

A journey into the wonders of our Territory and in the middle of Tuscany

Middle Tuscany Lands Association has created this little manual to let the tourist, housed in the associated facilities, most independent as possible during its staying in our territory.

This guide is divided into 6 parts:

1. A first section with all shops of our area and not only including the food's ones, with indications of opening hours and closing days.
2. A second section with references to restaurants and pizzerias.
3. A third section with historical details for each village, that are part of "***municipal area of Bucine***" and also with indications how easily reach the ones near at the Arno Valley and what to see.
4. A fourth section where all the high fashion outlets (closed to our area) are reported.
5. A fifth section comprising some routes to be done by bike or mountain bike.
6. A last section comprising trekking tours with courier.

The last pages are dedicated to all the festivities and events that will be held in the year 2017 in our area and around.

Also Middle Tuscany Lands Association is available to book tickets and / or guided tours to make more comfortable the holiday guests in the places described here.

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and you will have the chance to avoid queues without wasting time.

Sure to make you something pleasant, We wish you a memorable stay at our facilities and our territory.

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Quick Guide to shops of our villages



Shops, Bakeries and Pharmacies



In the town of Bucine, it's possible to find any type of shop and any type of services. In town there is the supermarket "**Coop**", located downstream of the country, while in the center are clearly visible a bakery, a butcher, a greengrocer, a clothing store, a laundry, banks, a multi-functional pharmacy, a bakery, as well as some bars and a cake shop. In the village there is also a church. Of particular appeal is the open-air market which takes place every Wednesday morning in the centre of Bucine. In the area there is also a **Tamoil** service station.

In the main town there are also two car workshops: "**Officina Canestri**" and "**Auotocarrozzeria Mini**". Nearby there is a bike hire "**Bike Rental**".



Proceeding along the *Strada Provinciale 540* in direction of Siena, just come out from Bucine, it is recommended to take a quick detour and visit the "**Antico Forno di Pogi**" where it's possible to discover the scents and flavors of the ancient Tuscan tradition.

Taking up the *Strada Provinciale 540* always towards Siena, turning right it's possible to reach the village of Mercatale Valdarno, which is 3 km from Bucine. In this charming village it's possible to find the most desirable shops needed. Inside there are a bank, a post office, a Pharmacy / Herbalist, clothing stores and food (including the "**Coop**"), a hardware store, a pet shop and agricultural products.

The opening days and times are as follows: Monday to Saturday 9:00-13:00 and 16:00-19:30.



Returning back to get to the main road, on the right side there is the junction for San Leolino, a small picturesque village with an inner club ("**Il Circolo di San Leolino**") with a dining room where tasting typical dishes.

Returning along the *Strada Provinciale 540* and turning right always towards Siena, on the right side there is a small white lane leading to a florist, while less than 1 km on the left, once in Capannole there is a small grocery store, which doubles as a bar, with tobacco sales, "**La Bottega di Capannole**".




Shortly after leaving the village of Capannole and taking the *Strada Provinciale 540* in the direction of Siena, on the left there is the opportunity to visit the village of Badia Agnano, which is about 7 km from Bucine (2 km from Capannole). Inside it's possible to find on the right a pharmacy and a post office, several grocery stores (small shops), bars, banks, a flower shop and other small shops like butchers and delicatessen.

The opening days and times are as follows: Monday to Saturday 9:00-13:00 and 16:00-19:30. In the area there is a **Q8** Service Station.

Taking up the *Strada Provinciale 540*, always towards Siena, there is Ambra (about 8.5 km from Bucine), the second most typical and beautiful village of this area that boasts a charming ancient part. Here it's possible to find a variety of commercial activities whose opening hours are usually from Monday to Saturday, 09: 00-13: 00 and 17: 00-19: 30. The shops are closed on Wednesday afternoons. On Tuesday morning, in the center, the market takes place. Thanks to an intense activity of the local Pro Loco, every Tuesdays night during the period of July and August, Ambra lights up the night with music, singing, dancing and tastings with the now annual program of the "Notti d'Ambra".



Once in Ambra there is the chance to find a bakery that is located along the *Strada Provinciale 540*, on the left in a whitewashed building, near a small parking lot. Here it can be found fresh bread, croissants, cakes and biscuits, all handmade. The shop is open every day, except Wednesdays, from 7:00 to 13:00. In the case where there is the necessity of medicines, there is a pharmacy about 200 meters before the bakery, always on the left side of the road.

Next to the pharmacy, there is a small supermarket. Going towards the center of the village of Ambra, it's located immediately a wine shop, shortly after on the right side of the street (Via Trieste), there is a butcher's shop and a furnishing and objects shop. Entering into the village on the left there are, a clothing store, one of several household items and a vegetable and fruit store. In the center of the square there is "**Bar di Ambra**". Also available a **Q8** service station .



Along the *Strada Provinciale 540* (always remain along the perimeter of Ambra), if it had the need, please note the presence of a number of authorized workshops and a mechanic and tire service.

Shortly before leaving Ambra always going towards Siena, on the left, it's possible to visit the village of Badia a Ruoti, with inside a typical local bar, "**The Circle of Badia a Ruoti**".



While on the other side of Badia a Ruoti is the small village of Pietraviva, placed on the right side of the *Strada Provinciale 540*, with "**Il Circolo**" open only in the late evening and a Bar / Food sale, newspapers and tobacco, also open on Sunday morning.

If one needs to find greatest services it has to go in the direction of Florence. A 2 km from Bucine, there is the village of Levane (still in the territory of Bucine). Here there are bars, tobacco, grocery stores, pharmacy, post office, perfumery, a jewelry shop and other activities including the "**Coop**".



