

Gentili ospiti,

Di seguito trovate i nostri suggerimenti per le migliori attività per scoprire la nostra zona. Non esitate a contattare la reception per ulteriori informazioni e assistenza:

Dear Guests,

Below you will find our suggestions for the best activities to discover our area. Do not hesitate to contact our reception team for further information and assistance:

Restaurant- pages 2 – 7 Cooking class – pages 8-9 Wineries – pages 10-16 Special Activities – page 17 Tours - pages 18 - 30



CASTELLINA IN CHIANTI Ristoranti In Centro – Restaurants In Town

QB

Vegetarian cuisine Loc. Belvedere 1, Poggibonsi (5 minutes) **2 +39 0577 1607365** Closed on Tuesday; open at lunch only except Wednesday dinner

Albergaccio

Tuscan cuisine Via Fiorentina, 63 **2** +39 0577 741042 closed on Sunday

Antica Trattoria la Torre

Piazza del Comune, 15 *** +39 0577 740236** closed on Thursday

Il Fondaccio dai Dottori

Pizzeria – Via Fiorentina, 7 *** +39 0577 742911** open everyday

Il Re Gallo

Trattoria – Speciality meat Via Toscana, 1 **2** +39 0577 742000 closed on Monday

Taverna Squarcialupi

Via Ferruccio, 26
+39 0577 741405 open everyday

Riserva di Fizzano Passo dopo Passo Osteria Località Fizzano (very close, walking distance)

2 +39 0577 737223 closed on Tuesday



Ristoranti nei dintorni - Restaurants in the surroundings

Foresteria Villa Cerna Tuscan cuisine

Località Casina dei Ponti (20 minutes) 2+39 0577 554620 opened every day

Osteria Alla Piazza

Tuscan cuisine Località la Piazza (30 minutes) **2+39 0577 733580** closed on Monday

Osteria di Brancaia

Località Poppi (22 min) **2** +39 0577 741263 closed on Monday and Tuesday

Dario Cecchini – Officina della Bistecca

Via XX Luglio, 11, Panzano In Chianti FI (30 minutes) T+39 055 852020 open every day

La Bottega di Volpaia

Tuscan cuisine Piazza della Torre, 1 – Volpaia (38 minutes) 2 +39 0577 735602 closed on Tuesday

La Vin' Osteria

Località La Villa di Sotto, 16, Radda in Chianti SI (33 minutes) **2 +39 0577 735604** closed on Wednesday

Osteria di Fonterutoli

Tuscan cuisine Località Fonterutoli (22 minutes) **2** +39 0577 741125 closed on Tuesday

Osteria la sosta di Pio VII

Località Sosta del Papa, 50021, Barberino Val D'Elsa FI (20 min) 2 +39 0577 75923 opened every day



POGGIBONSI

I Boceri

Pizza and Tuscan kitchen Via Senese, 109 **2** +39 0577 981426 only at dinner closed on Monday

'I Love You' – Enotheque

Via Della Repubblica, 66 **2+39 0577 938354** closed on Monday and Tuesday

La Galleria

Specialty fish Galleria Cavalieri Vittorio Veneto 20 2+39 0577 982356 closed on Sunday

Da Ciccio and Friends

Speciality Pizza Loc. Bernino ***39 0577 563956**, closed on Wednesday

COLLE VAL D'ELSA

Arnolfo 2 Michelin Stars – International cuisine Viale della Rimembranza, 24, 53034 Colle di Val D'Elsa SI **2+39 0577920549** closed on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Il Frantoio

Tuscan cuisine Via del Castello, 38 **2 +39 0577 923652** closed on Thursday Open everyday at dinner and on Sunday at lunch

L'Antica Trattoria

Piazza Arnolfo, 23 **23 23 23 23 23 23 24 23 23 24 25 27**



SAN GIMIGNANO

Cum Quibus

1 Michelin Star – Rustic and romantic place 2 +39 0577 943199 closed on Tuesday

San Martino 26

Via San Martino, 26 **2 +39 0577 940483** closed on Thursday

Ristorante Perucà Via Capassi, 16 **2** +39 +39 0577 941213 closed on Thursday

Ristorante Chiribiri

Tuscan cuisine - Little restaurant Piazza della Madonna, 1 2 +39 0577 941948 open everyday

