering classic *fettunte* (toasted bread with various toppings such as white beans or tomatoes), *crostini di fegatini*, mixed cut meats, *pappa al pomodoro*, *bistecca alla fiorentina*, *filetto and peposo*. The house red and white wines are from the family run Podere di Tullio but they also offer excellent wines from the Fiesole area.

Via Ontignano, 48

Montebeni, Fiesole

(Firenze)

Tel. 055697354/055697799

**LAT: 43.79183**

**LONG: 11.33296**

[www.ristorantetullio.it](http://www.ristorantetullio.it)



## Buying Olive Oil in Fiesole

BUONAMICI  
FARMHOUSE

Buonamici *organic extra-virgin olive oil* is the speciality of the farmhouse and it is made from Frantoio, Moriaolo, Leccino, Maurino and Pendolino varieties, all harvested by hand and cold pressed using the continuous cycle system at the farm. As well as olive trees, vegetables are grown on the farm and then used in the preparation of *Buonamici soups* (onion soup, legume soup and minestrone), which are delicious and completely natural, made according to family recipes using their own ingredients that are guaranteed and certified organic.

Via di Montebeni, 11  
Fiesole (Florence)  
Tel. 055654991  
LAT: 43.79297  
LONG: 11.33059  
www.buonamici.it

## Buying Wine in Fiesole

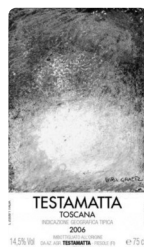
BIBI GRAETZ

Testamatta Wine Estate

Since 1999 Bibi Graetz's main aim in life has been to produce great wines, a dream made possible thanks to his love for the land (Fiesole) and to the perfect position of Vincigliata. The vines extend irregularly over 37 hectares of land in the Fiesole area and are surrounded by dense woodland and ancient olive trees. The principal vines are Sangiovese, about 65-70% with strains of black Moscato and black Malvasia. The remaining 30% are Colorino and Canaiolo vines. For the white wine, called Bugia, the grapes used are Ansonica, a variety cultivated for thousands of years on the Isola del Giglio, a small Island of the Tuscan Archipelago where Bibi Graetz spent many childhood holidays with his family. Up to now the wines produced in Vincigliata are *Testamatta* (100% Sangiovese), *Soffocone di Vincigliata*, *Grilli del Testamatta*, *Bugia*, *Gigliese*, *Casamatta*.

Via di Vincigliata, 19  
Fiesole (Florence)  
Tel. 055597222

LAT: 43.79406 - LONG: 11.31451  
www.bibigraetz.com



## Finest Accommodation in Fiesole

Florence - 2 km from the centre (Fiesole area)

VILLA SAN MICHELE

Via Doccia, 4

Fiesole (Florence)

Tel. 0555678200

LAT: 43.80250

LONG: 11.29797

www.villasanmichele.com

The Florentine hillside (Florence)

VILLA IL SALVIATINO

Via del Salviatino, 21

Florence

Tel. 0559041111

LAT: 43.78599

LONG: 11.29517



## Antique Market in Fiesole

Piazza Mino: first Sunday of every month

## Interesting Gardens in Fiesole

VILLA GAMBERAIA

Via del Rossellino, 72

Settignano (Florence)

Tel. 055697205

VILLA I TATTI

Via di Vincigliata, 26

Fiesole (Florence)

Tel. 055603251

VILLA PEYRON

Villa built on top of Etruscan ruins. It owes its name to the lush forest from which the Italian garden emerges with a fountain from the sixth century, bringing water to the numerous fountains as well as the pond. The garden is famous for its terraces and statues.

Via di Vincigliata, 2  
(Florence)

Tel. 0552614579

www.bardinipeyron.it

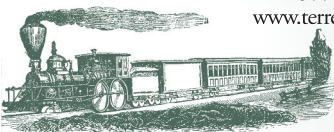


VILLA  
NIEUWENKAMP  
RIPOSO  
DEI VESCOVI  
Via Vecchia Fiesolana, 62  
Fiesole (Florence)  
Tel. 055599223

VILLA LE BALZE  
Via Vecchia Fiesolana, 26  
Fiesole (Florence)  
Tel. 05559208

VILLA MEDICI  
Via Beato Angelico, 2/4  
Fiesole (Florence)  
Tel. 05559164

VILLA  
SCHIFANOIA  
Via Boccaccio, 121  
Fiesole (Florence)  
Tel. 05546851



☛ 2ND WEEK OF DEC.  
(ODD NUMBERED YEARS)  
BIENNALE DI ARTE  
CONTEMPORANEA  
International Biennial of Contemporary Art  
*Florence*

The largest exhibition of contemporary art in the world takes place at Fortezza da Basso with concerts, conferences, performances and the active presence of the artists involved.  
[www.florencebiennale.org](http://www.florencebiennale.org)

## NATURE & SPORT EVENTS

☛ ALL YEAR LONG  
TRENO NATURA  
Nature Train

The Nature train offers the chance to travel on old fashioned locomotives, allowing you to hop on and off at the different stations as you please (even using ordinary trains in the Siena province). It is a wonderful discovery for those who would like to visit many places, linking their travel with other activities like hiking, biking, visiting museums and tasting local food and wine direct from the source. Tickets can be purchased directly aboard the Nature Train; be sure to check on their web site for special routes offered during different times of year.

Bookings:  
Tel. 0577280551  
[www.terresiena.it](http://www.terresiena.it)

## FOOD & WINE EVENTS

☛ TRENO DEL VINO

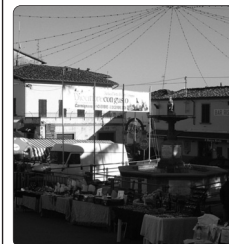
The Wine Train  
*Montalcino (Siena)*  
*From Siena to the Montalcino -Torrenieri Station*  
Two train cars travel from the Siena train station to Torrenieri-Montalcino, the site of the Winestation, crossing the heart of the emerald Val d'Orcia, in a trip that puts you in contact with traditional flavours and enchanting panoramas.

The Train includes a visit to the abbey of Sant'Antimo and the medieval hill-town Montalcino, while the Tuscany Slow Train is a day trip from Florence to visit Siena, the Winestation, Montalcino and then back to Florence.  
[www.winestation.it](http://www.winestation.it)

☛ DECEMBER  
(AND SOMETIMES NOVEMBER)  
MERCATINI DI NATALE

Christmas Markets  
*All around Tuscany*  
Christmas markets take place in villages across the region; get out and visit the towns around where you're staying.

☛ BEG. OF DECEMBER  
ANTICA FIERA  
DI CARMIGNANO  
Antiques & Food Festival  
*Carmignano (Prato)*  
The old-fashioned event is a place to find wine, olive oil, dried figs, honey from the Prato area and more. It is held for an entire week in Piazza Vittorio Emanuele II and in the former Cantine Niccolini in Piazza Matteotti  
[www.comune.carmignano.po.it](http://www.comune.carmignano.po.it)



In the area of the beautiful Villa di Artimino, Ferdinando dei Medici's hunting lodge, there are numerous churches that date back to the Medieval period. The beautiful church of SAN MICHELE ARCANGELO hosts one of the most beautiful works of art by the artist Pontormo. The *Visitazione* (Visit) dates back to 1530 and is a fountain of inspiration to many past and present artists.

Piazza SS. Francesco e Michele, 1  
Carmignano (Prato)  
Tel. 0558712046  
LAT: 43.79343  
LONG: 11.06065  
[www.pontormo.it](http://www.pontormo.it)

## CARMIGNANO

LAT: 43.81235 – LONG: 11.01657

Carmignano is famous for its history in producing an excellent D.O.C.G. wine. In 1716 the grand duke Cosimo III de' Medici declared a law with severe norms for the harvesting of the grapes and limiting the zone of production of the *Barco Reale*: it was the first example in the world of *denominazione di origine controllata*. But this small town is also famous for its excellent pastry production and its dried figs.

AMARI Pastry Shop & Due in Carmignano  
The small and traditional pastry shop of Lorella and Mariella Amari is right next to the bell tower in the small town of Carmignano. The cantuccini with orange and hazelnut, with chocolate chips, with figs and almonds are all delicious. All their goods are made with pure butter, Tuscan chestnut flour, hand made marmellades; just pure and essential ingredients. Don't leave the shop without trying their jelly candies made with white and red wine from the zone, great with salami and cheese.  
Via Guido Rossa, 81/83  
Carmignano (Prato)  
Tel. 0558719677  
LAT: 43.80007 – LONG: 11.06300  
[www.dolciamari.it](http://www.dolciamari.it)

## Buying Wine in Carmignano

### CAPEZZANA ESTATE

#### Carmignano Wine

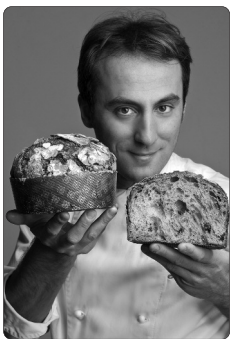
If you want to chill out in the country for a few days Capezzana is the ideal place. The surrounding landscape is beautiful but at the same time you're within easy reach of Florence, Siena and Lucca and only 40 minutes drive away from the coastal resorts of Viareggio and Forte dei Marmi. The farmhouse accommodation is comfortable and stylish and if you want something more, there's an apartment on the ground floor of the villa with access to the pool and tennis court. Capezzana Estate also holds cooking courses lasting from one to five days. They produce the *Barco Reale D.O.C.* which is the younger version of Carmignano, the *Villa di Capezzana* a wine which is highly representative of the qualities of Carmignano. D.O.C. status was re-obtained in 1975 and D.O.C.G. in the 1990's. It is produced from Sangiovese (80%) and Cabernet Sauvignon (20%). D.O.C.G. wines are matured for over one year in tonneaux and then laid down for a further twelve months in bottles. Together with the many meetings and workshops on wine and cuisine, Capezzana also organizes wine tours of the estate and you can visit the historic cellars, the vinsanto cellar and the olive press and production facilities.  
Via Capezzana, 100  
Carmignano (Prato)  
Tel. 0558706005  
[www.capezzana.it](http://www.capezzana.it)



### FICHI DI CARMIGNANO Figs of Carmignano

Carmignano figs are a Christmas treat. Once harvested these figs are subjected to a special and very ancient drying process. When completely dry they are packed in pairs with aniseed in each fig, which give them their distinctive flavour. As there are very few they are only sold locally, but if you go to the ancient Fair of Carmignano you'll see them in their traditional wicker baskets and you'll be able to sample them there.