Around us



In Montevarchi (5 km from Bucine) there is the only hospital in the valley ("**Ospedale di Santa Maria alla Gruccia**") serving the entire territory of the Arno Valley and located in Piazza del Volontariato, 2) with a "**First Aid**" open 24h. Also in Montevarchi there are some big supermarkets. In the center of Montevarchi there are various shops, banks, bakeries, pizzerias, pastry shops and food. Viale Matteotti has an excellent ice cream shop (which produces ice cream *Olio Olive* taste) there is also the bakery "**Canu**" (whose headquarters is in San Giovanni Valdarno) that produces excellent Tuscan olive oil bread typical, pizzas and typical pastries. Of particular appeal is the open-air market that takes place on Thursday morning. But even more important is "**Il Mercatale, Mercato Coperto degli Agricoltori**", in the square of the ancient Gora (Old Town), where it's possible to find traditional and agricultural products of excellent quality at km. zero (only example in Italy so far); Open Monday to Saturday 9:00-13:00 - 16:00 -20:30.

Continuing along the *Strada Provinciale 540* towards Florence arriving in San Giovanni Valdarno (formerly the city of Masaccio), 1 km before the village on the right there is the gift shop "**Marino fa Mercato**" with nearby "**Bakery / Pastry Savini**". Immediately after there are some big supermarkets. Staying in the area has recently opened a local very trendy, the pastry bar "**Menchetti**" where testing nice happy hours as well as lunches and dinners.

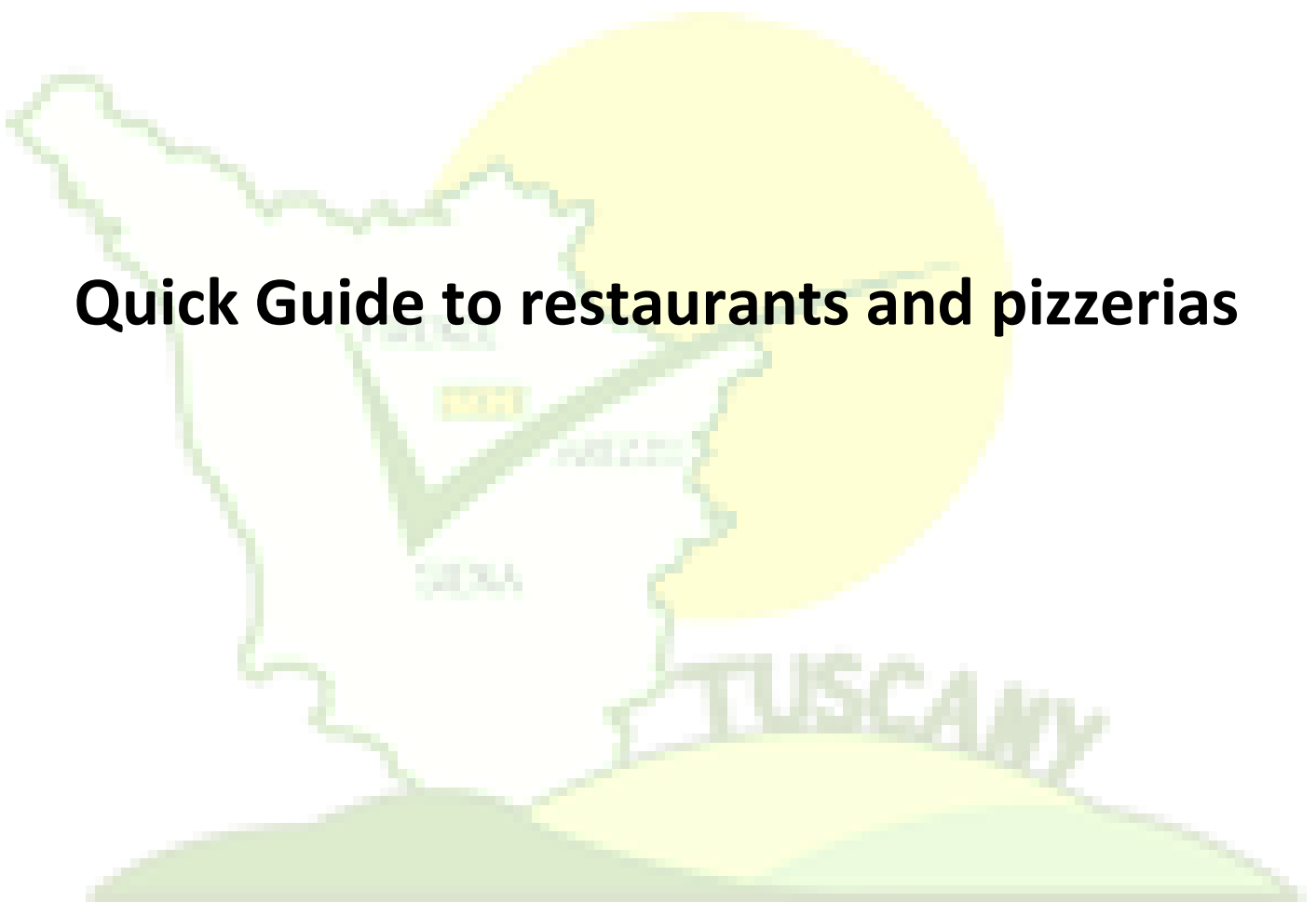


After this shopping center along the Arno River, once passing a roundabout, at the first traffic light keep left and follow the signs to the center. Parking in the great Piazza della Libertà where on Saturday morning there is a big open-air market that takes even the main street. In the center of San Giovanni Valdarno there is the chance to admire especially clothes shops, some very elegant, as well as the square and the city hall built at the "Medici time". Special attraction is the ancient store "**Pratesi**" which sells an excellent chocolate and many other things.

Typical dish of the city is "**Stufato alla Sangiovese**". There is a legend that once the streets of San Giovanni Valdarno were full of "**bullettai**" (those who made the iron nails) and that they had the furnace always warm and that women usually bought the part of the calf muscle and let it cooking on these furnaces for hours and one of the tasks of the blacksmith was turning it off and on!