Le Vecchie Mura

Italian cuisine Via Pian d'Ornella, 15 **2+39 0577 940270,** closed on Tuesday

BARBERINO TAVARNELLE

L'Antica Scuderia Tuscan kitchen and pizza - Romantic restaurant Via di Passignano, 17

2 +39 055 8071623 closed on Tuesday

La Locanda di Pietracupa

Tuscan cuisine Strada Pietracupa, 31 **2** +39 055 8072400, open every day



Antica Trattoria La Toppa *Tuscan cuisine - Homemade pasta fresca, good meat* Via del Giglio, 43, San Donato (26 minutes) ***** +39 055 8072900 closed on Monday

Osteria di Passignano

Picò, Pizza Cocktail e Piccornie

Meat and Fish Restaurant, Pizzeria Piazza Barberini, 5 Barberino Tavarnelle **2+39 055 8075509**, closed on Wednesday

Ristorante Triocco

Restaurant and Pizzeria Via Vittorio Veneto, 48 Barberino Tavarnelle **2+39 055 8075120,** closed on Wednesday

Ristorante La Fattoria

Tuscan restaurant (typical Bistecca) Str. Del Cerro, 11 Barberino Tavarnelle **2+39 055 8070000,** closed on Monday

SIENA

Antica Osteria da Divo Via Franciosa, 25 2+39 0577 286054 closed on Tuesday

Grotta Santa Caterina da Bagoga Via della Galluzza, 26 **2+39 0577 282208** closed on Monday

La Compagnia dei Vinattieri Via delle Terme, 79 2439 0577 236568 open everyday

La Taverna di San Giuseppe Via Duprè, 132 2+39 0577 42286, closed on Sunday

Osteria Boccon del Prete

Via di San Pietro, 17 **2+39 0577 280388**, opened everyday



Osteria Le Logge Via del Porrione,33 ***** +39 0577 48013 closed on Sunday and Monday

I Tre Cristi Enoteca Ristorante

Tuscan cuisine, ancient building Vicolo Provenzano, 1-7 **2+39 0577 280608,** closed on Sunday

FIRENZE

Il Cestello

Fish Restaurant Piazza del Cestello 8 **2 +39 055 264 5364** opened everyday only at dinner

Fuor d'Acqua

Fish Restaurant Via Pisana, 37R T +39 055 222299 closed on Sunday

Lungarno 23

Best Hamburgers Lungarno Torrigiani 23 T +39 055 2345957 open everyday dinner On Saturday and Sunday also at lunch

Il Palagio Four Season

Michelin Star Borgo Pinti 99 Therefore and closed on Sunday States and Closed States and States an

Ora D'aria

Michelin Star Via dei Georgofili 11R **2 +39 055 2001699** closed on Sunday

Perseus

Viale Don Minzoni 10 **2 +39 055 588226** closed on Sunday

O' Munaciello

Napoletan restaurant Via Maffia, 31 +39 055 287198 closed on Tuesday



COOKING CLASSES

One Belvedere

Loc Belvedere, 1, 53036 Poggibonsi SI Phone: 0577 160 7365 – Email: hello@onebelvedere.com Vegetarian workshop includes appetizer, main and dessert. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, eat, and enjoy the beauty of Tuscan cuisine in a picturesque setting. Available Thursday, Friday and Saturday Starting at 16:30 8 pax max Duration 4 hours Cost per pax 200

Picò

Piazza Barberini, 5, 50021 Barberino Val D'elsa FI Phone: 055 807 5509 – Email: info@pizzaecocktail.com Pizza cooking class 3 types of experience: https://www.picorestaurant.it/en/gastronomic-experiences/ From 80€ - 100€ - 140€ per person