Mr. Luca Signorini

RIGOCCIOLI  
Genuine Jams

The Rigoccioli estate is located in the territory of Montalbano. Extra virgin olive oil, honey, fruit and vegetables, preserves, preserves in olive oil, vegetable patè, jellies, Carmignano dried figs are all produced here.

Our favourite is *marmellata di fichi e mandorle* (fig and almond jam).

Via degli Asinai, 12  
Loc. Pietranera  
Carmignano (Prato)  
Tel. 0558712492  
LAT: 43.80457  
LONG: 11.01457  
rigoccioli@libero.it

## PANFICATO

is a traditional product made with dried figs from Carmignano.

It is a speciality of the Pasticceria Signorini in Prato, and worth a trip to the pastry shop.

(**check out** SIGNORINI PASTRY SHOP)



## 1ST WEEK IN DECEMBER

### FESTA DELLA CIOCCOLATA

#### Chocolate Festival

*Barga (Lucca)*

Tastings, display and sale of chocolate from several Italian regions all held in this beautiful mountain village.

[www.comunedibarga.it](http://www.comunedibarga.it)

## BEFANINI DELLA VERSILIA

### Special Befana holiday cookies from Versilia

Befanini biscuits are made in different shapes – animals, hearts, and stars. These biscuits are made around Christmas time and were typical of Epiphany when families used to exchange the different shapes. The children would take the biscuits wrapped in a cloth from house to house. The ingredients are; eggs, flour, butter, milk, baking powder, a glass of aniseed or rum (or *sassolino*), orange or lemon rind, a pinch of salt.

## 1ST WEEK IN DECEMBER SAGRA DEGLI ANTICHI SAPORI

Antique Flavours Festival

*Lastra a Signa (Florence)*

Leading up to the Festa dell'Immacolata on December 8, this festival puts the culture and cuisine of Tuscany on display from ribollita to olive oil, wine from the Tuscan hills, bistecca alla fiorentina, and wood-oven-baked bread.

[www.comune.lastra-a-signa.fi.it](http://www.comune.lastra-a-signa.fi.it)

## STRAW WEAVING

Until 1800 Tuscany was a mainly agricultural region

organised according to a semi-feudal system.



The navigability of the Arno and the great port of Livorno facilitated trade in agricultural products. Millinery has been part of tradition since 1300, but it developed into an industry when Domenico Michelacci, came from Bologna to Signa in 1714.

The *impagliatura* (straw weaving) at the end of the 19th century was an important sector of the Tuscan economy until the crash of 1929, but it survived until the immediate post-war period when other related activities took its place.

## MUSEO DELLA PAGLIA

Straw Museum

Lastra a Signa (Florence)

This museum dedicated to straw and weaving hopes to become a point of reference for a craft as old as humanity which, in particular from the middle of the 18th century to almost the present day, has had in Tuscany, admittedly with ups and downs, extraordinary success. The visitor will be able to see the results of the creativity and skill of the people, mainly women, who worked in the industry.

Via degli Alberti, 11  
Lastra a Signa (Florence)  
Tel. 055875257  
LAT: 43.78244  
LONG: 11.09616  
[www.museopaglia.it](http://www.museopaglia.it)





## HATS

Hat making is a sector that has provided opportunities to express creativity and entrepreneurship in the whole of the territory of the Arno, Bisenzio and Ombrone basins, an area of Tuscany particularly rich in history and art.

### GREVI & Their Unique Hats

An old established company based in Signa, near Florence, GREVI MODE has made hats since 1875. Four generations of the Grevi family have created hats for elegant women.

The Grevi brand name was born in the 1980's and they continue to make hats in every conceivable style by traditional methods.

Their shop opened in 2004 and is worth visiting for its refined elegance – a real lesson in style and design.

## GREVI

Shop:

Via della Spada, 11/13 r

**LAT:** 43.77176

**LONG:** 11.25053

Florence

Factory:

Via della Manifattura, 10

Signa (Florence)

Tel. 055876223/0558734081

**LAT:** 43.77446

**LONG:** 11.09435

[www.grevi.com](http://www.grevi.com)

## 1ST WEEK OF DECEMBER LA CITTÀ DELLA CASTAGNA

The Chestnut Town

*Castelnuovo Garfagnana (Lucca)*

For a week Castelnuovo Garfagnana becomes 'la città della castagna' (the chestnut city), celebrating this local specialty with markets, cultural events, and of course chestnut-based necci, frittelle, ballotte, mondine and castagnaccio.

[www.pontineltempo.it](http://www.pontineltempo.it)

## FRITTELLE DI CASTAGNE

### Chestnut Fritters

### Recipe

*300 gr. chestnut flour, cold milk or water*

*1-2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil*

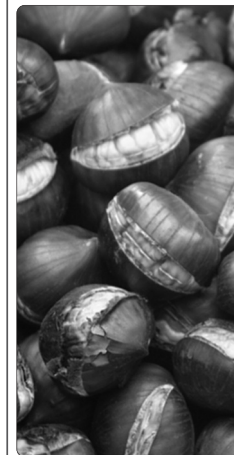
*80 gr. sultanas*

*50 gr. pine nuts, toasted and chopped  
rosemary*

*olive oil for frying*

Sift the chestnut flour, add the cold water a little at a time and mix to a thick batter. Add the olive oil, rosemary leaves, pine nuts, sultanas (previously soaked in hot water) and a pinch of salt. Leave the batter to rest for an hour and then fry, a spoonful at a time, in very hot olive oil. The fritters should be served with fresh ricotta or stracchino which each guest can spread on them. Traditionally they are made for Epiphany.

Lucca cuisine is famous for being almost completely free of animal fats. Most condiments have as their basic ingredient crude olive oil which goes so well with the soups of the area; vegetable soup, and *garmucia* which is a spring vegetable soup with legumes. Other local specialities include risotto with pigeon, lamb with olives, grilled mushrooms or the strange coots, Puccini style.



MUSEO  
DELLE MINIERE  
Mining Museum  
& Technological  
and Archeological Park  
of the Metalliferous Hills  
Massa Marittima (Grosseto)  
A few minutes walk from the  
Piazza del Duomo in Massa  
Marittima. The museum  
covers about 700m of the old  
tunnels that run through the  
travertine of the hill on  
which the city is built. These  
tunnels are in part natural  
while others were dug in the  
Middle Ages to quarry the  
stone needed for building.  
The museum was set up by  
ex miners who recreated their  
working environment. In the  
Mining Museum you can  
book guided tours of Massa  
Marittima.  
Piazza Dante, 35  
Grosseto  
Tel. 0564484343  
LAT: 43.04672  
LONG: 10.88618  
[www.parcocollinemetallifere.it](http://www.parcocollinemetallifere.it)



## ☛ 1ST WEEKEND IN DECEMBER CALICI D'INVERNO

Winter Chalices

Massa Marittima (Grosseto)

Three days are dedicated to the local specialties  
of the Monteregio area, with an emphasis on  
wine and olive oil.

The town organizes exhibitions, classes and  
guided tastings.

[www.massamarittima.info](http://www.massamarittima.info)



Remember that during the summer, on the 10<sup>th</sup>  
of August all over Tuscany, the event *Calici di  
Stelle* a celebration of wines under the summer  
sky takes place in many country farmhouses.  
This night, called the *Notte di San Lorenzo*  
(**Night of San Lorenzo**), is famous because it  
is said to be the night of the shooting stars; but  
now it seems that it is better the following  
night! For many centuries, the Festival of San  
Lorenzo has been celebrated in Florence on the  
10th of August. The basilica and the surround-  
ing area (both named after San Lorenzo) were  
the scene of magnificent celebrations involving  
the whole city.

After exhibiting the Saint's relics in the church,  
decorated for the occasion, a mass was cele-  
brated and a blessing was given to the city.

The Medici family held San Lorenzo in such  
high esteem that they chose his church as a  
mausoleum for their family.

In renaissance Florence the bakers were very  
fond of this saint and his festival, having chosen  
San Lorenzo who died on the gridiron as their

patron saint. There is a fresco in the Orsan-  
michele church from the end of the fourteenth  
century that portrays San Lorenzo with the  
symbol of the Guild of the Bakers. Many bak-  
ers worked in the area of San Lorenzo, deco-  
rating their shops with bread made in fanciful  
shapes, and pasta makers prepared thin pasta  
that was cut into large strips with a crimped  
edge: *lasagne* but they were actually *pappardelle*.