Information Note: some researchers give for a fact that in San Giovanni Valdarno at the time when the Medici family was the owner of the whole valley they created the wine "**Sangiovese**".

Quick Guide to restaurants and pizzerias



Recommended restaurants and shops with ready-made food

In Bucine it's possible to find 4 food and beverage outlets: "**Restaurant / Pizzeria Poggioamaro**", in the new part of the village on the road towards Siena; "**Trattoria da Ulisse**" (beside the service station); "**Ristorante Il Paguro**" (Tel. +39 055 992 936) next to the Coop; "**Pizzeria Pizza che delizia**" going up the main street of the village, opposite the bakery.



Just outside the village on the road leading to Arezzo you will find the "**Trattoria la Querce**".



In the direction of San Leolino and more specifically in locality Le Mura, there is the restaurant "**Le Mura**" (Tel. + 39 339 5921809 where only Tuscan products are cooked).

A few kilometers from Bucine there is the village of San Leolino and its "**Circolo di San Leolino**" offers the possibility to have lunch or dinner on site on reservation.

Along the road that runs to reach the aforesaid village there is the characteristic restaurant "**Casariccio**".

Further down the road and reaching Mercatale Valdarno it's possible to find, just in the center town, the restaurant "**Lo Schicchero**".

A little further on there is the pizzeria "**La Torre**".

Proceeding towards Siena on *Strada Provinciale 540*, near the village of Capannole it's easy to find the restaurant / pizzeria "**L'Antico Portale**" (tel +39 055 9955514). Located under the pool. The restaurant is open all week from: 6:30 p.m. to 23:00 and Sunday is also open for lunch. It is equipped with a large room and organizes cooking and pizza classes.



After Capannole, direction Siena, on the left, there is the turnoff for Badia Agnano, a pretty medieval village. There is located a great restaurant called "**La Chiave dei Sapori**" (tel +39 055 995 883) a small and typical restaurant, specialized in fish, but where you can enjoy any kind of food in a special atmosphere. With delicious traditional Tuscan dishes.

Arriving at Ambra, it is easy to find along the road the restaurant "**The Valdambriano**" (tel. +39 055 996 989, open daily except Monday evening).



In the center of Ambra, there is a small, cozy restaurant "**Alla Corte di Bacco**", open all week from 19:00.



In front of the Q8 service station is also possible to find a pizza take away ("**Cuor di Pizza**" (tel. +39 055 9917074. Closed on Monday and open at noon except on Saturday and Sunday).

Always in Ambra is possible to buy already prepared food at the "**Gastronomy Sara**". The shop is closed on Monday.

Going in the direction of Siena and turning right, uphill, there is the picturesque hamlet of Duddova made in stone (400 meters a.s.l), here there is a particular Osteria, open seasonally (all day from 11:00 to 23:00 from April to October), with a strong Tuscan imprint, where it's possible to taste, on typical outdoor tables, excellent meats, cheeses, bruschetta, pasta dishes, glasses of wine and all the typical products of the territory, "**La Bottega di Duddova**" (Tel. +39 055 9917112).



While towards Siena just after the village of Pietraviva is situated the golf "Polo" Villa a Sesta with the Relais and the restaurant "**La Martina**", closed on Mondays. it is recommended to book before, especially in spring and summer, when the games of Polo are playing.

In the pretty village of Montebenichi dominated by the beautiful castle, in which is the elegant Hotel "Il Castelletto", there is the characteristic "**Osteria L'Orciaia**", closed all Tuesday and at lunch all days, except Sunday. It is recommended to book before.



Quick Guide Recommended Tours



1. Valdarno

Ambra A small town - the second in the community by population - that soars over a hillock of modest elevation next to the state road leading to Siena. The ancient castle of Amber (once possessions of the powerful noble families of the Ubertini and Tarlati) is situated on a hill, along the road, southbound leading to Siena. Located in the ancient part the village is impossible to miss the bell tower of the parish church of Santa Maria Assunta, arising high on the panorama. It is established that the ancestors of Benvenuto Cellini (the Florentine Renaissance artist), were from here and here had estates, this is attested especially by the autobiography of the same silversmith, sculptor and writer of the 1500s.



The bell tower was built in the first two decades of the twentieth century (there are documents that certify the opening in 1920) and part of its bells were created with bronze cannons, remnants of war in the First World War. There is little left of the original fort, with the exception of traces of the old walls and alleys of the "Castle." Formerly it was an industrial center of a certain local importance, especially for the production of silk and over time underwent further development period due to the opening of a tobacco factory, active since the early twentieth century until the first decade of the new millennium.

Badia Agnano takes the name from one of the oldest abbeys in the area and whose toponym is either of Etruscan or Roman origin. Of the imposing holy building, once a wealthy landholder only the parish church remains.

All the rest followed the Napoleonic provisions which, in 1811, suppressed the religious orders and their relative holdings. Inside the church it's housed a canvas of 1637, painted by Bernardino Santini and portraying the Visitation. As for the genesis of the name, researchers are divided: there are those who favour an Etruscan origin - the name would derive from Ani, god of fertility - while, according to others, it would originate from the Latin name "Annius" or "Agnus".

Of the original abbey complex, only a few structures remain, namely the church, the parsonage and a smaller chapel, while the remnant has been converted to residential use. Badia Agnano was founded around the year 1000 AD by the powerful noble family of the Ubertini.



