



IL BOTTACCIO

A Dream come True

*IL BOTTACCIO EXPERIENCE*





## DISCOVERING IL BOTTACCIO, RELAIS&CHATEAUX

“Bottaccio” is the place of the gathering of the waters created from the deviation of rivers, fords and streams used in ancient times, to set into motion mill wheels.

The maison, an original 18th century water wheel, opened its gates for the first time in 1983 and is part of the international association of Relais & Chateaux since 1988.

Through the park runs a VII century Roman road that used to lead to the ruins of Aghinolfi Castle still over-looking Il Bottaccio.

The dream of the D’Anna family was since the begging to open a hotel for travellers that do not like hotels, so at Il Bottaccio you will feel just like home but with 5\*\*\*\*\*L service.

## DINING AT IL BOTTACCIO

The dining table at Il Bottaccio is the altar around which the four elements - air, earth, water and fire are summoned to celebrate the rites of the senses. Il Bottaccio Restaurant is the result of a formula originating from the perfect blending between fine dining and art, intuition and emotion, poetry and reality.

For the fortunate gourmet travellers, it is impossible to tell where the antique olive mill ends and the art gallery begin. Through its eclectic collection of sculptures, paintings and furnishings, the magic of the surroundings and the artistry of the chef, Il Bottaccio’s experience is the sublimation of restoration, relax and dining. There, in that secluded heaven where the woody perfumes of the Apuanian foothills mix with the Versilian costal breezes, the palate of the local flora and fauna surrender themselves willingly into the fiery hands of masters to bring forth an even more subtle food made of

impression and emotions - a tingling - vibrating sensation that nourishes both body and soul.

The setting for the dinner is at your choice: a romantic table in “Sala Diana” close to the fireplace, or on the border of the pool surrounded by unique pieces of art in “Sala della Piscina”, or you may choose for a open air dinner in our garden overlooking the ancient water mill wheel which is still working.

## THE CUISINE

The D’Anna family entrusted Il Bottaccio to the Chef - Director Nino Mosca more than 30 years ago, and has watched it grow with passion to become not only an institution, but also a mecca for the devotees of fine Italian cuisine. In Nino there is the precious gift of equilibrium, acquired from years of dedication, experience and introspection, which permits him to blend a luminous creativity with the most profound roots of Italian tradition.



## COOKING SCHOOL

For the fondest Taste Explorers, small classes with a maximum of eight participants, ensures you have a hands-on learning experience with personal instructions.

Courses are available each day under previous reservation, for one day only or a complete course for 5 days. We offer also personalised and individual cooking school lesson, which starts in the morning and includes lunch as well. Individual course lessons last up to 3-4h.

At Il Bottaccio you will have the chance to participate in a working kitchen, giving you the behind-the-scenes experience of a top Italian restaurant. Each day, the school focuses on a few different aspects of cooking and Italian cuisine.

### Day 1 – Italian Classics

We start the course by tasting and learning about a collection of essential Italian ingredients, including olive oil, balsamic vinegar, and cheeses, with a special emphasis on seasonal items. After reviewing basic knife skills, we will discuss regional differences and specialities of Italy and prepare a selection of courses for lunch.

### Day 2 – The Cuisine of Il Bottaccio

We will share the secrets of the modern cuisine at Il Bottaccio. Given its emphasis on seafood, we will talk about and demonstrate the best method to clean and prepare it. You will also learn how to make home-made pasta, just one of the ingredients that will be used as we prepare our sumptuous lunch.

Menus and lessons are tailored to seasonal produce and specialties, ensuring only for the freshest and highest quality ingredients to be used. Daily classes typically take place in the morning, leaving the remainder of

the day to explore the surrounding area through planned activities or on your own. For those wanting a more personalized experience, individual courses can be designed to uniquely fit your interests. Although this being a five-day program, you are free to choose to select individual classes. The cooking School runs throughout the entire year.

### Day 3 – Desserts and Introduction to Wines

A chance to discover classic and modern Italian desserts. Then, over a leisurely lunch prepared by our staff, we will talk about wine tastes savouring a selection of Italian wines.

### Day 4 – Culinary Outing

We will tour the countryside and visit a local winery. While dining on a delectable lunch we continue to learn and taste Italian wines. Afterwards, we visit a market, tour an olive oil mill or another culinary destination, depending on the season.

### Day 5 – More Il Bottaccio Cuisine and ‘Being the Chef’

You will experience more wonderful specialities of Il Bottaccio. Afterwards, you will have the chance to be the chef and apply what you have learned to create your own masterpiece.



## OTZIUM WELLNESS

The Art of living and making of oneself a masterpiece. Il Bottaccio has created an oasis of being around this philosophy – a Health and Beauty Wellness for believers that the body and spirit are reflections of one another, that a healthy body creates a healthy world, and that the two should be nurtured and cared for together. Its very name, 'Otzium,' springs from the Latin word for 'not doing'-'ozio'. Here, stripped of every role, and abandoning every identification with the clamour of daily life, time is suspended, and the body begins to dream again, in contact with the truest and most sincere part of itself.

This is the real wealth, the only luxury. The mastery of the masseuse, the aromatherapy and chromo-therapy, are elements of a personally prescribed wellness path that culminates in the rare and unique Hammam – the original Turkish Bath – jewel of hundreds of years of careful

study and knowledge of the secrets of the body. Crossing the threshold of the world of Otzium, you are enriched with its subtle food of perceptions, sensations and emotions, and are enabled to close every internal distance, to take life back into your hands, and to become again responsible for being healthy, happy and free – your natural birth rights.