A Chianti delicacy born of the collaboration of  
Giovanni Fabbri and the Pruneti farmhouse,  
are the Pappardelle di San Lorenzo, durum  
wheat semolina pasta hand-processed, drawn  
through bronze and dried slowly at tempera-  
tures below 38°C.

## ☛ DECEMBER 8 MERCATINO AMERICANO DI NATALE

American Christmas Market

Florence

One of the most famous holiday markets, or-  
ganized by the American International League  
of Florence, this one takes place on December  
8 in the Pagliere Medicee located on viale  
Machiavelli near Porta Romana. All proceeds  
go to charity.

[www.ailoflorence.org](http://www.ailoflorence.org)

☛ FIRST 20 DAYS  
in DEC.

IL MERCATINO  
DI HEIDELBERG  
German Christmas  
Market

Florence

Piazza Santa Croce fills with  
stands hosting one of Ger-  
many's oldest markets, where  
you can find Christmas tree  
decorations and Nativity  
scenes, traditional foods,  
spiced wine, beer, wurst, and  
sweets in a festive atmos-  
phere.

Concerts and other perform-  
ances accompany the mar-  
ket.

[www.florence.net](http://www.florence.net)



## PARRINA

There is a pecorino with pomace, better known as *panettone Parrina* (it looks like a typical Italian Christmas cake) which is a ripened cheese made with the milk that you find at the end of the lactating period, richer in proteins and fat, and therefore finer and tastier.

The cheese is ready for consumption during the Christmas period! The Pecorino with pomace is for great occasions and reflects Parrina's soul: a ripened cheese of high-quality lity, aged in carefully selected precious grape skins.

Via Aurelia km 146  
Loc. Parrina, Albinia  
(Grosseto)  
Tel. 0564862626  
LAT: 42.49151  
LONG: 11.24799  
www.parrina.it

## BEST TUSCAN PANETTONI & PANDORI Typical Christmas Cakes



## AL DOLCE FORNO

Great experience in working with mother dough over 65 years old plus selected ingredients (e.g. vanilla pods from Madagascar Presidio Slow Food) go to produce two types of *panettone*, classic, with orange peel and sultanas, and *La Molina* with dark chocolate. One of the new names in craft chocolate making in Tuscany, La Molina, like Dolce Forno is owned by the brothers Massimiliano and Riccardo Lunardi and Alessandro Paiano who have a detailed mention in the section dedicated to chocolate.

Via di Lucciano, 33/39  
Quarrata (Pistoia)  
Tel. 0573738657

LAT: 43.82115 – LONG: 11.02958  
www.lamolina.it

## CORSINI

Quality and quantity go together, an example to admire and follow. Corsini di Casteldelpiano, among the woods and green country of Monte Amiata, overlooking the Maremma Toscana, offers a range of panettoni, among which the excellent traditional, and the wonderful chocolate variety (other flavours are apricot, cherry, chestnut, amarena).

The large variety of cookies and the specialties of the Corsini family are bound to the tradi-

tions of Tuscany and in every occasion they represent the delight of Tuscan good living. *Panettone* and *pandoro* are made with the care that goes into all their products.

Via Cellane, 9

Castel del Piano (Grosseto)

Tel. 0564956787/0564956044

LAT: 42.88560 - LONG: 11.52999

www.corsinibiscotti.com

## SIGNORINI

PASTRY SHOP in Prato **SIGNORINI**

This pastry shop is well known in the surroundings of Prato thanks to its excellent production of hand-made cakes.

The *Prelibato*, a variant of the classic panettone with candied orange and sultanas, is delicious. It has an unusual colour (darker than the classic one), and a unique flavour due to the natural dough flavored with hazelnut and gianduia pastes.

It is enriched with dark chocolate (50%) drops and marinated black cherries.

Via S. Martino per Galceti, 36  
(Prato North, San Martino area)  
Tel. 0574464997

LAT: 43.89841 – LONG: 11.09804  
www.signoriniluca.com

IL CANTUCCIO  
DI FEDERIGO

Here you'll find the most authentic and delicious panettone of Tuscany! (check SAN MINIATO) Via Paolo Maioli, 67 San Miniato (Pisa) Tel. 0571418344 Lat: 43.68022 Long: 10.85780 ilcantucciodefederigo.com

**Buying Cheese**  
**in Torrita di Siena**  
 COVERI FARMHOUSE  
 Cheese makers producing  
 great pecorino using un-  
 pasteurised milk from the  
 province of Siena, pecorino  
 from the Senese hills,  
*pecorino matured in walnut*  
*leaves, raviggiolo and ricotto*  
*from Tuscan ewes' milk.*  
**Loc. Caselle, 141**  
**Torrita di Siena (Siena)**  
**Tel. 0577685439**  
**LAT: 43.21068**  
**LONG: 11.80029**

*Cavolo - Cabbage:*  
*in season October through April*

During the winter season  
 typical appetizers on a classic  
 Tuscan menu are the deli-  
 cious

**FETTE COL CAVOLO**  
**NERO**  
**Boiled Cabbage served on**  
**Toasted Bread, Olive Oil**  
**and Pepper**

*Fruit in December*  
*Orange, Citron, Kiwi Fruit, Lemon,*  
*Mandarin, Apple, Medlar, Hazelnut,*  
*Grapefruit*

## ☞ MID-DECEMBER ARTISTI NEI BORGHİ

Food & Wine Festival  
*Torrita di Siena (Siena)*  
 Artisans, hobbyists, and local producers gather  
 in Christmas spirit with tastings, decorations,  
 and more in a magical atmosphere complete  
 with singing, games, and an appearance by  
 Santa Claus. Stands line the streets of the his-  
 toric centre with delicacies that include holiday  
 sweets, fresh and dried fruit, wine and local  
 liqueurs, cheese, olive oil, truffles and preserves.  
[www.comune.torrita.siena.it](http://www.comune.torrita.siena.it)

## CAVOLO NERO RICCIO DI TOSCANA Black Cabbage

A typical winter vegetable, the  
 curly black cabbage of Tus-  
 cany is so-called because it has  
 dark green leaves with lighter veins.  
 Their surface is very rough, being covered with  
 large bubbles. It's in season between October  
 and March in the provinces of Florence and  
 Arezzo and has become a traditional vegetable  
 thanks to the particular mode of cultivation.



The Tuscan black cabbage is a local species and  
 is linked mainly to the poor peasant cuisine  
 where it was used to make the typical *ribollita*,  
 or bread soup, and today it is one of the ingre-  
 dients used in classic Tuscan cooking.



## DECEMBER RECIPE

### FARINATA DI CAVOLO NERO, INFARINATA ALLA GARFAGNANA Thick Soup with Black Cabbage

200 gr. yellow polenta flour  
 350 gr. butter (borlotti) beans or dried beans)  
 one red onion, one clove garlic, chili pepper (optional)  
 one good size black cabbage, 2 tablespoons tomato  
 puree, 1 sausage or 100 gr. salted streaky bacon or lardo  
 olive oil, salt & pepper



Boil the beans in 1 litre of cold water or stock (check  
 out FAGIOLI ALL'UCCELLETTO). When cooked,  
 pass half the beans through a vegetable mill and mix  
 the puree with the cooking liquid. Put the other half  
 aside. Then, over a low heat, fry the chopped garlic and  
 the sausage (for best results use a terracotta pot on an  
 old-fashioned range) and when the onion is lightly  
 browned add the tomato, salt and pepper and cook for  
 10 minutes. Pour this mixture into the saucepan with  
 the bean puree and bring to the boil, at which point  
 add the cabbage leaves without the stalks or hard veins  
 and cut into strips. Cook for 30 minutes and then  
 sprinkle into the mixture, a little at a time, the yellow  
 flour. Stir continuously to avoid lumps. Cook, stirring  
 continuously for half an hour. Last of all add the  
 remaining cooked beans.

### Tasty Tidbit

This is the method for making brizzolina and bordatino  
 and is the method followed in Lucca. Once cold, it  
 can be sliced and heated in  
 the oven or fried until it turns golden brown.  
 The sailors would prepare a rather liquid polenta  
 known as bordatino. In Florence, there is a typical  
 dish called FARINATA FIORENTINA, a savoury  
 polenta pancake with collard greens.





## MANUFACTURE OF TEXTILES OF PRATO AREA

Ever since the 12th century, the city of Prato has been famous for the manufacture of textiles particularly woollen cloth, although it was only with the advent of industrialization in the mid-19th century that the area developed a real system of industrial production. Prato textile district is now famous for specially designed textiles which it supplies to a wide range of markets. With about 7,000 companies employing over 40,000 workers in the production of over 70,000 new items and approximately 350 million metres of fabric for clothing, furnishings and technical uses, Prato is currently one of the most important textile manufacturing areas in Europe.



## JANUARY EVENTS

### ART, CRAFTS & MUSIC EVENTS

#### END OF JANUARY PITTI IMMAGINE

Fashion Fair  
*Florence*

One of the year's major fashion dates, the city comes to life with thousands of visitors, fashion shows and parties all around the city for Pitti Uomo (men's collections), Pitti W (women's precollections) and Pitti Bimbo (children's collections).  
[www.pittimagine.com](http://www.pittimagine.com)

#### MUSEO DEL TESSUTO

Prato Textile Museum  
Prato

The Textile Museum of Prato is one of the most important centres in Italy for the study, enhancement and exhibition of textile heritage. It is housed in the Cimatoria Campolmi & C, an extraordinary example of industrial architecture of the XIX and XX century, near the city centre. The building, a complex 8.500 square meters wide, originally used to finish raw fabrics, is the symbol of the Prato textile manufacturing story and also houses the city library.