In the early twelfth century, it joined the congregation founded by St. Romuald - the Benedictine order based at Camaldoli. The ancient abbey church, recently restored, almost certainly belongs to this period: in fact, it consists of a single nave covered with wooden trusses, at whose end stands single simple transept. Once dedicated to St Mary, as of today, the title of the church is that of the Saints Tiburtius and Susannah. The title change - probably owed to the commendatory abbot Leonardo - took place in the sixteenth century. The structure is built off well aligned and squared limestone slabs. The absence of decoration reflects the purely spiritual and austere style of the Camaldolese Congregation. The abbey was later fortified and the village eventually developed all around it. In 1431 (in that year it had an abbot and five monks) is described by Blessed Traversari (Prior of Camaldoli) in these words: "*a well built, ancient and extremely rich abbey*".

A few years later, in 1470, the decline began because of the alternation of a series of abbots and it ended only with the arrival of the future holy bishop of Milan, Carlo Borromeo who, in 1564, returned the abbey to the Benedictine order. Despite the neglect due to the Commandery, in an inventory of 1583, the church is described as well-preserved; following the restoration carried out in 2003 it was brought back to its original splendour. The inside features a wooden crucifix suspended in the apse and a baptismal font which still features the crest of the Benedictine order: two doves drinking from the same cup.





Badia a Ruoti is a typical hamlet of the Tuscan inland, that developed around the imposing abbey devoted to St. Peter, still overlooking the village. The abbey can be accessed through a door nicknamed "Torricella" that still displays the openings from which the heavy iron portcullis was lowered as well as the mechanisms that were used to close its doors.

Past the entrance's arch, on the left side, two rooms once served as posterns. Moreover, legend has it that there exist an underground passageway – no longer entirely practicable – that led inside the abbey. Alike castles, abbeys too had to be able to resist to sieges and starvation, thus was compulsory to have escape and supply routes unknown to the assailants. It is not unlikely, then, that there is more than a secret passage leading either way - from and to - the abbey.

Inside the fortified area, it is possible to see an ancient oven with the inscription "1800" carved in its stone, while all around the structure, once ran a passageway not too far from the abbey, to hamper the perils of sieges and invasions and that, as of today, has been abandoned and replaced by more comfortable access ways.



Within the building, the ancient abbey's farm can be visited. In its caves there are preserved the old wooden casks and can be seen the "pits" that once were used to retrieve grain and other cereal. The abbey's church – relatively bald, in line with the Benedictine rule – features traces of frescoes believed to date back to the 14th century. The most important element of decoration is that of a wheel with eight spokes, that scholars speculate it has to be put in relation with the name of the abbey and its founder. It is interesting to note that the same decoration is featured at Camaldoli. The frescoes – or, at least what has come to our days – depict St. Mark and St. Catherine of Alexandria, while the altarpiece, painted by Neri di Bicci in 1472, represents the Coronation of the Virgin.

Nowadays the abbey, completely restored to its ancient splendour, is used for accommodation and for recreational and leisure activities.

Main town of the homonymous municipality, **Bucine** is mentioned in documents since the eleventh century. Like all the villages of the valley, anciently, it was surrounded by walls and historical documents ensure the existence at least until 1646: year of the investiture to "Bucine Marquis" by Giulio Vitelli. Of great importance are the Praetorian Palace (today the Municipal), the castle and the two parish churches. An ancient representation of the castle of Bucine is clearly visible on the sepulchral monument of Bishop Guido Tarlati, in the Cathedral of Arezzo. One of the panels, in fact, represents the taking of the castle of Bucine by the prince-bishop of Arezzo. Also important is the parish church, located not too far from the palace of the Marquesses Vitelli, which is situated in the highest part of the village. Going down to the main square it is possible to spot the Palazzo Pretorio (now siege of the Town Council) and the First World War Memorial, portraying a winged Victory (by Pietro Guerri) unveiled in 1922.



Capannole Located at one of the most important crossroads since the very ancient times. The importance of the place as a crossroads is highlighted by many archaeological findings: the most important of which is a late Roman bridge that has been restored throughout the Middle Ages. Even the construction of the church (more recent than the bridge) confirms the importance of the place. Mentioned in documents since 1038, the community of Capannole seemingly owns an ancient seal - portraying a castle and a shack. Historians believe that the name of the village be just a nickname that was given to the settlement by the soldiers patrolling the road. The castle of the borough (located on a hill beneath which placidly flows the river Trove) was formerly a fief of the Ubertini and then fell under the control of the Abbey of Agnano. In the end, it became property of the Vannucchi family.

An ancient fortification built by the Ubertinis in the 10th century, it can be accessed through a trail bordered by tall cypresses and gnarled oaks. Part of Florentine Valdambra in the 14th century, it was joined to Bucine's communal territory after the Leopoldine Land Reform of 1777. Its past as a military outpost can still be seen, as traces of the ancient castle are still extant in **Castiglion Alberti**. Described in the 16th century by the historian Scipione Ammirato as "an ancient borough with a handful of dwellings around, which seems to have been an ancient fortress", the village of Castiglion Alberti can be reached through a "white dirt track", bordered by tall cypresses and oak trees. Known as "Castiglione Albertorum" in some fourteenth century documents, the settlement was established in 10th century by the Ubertinis, it remained in their possession for the next four hundred years, when it was sold to the abbey of Agnano and in 1350 was incorporated into the Florentine Republic's demesne. Following many administrative and land reforms, the first of which occurred in 1362, with the establishment of the district of New Valdambra (or League of Valdambra) and the last one in the eighteenth century enacted by Leopold of Tuscany, Castiglione Alberti joined the Podesteria di Bucine (hereinafter municipality), and followed its fate. Arriving into the village, the first thing that can be seen is the bell tower of the deconsecrated church of St. Fabiano and Sebastiano, rising above the treetops. The alert observer will easily spot the traces of the ancient walls that once surrounded the place.