### WELLNESS TREATMENTS:

- Ayurvedic Massage
- Shiatsu Massage
- Meridian Massage with Oil and Essences
- Meridian Massage with Gua Sha Technic
- Rebalancing Massage with Tibetan Bells
- Four Hand Massage
- Yin/Yang with Essential Oils
- Hammam

## IL BOTTACCIO EXCLUSIVE USE

"Let's make this world beautiful"  
"When your vision brightens and intensifies your outer reality can only express the same thing. Light, order, beauty and perfection are the inevitable creation of a world seen from above" ...from "The School for Gods" by Elio D'Anna

### CHARM AND STORY... THE IDEAL SETTING FOR EVENTS

Spacious rooms permitting various modular solutions, optimum acoustics, modern technological equipment and above all the high architectural value of Il Bottaccio, an exclusive place for events nestled on the green hills of Forte dei Marmi. The rooms, "Diana" and "Piscina", different in their characteristics and atmosphere, allow creating special ambiances, to accomplish the desires and the style of who wants to live an unforgettable experience.

Il Bottaccio can host a wide range of

events, on exclusive basis, for the period of time you will request. Make Il Bottaccio your Italian escape retreat and we will be sure that all your dreams will come true.



## GOLF CLUB 18 HOLES

A course nestled like a diamond between the Apuan Alps and the sea, designed by the famous Venetian architect Marco Croze. The Forte dei Marmi Golf is a luxurious oasis divided between the towns of Pietrasanta, Forte dei Marmi and Montignoso. 18 holes, par 71, for a total of 5.873 metres: these are the numbers that make up the course and that give players constant stimulus and challenging difficulties. Hole 13 is particularly venerated for its beauty and technical difficulty rated 1 and was designed by Integral Golf Design, the Spanish firm founded by José María Olazábal.

## TENNIS

Tennis Club Italia situated between the sea and the Apuan Alps, framed in an attractive green area, has 8 fields, all lighted, 4 of which are covered: 3 with geodesic structure and 1

with pressostatic structure.

Has also one large and comfortable gym with the latest equipment, one technical sportswear store and one club house.

One of the faithful members of the club is Andrea Boccelli, the famous Italian singer, who became a regular client.

## WATER SPORTS

### SURF&SUP

Forte dei Marmi Surf Academy  
The school, open all year round, was opened by the Italian champion Nicola Bresciani in Forte dei Marmi. Together with his collaborators will give you the chance to enjoy the sea and the waves. Furthermore you will also have the chance to try different patterns of boards produced by "TWINSBROS SURFBOARDS."

## HORSE TREKKING

Monte Brugiana is located in the heart of the Apuan Alps, surrounded by nature, in a wonderful atmosphere, near the crest of the Apuan Alps and overlooking the nearby Versilia.

The refuge, despite being in the middle of the nature, at just 20 minutes from Il Bottaccio, is easily accessible. The farm is also involved in horse breeding. Paolo Monteleone, instructor FISE, professional guide for alpine horse trekking, takes care of all aspects. He is the protagonist of the great European routes on horseback (as the journey from Lisbon to Massa Carrara) will be pleased to conduct even beginners within the Park of the Apuan Alps and the Tuscan-Emilian Apennines

## COURSES

Most of the summer activities are conducted outdoors, immersed in nature and under the typical chestnut trees. The horses of the center are perfect

for walks on trails and mule tracks, or to delve into the more dense woods. You can also attend riding lessons with instructors and guides. For trekking on foot or on mountain bike there are easy or challenging trails within the great park of the Apuan Alps.

## TRAILS

- Apuan Alps Park - Tuscan-Emilian Apennines
- Casentino Forests (hermitages of Camaldoli and La Verna)
- Park Monti Sibillini - Maremma - Chianti Area
- Trails of Santiago de Compostela (medieval pilgrimage route)
- Chain of the Pyrenees



## VISITING CARRARA MARBLE QUARRIES, APUAN ALPS' ETERNAL SNOW

When driving along the west coast of Tuscany just north of Pisa, you will see jagged Alps rising steeply from the narrow strip of land, glistening majestically. These are the Alpi Apuane, or Apuan Alps, mountains that gleam as though cloaked with snow all year round. But the pristine white is not snow, it is the marble of the bare quarried faces of the mountains – the snow the gods made eternal. The effect is so surreal it would not be out of place in a mural in an Indian restaurant, but this breath taking view belies a multi-million euro a year industry and the source of some of the most famous sculptures in the world – including Michelangelo's Pieta and David.

The marble quarries of Carrara are situated in the valleys of Torano, Miseglia, Bedisano and Colonnata, where both white and coloured mar-

bles are found: the amount of marble is staggering. From raw cut blocks waiting for export, rows of flawless reproductions of Michelangelo's David, to the marble-clad center of Carrara, it is clear that marble is the main protagonist of this area. Driving further up into the mountains around hairpin turns through the lush green forest does nothing to prepare you for the number and scale of the marble quarries that were first opened up by the Romans more than 2000 years ago.

## ANCIENT ROOTS

Written records dated to 177 BC describe Romans who were sent to the colony of Luni with a full complement of slaves to extract the marble and ship it back to Rome for use in palaces and monuments – all engraved with A.U.P.H. (ad usum phori – for use in the Forums) to avoid taxes. It was the white marble of Carrara that converted Rome

from a city of brick huts to one of marble palaces.