The whole architectural complex is built around a rectangular courtyard where a water tank and a tall brick chimney built in 1896 stand.

The Museum exhibits a collection of textiles fragments with examples from ancient Peru (pre-Columbian), Egypt (Coptic fabrics), as well as from Italy, Europe, Middle and Far East, India, China, Japan etc., dating from XIV to XX centuries. An introductory area with a "touch and feel" exhibition of fibres helps visitors to understand the complex process of textile production.

Very interesting are also the sections dedicated to local production, whose origin goes back to the Middle Age.

The textile production represents today the most important economic activity of the area and the museum offers the possibility to see a selection of contemporary fabrics, produced by companies in Prato, for the most important international fashion designers and firms.

The Museum organizes temporary exhibitions, guided tours and activities such as practical workshops for adults and families.

Via Santa Chiara, 24

Prato

Tel. 0574611503

LAT: 43.87739

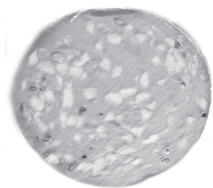
LONG: 11.09852

[www.museodeltessuto.it](http://www.museodeltessuto.it)





## MORTADELLA



Mortadella di Prato is a typical product of this Tuscan city. It's origins go back a long way to when it was a poor man's salame, made from the meat that wasn't good enough for finocchiona or other second rate meats which were then highly spiced with black peppercorns, salt, crushed garlic, coriander, cinnamon, cloves and flavoured with alkermes.



A Special Thanks to  
Mr. Gigess for his  
pratese point of view

## PRATO

LAT: 43.87969 – LONG: 11.09631

The history of Prato goes back to the Palaeolithic age, documented by archaeological discoveries. However, the first real settlements and territorial organisation was Etruscan. Then came the Romans who founded a walled city called *Pagus Cornius* where the Cathedral of Santo Stefano now stands. This basilica is a splendid example Romanesque-gothic architecture with a facade built in the stone known as *Prato Green Marble* and a pulpit by Donatello. After the Romans came the Lombard. In the 11th century the Alberti counts received the imperial investiture as Counts of Prato. Prato became a free Comune, and the years and centuries that followed were marked by wars against the neighbouring cities of Florence and Pistoia, plundering and plague. Like all Tuscan cities, Prato has a great heritage of art and architecture such as Castello dell'Imperatore, Palazzo Datini, beautiful churches and great art. Naturally the city owes its current affluence and its place as Tuscany's second city to its textile industry.

## BISCOTTI DI PRATO OR CANTUCCI DI PRATO

The original and real *cantucci* are large, dry cookies made with flour, water, salt, olive oil, sugar and flavoured with aniseed. They're cooked in loaves then sliced and toasted. These cookies are part of the traditional and poor desserts similar to *ciambelle al mosto* and *maritozzi marchigiani*. These cantucci were the pride and joy of the famous Antonio Mattei bakery and to this day the antique sign from the 1800's above the storefront states '*fabbricante di cantucci*' (cantucci makers). The misinterpretation between the two types of cookies is recent and probably due to the loss of interest in the original cantucci after the Second World War when the richer and more robust *biscotto di Prato* made with eggs, almonds and hazelnuts became popular.

## BISCOTTI DI PRATO Almond Cookies from Prato

These almond cookies are commonly served after dinner with the dessert wine *vinsanto* (holy wine).

*I had a free passage on an elegant coach and soon came to Prato where I arrived in very good humour since I also saved the money for the trip. For this reason I did not think it was necessary to hurry. First of all I went to a friend of mine who lived near the city hall. You do know how famous the biscotti di Prato are! My friend manufactured them and made a good business. On that day, in celebration of the holiday, he suspended his work and was very happy to be in such a pleasant company. We had some coffee in his garden and chattered a lot (...) the biscuits arrived and a bag with other good things, too...*

From 'Dall'Italia', Hermann Hesse



Biscotti di Prato dipped in vinsanto are the perfect way to finish a Tuscan dinner.

There is also the story that tells of two nuns, in 1875, from Mantova on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee who were given hospitality by Antonio Mattei and to thank him they gave him the recipe for the cake from their own city... the Torta Mantovana.

To reach the shop take highway A11 (Firenze-Mare, direction Genova-Livorno) and exit at Prato Est. Follow directions for Prato centre. Via Bettino Ricasoli, 20/22 Prato  
Tel. 057425756  
LAT: 43.92158  
LONG: 11.04553  
www.antoniomattei.it



ANTONIO MATTEI & its Biscotti di Prato  
There are many different brands of excellent can-tucci but by far our favorite brand is Mattei di Prato. Antonio Mattei started making biscuits in 1858. For the last three generations the Pandolfini family, who continue to make the fragrant and tasty *biscotti di Prato*, has run the business. Entering the shop is an experience. You feel the history and smell the delicacies of the bakery; it's just incredible...order your *biscotti di Prato* or the *brutti ma buoni*, not so nice to look at (*brutto*), but delicious (*buoni*) cookies made with almonds. Also delicious is the *Mantovana*, a soft cake made with butter and fresh eggs covered with chopped almonds, and the *Filone Candito*, a candied strip stuffed with glacé cherries and covered with a thin layer of marzipan or simply their wide choice of wonderful cookies.



### TopTasty Tidbit part

These biscuits, with their bright blue bags, can be bought directly from their producer in Prato. Mattei cookies are also called Mattonella. The origin of this name, for which the shop has become famous, is unknown. It may possibly be a hint about the consistency of the biscuit itself! However the most probable explanation is that it refers to the shop's 1920's brick façade. Passers by, noticing the exotic *mattonelle* (bricks), referred to the bakery and its products by this name.

## PESCHE DI PRATO

### Prato Peaches

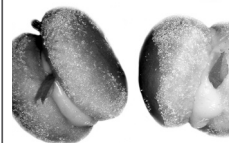
These were made for the festa of the Madonna in the summer when people went on a pilgrimage to the shrine in Miliano (above Galliciano). They were good for the occasion because they didn't spoil and so were just right for a picnic.

These little cakes are also made in Galliciano, a village in the Serchio valley. The recipe is very similar but the 'Galliciano peaches' are filled with cherry or apricot jam rather than cream or custard.



The best Pesche di Prato can be found at this Pastry shop in the main centre of the town:

NUOVO MONDO  
PASTRY SHOP  
Via Giuseppe Garibaldi, 23  
Prato  
Tel. 057427765



### Excellent Breakfast in Prato

#### SIGNORINI PASTRY SHOP in Prato

Breakfast is the pride and joy in this pastry shop. They serve up a plethora of pastries, cookies and cakes ready to be devoured alongside a warm cappuccino or espresso coffee.

The *polendini*, *fettuccina di prato*, *scoppiettoni*, *pepita al cioccolato*, *cantuccini alle mandorle* (with almonds), *al cioccolato* (with chocolate), *alla farina di castagne* (chestnut flour), *brutti buoni*, *torta all'olio d'oliva* (made with olive oil produced on the family's estate) are all excellent and strictly hand made in the shop.

Via S. Martino per Galceti, 36 (Prato)  
Tel. 0574464997

LAT: 43.89841

LONG: 11.09804

www.signoriniluca.com



### Buying Honey in Prato LA BOTTEGA DEL MIELE

La Bottega del Miele produces delicious organic chestnut, wildflower and acacia honeys and fresh pollen, an excellent source of protein and hand made bees wax candles.

Via G. Giralda, 16 Cantagallo  
(Prato)  
Tel. 0574933157  
LAT: 44.0214

LONG: 11.08040



## LE PAVONIERE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB – Poggio a Caiano, Prato

Twenty years on and the Pavoniere Golf and Country club is an important part of the regional and national scene with five hundred members who regularly use the club for golf, relaxation or for business lunches.



The club has 18 holes, 72par over 6137m. The course designed by Arnold Palmer combines technical consistency and great views which allows the golfer to play a round that is both relaxing and competitive.

The club offers all the facilities of a top-class golf and country club, including an excellent restaurant. Open all year round.

(Closed on working Mondays)

Via Traversa il Crocifisso

Prato

Tel. 0574620855

**LAT: 43.84765**

**LONG: 11.06331**

[www.golfclublepavoniere.com](http://www.golfclublepavoniere.com)

## END OF JANUARY BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY VINTAGE SELECTION

Vintage Fashion Fair

*Florence*

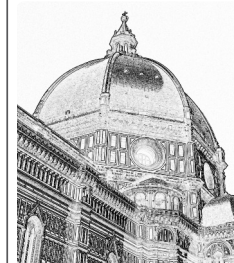
Held in the former train station, Stazione Leopolda, this fair was created for vintage clothing, accessories and designer objects; frequented by a large public of collectors and enthusiasts alike, fashion designers and style offices.

[www.stazione-leopolda.com](http://www.stazione-leopolda.com)

## FIRENZE, FLORENCE

**LAT: 43.76901 – LONG: 11.25034**

The origins of the word *Florence* are a bit uncertain. Discussions as to its origin were already underway in the 1500s. For example, goldsmith and sculptor, Benvenuto Cellini stated that the name was derived from Fiorinus, one of Julius Caesar's generals. Benedetto Archie, on the other hand, traced the origins to the flowers that grew along the Arno. If this was true, then the word Florence originated from the word floris or fiore and thus would mean *City of Flowers*. The coat of arms for Florence was an *Argent a fleur-de-lys flory gules*. The Florentine fleur-de-lys has a particular shape, which is usually indicated as *flory*, but not easily described. The fleur-de-lys design appears throughout the centuries dating as far back as Mesopotamia. It's essentially a stylized flower design and is recognized most often as an iris flower. This flower had strong religious connotations in the 14th century. It represented the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Ghost). In Florence, some suggest that the fleur-de-lys has its origins in the white iris that grows in the Arno valley. The first Florentine flag was a white flower on a purple background, but after the defeat of the Ghibellini, the Guelfi switched the colours of the flag and made the background white and the iris flower purple. The same design was used for the fiorino (florin), the gold coin minted in 1252.