Virna

Very close to our property Phone : + 39 3398427766 - + 39 743180 - E-mail : c.virna57@gmail.com Cooking classes arranged in the morning or in the afternoon (max 7-8 pax) Open every day from 4.30 pm She only accepts cash Price: 90,00€ per person, Duration: 3-4 hours

Taverna Squarcialupi

Via Ferruccio, 26 53011 Castellina in Chianti Phone : 0577 741405 - E-mail : info@tavernasquarcialupi.it Cooking classes arranged in the morning (10:30 am – 12:30 pm) or in the afternoon (4:30 pm – 6:30 pm) (max 6 pax) Followed by lunch or dinner of 3 courses (wine excluded) Price: 110 € per person for a class of 6 people 125 € per person for a class of 4 people 140€ per person for a class of 2 people



Badia a Passignano – Fonte de Medici

Via Santa Maria a Macerata n. 31, Montefiridolfi located in the Antinori House Farm "Fonte de Medici" Phone: +39 0558071278 – Email: info@osteriadipassignano.com

The Secrets of Fresh Pasta: Private Cooking lesson to discover all the secrets of pasta with the Executive Chef Antinori, followed by Lunch or Dinner at Osteria di Passignano and a visit to the historic winery in Badia a Passignano.

From Monday to Friday at 10.00 am or 16.00 pm euro 300,00 per person Minimum 3 participants, always in exclusive

The Recipes of Casa Antinori: Group cooking lesson to discover traditional recipes, with the Executive Chef Antinori

Cooking course with the Executive Chef Antinori who will create a complete menu and provide all the recipes in a practical pantry.

The lesson can be in group of maximum 10 people.

Every Friday at 16.00 pm euro 100,00 per person

From Monday to Friday at 10.00 am or 16.00 pm, is possible to have the experience in exclusive with a minimum guarantee of 4 people.

Tenuta di Torciano Winery

Ulignano (San Gimignano area) Phone: +39 0577 950055 – Email: visit@torciano.com www.torciano.com

Private pasta making class is perfect to learn Tuscan culinary secrets. Enjoy your wonderful creations of three types of pasta for lunch or dinner, followed by the tastings of 15 products including wine, olive oil and

balsamic vinegar. Details: 3 hours

Price: € 145 per person

Volpaia

Loc. Volpaia, 53017 Radda in Chianti (SI) The classes, for a maximum of 24 people, start either at 9.30 a.m. or 3.30 p.m. and last an average of four hours, price 155,00€ per person

Tenuta Casanova

Località Sant' Agnese, 20 Castellina in Chianti - 53011 Phone : (+39) 335 6150760 - E-mail : info@tenutacasanova.it It starts at 9:30 am All courses include the tasting of 5 wines and exquisite dessert wine. They also include a visit to their Cantina



WINERIES AROUND THE HOTEL – CASTELLINA IN CHIANTI

One Belvedere - https://onebelvedere.com/

+39 0577 1607365

On SP130 From Locanda Le Piazze to Poggibonsi (3 km – 5 minutes) Opening hours: every day from 10 am, several experiences

Castellare - http://www.castellare.it/ita/chiantiPoggiale.html +39 0577 742903 On SP130 From Locanda Le Piazze to Castellina in Chianti (3 km – 5 minutes) Opening hours: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, 2:00 am to 7:00 pm

Tenuta di Bibbiano - http://www.bibbiano.com/

a +39 0577 743065,

On the road to Castellina in Chianti, near Lilliano (3 km – 9 minutes) Open from Monday to Saturday 10 am - 6:00 pm

Lilliano - http://www.lilliano.com

+39 0577 743070

Halfway between Castellina in Chianti and Castellina Scalo (5,3 km – 14 minutes) From Monday to Friday opening hours of the direct sale 9:00 am - 12:30 pm, 1:30 pm to 5:30 pm, Saturday 9:30am-12:30pm, 2:30pm-5:30pm

Poggio Amorelli - https://famigliamazzarrini.it/en/

🖀 +39 0577 741373

Loc. Poggio Amorelli Castellina in chianti (9,4 km – 18 minutes) Opening hours: 10:00 am – 5:30 pm, open everyday