The Renaissance was boom time for Carrara. Marble was de rigueur in Florence, Venice and Rome, and there was plenty of money being invested in art. Michelangelo travelled to the Alpi Apuane to choose his marble, and eventually to open up rival quarries to those of Carrara for his patrons the Medici. Michelangelo worked in the Serra gorge, favouring the whitest, most finely veined marble and he dreamed of carving the figure of a giant out of 5000 ft Monte Sagro.

By the 14th century, mining methods had not changed much from the times of the Romans. Stonecutters climbed for miles up the vertiginous peaks in squads to drill holes in the rock into which they drove wooden stakes. They then wet the wood, which expanded and split off huge blocks of marble.

## FAT OF THE LAND

As you might imagine from the name, lardo is pure pork fat. However, it is not just any old bacon – it is pork back fat, cut into strips and laid into chests of marble called conche with sea salt, garlic, black pepper, and a mix of other spices, including sage, rosemary, cinnamon, cloves and coriander. The combination of spices varies between the producers, or larderie, who guard their recipes jealously. The lard is then aged in the conche for six to ten months.



## PIETRASANTA

Pietrasanta, is a historic medieval and artistic town in northern Tuscany sometimes called the City of the Artists or Small Athens for its marble studios and monuments. The town has Roman origins but the modern town is named for its founder Guiccardo Pietrasanta who built it in the mid-thirteenth century as part of the republic of Lucca.

Unlike many popular Tuscan towns, Pietrasanta is not a hill town and its historic center is a pleasant place for strolling. It's an important center for working marble and was used as a marble source by Michelangelo. Several international artists live or work here and there are art galleries and exhibits. The Bozzetti Museum is a very important museum of sculpture and sketches.

## PIETRASANTA SHOPPING AND MARKETS

Thursday is market day in Pietrasanta. There's an antique market the first

Sunday of the month and a crafts the second Sunday of the month. There are several shops that sell handicrafts, marble items, and artworks. San Biagio day is celebrated with a fair in early February.

## PIETRASANTA SIGHTS AND ATTRACTIONS

- Piazza del Duomo is the large main square. Here you'll find cafes, people, art exhibits, the town's principal buildings, and of course the Duomo.
- The Duomo, Church of S.Martino, dominates the square. It was built in the fourteenth century but has been remodeled several times. The exterior is covered with marble and inside are murals by Aldemollo and other important works of art.
- Palazzo Pretorio, the town offices and Town Theatre, was acquired by the town in the fourteenth century and has been remodelled several times. From the fourteenth to nineteenth centuries, it was center of the Vicar and the Captain of Justice and coats of arms can be seen on the marble facade.

- The Bruno Antonuci Archaeology Museum is inside the 16th century Palazzo Moroni on Piazza del Duomo. Exhibits range from prehistoric and Etruscan to medieval and Renaissance objects.

- Tower of the Hours, Torre delle Ore, started construction in 1530 but its current look dates from 1860.

- Bozzetti Sculpture Museum shows sketches, models and drawings of sculptures carried out by hundreds of Italian and foreign artists who worked at Pietrasanta, such as Botero, Cascella, Theimer, Folon, Mitroraj, Yasuda, Pomodoro, Tommasi and Gina Lollobrigida (the Hollywood star). It's in the St. Agostino complex.

- St. Agostino's Church and Convent is a complex originating in the fourteenth century. The church is Romanesque and has a marble facade. Inside are many important paintings and frescoes and a restored wooden choir in the apse. It's currently the seat of art exhibits. The courtyard of the cloister is surrounded by marble

columns and part of the frescoes that once adorned the walls are still visible. Today it houses the Center Cultural Luigi Russo, library, Museum of Sketches, and Bozzetti Sculpture Museum.

- Rocchetta Arrighina, Porta a Pisa is the only survivor of the three ancient town gates. Originally built in the fourteenth century, it had a 17th century fresco of the Annunciazione which is now near the town hall.

- Church of San Antonio Abate, documented since the fourteenth century, has ancient wooden statues and contemporary frescoes.

- Rocca di Sala and Guinigi Palace sits on a hill behind the city center. The fortress was restructured in the fourteenth century and the small residential palace was built by Paul Guinigi in the fifteenth century.



## LUCCA

“ Lucca...a compact and admirable little city, the very model of a small pays de Cocagne, overflowing with everything that makes for ease for plenty, for beauty, for interest and good example.” (Henry James, “Italian Hours”)

This quaint and evocative city retains the charm of a small and ancient Italian City State. Over the centuries it has managed to hold on its independence and freedom by adopting an cautious policy. Having miraculously escaped the devastation of the war, today it boasts one of the most extraordinary Tuscan heritage. The imposing tree-lined Renaissance walls, which totally enclose it, the maze of medieval streets, flange by towers and smart boutiques, the enchanting Romanesque churches and bright inviting squares captivate the visitor who stands in awe of such unexpected beauty.

The historical center, now a pedestrian precinct, plunges the visitor back in time and provides the perfect setting to savour the old warm charm, where time and space take on a new dimension, no longer found in today’s modern cities.