## FIORINO

### The Florin

The *florin*, historical gold coin and symbol of the city, will be featured on the special medal of the xxv edition of the Florence marathon.

Indeed, a gilded reproduction of the prestigious coinage of the Florentine republic will be set in the heart of the medal awarded to all those who cross the finishing line, thus becoming part of the recent series representing important Florentine monuments and events.

The florin was first minted in Florence in 1252.

This gold sequin coin originally weighing 3, 54 grams, featured a lily, heraldic symbol of the city on the obverse side and the effigy of Saint John the Baptist, patron saint of Florence, on the reverse side.



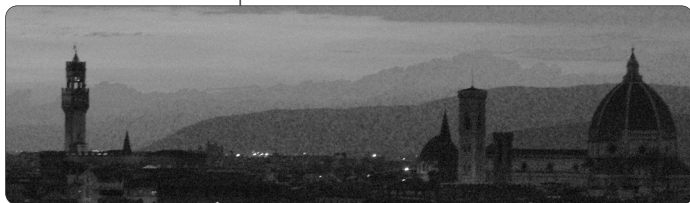
**DAVID****The symbol of Florence**

The statue of David by Michelangelo represents the greatest innovation in iconographic tradition in the 1500s. He chose to represent David as a young man and a hero, but not armoured and battle-ready or revelling in bloody victory, but in a relaxed pose, naked and in anticipation of battle with his gigantic foe Goliath. The statue symbolizes Florence, a young state but strong and heroic, beautiful to look at, but containing a latent power ready to be unleashed on larger more powerful states.

The original work is now preserved in the Galleria dell'Accademia while the statue outside Palazzo Vecchio is a 19th century copy (there is also a very fine bronze copy in the Piazzale Michelangelo).

The Romans founded Florence as a strategic base at the point where the Mugnone and the Arno Rivers converge. In Roman times the square shaped centre was enclosed by walls 2 km or about 1-¼ miles long. At the threshold of the 13th century, the city had expanded so much that a new wall was built, which extended the walls another 4 km. Two hundred years later, that same wall stretched to 10 km as another extension to the fortification was added.

In the time of Dante, Florence was already a busy commercial metropolis, where textiles like wool, silk and leather were skillfully crafted. The Medici and the Speziali families set the cultural trends in the city. Banking, notary and lawyer entrepreneurship further established the metropolis as a centre of business in the region. The rise of the Medici family, with its roots in finance and commercial enterprise, was intertwined with the history of this city. It is under the Medici rule that Florence was transformed into the bastion of art and culture, for which it is known today.



**Finest Daily Accommodation in Florence:  
HOTELS, B&B'S  
AND APARTMENTS**

Florence centre, Duomo area  
**LE STANZE DI CATERINA**  
Via dello Studio, 12 - Florence  
LAT: 43.77228 - LONG: 11.25681  
[www.lestanzedicaterina.com](http://www.lestanzedicaterina.com)



Florence centre, San Lorenzo area  
**FLORENCE DREAM DOMUS**  
Via Ginori, 26 - Florence  
Tel. 055295346  
LAT: 43.76898 - LONG: 11.25789  
[www.florencedream.it](http://www.florencedream.it)

Florence centre & Fiesole Hill  
**FLORENCE HOTELS, Fh Hotels**  
**HOTEL CALZAIUOLI\*\*\*\***  
**GRAND HOTEL MEDITERRANEO\*\*\*\***  
**HOTEL VILLA FIESOLE\*\*\*\***  
**GRAND HOTEL PALATINO\*\*\*\***  
Fh Hotels  
Tel. 055660241  
[www.fh-hotels.com](http://www.fh-hotels.com)

Florence centre  
**FOUR SEASONS FIRENZE**  
Borgo Pinti, 99  
Tel. 05526261  
[www.fourseasons.com/florence](http://www.fourseasons.com/florence)



**FOUR SEASONS HOTEL**  
*Firenze*

**J.K.**  
**PLACE**  
**FIRENZE**

J.K. PLACE  
Piazza Santa Maria  
Novella, 7  
Florence  
Tel. 0552645181  
LAT: 43.77295  
LONG: 11.24952  
[www.jkplace.com](http://www.jkplace.com)



**PALAZZO VECCHIETTI**  
SUITES AND STUDIOS IN FIRENZE

**PALAZZO VECCHIETTI**  
Via degli Strozzi, 4  
Florence  
Tel. 0552302802  
[www.palazzovecchietti.com](http://www.palazzovecchietti.com)  
LAT: 43.77150  
LONG: 11.25334



The Florentine  
hillside (Florence)  
VILLA  
IL SALVIATINO  
Via del Salviatino, 21  
Florence  
Tel. 0559041111  
LAT: 43.78599  
LONG: 11.29517  
www.salviatino.com

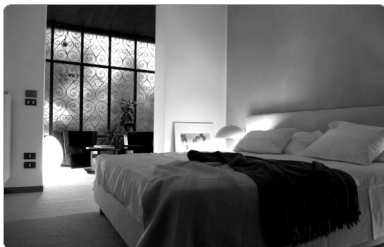
The Florentine  
hillside (Certosa)  
MARIGNOLLE RELAIS  
Via San Quirichino, 16  
Florence  
Tel. 0552286910  
LAT: 43.73935  
LONG: 11.25549  
www.marignolle.com



The Florentine  
hillside (Bagno a Ripoli)  
VILLA IL SASSO  
Via di Belmonte, 27  
Bagno a Ripoli (Florence)  
Tel. 055643845  
LAT: 43.72623  
LONG: 11.30967  
www.relaisvillailsasso.com

Florence centre & Poggio Imperiale Hill  
WHY THE BEST HOTELS  
GRAND HOTEL VILLA CORA  
HOTEL SANTA MARIA NOVELLA  
HOTEL L'OROLOGIO  
HOTEL BALESTRI  
HOTEL ROSSO 23  
HOTEL UNIVERSO  
Why The Best Hotels: Pza Santa Maria Novella 1  
Florence  
Tel. 055271840  
info@wtbhotels.com

The Florentine Poggio Imperiale Hill (Florence)  
CASADIMINA  
Viale E. Torricelli, 17-19 Florence  
Tel. 3284658003



LAT: 43.75367 - LONG: 11.24728  
www.casadiminaflorence.com

Florence - 2 km from the centre (Fiesole)  
VILLA SAN MICHELE  
Via Doccia, 4  
Fiesole (Florence)  
Tel. 0555678200  
LAT: 43.80250 - LONG: 11.29797  
www.villasanmichele.com

**Finest Weekly & Beyond Accommodation  
in Florence: PRIVATE VILLAS & PRIVATE  
APARTMENTS in Town**

The Florentine hillside (Via Bolognese)  
VILLA L'ACACIA  
Via Bolognese Vecchia, 182  
Florence  
Tel. 335232092/3402992832  
LAT: 43.73935 - LONG: 11.25549  
www.firenzedreaming.com

Florence centre, Palazzo Pitti area  
PALAZZO BELFIORE  
Via dei Velluti, 8  
Florence  
Tel. 055264415/611115  
LAT: 43.76898 - LONG: 11.25789  
www.residencebelfiore.it

Florence centre, Palazzo Signoria area  
MEZZANINO TOWER APARTMENT  
Via de' Magazzini, 5  
Florence  
LAT: 43.76898 - LONG: 11.25789  
www.communicart.it



Florence centre  
Piazza Signoria area  
SIGNORIA  
APARTMENTS  
Via della Condotta, 16  
Florence  
Cel. 3470187993  
LAT: 43.77026  
LONG: 11.25579  
www.signoriaapartments.com



Photo made by Dave Yoder

Florence centre, SMN area  
**PALAZZO ARRIGHETTI APARTMENT**  
 Via de' Fossi, 4  
 Florence  
**LAT: 43.76898**  
**LONG: 11.25789**  
[www.weekinflorence.it](http://www.weekinflorence.it)

Florence centre, San Niccolò area  
**LUNGARNO SERRISTORI APARTMENT**  
 Lungarno Serristori, 31  
 Florence  
 Tel. 3358166810  
**LAT: 43.76898**  
**LONG: 11.25789**  
[www.communicart.it](http://www.communicart.it)



Florence centre, Ponte Vecchio area  
**UFFIZI APARTMENT**  
 Via dei Bardi, 50  
 Florence  
**LAT: 43.76898**  
**LONG: 11.25789**  
[www.communicart.it](http://www.communicart.it)  
 Tel. 0552020151  
**LAT: 43.68540**  
**LONG: 11.21407**

## Spas & Thermal Baths in Florence



**SOULSPACE**  
 A magic place just a few steps away from the Duomo of Florence. Soul Space also offers treatments based on natural products of the land like olive oil, wine and chocolate to create sweet treatments for your body and soul. Ritual day spa, aqua journey, warm indoor pool, exfoliating and smoothing Turkish bath, spa lounge, books and music aroma, soul ritual massage, massage with essential oil from natural fruit, flowers and natural extracts.  
 Via Sant'Egidio, 12  
 Florence  
 Tel. 0552001794  
**LAT: 43.77199 – LONG: 11.26156**  
[www.soulspace.it](http://www.soulspace.it)

**TROPOS**  
 Via Orcagna, 20 a  
 Florence  
 Tel. 055679746  
[www.troposclub.it](http://www.troposclub.it)

**VIRGIN ACTIVE FLORENCE**  
 4 F's: Fun, Family, Friends and Feeling Good  
 Via Generale dalla Chiesa, 11  
 Florence  
 Tel. 800914555  
[www.virginactive.it](http://www.virginactive.it)

**TERME DI FIRENZE**  
 Via Cassia, 217  
 Località Terme di Firenze  
 Impruneta (Florence)



**YOGA SANCTUARY**  
 in the heart of Florence  
 Experience the peace and tranquillity of private yoga sessions, suitable for individuals or small groups, given in an air-conditioned studio in a private garden within the San Frediano district of old Florence (a 5 minute walk from the Santo Spirito Church). Michela, a certified yoga teacher with extensive international experience, will personally tailor sessions to your personal needs and abilities to ensure that your session is a memorable one.  
**Private Yoga Sessions by Michela Pacini**  
 Piazza Piattellina, 2  
[www.yogaflorence.com](http://www.yogaflorence.com)



## VILLA DEMIDOFF

Around the villa there is a vast and grand English garden with sculptures of gods, animals, monsters and giants, caves and caverns.

