

🌿 OUR INSIDER'S GUIDE 🌿



It is really hard to make a choice between the many things to see and do in this area. We've spent so many holidays here and have, along the time, made our favourite list: not a sterile list, but suggestions to experience local lifestyle that is still tied in the old villages!

🌿 TOWNS AND VILLAGES:

If you've never been in Tuscany before, the 3 must are:

Florence:

Visit www.firenzeturismo.it/en

What beautiful leather bags we bought at the last authentic leather shop with original products manufactured by Italian craftsmen

Siena:

Visit www.terresiena.it

San Gimignano: today UNESCO patrimony, famous for its many towers.



Find details under www.terresiena.it

☼ SOME LITTLE BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES AROUND THE CHIANTI HILLS:

Monteriggioni: One of the few completely walled towns that can be proud of its original medieval walls still standing.



Radda in Chianti:

Remember!! You have a discount voucher for **Bar Sampoli** next to the pharmacy: our favourite bar for delicious cappuccino, brioche, pastries, ice-cream!

Bottega Porciatti: highest quality of local and Tuscany products!

Every Wednesday: Fresh fruit and vegetables market

Every Thursday: Fresh fish market

Walk along the **medieval path** and figure out all the charm of this little medieval village.

Greve in Chianti:

Piazza del Mercato is worth to be seen.

Osteria La Terrazza: www.osterialaterrazza.com our number one place to eat!

Try the selection of oils to taste and the Menu Degustazione!

Panzano in Chianti:

a must for the restaurant '**Officina della bistecca**': where the steak Fiorentina was born

www.dariocecchini.it it's worth a look, it makes you want to eat the picture!

And if you don't mind longer day trips you can reach **Volterra** and **Montepulciano** which are beautiful villages both on top of a hill and the small cities of Lucca, and Pisa.

The seaside is reachable in more or less 1 hour and a half (Grosseto).

☼ PANORAMIC ROADS:

Breathtaking roads, sequences of postcards...

<http://en.chianti.it/travel/itineraries-in-chianti.php>

our favorite one is number 2.



🌀 WINE TOURS: ... who drives?

Fattoria la Mandria, next to us, which has an amazing wine cellar.

Casanova Ama, a small familiar farm with a fantastic oil and self made Cantucci with Vin Santo.

Castle of Brolio: 13 km from home

www.ricasoli.it

we personally tried following wines, what a hard work!!:

Tour Classico

Tour al Tramonto

Gran Cru

Badia A Coltibuono: 15 kms from home

www.coltibuono.com

moreover in beautiful location with abbey to visit

Capannelle: 15 km from home

www.capannelle.com

🌀 RESTAURANTS:

Malborghetto: Lecchi in Chianti

Le Vigne: Radda in Chianti

Le Panzanelle: Loc. Lucarelli, Radda in Chianti

Pizza Pie: Radda in Chianti

La Grotta della Rana: San Sano

Castello di Spaltenna: Gaiole in Chianti. For a gourmet experience!

☼ DISHES WE LOVE :

Fiorentina: it is a steak obtained from cutting the loin (the part corresponding to the lumbar vertebrae, the middle of the back from the tail) of Chianina beef; in the middle the bone has the form of “T”; in England it is called T–bone steak, with thread on one side and the sirloin on the other.

Bruschetta: slice of toasted bread rubbed with garlic and topped with olive oil and salt

Ribollita: soup with beans, cabbage, onions and other vegetables, first boiled together, served with slices of bread with oil, salt and pepper.

Pici: a type of hand–made pasta, like spaghetti but larger, typical of southern Tuscany.

The seasonings classic contemplate “**Aglione**”, a tomato sauce with garlic.

Cantucci e vinsanto as dessert: slices of biscuits made of flour, sugar egg white and almonds accompanied with “vinsanto”: it is a traditional Tuscany and Umbrian wine made with grapes like Trebbiano and Malvasia.

☼ TREKKING, CYCLING, MOUNTAIN BIKING:

...and after eating and drinking we are lucky that the Tuscany hills offer many paths for walking, cycling and mountain biking!

VILLA LISIDOR is situated in the heart of many well marked trails!!

Here a link with a complete description:

<http://www.comune.gaiole.si.it/turismo/trekking-tra-i-castelli/storia-e-natura>

Regarding biking, absolutely do not miss the path of the “**Eroica**”: 200 km of historical roads
www.eroica.it

look for this sign!



For bike rentals call Filippo of Tuscan Bicycle on our behalf.

www.tuscanbicycle.com

He has a good choice of bikes and delivers them at home on request (15Euro).

☼ SPA AND THERMAL BATH:

...and after eating, drinking, biking or walking it is time to enjoy the beautiful SPA and Thermal Baths....so after that you are readyto start all over again!!!!

Are you looking for a suggestive structure of the nineteenth?

Terme Antica Querciolaia di Rapolano, www.termeq.it

Do you want to enjoy a beautiful sunset while immersed in the hot springs?

Terme San Giovanni di Rapolano, www.termesangiovanni.it

Below a list of all Spas in the area:

<http://www.chianti.it/turismo/terme-chianti.php>

☸ WITH KIDS:

Train Nature: you can make a 'time travel' on the steam train from Siena: original experience for adults and children. A good alternative on a rainy day!!

www.terresiena.it/it/trenonatura/programma

Children's Museum in Siena, www.bambinpoli.it

Adventure Park Jumps Tree in Rapolano, www.saltalbero.it

☸ RANKING WINES TOP TEN 2016:



1. Sassicaia 2011, Tenuta San Guido, Toscana
2. I Sodi di San Niccolò 2011, Castellare di Castellina. Toscana
3. Tignanello 2011, Antinori, Toscana
4. Brunello di Montalcino 2009, Biondi Santi, Toscana
5. Brunello di Montalcino Riserva 2008, Poggio di Sotto, Toscana
6. Guidalberto 2012, Tenuta San Guido, Toscana
7. Barolo Le Vigne 2010, Luciano Sandrone, Piemonte
8. Rosso di Montalcino 2010, Biondi Santi, Toscana
9. Brunello di Montalcino Poggio alle Mura 2008, Castello Banfi, Toscana
10. Chianti Classico Riserva 2011, Brancaia, Toscana
11. Brunello di Montalcino, Vigna delle Raunate 2009, Mocali, Toscana
12. Barolo, Sorì Ginestra 2010, Conterno Fantino, Piemonte
13. Cepparello, 2011, Isole & Olena, Toscana