### WHAT TO VISIT:

- Piazza S. Michele in Foro, to admire the church bearing the same name
- Piazza Napoleone, from this square we can admire Palazzo Ducale and Teatro del Giglio (the theatre)
- Cathedral San Martino, important destination for medieval pilgrims who came here to worship “Il Volto Santo” (The holy Countenance of Christ), is still today an important symbol of the city. Inside the sacristy is the renowned sarcophagus of Ilaria del Carreto by Jacopo della Quercia. A definite must (admission fee)
- Characteristic medieval streets, worthy of mention is “via degli antiquari” where we can see the fine antique shops and the teeming and smart Via Fillungo.

- Piazza Anfiteatro, built on the ruins of the ancient Roman arena, is still today one of the most picturesque landmarks of the town
- Guinigi Tower, one of its kind has a very suggestive tree lined hanging garden right on the top
- Basilic di San Frediano, Is one of the most ancient churches in Lucca famous for the splendid gilded mosaic on the façade
- The 16th century Walls, built for defence reasons, are today a public garden for the enjoyment of all. You can take a leisurely stroll, ride your bike or even take a ride on a carriage to better appreciate their beauty.

### PALACES AND MUSEUMS

It is possible to change or extend the city tour including a visit to some of the most beautiful “Palazzi” belonging to the merchants of Lucca

- Palazzo Mansi, one of the most important noble palaces in Lucca. Elaborately furnished, is the symbol of wealth archived by the mercantile families of Lucca, Today it is

the National Museum which houses paintings from the 16th to the 20th centuries

- Villa Guinigi, an ancient Gothic villa that belonged to the Guinigi family. Today is a National Museum with houses in two halls, paintings and sculptures from Lucca and its territory from the very origins to the 18th century
- Palazzo Pfanner, is one of the few city palaces with boats a Baroque garden of exceptional beauty, probably designed by Filippo Juvarra. The perspective of the hedges and allegorical statues recreates the typical stage settings of the late 17th century. It is also possible to visit the palace inside
- Palazzo Ducale, this is the government palace of the Republic of Lucca designed by Bartolomeo Ammannati. In the 16th century, the interior was completely renovated in the Neo-Classical style and later became the residence of the Princess Elisa Baciocchi Bonaparte. It is today the “Prefettura” and the local provincial administration



## MONTECARLO (LUCCA)

Montecarlo's urban set-up is organized around parallel and perpendicular main streets, and it is enclosed by fortified walls, towered over by the majestic Belfry of the Collegiate of Sant'Andrea, visible from the whole surrounding plain. Of the fourteenth-century gates placed along the walls there remain Porta Fiorentina (the 15th century Florentina Gate, modified in the 16th century) to the east, the Porticciola (the 14th century Lucca Gate) to the west towards Lucca, which was widened in 1594, while Porta Nuova (or New Gate) to the south was reopened at the end of the sixteenth century. On the main street, formerly via Grande and today Via Roma, we encounter the Collegiate Church of Sant'Andrea. In nearby via Carmignani we find the Municipal Theatre of the Rassicurati. The well-preserved town walls, attached to the fortress, can be still admired today. These walls also include the three main town gates.

The walls, as a whole, date back to the founding of the country (1333): at some point, however, no longer corresponds to the original one: the best preserved and most easily visible is the one that goes from NEW DOOR to the so-called "Tomb", the TOWER OF BELVEDERE Fiorentina and then to PORT. Inside the walls ran a time, the "Way of the Walls."

The Rocca del Cerruglio (the "Stronghold of the Cerruglio"), ancient name for the fortress, probably dates back to the XIIIth century, although there is no archival document to confirm this date. This fortress is the most important historical symbol of Montecarlo, and it rises on the highest point of the Cerruglio hill. Its oldest part, dating back to the early years of the XIV century and it has the aspect of an isosceles triangle. It is still well visible today, with its corners welded in the Mastio Tower (a dungeon with a semi-circular shape) and in the towers, the Tower of the Apparizione and the Tower of St. Barbara.

The structure of the dungeon can be dated back to a previous period, 'probably' the XII century, if not even to the XI century. It was around the year 1331 that the Rocca del Cerruglio became part of the European history. In 1332 AD the Rocca fell under the King John of Bohemia and his son Charles (the late Emperor Charles IV) came to Lucca's aid and chased the Florentine army out of Lucca and the surrounding country. The Stronghold of Cerruglio and the nearby village, Vivinaia, were abandoned and during the escape the town of Vivinaia was completely destroyed. The new village born nearby the Stronghold was named Mons Karoli in honor and remembrance of the young prince Charles. During the XVth century the fortress was enlarged towards the village. Subsequently, it was enlarged in the same century on orders from Paolo Guinigi, Lord of Lucca at that time, and it was completed in 1555 by order of the Grand-duke Cosimo I dei Medici (huge ramparts were

added to the complex). The latter 'part' personally visited Montecarlo and provided for building of ample fortifications, among which the imposing fort of Piazza D'Armi.

When the general political conditions changed, the Grand dukes who succeeded abandoned the costly projects and military works. Finally, in 1775 Pietro Leopoldo disarmed the fortress, which, after becoming property of the Comune, was subsequently ceded to private citizens. The fortress is a fine example of military construction bearing elements that are representative of the Middle Ages and of the following periods, up to beginning of 1900. Private property since 1775, it is the object of continuous conservation and restoration works carried on by the owners. Its restored rooms and gardens host exhibitions and cultural events. To be seen: donjon, the enchanted garden in Italian style, medieval and renaissance defensive systems (passageways, cannon-holes, murder-holes, etc.).