The Colossus of the Apennines is impressive, a representation of the giant from the mountains who became a hero by killing the dragon. Inside the cave there were once fountains and statues brought to life by the falling water.

Via Fiorentina, 276

Vaglia (Florence)

Tel. 055409427

LAT: 43.85962

LONG: 11.29812

## Interesting Gardens in Florence BOBOLI GARDENS

The enormous size of this garden is the result of the union of the Pitti Garden with the ample open space next to the palace, acquired in 1549 by Elenor of Toledo, wife of Duke Cosimo I of the Medici family.

The cypress avenue was built in the 17th century, and at the same time citrus and other flowering trees were placed around the Ocean fountain, an intense sculpture meant to underscore Florence's new power over the port city of Livorno.

When the Great dukedom passed on to Asburgo-Lorena in the 18th century, restoration and further work was done, such as the creation of the Limonaia, the Palazzina della Meridiana, and the botanical garden.

This magical garden is crowned with sculptures referring to Greek and Roman mythology. The admirable feat of building the majestic amphitheatre was done in the 17th century along with the stairs. The granite bathtub came from the Baths of Caracalla and the Egyptian obelisk is from Luxor.

Piazza Pitti, 1  
Florence

LAT: 43.76463

LONG: 11.250514

[www.firenzemusei.it/boboli](http://www.firenzemusei.it/boboli)



## ORTO BOTANICO GIARDINO DEI SEMPLICI

Botanical gardens (Medicinal Herb Garden)  
The Botanical Garden of Florence, known as the 'Giardino dei Semplici', began as a garden of medicinal plants, and was completed on December 1, 1545, under Cosimo I de' Medici. It is the third oldest in the world. About two years before, Cosimo had founded the Botanical Garden of Pisa, the first example of a university Botanical Garden. The Garden experienced a period of great splendour towards the end of the 16th century when it was enriched it with many rare plants. The Florentine garden's heyday began in the early 18th century when the addition of ornamental as well as medicinal plants made it world famous and over the last 300 years it has grown in prestige and importance.

Via Pier Antonio Micheli, 3 - Florence

Tel. 0552757402/0552346760

(guided tour booking)

LAT: 43.77918

LONG: 11.26114

[www.msn.unifi.it](http://www.msn.unifi.it)

## Antique Markets in Florence

Piazza Santo Spirito

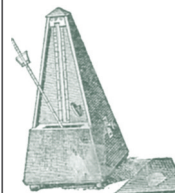
Antique Fair:

Piazza Santo Spirito,

2nd Sunday of the month, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Mercato delle Pulci

Flea Market: Piazza dei Ciampi, last Sunday of the month



Near the square look for PAOLO CARANDINI's store with his thematic boxes in parchment and calf leather.

Borgo Allegri, 17 r

Tel. 055245397

[www.paolocarandini.com](http://www.paolocarandini.com)

Fortezza Antiquaria:

Fortezza da Basso,

3rd weekend of the month

## Golf Clubs in Florence

### GOLF CLUB PARCO DI FLORENCE

A 9-hole course at the Golf Club Parco di Florence able to hold international competitions only a few minutes from the city centre. The Golf Club Parco di Florence is located within the city limits, only 4 Kms. from Piazza del Duomo.



**Milk Producer in Florence**

MUKKI LATTE  
Via dell'Olmatello, 20  
Florence  
Tel. 05545971111  
Lat: 43.80501  
Long: 11.21801  
www.mukki.it

**SANTO SPIRITO  
MARKET**

*Piazza Santo Spirito*  
(Mon- Sat a.m. only)  
A small open market ideal for  
fruit and vegetables in front of  
Santo Spirito church.

Coming from Porta a Prato cross the Vittoria  
Bridge and turn immediately right following  
the course of the Arno for 3 Kms. Follow the  
GOLF signs.

Via dell'Isolotto, 10  
Florence  
Tel. 055785627

**LAT: 43.78610**

**LONG: 11.20289**

www.parcodifirenze.it

**Food Markets in Florence****SAN LORENZO MARKET**

*Piazza San Lorenzo, Via dell'Ariento*  
(Open Mon.-Sat., mornings only)

A covered market with butchers, fishmongers,  
delicatessens, grocers, and a splendid fruit and  
vegetable market. There is also the outdoor  
market selling clothing, leather goods, and sou-  
venirs. (Closed Monday)

**SANT'AMBROGIO MARKET**

*Piazza Ghiberti (Mon-Sat, mornings only)*

Sant' Ambrogio was the wholesale fruit and  
vegetable market until 1955 when the large  
new one was built on the outskirts of the city.  
Today, you can buy meat, fish, and cheese. It  
also boasts a great little restaurant, Rocco. Out-  
doors, under a roof extension, fruit and veg-  
etable stalls are intermingled with plant, fresh  
flower, and household item stalls. You can even  
find local farmers selling their own products on  
the far side of the market!

**CASCINE MARKET**

*Cascine Park (Tuesday mornings only)*

An amazing 1-kilometer long market that runs  
along the banks of the Arno. Selling clothing,  
leather goods, footwear, fruit, vegetables, flow-  
ers, and household goods.

**MERCATO NUOVO**

*Logge del Porcellino*

The Mercato nuovo (New Market) was built  
by the grand duke Cosimo. The original mar-  
ket closed down in 1548 but right smack in  
the middle of the loggia a very particular detail  
has remained: a marble disk with the words  
'*Ostendendo putenda, et percutiendo lapidem culo  
nudo*'. Any merchant who failed to perform  
their proper duties towards the prosperous and  
business oriented city of Florence was spanked  
3 times on their bottom! A very strange pun-  
ishment but considering the shame they  
brought upon the city...

**MERCATO DELLE PIANTE  
THE PLANT MARKET**

*Loggiati di Via Pellicceria,*  
*Thurs. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.*

**MERCATO ORTOFRUTTICOLO  
DI NOVOLI**

*Viale Guidoni, open to the public:*  
*Tues.-Thurs. 10-11 a.m., Sat. 9-10 a.m.*  
Wholesale fruit and vegetable Market

### Organic Markets in Florence

Fierucola Del Pane:  
Piazza Santissima  
Annunziata, first weekend  
in September

Fierucola Dell'Immacolata:  
Piazza Santissima  
Annunziata, December 8

La Fierucolina:  
Piazza Santo Spirito (9  
a.m.-7 p.m.), third  
Sunday of every month  
An organic farmer's market  
with arts and crafts and book  
stands.

[www.lafierucola.org](http://www.lafierucola.org)

FIRENZE NOVA  
Via dei Benedetto, 122  
Tel. 055411937  
(Closed Sundays)

O'MUNACIELLO  
Via Maffia, 31 r  
Tel. 055287198  
(Closed Mondays)  
[www.munaciello.it](http://www.munaciello.it)

ROCCO  
E I SUOI FRATELLI  
Piazza Ravenna, 10  
Tel. 055685802  
(Closed Tuesdays)

### Food in Florence

#### High-End Restaurants in Florence

BUCA DELL'ORAFIO  
Via dei Girolami, 28 r  
Tel. 055213619

LA GIOSTRA CLUB  
Borgo Pinti, 12 r  
Tel. 055241341  
[www.ristorantelagiostra.com](http://www.ristorantelagiostra.com)

NOVE  
Lungarno Guicciardini, 10  
(Piazza degli Scarlatti)  
Tel. 0552302756  
[www.ristorantenove.it](http://www.ristorantenove.it)

SANT'AGOSTINO 23  
Via Sant'Agostino, 23  
Tel. 055210208

#### Pizza Restaurants in Florence

CAFFÈ ITALIANO  
Via Isola delle Stinche, 11  
Tel. 055289368

AMALFITANA  
Via della Mattonaia, 51 r  
Tel. 0552342401



### Tuscan Restaurants, Meat, Soups and Typical Florentine Gastronomic Specialities In Florence

CAMMILLO  
Borgo San Jacopo, 57r  
Tel. 055212427

CIBREO  
Via del Verrocchio, 8 r  
Tel. 0552341100  
[www.fabiopicchi.it](http://www.fabiopicchi.it)

I QUATTRO LEONI Trattoria  
Via Vellutini, 1 r  
Tel. 055218562  
[www.4leoni.com](http://www.4leoni.com)

IL CARMINE  
Piazza del Carmine, 18 r  
Tel. 055218601  
(Closed Sundays)

INO  
Via dei Georgofili, 3/7 r  
Tel. 055219208  
[www.ino-firenze.com](http://www.ino-firenze.com)  
(opening hours 11 am-5 pm always open)

Wine Bars in Florence  
COQUINARIUS  
Via delle Oche, 15 r  
Tel. 0552302153  
[coquinarius@tin.it](mailto:coquinarius@tin.it)



### PINZIMONIO Fresh Vegetables with Extra-Virgin Olive Oil

This is not a recipe, but a way of eating: it consists of dipping raw vegetables into a small cup of olive oil, salt, pepper and vinegar (or lemon). The origin of this word is unknown, but has been used in Tuscany since the Renaissance. It is very important to use fresh vegetables such as celery sticks, carrots, fennel, radishes, endives, peppers and artichokes. Wash the vegetables, cut into strips, and arrange them on a large platter and place in the centre of the table. Give each guest a small dish of seasoned olive oil. Then simply dip the vegetables in the extra-virgin olive oil. Serve accompanied by fresh white Tuscan bread and a good wine.