According to Emanuele Repetti's words, written in 1833, **Cennina** is "a castle with the remains of a fortress, and an ancient parish church". Located atop a hill overlooking the Valdambra, the small hamlet of Cennina - whose existence is stated since AD 1000 - retains even older archaeological evidence - of Etruscan and Roman times. There is no evidence regarding Cennina castle before 1000 AD but it is very likely that this area had been inhabited well before, as pointed out by the toponymy and by the several archaeological findings that have been made in the area. The fortification works of the hamlet took place in 1167, when emperor Frederick of Swabia bestowed upon the nobleman Brandaglio Alberico d'Uguccione the feudal rights over Cennina.

Given its favourable position, that is dominating the valley below, whoever comes nowadays to visit the village would have difficulty in believing to the chronicles, which impart the memory of countless skirmishes and fiery battles to secure possession of this castle. As of today a few – if any – parts of the ancient, imposing walls remain to testify about the warlike past of this pleasant village, whose tranquil atmosphere is interrupted, every now and then, by the rustling of birds or by the whistling wind among the trees. The atmosphere becomes even more fascinating at nightfall, when the sun slips beyond the hill crests, and the castle plunges into silence, solitary sentinel against a now forgotten enemy.



Duddova is a cosy village at short distance from Ambra, whose name is of uncertain origin but some scholars believe it to be of Ostrogoth legacy. Since the 13th century possession of the Ubertinis - a local noble family - it was eventually sold to the Abbey of Badia a Ruoti. Its strong agricultural background - more specifically that of olive pressing - is well recorded thru the ages, and still today some ancient millstones - as old as 400 years - are scattered throughout the village, one in particular in front of the ancient Villa of the guesthouse which once had three mills.

its ancient church, whose building year is unknown – devoted to St. Michael – was completely restored in 1959. Inside there is a fine painting adorning the altar, featuring the Virgin with Child, among St. Romulus and St. Michael the Archangel. Also noteworthy is the painting's stucco frame, displaying the Camaldolese crest, a clear indication of who had ordered the masterpiece.





Levano is a small village split between the neighbouring communities of Bucine and Montevarchi, on the crossroads leading from Siena towards Montevarchi, San Giovanni Valdarno to Florence. Its ancient core is represented by "Levano alta", that is the originary nucleus, once known as "Castel Leona". The area is famous for some geological findings - specifically geodes - that in the past gained the nickname "Breads of the Devil". Levane is very lively community, built along an important road junction. In the past it was crossed by Strada Regia, which was used by messengers, coachmen and so dear to the foreign noble elites going to Italy for the "Grand Tour". Of particular note are the mineralogical findings that have been made in the area; already known in the 18th century, these strange geodes gained widespread popularity after the scholar Targioni Tozzetti related the nickname that the populace attributed them, that is "breads of the Devil".

Montebenichi and its castle were established by the Lombards. The village is noteworthy for its archaeological findings – namely a Roman sarcophagus, fictile material and Etruscan tombs – which have conferred to the village an important place among historians and archaeologists in Italy and Europe. To that it shall be added the parish church of St Maria in Altaserra, seemingly built in the 8th century AD, over pre-extant Roman structures. As the whole Valdambra, the village was bitterly contested by many – the Republics of Florence and Siena, the Papal State, Venice and Milan – and as a result, both the borough and the castle were looted many times, until their complete destruction in 1478.



The palace of the Stendardi that still stands at the center of the village reminds us of the figure of Gregorio Stendardi - named Goro from Montebenichi – soldier of fortune until the defeat of Gavinana and then knight at the service of Medici Family. As of today, Montebenichi is a delightful tourist town featuring an exclusive hotel allowing a perfect immersion into the wilderness, nature and history. All of this has been made possible by the careful restoration of the Castelletto, that houses its guests fully respecting its original structure.

On a small hill overlooking the state road, the borough of **Pietraviva** still preserves, in its most ancient nucleus, the architectural features of a fortified mediaeval village, once part of the fiefdom of the Ubertini noble family. Its foundation is believed to have taken place during the 14th century, when the lords of the Valdambra decided to build a new stronghold. Moreover, at little distance, there was another settlement, built on the neighbouring hill of St. Lucia, and eventually abandoned.



As for their name, it is curious to know that Pietraviva takes its origin from the nearby sandstone quarries, known since antiquity; whereas the other village takes its name from the (supposed) healing skills of people living there, as St. Lucia people were deemed able to cure from canine rabies. Its church is somewhat of note. Built in the Middle Ages, it has been restored many times, but it has always kept its original mediaeval structure. The bell tower, instead, was completely rebuilt in its current shape in the first quarter of 20th century.

Poggi is located on the banks of the stream Ambra and is crossed by an old bridge with five arches of Roman origin. The name does not refer to a "Poggio" but it is of Latin derivation ("Paucus") and indicated a sparsely inhabited area. A series of documents and dated around the twelfth century show that in the area there was an intense cereal activity. Attested by the presence of a mill run by the monks of the Abbey of Agnano. Once over the bridge, the village appears gathered around two small squares that in ancient times were the center of the overhanging castle on amber. Not far from that which - according to the most recent archaeological studies - had to be one of the towers of the fort, it stands the church dedicated to San Donato. The building consists of a single nave and inside we can admire a beautiful painting of the late sixteenth century (Florentine School), depicting the Madonna and Child, San Donato bishop and Saint Lucia.





On the right bank of Ambra creek, just a handful of yards short of the border between the neighbouring province of Siena, the community of Rapale is one of the most striking and peculiar places in the whole Valdambra. Cited in late Middle Ages documents, Rapale and its surroundings were certainly settled even in earlier times, and the many archaeological findings of Roman artefacts seem to validate the assumption. Roaming through its narrow streets, it is impossible to not be impressed by the place's evocative power, in which – seemingly – time has stopped a long time ago. On the stone header of the tiny church's portal there is carved the inscription MDCXXXIII (1633) that is believed to refer either to a pastoral visitation or to restoration works performed in that year. Once a military outpost, of its past only a cropped tower and ancient ruined ramparts remain. From the village, through a pathway going up to the hilltops and that passes through unspoilt woodlands and cultivated fields, it's possible to reach the nearby (around 1 kilometre journey) tiny hamlet of Sogna.