## PISA

Although it is worldwide famous due to its Leaning Tower, the city of Pisa also has many other great attractions and amazing characteristics to offer. Pisa is one of the most important historic Italian areas and one of the most visited years around as well. This city allows tourists to meet buildings that conjugate many different époques and artistic currents, such as, for example Romanesque and Gothic among many others.

Pisa is located towards the western area of Tuscany, and its origins date from as long as 3.000 years ago. During that time, settlements started being built up at seaside and gave origin to what today is one of the most famous cities in the world. This way, the historical richness of Pisa is amazing due to its great amount of years and this can be observed in the buildings, which have remained through the pass of time and which shows the different époques through which

the city has passed. Another one of Pisa's main characteristics is its university, established in the first years of 1340 and worldwide known due to its excellence. This way Pisa is a city, which gives main importance to knowledge, science and arts, being up to date with modern life as well as maintaining some of the characteristics, which gave it shape through time.

The Learning Tower is located in the northwest area of Pisa, sharing one same area with other important buildings. At this area, known as Campo dei Miracoli, next to the famous Leaning Tower, there are other three great and unique buildings: the Camposanto or Holy Field; the amazing Duomo or Cathedral of Pisa of 1000 years; and the Baptistery or Battistero of circular shape. There are several other buildings and interesting areas for visitors to meet in Pisa besides the Campo dei Miracoli. Towards the south side of the city, tourists can visit two interesting museums: the Museo delle Sinopie and the Museo dell'Opera.

## FLORENCE

The best-know site and crowning architectural jewel of Florence is the domed cathedral of the city, Santa Maria del Fiore, known as The Duomo. Filippo Brunelleschi built this magnificent dome. The nearby Campanile tower (partly designed by Giotto) and the Baptistery buildings are also highlights. Both the dome itself and the campanile are open to tourists and offer excellent views; the dome, 600 years after its completion, is still the largest dome built in brick and mortar in the world.

The Arno River, which cuts through the old part of the city, is as much a character in Florentine history as many of the men who lived there. Historically, the locals have had a love-hate relationship with the Arno-which alternated from nourishing the city with commerce, and destroying it by flood.

One of the bridges in particular stands out as being unique – The Ponte Vecchio (Old Bridge), who's

most striking feature, is the multitude of shops built upon its edges, held up by stilts. The bridge also carried Vasari's elevated corridor linking the Uffizzi to the Medici residence (Palazzo Pitti). First constructed by the Etruscans in the ancient times, this bridge is the only one in the city to have survived World War II intact. The San Lorenzo contains the Medici Chapel, the mausoleum of the Medici family – the most powerful family in Florence from the 15th to the 18th century. Nearby is the Uffizzi Gallery, one of the finest art galleries in the world – founded on a large bequest from the last member of the Medici Family. The Uffizzi ("offices") itself is located on the corner of Piazza della Signoria, a site important for being the center of Florence civil life and government for centuries (Signoria Palace is still home of the community government): the Loggia dei Lanzi was the set of all the public ceremonies of the republican government. Many will know episodes of history of art and political changes



were staged here, such as:

- In 1301, Dante was sent into Exile from here (a plaque on one of the walls of the Uffizi commemorates the event)

- 26 April 1478 Jacopo de'Pazzi and his retainers tried to raise the city against the Medici after the plot known as The congiura dei pazzi (The pazzi conspiracy) who murdered Giuliano dei Medici and wounded his brother Lorenzo; the Florentines seized and hung all the members of the plot than could be apprehended from the windows of the Palace.

- In 1497, it was the location of the Bonfire of the Vanities instigated by the Dominican friar and

Preacher Girolamo Savonarola

- The 23 of May 1498 the same Savonarola and two followers were hanged and burnt at the stake (a round plate in the ground commemorates the very spot where he was hanged)

- In 1504, it was the original location of Michelangelo's David (now replaced by a reproduction as the

original was moved indoors to the Accademia dell'Arte del Disegno), in front of the Palazzo della Signoria (also known as Palazzo Vecchio).

It is still the setting for a number of statues by other sculptors such as Donatello, Giambologna, Cellini, Ammannati, although some have been replaced with copies to preserve the priceless originals. In addition to the Uffizi, Florence has other world-class museums. The Bargello concentrates on sculpture, containing many priceless works of art created by such sculptors as Donatello, Giambologna and Michelangelo.

The Accademia dell'Arte del Disegno (often simply called the Accademia) collections' highlights are Michelangelo's David and his unfinished Slaves. Across the Arno is the huge Pitti Palace containing part of the Medici family's former private collection. In addition to the Medici collection the palace's galleries contain a large number of renaissance works, including several by Raphael and Titian as well as a large collection of

modern art, costumes and porcelain. Adjoining the Palace are the Boboli Gardens, elaborately landscaped and with many interesting sculptures.

The Santa Croce basilica, originally a Franciscan foundation, contains the monumental tombs of Galileo, Michelangelo, Machiavelli, Dante (actually a cenotaph, and many others notables. Other important basilicas and churches in Florence include Santa Maria Novella, San Lorenzo, Santo Spirito and the Orsanmichele. Florence has been the setting for numerous works of fiction and movies, including the novels and associated films Hannibal, Tea with Mussolini and A Room with a View Today, the city is so rich in art that some first time visitors experience the Stendhal syndrome as they encounter its art for the first time.