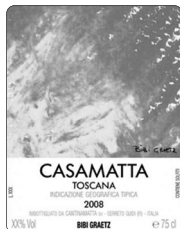
*Ravanelli - Radish:*  
*in season April through July*

*Sedano - Celery:*  
*in season June through August*

**BIBI GRAETZ**

Testamatta Wine

The wines currently produced at Vincigliata are *Testamatta* (*Crazy Head*, 100% Sangiovese), Sofficone di Vincigliata, Grilli del Testamatta, Bugia, Gigliese, Casamatta. Via di Vincigliata, 19 Fiesole (Florence)  
Tel. 055597222  
[www.bibigratz.com](http://bibigratz.com)  
<http://bibigratz.myblog.it>

**LE SORGENTI WINE ESTATE**

Via di Doccia, 8  
Vallina, Bagno a Ripoli  
(Florence)  
Tel. 055696004  
[www.fattoria-lesorgenti.com](http://www.fattoria-lesorgenti.com)

**PETRETO**

WINE ESTATE  
Via di Rosano, 196 a  
Bagno a Ripoli  
(Florence)  
Tel. 0556519021

**Enoteca****fuori porta****FUORIPIORTA**

Via Monte alle Croci, 10 r  
Tel. 0552342483  
[www.fuoriporta.it](http://www.fuoriporta.it)  
(open every day)

**LE VOLPI E L'UVA**

Piazza dei Rossi, 1 r  
Tel. 0552398132  
(Closed Sundays)

**SANTO BEVITORE & SANTINO**

Via Santo Spirito, 64/66 r  
Tel. 055211264  
[www.ilsantobevitore.com](http://www.ilsantobevitore.com)  
(Closed Sundays)

(For a complete list of our suggestions about Eating & Drinking in Florence, please check our guidebook concerning Florence)

**Buying Wine in Florence****ENOTECA BONATTI**

Florence is full of enoteche, wine bars and wine shops where you can purchase excellent wines and olive oil. But the Enoteca Bonatti has been around since 1934, and is run by wonderful people. The wines are divided by region, so it's easy to find the wine you are looking for. In the event, if you have difficulty deciding, the owners are ready with helpful advice.  
Via Gioberti, 66/68 r  
Tel. 055660050

**Buying Olive Oil in Florence****FATTORIA DI MORELLO**

Fattoria di Morello is situated in a lovely spot north of Florence, in the town of Sesto Fiorentino. It is easily accessible through the scenic road of the Colli Alti, connecting Sesto Fiorentino with Monte Morello.

Fattoria di Morello has belonged to the Ricceri family since the early 20th century and has preserved its cultural tradition of olive cultivation in all the different stages of farming.

The olive oil is usually made around November and comes from four varieties of olive trees: Frantoio, Moraiolo, Leccino and Pendolino. The Moraiolo variety, which makes up approximately 80% of the entire production, gives the olive oil a slightly spicy taste, a yellow color with deep green hues, and fresh aromas recalling apples and almonds.

Two hundred metres from the farm is the Bottega di Morello, a traditional restaurant offering typical Tuscan dishes prepared with olive oil from the farm.

Via del Poggolino, 1  
Sesto Fiorentino – Florence (Bivigliano area)  
Tel. 057469721

**LAT: 43.86782**

**LONG: 11.21987**

[www.fattoriadimorello.it](http://www.fattoriadimorello.it)

Tel. 057469721

Bottega di Morello (restaurant)

Tel. 0554489444

**BUONAMICI FARMHOUSE**

(check out **Buying Olive Oil in Fiesole**)

Via di Montebeni, 11  
Fiesole (Florence)  
Tel. 055654991

**LAT: 43.79297**

**LONG: 11.33059**

[www.buonamici.it](http://www.buonamici.it)

**Coffee Producers in Florence****I CAFFÈ DELLA TORREFAZIONE PIANSÀ**

UNA PICCOLA TORREFAZIONE PER GRANDI CAFFÈ

**CAFFÈ PIANSÀ**

Via Meucci, 1  
Bagno a Ripoli (Firenze)  
Tel. 055645774  
[www.caffepiansa.com](http://www.caffepiansa.com)

**JOLLY CAFFÈ**

Via di Vacciano, 9  
Bagno a Ripoli (Firenze)  
Tel. 055645588  
[www.jollycaffe.it](http://www.jollycaffe.it)

### Parco delle Cascine

Le Cascine, Florence's great park, was originally part of the land bought by Alessandro and Cosimo I as a game reserve and dairy farm. The name cascine comes from the wooden ring used to press the milk curds used in making cheese. The estate was famed for its rare plants and scientific experiments, which were encouraged by the Medici family. When the grand duchy passed from the Medici to the Lorena Le Cascine was still a rural area but gradually became more accessible to the public on special occasions. The park was acquired by the City of Florence in 1869. During the 20th century sporting facilities were developed, particularly a hippodrome and tennis courts.

**LAT:** 43.77711  
**LONG:** 11.23243

### Outlets in and around Florence

#### BP STUDIO FACTORY OUTLET

Luxury Knitwear including Cashmere Sweaters

Tues.-Sat. 11:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

(Closed Sundays and Mondays)

Piazza Marconi, 1 - Sesto Fiorentino, Osmannoro (Florence)

Tel. 05532361

**LAT:** 43.80799 - **LONG:** 11.18589

[www.bpstudio.it](http://www.bpstudio.it)

From Florence follow directions towards airport and take the road leading to Osmannoro; the outlet is just behind Ikea Department Store (15 min. by car, 8 km from Florence)

## BP STUDIO

#### ROBERTO CAVALLI

Men's and Women's Clothes, Bags, Wallets, Belts, Necklaces and Bracelets

Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Via Volturno, 3 - Sesto Fiorentino, Osmannoro (Florence)

Tel. 055317754

**LAT:** 43.81133 - **LONG:** 11.17811

[www.robertocavallionet.it](http://www.robertocavallionet.it)

From Florence follow directions towards the Peretola airport and Osmannoro; the outlet is located just across the town border in Osmannoro (Sesto Fiorentino) (15 min. by car, 7 km from Florence)

### CONTE OF FLORENCE

Sportswear, Casual Wear and Jeans

10:30 a.m.-7 p.m. (Closed Mondays)

Via di Limite, 170 - Campi Bisenzio (Florence)

Tel. 05589868233

**LAT:** 43.83655

**LONG:** 11.16261

[www.conteofflorence.com](http://www.conteofflorence.com)

From Florence take the A1 highway north towards Bologna and exit at the first exit Calenzano; at the first roundabout in Calenzano, take the 2nd exit; continue along via di Pratignone towards Firenze-Rifredi-Sesto Fiorentino; turn left on via degli Olmi; then turn right on Via di Limite. (22 min. by car, 25 km from Florence)

#### LORI, CLARA E LORENZO OUTLET

Armani Collezioni, Moncler,

Armani Jeans, Belstaff, Class - Roberto Cavalli,

Diesel, Dolce & Gabbana and

Ermenegildo Zegna

9 a.m.-1 p.m., 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

(Closed Monday Mornings)

Via Enrico De Nicola, 15 - Florence

Tel. 0556503204

**LAT:** 43.76584 - **LONG:** 11.30208

[www.lorj.com](http://www.lorj.com)

From Florence take the Lungarno Colombo on the Duomo side of the river towards Pontassieve (east), go straight and after the *Sashall* (a concert hall) on the right side of the street you find the outlet. (8 min. by car, 2 km from Florence)

### Parco De'Renai

The main characteristic of this park is its artificial lakes, the result of dredging activities for the extraction of *rena* (sand, hence the name *renai*) in the 1980's. The dredging ceased in the 1990's and the land was abandoned to become a squalid eyesore. Fortunately, a programme of land reclamation saved the situation and the area was designated as a park which people could enjoy for activities such as walking, riding, boating and, given the particular riverside environment, bird watching.

### MALO

High-End Cashmere and Wool

Tues-Sun. 10:30 a.m.-7 p.m.