A cosy little town built on top of a hill, at around 350 metres of height (around 1100 ft) San Leolino, surrounded by olive groves and vineyards, is located ideally halfway between the castle of Cennina and Galatrona Tower. Framed by tall cypress trees, it keeps its round shaped structure, typical of a mediaeval fortified settlement. Once in the fiefdom of the Guidi of Modigliana – in what is now Romagna – its fortifications are no longer extant, having been incorporated into houses' walls that have been built following the Florentine conquest. Still inside the "walled land" makes its beautiful shows the parish church, which goes back to the tenth century, although it has undergone various transformations - the last in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries - that led to the current Baroque appearance.



Inside the church, there are many Renaissance and Baroque masterpieces. An elegant tabernacle of either 15th or 16th century adorns the main altar, while the rest of the church features a 16th century painting, featuring the Virgin with Child, St. Lawrence, Peter and Angels, together with two other paintings – an Annunciation and a St. Francis – in Baroque style. On the left altar, there is another painting – the Madonna of the Rosary and Saints – attributed to Santi Castellucci and that was painted in 1671, while on the opposite side there is an interesting 16th century baptismal font built in decorated alabaster. The village also hosts a small but well-kept Museum of Sacred Art, in which are housed for display vestments and liturgical ornaments from the 14th century onwards, together with a library and an archive.

The Tower of Galatrona is what remains of one of the most important castles in Valdambra areas. From land registry documents of the early fifteenth century appears that the Galatrona castle hosted inside a fortified village, consisting of about twenty small houses, occupied almost exclusively by farmers and smallholders. The watch tower, with the ruins of the access port, is what remains of the castle; and it is located at the end of a long rocky spur sloping down from Montelucio Chianti, within an archaeological site with ruins of Byzantine city walls and medieval houses. Most important is the "Pieve di San Giovanni Battista" of the early Christian era with the Piccolomini emblem of 1619. Inside there is a ciborium and a Saint John Baptist by Giovanni della Robbia between 1517 and 1521.





San Pancrazio is located not far from one transport hub of great importance in Roman times in fact, near the village passed the branch to the ancient Arretium consular Via Cassia and from Chiusi (Si). The aforementioned road, a bypass of the Cassia, was known as "via Traversa" during Middle Ages and "via dei Procacci" in the 18th century. San Pancrazio – as well as many other settlements and castles in the area – belonged to the Ubertini, that sold it, in the year of Our Lord 1262, to the abbey of Agnano, and eventually ended under the control of the Republic of Florence in the 1350s. In 1944, the village suffered the killing of 55 of its inhabitants at the hands of the Nazi-fascists, retreating to the north during the last phases of WW2. For that reason, to honour the sacrifice of the people of San Pancrazio, a Museum of Memory has been established, aiming at raising awareness of what happened then, so that such events may never happen again.

Situated at the end of a dirt track around one kilometre away from Rapale, **Sogna** is a very ancient settlement now converted into a tourist centre. A fortified borough during the Middle Ages, as of today it keeps only a handful of traces of its long and turbulent history, when it was a stronghold of the Ubertinis in the southern tip of Valdambra.

Completely destroyed in the 15th century, and abandoned in mid-20th century, in the village's centre there's still standing the small parish church of St. Thomas, and around the village there are – although only partially visible – the ruins of the old castle's ramparts.



"On the edge of the hills" between the Ambra and Trigesimo creeks. As such is described **Solata** in an early 19th century writing. This very tiny hamlet is reachable through a walking pathway of the Italian Alpine Club, plunged into a luxuriant nature offering interesting panoramic views on the valley below.

A handful of houses around the tiny church, devoted to the Saints Jacopo and Cristofano, plus a 19th century villa, nowadays used for tourist accommodation purposes, form the community perched on the hill, a perfect observation point for those enjoying the view of the Valdambra at dawn.



Cited in a 1427 Florentine cadastre, in which its wines' quality was exalted, Torre – from the data inferred by the aforementioned register – is described as a castle that contained 21 small dwellings inside its walls, and 31 on the adjoining village.

Nowadays, the small town retains its original mediaeval shape. It developed beginning in the twelfth century around the castle and the church. The community had been granted market rights, and thus the market that was held here gave the name to the small town (literally, Italian "mercatale" means "marketplace" or, alternatively "place where a market is held").



1.1. Montevarchi and San Giovanni Valdarno

Going towards Firenze, 12 km from Bucine, there is Montevarchi where it's worth visiting the "Paleontological Museum", opened in 1829. Also worth seeing are: "**Villa Masini**" in which was shot the movie "La Vita è Bella" by the Academy Award winner Roberto Benigni, the "**Palazzo del Podestà**" (1273) and the "**Chiesa di San Lorenzo**" (XII century), where it is important to note that inside is the "**Museo di Arte Sacra della Collegiata**", here it's possible to admire majolica works by Della Robbia and his school. Also there is the Museum of Contemporary Art "**Il Cassero**" and "**Galeffi Museum**" from a private collection, as well as many small corners of history hidden in narrow streets of the center, as "**house Magiotti**" (famous scientist of 1600 and a native of Montevarchi).



Leaving Montevarchi, always towards of Florence, 9 km after there is San Giovanni Valdarno. The city that gave birth to the painter Masaccio of which can be visited the house "**Casa Masaccio**" just in the center of the town. In addition, among the various things to visit, it's quite recommend "**Palazzo Arnolfo**" (1200), "**Basilica di Santa Maria delle Grazie**" (1484) and the "**Chiesa di San Lorenzo**" (early 1300). Veri Interesting are the museums of "**Museo della Basilica**" and "**Museo di Terre Nuove**".