## SIENA

Surrounded by olive groves and the vineyards of Chianti, Siena is one of the most beautiful cities of Tuscany. Set on three hills, the city is drawn together by winding alleyways and steep steps, whilst the Piazza del Campo stands at its heart, and the Duomo and St Maria della Scala serve as additional cultural landmarks.

Famed for the "Palio", the annual historic horse races that take place on 2 July and 16 August, it is also home to one of the oldest Universities in Europe, which ensures a vibrant Italian student atmosphere throughout the academic year. In addition to the bustling daily life of the streets and squares of the city, Siena offers many cultural events, concerts, cinema, theatre and a wide range of sporting activities.

Few geographical areas in the world can boast of the variety of environment that surrounds Siena. To the north, we have the richness of the



Chianti Landscape, woven with vines and olive-trees throughout the hills. Here also are beautiful towns like San Gimignano and Monteriggioni with old walls, winding streets and incredible views South of Siena; the Arbia valley leads to the hilltop town of Montalcino, home to the famous Brunello wine. And the area La Crete stretches out, amazing visitors with its harsh rock formations and unique landscape. Westwards we head towards the coast, to captivating coastline towns like Castiglione della Pescaia, and nature reserves like the area called Maremma. The Chianti area, between Florence and Siena, is one of the most beautiful countryside in Italy and a famous wine production area.

### SAN GIMIGNANO

San Gimignano rises on a hill (334m high) dominating the Elsa Valley with its towers. Once the seat of a small Etruscan village of the Hellenistic period (200-300 BC) it began its life as a town in the 10th century taking its name from the barbarian hordes. The town increased in wealth and developed greatly during the middle Ages thank to the "Via Francigena" the trading and pilgrim's route that crossed it. Such prosperity leads to the flourishing of works of art to adorn the churches and monasteries. In 1199 it became a free municipality and fought against the Bishops of Volterra and the surroundings municipalities. Due to internal power struggle it eventually divided into two factions one headed by the Ardinghelli family (Guelphs) and the other by the Salvucci family (Ghibellines). On the 8th May 1300 Dante Alighieri came to San Gimignano as the Ambassador of the Guelph Death in Tuscany. In 1348 San Gimignano's popu-

lation was drastically reduced by the Black Death Plague throwing the city into a serious crisis, which eventually led to its submission to Florence in 1353. In the following centuries San Gimignano overcame its decline and isolation when its beauty and cultural importance together with its agricultural heritage were rediscovered. The construction of the towers dates back to the 11th and 13th centuries. The architecture of the city was influenced by Pisa, Siena and Florence. There are 14th century paintings of the Siennese School to be seen and 15th century paintings of the Florentine School. The Duomo or Collegiate Church, was consecrated in 1148 and is adorned with valuable Siennese School frescoes: "The Old and the New Testament"(Bartolo di Fredi and the "Bottega dei Marmi" or Barna da Siena); "The Last Judgement"(Taddeo di Bartolo) works of art by the Florentine school: "Stories of St. Fina"(Ghirlandaio), "St. Sebastiano"(Benozzo Gozzoli), wooden

wooden statues (Jacopo della Quercia) and the Sculptures (Giuliano and Benedetto Gozzoli). Frescoes, statues and sculptures make the Collegiate Church of San Gimignano a very prestigious museum. The People's Palace: The People's Palace courtyard ad Dante's Hall with "The Maestà" by Lippo Memmi. The Civic Museum and the Picture Gallery with works by Filippino Lippi, Pinturicchio, Benozzo Gozzoli, Domenico di Michelino, Pier Francesco Fiorentino, Sebastiano Mainardi, Lorenzo di Niccolò di Martino, Coppo di Marcovaldo etc. Entering the Civic Museum the 54 metre high "Great Tower" of Podesta' stower built in 1311 can be visited. The Museum of Sacred Art: Canvases, tablets, works in stone, which come from former churches and monasteries, sacred silverware, vestments and psalm books. The "Raffaele De Grada" Gallery of Modern and Contemporary Art is an important exhibition space for the city.



## THE FIVE LANDS “LE CINQUE TERRE”

The charm of the hill overhanging the sea a wonderful choreography that seems to have been designed by a romantic painter who traced an extremely intense painting, a treasure, vaunt of the Province of La Spezia, destination for tourists from all over the world. Houses and paths suspended between the earth and the sky make it a natural beauty unique also because kept intact and faithful to the nautical tradition. Your journey in the beautiful places characterizing The Five Lands starts from Brognato motorway's exit. Then, trespassing Borgetto Vara, Pignone, we'll reach Monterosso, the first of the five little villages. The arrival is made much more suggestive by the peculiar nature of this place got out of the rocks. You will be welcomed by the Statue of the Giant (a Neptune rested to the cliff to guard the sea). Then Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore.

## THE LOVER'S PATH: Riomaggiore – Monterosso

The Cinque Terre own a large part of their tourist success to the paths that wind along the coast or reach sanctuaries, which overlook each village. The path that connects Riomaggiore to Monterosso is the most famous and spectacular one and is called the “blue path” (“il sentiero azzurro”). In order to travel the whole path, one needs to walk for about five hours and to go through a difference in height of 500 meters. The path was traced over the centuries by those who used it to travel from place to place, therefore in some points, it is a real bridle path which unwinds itself by the seaside and connecting the five villages amongst themselves.