Il Cellese - http://www.ilcellese.it/it/

1 +39 3298151425 - +39 3386524653
 Loc. Maltraverso, 4 53036 Poggibonsi (SI) (12 km − 19 minutes)
 Opening hours: 10:00 am − 5:30 pm

Fonterutoli - http://www.mazzei.it/ita_161/

🖀 +39 0577 73571

On the road SS 222 halfway between Castellina in Chianti e Quercegrossa (12 km – 22 minutes) Opening hours: from Monday to Sunday: 9:00 am to 18:00 pm



San Gimignano

Guicciardini Strozzi - http://www.guicciardinistrozzi.it/ Località Cusona, 5 - 53037 San Gimignano (Siena) Italy

+39 0577 950028

Tours by appointment from Monday to Friday 9:00 am – 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm – 6:00 pm Wine tours and tastings starting from 15,00€ per person

Tavarnelle Val di Pesa and Bargino

Antinori - http://www.antinori.it/

+39 0552359700 Via Cassia per Siena, 133 Loc. Bargino
 50026 San Casciano Val di Pesa, Firenze (33 km – 34 minutes),
 Wine tastings and tours by appointment, directly through their website
 Ristorante Rinuccio 1180: 1+39 055 2359720

Poggio al Sole – https://poggioalsole.com/it/

+39 055 8071850 Strada Rignana, 2, 50028, Badia a Passignano, Barberino Tavarnelle (Fi) From Monday to Saturday, by appointment

Castello di Monsanto - http://www.castellodimonsanto.it

+39 055 8059000

Via Monsanto, 8, 50021, Barberino Val D'Elsa (Firenze) From Monday to Friday by appointment

Casa Emma – https://casaemma.it/ ***** +39 055 8072239 S.P di Castellina in Chianti, 3 San Donato in Poggio 50028 – Barberino Tavarnelle (Fi) From Monday to Sunday, by appointment

Greve in Chianti

Castello di Verrazzano - http://www.verrazzano.com/ Via Citille, 32 - 50022 Greve in Chianti (FI)



🖀 +39 055 854243

Different packages available on their website

Fontodi Tenuta Agricola - http://www.fontodi.com/
Biologic company owned by Manetti family
+39 055 852005
Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm, by appointment

Castello Vicchiomaggio - http://www.vicchiomaggio.it/

+39 055 854079

Every day from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm wine tasting

Tenuta Casenuove - https://tenuta-casenuove.com/it/accueil-italiano/

+39 055 852009
Località S. Martino in Cecione, 39, 50022 Greve in Chianti
Open from 9 am to 5 pm from Monday to Saturday
Tour and tasting available at 11:30 am and 2:30 pm

Radda in Chianti

Brancaia - http://www.brancaia.com/it/brancaia-azienda-vini/ Località Poppi, 53017 Radda in Chianti ***** +39 0577 742 007

Open from Monday to Sunday, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm Their onsite restaurant is open from Wednesday to Sunday

Montevertine - http://www.montevertine.it/ Località Montevertine, 1 – 53017 Radda in Chianti (SI)

+39 0577 738009

Monte Vertine, not far from Radda on the road to Badiaccia a Monte Murlo Little Chianti Museum 2023 season open on May

Castello di Volpaia - http://www.volpaia.it/sito/index.php

+39 0577 738066

Loc. Volpaia – 53017 Radda in Chianti (SI) - On the road from Radda to Panzano Every day at 11:30 am – 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Castello di Albola - https://albola.it/

+39 0577 738019

Via Pian D'Albola, 31 53017 Radda in Chianti (SI) Every day from 10 am to 5 pm, by appointment



Gaiole in Chianti

Capannelle - https://web.capannelle.it/wineresort/ +39 0577 74511 Right before the village of Gaiole (26 km – 40 min) Opened every day from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Badia a ColtiBuono - http://www.coltibuono.com/
Azienda Biologica
+39 0577 74481
Restaurant +39 0577 749424
From Radda to Gaiole on the way to Montevarchi
Open Every day from 11:00