(Closed Mondays)

Via Gattinella, 6 Campi Bisenzio (Florence)

Tel. 0558731988 - 0558731990

**LAT: 43.84320**

**LONG: 11.14584**

[www.malo.it](http://www.malo.it)

From Florence take highway A1 north towards Bologna; exit at Calenzano; at the roundabout in Calenzano, take the 2nd exit and continue along via di Pratignone towards Firenze-Rifredi-Sesto Fiorentino; continue along via Salvador Allende; and after the first bridge, turn right and continue along Via Albert Einstein. Via Gattinella is a street on the right. (31 min. by car, 22 km from Florence)

### MAXISMALL TECNO SPORT DISCOUNT

Sportswear and Active Wear at discount prices

Mon-Sat. 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 3:30 p.m.-7 p.m.

Via Di Sollicciano, 12 - Scandicci (Florence)

Tel. 055752545

**LAT: 43.76524 - LONG: 11.17625**

[www.maxismall.com](http://www.maxismall.com)

From Ponte alla Vittoria in Florence follow directions for the FI-PI-LI freeway, towards Scandicci; take the SS 67; then turn right onto via Girolamo Minervini; arrive in Scandicci; then turn left on Via di Sollicciano. (15 min. by car, 15 km from Florence)



### A walk along the river from the Parco delle Cascine to the Parco dei Renai in Signa



You can start your walk from the little footbridge that connects the Piazzale del Re to the opposite bank. Then follow the river to the Parco dei Renai – 7km, and 7km to come back. Or you can start walking from the Ponte all'Indiana footbridge that starts on the Argingrosso bank. This walk is 5km. The terrain is virtually flat. The walk will take you about 3 hours (6, if you walk back).

For experienced trekkers it may not have much appeal as it's too near the city. However, for a metropolitan footpath it is unusual and offers a great opportunity, particularly for the Florentines, to discover their own river. The Arno is usually seen from the bridges of Florence and Pisa and so it is quite a surprise to observe the wildlife along its banks. The wide track from the Ponte all'Indiano is great not only for walkers but also for riders and cyclists and is in fact only the first part of what one day will be the Arno River park. When you reach the Ponte all'Indiano you'll see the statue of an Indian prince (hence the name) who died while on a visit to Florence in November 1870. As this is the point of the confluence of the Arno and the Mugnone, it was here that his ashes were scattered, in accordance with his country's tradition.

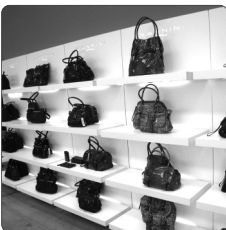
**LAT: 43.78137**

**LONG: 11.09701**



# NANNINI BOUTIQUE

This is the firm's first boutique, now among several others around Italy.  
**Via Porta Rossa, 64 r**  
Florence  
Tel. 055213888



**Via Fratelli Cervi, 57 - Campi Bisenzio (Florence)**  
Tel. 0558879749  
LAT: 43.84916  
LONG: 11.13181  
[www.nannini.it](http://www.nannini.it)

# NANNINI

## NANNINI FACTORY OUTLET

Bags, Shoes, Gloves, Scarves, Watches, Jewellery and more

One of the few outlets you can actually find nearby, just in front of the firm's head office.

Via Faentina, 77 - Florence

Tel. 0554639452

LAT: 43.79173

LONG: 11.27003

[www.nannini.it](http://www.nannini.it)

From piazza della Libertà in Florence, take Viale Don Minzoni and go straight until the end; cross the bridge and reach Piazza delle Cure. Go straight and take on the left Via Luigi La Vista; then take

Via Luigi Settembrini and turn right in

SS 302 Via Faentina

(10 Min. By Car, 1 km from the centre of Florence)

## NANNINI OUTLET

The brand opened a second outlet next to its main warehouse in the neighbouring town of Campi Bisenzio with the same great accessories available in the Florence outlet. From Florence take highway A1 direction Prato-Genova-Livorno; exit at the first exit, Prato Est and turn right direction Capalle-Signa-Campi Bisenzio. Go straight and after few km you reach Capalle. Follow via Pantano entering in Capalle and take the street on the left Via Fratelli Cervi (20 min by car, 25 km from Florence)

## RASPINI VINTAGE OUTLET

Famous Brands of Shoes, Accessories and Clothing for Men, Women and Children at sale prices all year round

The Raspini Vintage Outlet is located near piazza Signoria.

Via Calimaruza, 17 r - Florence

Tel. 055213901

LAT: 43.76993

LONG: 11.25460

[www.raspini.com](http://www.raspini.com)

*Raspini  
Vintage*

In the main centre of Florence

Main Raspini Shop

Via Por S. Maria, 72 r

Florence

Tel. 055215796





## The Roman Theatre

Roman and Greek theatres differed from each other in several architectural aspects. The Roman theatres dedicated less space to the orchestra as the use of the Chorus became less important, but the stage became more imposing with columns and lavish embellishments. Some could even be covered. Most early theatres were built taking advantage of natural hill-sides although later, Roman engineers succeeded in constructing theatres as part of the urban fabric. In Tuscany the earliest theatres date from the 1st century B.C. and were built by the Romans on the hillsides of the ancient Etruscan centres of Volterra and Fiesole, and then in the newly founded cities of Florence and Lucca. The theatre in Volterra is very well preserved and the one in Fiesole is still used for performances in the summer.

### Fruit in January

Orange, Citron (Cedro),  
Date (Datteri), Lemon, Mandarin,  
Grapefruit (Pompelmo)

## ALL YEAR LONG EVENTI, MOSTRE & TOURS A FIESOLE

Events, Exhibitions And Tours  
In The Town Of Fiesole  
*Fiesole (Florence)*

Discover the archaeological and religious sights of Fiesole in the winter, as well as concerts and various events dedicated to art.  
[www.comune.fiesole.fi.it](http://www.comune.fiesole.fi.it)

## FOOD & WINE EVENTS

### SECOND HALF OF JANUARY, 1ST WEEK IN FEBRUARY VINO & PIZZA

Wine & Pizza  
*Empoli and surroundings (Florence)*

Wine and pizza, a match made in heaven, star in this local event; it's the perfect excuse to go out for a fun evening in the quiet days that follow the holidays.  
[www.empolese-valdelsa.it](http://www.empolese-valdelsa.it)



## JANUARY RECIPE

### PAPPA AL POMODORO

Tomato soup thickened with Bread, enriched with  
Olive Oil at the table

1 small onion, finely sliced  
1 clove of garlic, crushed  
1/4 cup olive oil  
3/4 pound peeled and sliced sun ripened plum tomatoes  
1-tablespoon tomato paste  
several slices of one day old Tuscan bread, crumbled  
broth or water as necessary  
freshly chopped basil for garnishing



Sauté the onion and the garlic in the olive oil, and when they're lightly browned, add the tomatoes and the tomato paste. Simmer for about 15 minutes, or until the tomatoes have fallen apart. Stir in the bread, and a little bit of water or broth if necessary; season to taste. Stir the mixture over a low flame until it thickens. Turn off the heat, cover, and let sit for fifteen minutes. Serve sprinkled with freshly chopped basil and good olive oil. It's better made a day ahead and reheated.

### Tasty Tidbit

Sounds like kid's food, and it is, for kids of all ages. In the past it was also very much a homey dish, a tasty way to use up leftover bread that no housewife would have dreamed of serving to a guest. Now it's on the menus of Florence's trendier restaurants.





## FEBRUARY EVENTS

### FESTIVALS & TRADITIONS EVENTS

#### ☛ ALL MONTH LONG CARNEVALE DI VIAREGGIO

Viareggio Carnival

*Viareggio (Lucca)*

Fantastic parade floats steal the show in what is without a doubt the most famous carnival in Italy. They make their way irreverently, in parody of national and international politics, for a street invasion that's full of colourful masks and music. A classic event, felt deeply by the locals, and greatly appreciated by the visitors drawn into the excitement, it's a great time for adults and children alike.

[www.viareggio.ilcarnevale.com](http://www.viareggio.ilcarnevale.com)

#### Carnevale Carnival



Mardi Gras, 1873, the Viareggio Carnival, as it is known today, was born: a spectacular event among the finest and grandest in the world. When the floats appeared for the first time, they were an immediate triumph. The Viareggio Carnival, Carnival of Italy and Europe, celebrates day and night for a whole month every year with floats, parades, masked balls and shows. 2001 was a special year in the history of the Viareggio Carnival as the new *Cittadella* (Carnival town) was inaugurated: a great multifunctional structure that includes new hangars for the creation of the floats, the papier-mâché school and a great arena where,

during the summer, the *Citadel under the stars* review takes place: shows, concerts and cultural initiatives. In a short time the Carnival museum will be part of the Citadel, a multimedia exhibition to preserve and spread the historical and cultural memory of the Viareggio Carnival and the world's Carnival.

Viareggio Carnival is a meeting place for people of different cultures, and thanks to media coverage, this event which mixes tradition with the universal values of solidarity and peace, has gone global.



MUSEO  
DEL CARNEVALE  
Carnival Museum  
Viareggio

It is situated inside the complex of the Cittadella del Carnevale. Uberto Bonetti's 1930 statue of Burlamacco, smiles a welcome to the fantastic world of our carnival.

The path begins with a series of model floats that are protected by a transparent covering which allows the visitor to observe the various solutions used in the composition, the colours and particularly the satire of the various themes.

The artisan character of the Viareggio Carnival has its roots in the dry docks where the shipwrights, carpenters and sawyers built ships. The museum of the cittadella hopes to give visitors an insight into everything that contributes to the magic of carnival.

Mon-Frid 10-12 a.m.  
Tel. 058453048  
LAT: 43.89231  
LONG: 10.24239  
[www.museodelcarnevale.it](http://www.museodelcarnevale.it)