### Riomaggiore – Manarola

Starting from the Riomaggiore train station, going up on left, one can find the access stairs, with ramps for disabled people that lead to the Path of Love (Via dell'Amore), the typical path connecting the village to

Manarola. The path was dug in the hard rocks and runs close to the sea on which it leans out. Along the way, you can see various types of vegetation such as agaves, pitosfori, Indian fig, vanilla plant, rue and many others.

### Manarola – Corniglia

Once in Manarola, more precisely in the Marina, the path offers two possible ways to continue, depending on the time available. If you aren't in a hurry, you can do the “Bioroli” walk, which leads to Palaedro. It is a 250 meters section with turns around the Punta Bonfiglio and which has recently been equipped with a playground and a petanque field. Otherwise, you can clamber up the slope, which leads to the cemetery of Manarola where the path is characterised by a long gravelled and pebbled beach, which takes the place of the rocky cliffs.

### Corniglia – Vernazza

The path continues, skirting the numerous vineyards of Corniglia. The

atmosphere is shady and the land is covered by a meadow where there are many plants such as anemones, orchids and lords-andladies. One then goes down small stairs on the left and walks through olive trees, vineyards and Mediterranean maquis until overlooking the residential area of Vernazza.

### Vernazza – Monterosso

It is the toughest section of the path. You need to exit the village and start going up, towards the cemetery, which skirts the path. The bridle path is in steep gradient: one quickly reaches the altitude of 150 meters; from this moment on, one will continue, slightly going up and down, until the precipitous descent towards Monterosso. Going forward, one goes through the Mediterranean maquis, which covers the now abandoned pieces of land. The vegetation is quite diverse; you can find holm oaks, arbutus, white Heather Spanish broom, and juniper.



## PORTOFINO

Portofino is a famous village of the Ligure riviera. It stands in a protected bay in the wide Tigullio Gulf. With its narrow and coloured houses, leaning against one another, it looks like a simple fishermen village. Its numerous small streets all lead to the now world famous small pebbled square. Here nature and worldliness come together Portofino, sanctuary of the VIPs, crossroads of famous people, and Portofino of the Protected Park and Natural Area, with its footpaths, its Mediterranean maquis, and its deep waters. A very special seamen village unites with the untouched nature. Here, one can walk around in the small port amongst the luxurious boats and maybe meet cinema stars. One can also choose to take a walk until the lighthouse or a tour of the opulent-looking villas, ride among the olives trees, where the protagonists of newspapers columns and magazines have been living since the 1950s. In all cases,

Portofino is a magical and enchanting place, whose visit reveals different but always fascinating aspects, to be discovered and seen in all its different nuances. The bay of San Fruttuoso opens itself behind the promontory of Portofino, Natural Reserve, with its famous bronze statue of Cristo degli Abissi (Christ of the Abysses), known by the underwater divers from the whole world, which was deposited at the bottom of the deep waters of San Fruttuoso on August 22nd 1954.

## FORTE DEI MARMI

In Italian Forte dei Marmi means "Fort of the marbles". The town takes its name from the fortress that rises in the middle of the main square, built under Grand Duke Peter Leopold, who was to become Leopold II, Holy Roman Emperor, in 1788. The fortress was built to defend the coast from outer attacks, but in the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century it became the place where the marble quarried from the Alpi Apuane (they are the same mountains of the famous marble of Carrara) was stocked before being sent to the pier for shipping. Sea and culture are the two characteristics of Forte dei Marmi. In addition to the beauty of its beaches and its center, Forte dei Marmi is famous also for its festivals (of Sant'Ermete and San Francesco) and for its markets (antique fair, weekly market in Marconi square, and at Victoria Apuana). The sea is not the only attraction in Forte dei Marmi, as also its sur-

and ancient traditions. Here you can undertake interesting excursions to discover the Apuan Alps and the entire Province of Lucca. The center of town is rich in shops and high fashion boutiques with designer's clothes and it is a must for visitors to go out shopping also late in the evening.



## PUCCINI FESTIVAL

A deep love lasting over thirty years linked Giacomo Puccini to the charming hamlet of Torre del Lago, which was then renamed Torre del Lago Puccini to the pride of all its inhabitants. When the great composer first arrived here, at the end of the 19th century, he was searching and he found a picturesque and quiet place where his creative genius could spring out. Puccini immediately liked the Lake and the small village, whose houses were mirrored in the blue-grey waters of Massacciucoli Lake, less than two kilometres far from the sandy beaches of Versilia, and the inhabitants welcomed him enthusiastically. Puccini composed in Torre del Lago his main operas, among which *Tosca* (1900), *Madama Butterfly* (1904), *La Fanciulla del West* (1910), *La Rondine* (1917) and *Il Trittico* (1918). The Puccini Festival in Torre del Lago is the only one in the world dedicated to the composer Giacomo Puccini. It takes place

every summer during the months of July and August, in the very places that inspired Maestro Puccini's immortal melodies. The Festival saw its first light in 1930 and over the years has become an increasingly prestigious event which each year attracts tens of thousands of spectators from all over the world. At the Puccini Festival, you can appreciate the great stars of opera, under the direction of the most important conductors, and admire the extraordinary stagings executed by most famous directors of Puccini's operas such as *Madama Butterfly*, *Turandot*, *La Bohème*, *Tosca*, *Manon Lescaut*. The Great Open Air Theatre with 3,400 seats, dedicated to Maestro Puccini, opens onto the picturesque Massacciucoli Lake and is surrounded by a park of extraordinary charm that houses works of art by great contemporary sculptors such as Pietro Cascella, Jean-Michel Folon and Kan Yasuda. Just a few steps away is the house where the Master lived and composed.