Castello di Ama - http://www.castellodiama.com/
Therefore the second state of the seco

Castelnuovo Berardenga

Bindi Sergardi – www.bindisergardi.com

+39 0577 309309

Strada Comunale Mocenni,34, 53019 Castelnuovo Berardenga (SI) Open From Monday to Saturday, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm. On Sundays upon request. Different tours available

Tolaini - http://www.tolaini.it/ Strada provinciale 9 di Pievasciata, 28 – Località Vallenuova **P+39 0577 356972** Open from Monday to Sunday, 11:00 am – 7:00 pm



Felsina - http://www.felsina.it/
+39 0577 355117
Via del Chianti, 101 – 53019 Castelnuovo Berardenga (SI)
Open every day, 10:00 am – 18:00 pm.

Montalcino, home of the Brunello wine

Banfi - http://www.castellobanfi.com/
+39 0577 877505 Cantine, +39 0577 877514
Poggio alle Mura 53024 Montalcino (SI)
Guided visits of the cellar are available by appointment from Monday to Sunday at 4.00 p.m.
The tastings start at 24 per person

Casanova di Neri - https://www.casanovadineri.it/

+39 0577 834455

Podere Fiesole, 53024 Montalcino (SI) For buying and tasting products their sales room is open from Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm Visit to the winery and wine tour upon request

Ciacci Piccolomini D'Aragona

+ 39 0577 835616

Località Molinello, 53024 Castelnuovo dell'Abate, Montalcino (SI) Opened from Monday to Friday from 9am pm till 6:00 pm Guided tours are always by reservation; the store remains open for tastings and any purchases.

Fattoria dei Barbi- Montalcino

+39 0577 841111

Loc. Podernovi, 170, 53024 Montalcino SI Caseificio, Winery, by appointment, makes its own salame and cheese, great restaurant visits and wine tasting.

Mastrojanni

+39 0577 835681

Poderi Loreto e San Pio, 53020 Castelnuovo dell'Abate, Montalcino (SI)



Montepulciano, nobile di Montepulciano Wine

Azienda Agricola Avignonesi - http://www.avignonesi.it/it *** +39 0578 724304 or +39 346 5805310** Via Colonica, 1 Valiano di Montepulciano (SI) Open every day from April to October from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

La Braccesca - https://www.antinori.it/it/tenuta/tenute-italia/la-braccesca/ **+39 0578 724252** Via Stella di Valiano, 10, 53045 Montepulciano (SI) Antinori family Opened Monday to Saturday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm



Special Activities

Hot air Balloon ride:

Balloon in Tuscany https://www.balloonintuscany.com/ Tel: +39 338 907 7070

Strada del Cerro, 3, 50028, Barberino Tavarnelle (FI)

Horseback riding:

Centro Equestre Borgo Cignano https://www.chiantihorseriding.it/en/ Tel: +39 366 285 0098

Località Cignano, 15, 53019 Cignano (SI)

Truffle Hunting:

Ristoro L'Antica Scuderia http://www.ristorolanticascuderia.it/en/restaurant-truffles-and-honey-intuscany.html Tel: +39 055 807 1623

Via Passignano, 17, 50028, Barberino Tavarnelle (FI) Località Badia a Passignano

Fattoria di Cusona https://www.guicciardinistrozzi.it/visite-edegustazioni/#!/e/0e355a076a5f33e8c50a7b45450b41e8 Tel: +39 0577.95.00.28

Località Cusona 5, 53037 San Gimignano (SI)

Vespa Rental:

Noleggio Chianti 500 https://www.noleggiochianti500.com/?lang=en Tel: +39 0577 148 1001

Viale IV Novembre, 35, 53011 Castellina in Chianti (SI)



SUGGESTED TOURS

Tour of Chianti Fiorentino

In this day tour, you have the possibility of visit the part of Chianti looking to Florence, driving in charming roads and discovering typical Tuscan landscapes.

The villages that you will meet in your journey are San Donato in Poggio, Badia a Passignano, Montefioralle, Greve in Chianti and Panzano in Chianti.