1.2 Balze di CastelFranco di Sopra and Oasi di Bandella

Going towards Florence, once reached San Giovanni Valdarno going to CastelFranco. There it's possible to admire how nature, through millennia has molded the rocks in a masterly way, giving to the place a very important fame to be named as "**Balze del Valdarno**".



A special mention goes to "**Riserva Naturale dell'Inferno e Bandella**". A natural oasis where loosing track of time and history. The Visitor Center of Monticello (Municipality of Terranuova Bracciolini) is accessible by appointment. The trails of the Nature Reserve is freely walkable, while the equipped area of Castiglioncello is available for guided tours. In basin of "Valle dell'Inferno" is active a service of guided tours by a boat of the "Provincia di Arezzo".

2. Arezzo and its area



To get to Arezzo it's recommended to reach the intersection at Capannole and then turn left towards Badia Agnano.

After Badia Agnano, cross the bridge and reach a junction where two roads show the way to Arezzo: take the right one! Up on a hill there is Civitella in Val di Chiana. A small Romanesque town with tracks of a beautiful past on its monuments: "**Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta**" (XI sec); "**Chiesa di San Bartolomeo**" (1039), "**Oratorio della Madonna di Mercatale**" (XVIII sec), "**Palazzo Pretorio**" (XIV sec) and "**Castello**" built on 1048, Nazis base on WW2 and partially destroyed by allies in 1944 and never more rebuilt.

Arezzo is a marvelous city of pre-etruscan origins that still preserves tracks of the Etruscan period and the Romanesque one that strongly characterized its look. There is a great variety of things to see as: "**Duomo**" (Gothic Cathedral of XIV sec), "**Chiesa di San Domenico**" (1275 with inside "Crocifisso ligneo" of Cimabue), "**Basilica di San Francesco**" (with inside the fresco "La Leggenda della Vera Croce" of Piero della Francesca), "**Santa Maria della Pieve**" (with inside the polyptych by Pietro Lorenzetti and the reliquary bust of San Donato) and "**Badia delle Sante Flora e Lucilla**" with the cross painted by Segna di Bonaventura, the main altar of Giorgio Vasari and "Finta cupola" by Andrea Pozzo. There is also the "**Casa Vasari Museum**" with inside the private collection of the great Mannerism artist. Very important is the "Fiera dell'Antiquariato" in the historic center of the village on the first Sunday of the month and the previous Saturday.



From Arezzo taking the road that leads to Rassina, continue and reach Chiusi della Verna (69 km, 1h30 minutes from Bucine) to visit the "**Santuario della Verna**" where St. Francis of Assisi seemed to have received right there the stigmata on September 14, 1224.

After visiting La Verna proceed to Camaldoli, in the town of Poppi. The whole country has always gravitated around the "**Monastero**" (ninth century) founded by monk from Ravenna San Romualdo.



From Arezzo it's also possible to go to visit the pretty medieval town of Cortona from which on sunny days it's possible to view the Lago Trasimeno. Once the tour will be ended it's possible to arrive to Perugia or Assisi.

2.1. Pratomagno



For those who like to climb the wooded mountains of Tuscany, it is recommended to go to "La Trappola" (28 km, 41 minutes from Bucine). From here walking up to the "Croce di Ferro" on top it's possible to have a special view to the Arno valley below the mountain. To reach La Trappola, get to Terranuova Bracciolini and then to Loro Ciuffenna. Near Loro Ciuffenna visit the "Pieve di San Pietro da Gropina" whose oldest part dates from the V - VI century. Unique the sandstone pulpit inside.



3. Siena

There is a legend that Romulus (who along with his twin brother Remus founded Rome on April 21 753 BC) sent in this land his best captains: Camellio and Montorio to win Senio and Ascanio (the sons of Remus, who fled across the Tevere to avoid suffering the same fate of the father by his uncle) who in their flight had created a small settlement named Saenae. Once arrived, however, the two captains settled there founding a "Cammollia" (modern Porta Camollia in Siena) and the other Castelmontorio (whose exact location is still uncertain).



Siena is about forty minutes by car and is 42 km from Bucine. The historic center, not passable by vehicles, it is reachable following signs for the railway station, then to the stadium (which is located in the city center) when the old walls will be visible, there will be the possibility to park. Walk towards the entrance of the stadium from where the historic center of the city begins (Chiesa di San Domenico). An advice is to stay in Siena until dark because the lights of the evening give the city a magical look like in the picture alongside. To visit the two main museums in Siena, the "**Museo Civico**" and the "**Santa Maria Della Scala**" (which allow entrance in the "**Museo Archeologico**", "**Museo d'Arte per Bambini**" and "**Centro di Arte Contemporanea**"), it's possible to book ticket on <http://www.b-ticket.com/b-Ticket/sienateatri/> Remember, there is a discount of the ticket price for the age range 11-19 years, people over 65 and university students, and family rates apply for families of two adults and children 11-18 years (under 11 years old the ticket is free).

Siena offers tourists a wide variety of things to see, such as the famous "**Piazza del Campo**" with "**Palazzo Pubblico**" (built between 1297 and 1310) and "**Torre del Mangia**" (1325 – 1348) but also the "**Duomo**" (1348) with inside the "**Museo dell'Opera**", "**Pinacoteca Nazionale**", "**L'Orto Botanico**" or even the "**Basilica di San Domenico**" (XIII century), "**San Francesco**" (XIII century. In Romanesque style), "**Dell'Osservanza**" (1490) and "**San Clemente in Santa Maria dei Servi**" (1255) and the "**Palazzo Salimbeni**" (XIV century. Today headquarters of Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena) or "**Logge del Papa**" (1462) and much more! For guided tours, please visit: www.guidesiena.it or call +39 0577 43273.