## WINE TASTING TOUR

### • ANTINORI Chianti Classico

Entering into the wine cellars of Cantina Antinori in Chianti Classico means to become a participant in the adventure which winds you through six centuries of history of the Antinori family and their passion in producing wine. The visitor is accompanied by our guides along a route which is, at the same time, historical and emotional, technical and architectural, culminating in a tasting of our wines.

To visit the wine cellars, it is possible to choose between two routes which, from the vineyards to the bottle, explains the art of producing wine at Antinori: the *Barricaia* (Barrique) cellar tour and the *Bottaia* (traditional Tuscan wine barrel) cellar tour.

The *Barricaia* (Barrique) cellar tour lasts approximately one hour, which summarizes the production process

through the main phases of vinification and ageing. The visit finishes with a tasting of three wines which represent the territory: *Villa Antinori Bianco IGT*; *Peppoli Chianti Classico DOCG*; *Marchese Antinori Chianti Classico DOCG Riserva*. The *Bottaia* (traditional Tuscan wine barrel) cellar tour lasts approximately two hours and focuses on the individual stages of the production process, as well as giving access to otherwise restricted areas of the production process. The guide will also accompany the guests in the Gallery Space, which illustrates some of the most significant works of the collection. The visit concludes with a tasting of three excellent wines from Antinori in the spectacular suspended tasting rooms, a visit through the hall of barriques or in the exclusive *Bottaia* tasting room to taste *Villa Antinori Chianti Classico Riserva*, *Marchese Antinori Chianti Classico DOCG Riserva* and *Badia a Passignano*. According to the seasons, we can also offer a tasting of *Vinsanto*



from the Tenute Marchese Antinori paired with the famous Cantuccini di Prato Mattei and/or a tasting of the organic extra virgin olive oil “Peppoli” with toasted bread.

To complete the tour, you can freely access to the Auditorium, where we show the movie “ The Antinori Family, Vinattieri since 1385 “ by Cinzia Th. Torrini (documentary 2014) and the space dedicated to Antinori Art Project where you can visit an exhibition of ancient works and contemporary collection of the Antinori Family. If you would like to taste by the glass other wines of Antinori, you can take advantage of the vast assortment of wines presented in the Wine Shop, where you will find an ample selection of wines, wine-themed objects and several products, which come from other Antinori vineyards.

The Restaurant “Rinuccio 1180” is situated in an ample open space, with windows to the panoramic terrace, which offers traditional Tuscan dishes revisited in a contemporary style.

#### CANTINA ANTINORI NEL CHIANTI CLASSICO

Via Cassia per Siena, 133 Località Bargino

50026 San Casciano Val di Pesa, Firenze

GPS: +43° 36' 43.30", +11° 11' 29.76"

#### • ORNELLAIA Tasting Tour

##### ABOUT ORNELLAIA

The Ornellaia Estate was created in 1981 and is located near the picturesque village of Bolgheri, on the unspoiled Tuscan coast. The uniqueness of the area was epitomized by the famous poet Giosuè Carducci who gave eternal fame to the monumental Cypress Avenue leading up to Bolgheri. The coastal plain is a natural refuge to numerous migratory birds and other protected species. In the midst of all this natural beauty lie the vineyards of Ornellaia.

##### WINE TASTING

This private tour, can be reserved for 10.30am or for 3.00pm; averaging 3 hours in length, it takes in our vineyards and winemaking facility, and concludes with a guided wine tasting. Upon request and at no extra cost, you can taste our Extravirgin olive Oil as well and Eligo dell’Ornellaia, our Grappa Riserva.

Località Ornellaia, 191 – Fraz. Bolgheri  
57022 Castagneto Carducci (LI)

GPS direction: latitude north: 43° 12' 41"; longitude east: 10° 36' 42".



## FERRARI & LAMBORGHINI TOURS

### SHORT TOUR

Basic tour. You go outside the town and come back.

Duration: About 10 minutes.

### MEDIUM TOUR

Standard tour. **HIGHER SPEED** than inside the town. Feel the power.

Duration: about 15-20 minutes.

### LONG TOUR

Extended tour. It's the medium tour plus the **COUNTRYSIDE**.

Speed and Corners.

Duration: about 30 minutes.

### MOUNTAIN TOUR

Extended tour. You can drive the car in the mountains.

Awesome Experience.

Duration: about 60 minutes.

### PANORAMIC TOUR

Enjoy the beauties of our country with this amazing tour! It's the perfect ride for the Ferrari California

Duration: about 60 minutes.

### PUSHSTART PRECISION TOUR

Driving course in the mountains! Reach the driving perfection with your favourite car on a historic test road full of corners.

Duration: about 120 minutes.

### RACE TRACK TOUR

Enjoy the experience of a pilot on Misano Adriatico and Modena race-tracks.

Duration: depending of the number of laps is between 15 and 30 minutes.

### Cars Available:

FERRARI F430 SPIDER

FERRARI F430 SCUDERIA

FERRARI CALIFORNIA

FERRARI F458 ITALIA

FERRARI 458 SPECIALE

FERRARI 430 CHALLENGE

LAMBORGHINI LP570-4

SUPERLEGGERA

\*Tours organized in collaboration with Push Start Maranello.