The entire tour is about 60 km driving: how many hours depends on how many stops you will make during your journey.

How to begin the tour:

Exit the gate of Locanda Le Piazze and take the 800 m gravel road: at the stop turn right on SP 130. After 6 km turn left and then turn right on Via Etrusca. At the stop left and take SP 76 and SP 101 in direction of <u>SAN DONATO IN POGGIO.</u>





This charming destination is a mediaeval walled village located, like so many Tuscan towns, on a hill ("Poggio"), from which it takes part of its name, and that separates the Val di Pesa from the Val d'Elsa

The medieval layout of the streets and the main piazza are also preserved. Piazza Malaspina is very atmospheric, with an octagonal well and surrounded by the Palazzo Ticci, now known as the Palazzo Malaspina, the church of Santa Maria della Neve and the Palazzo Pretorio. The latter was destroyed during WW II, as were

numerous other buildings such as the Porta Senese, but has been reconstructed.

Suggested restaurants:

La Locanda di Pietracupa

Antica Trattoria La Toppa

Via Madonna di Pietracupa 31

055 807 2400

Via de Baluardi 2/B 0558072900



After 9 km (15 minutes) passing through the village of Sambuca, you will reach **BADIA A PASSIGNANO**:

Badia a Passignano or the Abbey of Passignano is an historic abbey in the comune of Tavarnelle Val di Pesa.

It dates back to before the year 1049 when a then-ancient abbey was donated to John Gualbert and was restored.

The monastic complex is still enclosed within the 14th century walled courtyard with quadrangular planes with corner towers, but the neo-gothic integrations realized at the end of the nineteenth century, when the monastic community was suppressed, was transformed into a villa. The Latin-style abbey church was almost entirely reconstructed from the second half of the 16th century and internally frescoed by Passignano and Alessandro Allori.



The monastic complex since 1986 has returned to the property of the Vallombrosan monks.

In this little village is situated **Osteria di Passignano**, the Michelin starred restaurant own by Antinori family.

Other restaurants are:

Antica Scuderia Via Passignano, 17 055 807 1623 Osteria di Passignano Via Passignano, 33 055 807 1278

Bar DiVino

Str. Di Badia 4 +39 338 804 7520



On the way to Greve in Chianti (8 km of charming road in the Tuscan countryside), you will find the lovely village of <u>MONTEFIORALLE</u>:



Chianti.

Restaurants:

La Castellana Via di Montefioralle 2 055 853134 *Taverna del Guerrino* Via di Montefioralle 39 055853106

of which still exist.

The "castello" of Montefioralle is probably one of the most ancient villages in Chianti and is still today

The enological fame of Montefioralle is secular and it is produced a great wine. To visit: church of S. Stefano with works of art from 1200 and 1400 and Pieve of S. Cresci, situated outside the walls of the village that is one of the ancient churches of the

enclosed within its original walls. These were initially two circuits but houses now fill the space between the original structures. The walls were octagonal in outline, with four gates, modifications



Continue for 2 km on Via Montefioralle and reach GREVE IN CHIANTI:

Greve in Chianti is named after the river that runs through it. At the end of the Dark Ages, Greve developed on the flat ground of the Greve valley as the market for the fortified villages, castles and farmhouses on the surrounding hilltops.

The original piazza is shown as square in old documents but the construction of buildings, porticoes and loggias has encroached on it over the years so that it is now triangular, pointing to the neoclassical facade of Santa Croce. On one side of the piazza is a statue of the explorer Giovanni da Verrazano who discovered New York Harbour.



Restaurants:

Enoteca Ristorante Il Gallo Nero	Ristorante Bottega Del Moro
Via Cesare Battisti, 9	PiazzaTrieste, 14
055 853734	055 853753

For a nice sandwich on the way, we recommend *Antica Macelleria Falorni*, in the main square Piazza Giacomo Matteotti.

Continue for 8 km on SR 222 arriving in PANZANO IN CHIANTI:



The name of the village of Panzano is of Roman origin but the settlement is older since Etruscan finds have been made in the neighbourhood. The first documentary evidence is 11 C, when the development of the "borgo", the village around the castle, took place. The castle stands on a ridge separating the Val di Greve from the Val di Pesa, exactly halfway between Florence and Sienna, between which it was always a source of contention. The castle is now private, but the courtyard and the surroundings can be visited, and the houses along the downhill road have a mediaeval character. There are some remnants of the old Roman paved roads, the Senice, which are still in use. Panzano's churches are definitely worth a visit: The Church of Santa Maria (Santa Maria Assunta), which stands next to the castle, was completely rebuilt in the XIX century on the site of an ancient church, but it possesses a small XIV century Siennese Madonna and Child attributed to Botticini.

In this town is situated the famous restaurant, *Antica Macelleria Cecchini* (Via XX Luglio, 055802020), where you can taste the original Tuscan Bistecca.

You have now 13 km driving on the SR 222 to reach <u>Castellina in Chianti</u> and then back on the SP 130 for 7 km to **Locanda Le Piazze.**



Half day tour in San Gimignano



San Gimignano is certainly very famous: it is a unique city in the world and is known by the name of the "citta' della torri". The tower town.

It is only 18 km from our property and can be reached in less than 30 minutes by car.

The fact of being so well known also has a reverse side: the city is always very crowded with tourists as it is definitely one of the places not to be missed while staying in this area.

The uniqueness of San Gimignano arises from the fact that today there are still 13 of the 72 existing medieval towers.

From any direction you come from, San Gimignano and its towers are well visible.

In the Middle Ages, the construction of the tower was a symbol of power and richness, and legend tells that the tallest tower belonged to the most powerful family, expressing in this way its economic and political power.

Today, in addition to the 13 towers, the exterior walls and the two access doors to the center of the city are still perfectly preserved: San Giovanni door and San Matteo door.







The road that connects the two doors is the heart of the city: You will find wonderful shops of craftsmen who produce ferns, crockery, ironworks, alabaster objects (an ornamental stone worked in the nearby town of Volterra).

Not to be missed:



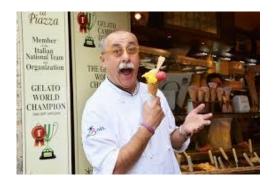
Shops where you can buy local gourmet product as well as the precious and refinded saffron "Zafferano di San Gimignano"

-The famous white wine "Vernaccia di San Gimignano": the only Tuscan white "DOCG" (Denominazione di origine controllata e garantita – a rare pearl hidden in the hills of this region, always associated with great red wines.



The famous white wine "Vernaccia di San Gignao": the only Tuscan white "DOCG" (Denominazione di origine controllata e garantita) a rare peal hidden in the hills of this region, always associated with great red wines





A unique ice cream at Dondoli'; the ice cream shop is in located in Piazza della Cisterna, and it is worldwide famous; for two consecutive years the best ice cream in the world.

A unique taste? "Nocciolone" which literally means "Big Nut" - attention to allergies!!!

Where to eat:





For a quick lunch:

Trattoria Chiribiri, small restaurant near Porta San Giovanni, always crowded because the cuisine is great.

Do it differently and admire San Gimignano from another perspective: private flight by helicopter





Do not miss out the heart- Beating horse race of Siena:

The <u>Palio</u> is a medieval <u>horse race</u> run around the Piazza del Campo twice each year, July 2nd and August 16th.

Siena is divided in 17 districts, called *Contrade*, each of them is represented by an animal and they have their own boundary and distinct identity. Over the centuries rivalries and alliances were formed among *Contradas* and it is very fundamental during the race.

Only 10 *Contradas* take part to the race, the seven ones that do not participate, they will race automatically the year after. The three missing *Contradas* are randomly picked from the Mayor of Siena about one month before the race.



This tradition lasts four days. During the morning of the first day, each *Contrada* is randomly assigned to a horse that can be a slow or a fast horse. In the following days there are two practices per day (morning and evening) until it arrives the race day, the *Palio* day.

Obviously, horses do not run-on stone but they run in a path covered by a special dirt called tufo.

For Senese people horses are sacred and they are treated with care and love.

Before the race, it takes place an historical parade where all 17 *Contradas* show their colours, costumes and flags. When the parade is over, the 10 *Contradas* take position at the starting line, called *canape*. The position of each *Contrada* at the *canape* is randomly picked by the Mayor and it can be decisive for the race. Nine *Contradas* are aligned behind the *canape* while the last one stays behind them and decides the start of the race.

Who arrives first after three laps around the square wins a painted banner, called *Drappellone*, representing an image of the <u>Blessed Virgin Mary</u>.





For the Senese people the *Palio* is not only a 4-days festivity but it is something deeper. It is an all year long lifestyle and each member of the Contradas activity participates to the district' s life. It is difficult to explain what *Contrada* members feel during the Palio days, it is an unic mixture of joy, passion and pain that none outside can understand.

We highly suggest you to discover this fantastic wonder in order to appreciate this tradition and try to understand the Seneses passion.





Volterra, in 1 DAY TOUR

Situated in enchanting scenery, Volterra is an ancient medieval village that conserves its 3000 years old of story. An elegant mix between Etruscan, Roman and Renaissance culture will carry you in the past, just walking around its imposing walls.

If Volterra is now so famous, we have to thank the writer Stephanie Meye and her "Twilight Saga". Thanks to her, Volterra has millions of tourists each year, even if no vampires live in this village. ©



We can Start the Tour entering from "Porta a Selci" to admir one of the 8 Medieval entrance.

In few minutes you will find yourself in one of the most beautiful italian square, which untill 10 years ago, only knew by alternative tourists; we are talking about "**Piazza dei Priori**", where it is possible to admire "Palazzo Comunale" with its coats of arms of the most powerful Florentine families,"Palazzo Pretorio" and "Torre del Porcellino".



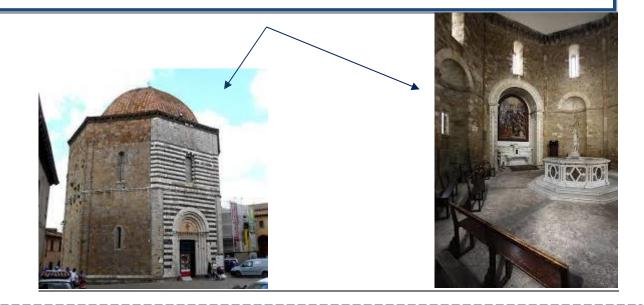


Close "Piazza dei Priori" is situated "Piazza San Giovanni" with its cathedral, built in 1120. A classic style, distinguish the church from the others.





To have a better knowledge of Volterra, important is "**Battistero di San Giovanni**". The baptistery (XIII sec.) holds many artworks since the year 1500 to year 1750.



While you lost yourself between Volterra's street, do no forget to visit the "**Teatro Romano**". Built during Augusto's period. The area became for centuries a waste disposal site until the 1950. In this year is started the project to bring to light the theatre. Today, it is became an archeological and proteted area.



After many tuscan least three a various The "Museo di with pieces of painting. For



having a good lunch in one of the restaurants, we suggest a visit in at **museums**: The Etruscan Museum, collections of the Etruscan period, Arte Sacra" (Holy Art Museum) jewele art, wood sculptures and

tenacius tourist, we propose the "Museo della Tortura" (The Torture Museum).

As souvenir? A wonderful piece of "**Alabastro**"! Volterra is so famous for its handicraft and This material is the most precious in Europe.

The Alabastro is an esteemed stone. Etruscan people were the first to work with this material and still now the major part of people, living in Volterra, create amazing objects. Many shops in the village sell from jewels to ornaments. You will be enchanted by the great sculpture you will find during your trip.



HOW TO REACH VOLTERRA:

From Castellina in Chianti:

Sp 130, direction Poggibonsi.

Highway Siena-Florence, direction Siena.

Exit Colle di Val D'elsa Nord, following direction for Volterra. Arrival time: 1H .