3.1. San Gimignano, Volterra and Monteriggioni



Leaving Siena South and proceeding toward Florence there is San Gimignano (Exit Poggibonsi Nord) which is about 74 km from Bucine.

San Gimignano was declared by UNESCO: **"Patrimonio dell'Umanità"**. Inhabited by the Etruscans since the third century, A.C. it owes its name to Sigerico who called it "Sce Gemiane" just to highlight its strategic position as a point of intersection between Pisa and Siena. During the Middle Ages it was the scene of fierce wars between "Guelfi" and "Ghibellini".

Among the many things to visit: **"Piazza della Cisterna"**, **"Piazza del Duomo"**, **"Torre del Diavolo"** (XI century) and **"Palazzo Comunale"** (XI century) as well as its famous **"Torri"** that decorate it and defend it for centuries. There is one of the most important museums in the world: the **"Museo della Tortura"** (www.torturemuseum.it) other popular museums are **"Museo della Pena di Morte"** and **"Museo di Arte Sacra"**.



Leaving San Gimignano an obligatory stop is Volterra (30 km north from San Gimignano). It is the Etruscan city par excellence and it still preserves the ancient ruins and charm. It was founded in the seventh century as "Velathri" at the hands of the Etruscans. In 90 A.C. it became Roman and was enrolled in the Sabatina tribes. It is in the high Middle Ages with the various Popes who Volterra began to be embellished with monuments that still today outline the magical boundary. And in a few centuries with the advent of the Industrial Age Volterra became the Alabaster homeland.

Nowadays it has become a touring destination of a tourism not careful and characterized only by the search of the famous (and never existed) Volturi from the Twilight saga. Film that was shot in Montepulciano.

There are a lot things to see: **"Palazzo dei Priori"** (1208 – 1257), **"Duomo"** (XII century), **"Fortezza Medicea"** (1342), **"Palazzo Viti"** (XVI century), **"Teatro Romano"** (I century A.C.) and the ruins of the wonderful **"Acropoli Etrusca"**. Even the museums offer such beauty to look at: the **"Museo Etrusco Guarnacci"**, **"Museo della Tortura di Volterra"**, **"Pinacoteca e Museo Civico"**, **"Museo Diocesano di Arte Sacra"** and **"Ecomuseo dell'Alabastro"**.



One of the most discussed Etruscan findings that characterizes the city of Volterra is **"L'Ombra della Sera"** (name attributed by the poet Gabriele D'Annunzio). It is a votive statue of about 57 cm, a male body, naked and stretched in an incredible way but it still retains all the proportions and it is considered worldwide as the ideal of absolute beauty. The statuette, dating from the third century A.C. it is now on display at the **"Museo Guarnacci"**.

Coming back from Volterra and taking the road, passing through Colle di Val D'Elsa, leads to the *Strada Provinciale 540*, Monteriggioni, on the right, is worth a visit. The tiny village preserves intact medieval wall elliptic adorned by 11 towers that rise above the walls drawing a past still alive and thriving.



The entrance to the village is represented by "**Porta Franca**" or, perhaps more correctly "**Porta Roma**" to indicate the geographical position towards which the village stars. Built with walls as all the medieval villages in 1213 its initial appearance probably foresaw a drawbridge, out of which there remains no trace. The Towers were 15 and soared to 15 meters in height, but over time they have been lowered and taken to the current 11. In Monteriggioni it's possible to find the "**Chiesa di Santa Maria Assunta**" (1219), the big "**Piazza Roma**" overlooking the village and the museum "**Monteriggioni in Arme**" with highly valuable reproduction of medieval armor.

3.2. Crete Senesi and Val d'Orcia

Absolutely recommended is a small hike in the "Crete Senesi" which owe their name to a mixture of clay, rock salt and gypsum in the soil (which indicate that up to about 2.5 million years ago - in the Pleistocene - this territory was covered by sea).

Often the breathtaking landscape of the "Crete Senesi" is described as "Lunar" for the high prevalence of colors such as gray - blue. The "Crete Senesi" are located south of Siena and include the municipalities of Asciano, Buonconvento, Monteroni d'Arbia, Rapolano Terme (where there are two very beautiful spas and a beautiful "Parco Avventura" for seniors and youngs), San Giovanni d'Asso and Trequanda. Starting from Bucine, towards Siena up to "Colonna del Grillo" from there turn left towards Rapolano Terme Asciano, San Giovanni d'Asso.



Roberto Bacchiocchi Photo



2 km on the right (half way) it is a must visit Monte Oliveto with its magnificent and monumental "**Abbazia Territoriale di Monte Oliveto Maggiore**", founded in 1313 by San Bernardo Tolomei. The large outbuildings landholdings to Abbey contributed to giving Monte Oliveto a very important role in the organization of the agricultural land of the Crete. From San Giovanni d'Asso (land of truffles), continue for Torrenieri and then for Montalcino.



Montalcino, the territory of one of the most famous Tuscan wines: "Il Brunello", it's a stunning ninth-century little town with "**Palazzo del Duomo**" which original structure was built in the eleventh century. From Montalcino is interesting to go 12 km toward Grosseto to Sant'Angelo Scalo, where on the right you will find the way to reach the "**Fattoria Villa Banfi**" that resides in an ancient castle and its Wine Shop is one of the most beautiful of Italy.



Coming back from “Villa Banfi” it’s possible to head to Bagno Vignoni, ancient papal summer residence where there are two spas of sulphurous water constantly at 34° degrees. It’s interesting to visit the spas especially in spring and autumn when generally the pools are not useable.



Of great beauty and not to be missed are the “**Abbazia di Sant’Antimo**” (built from 352 - year of the death of Sant'Antimo from Arezzo - and then expanded over time up to the present form in the twelfth century. A masterly example of “Romanesque style”), inside this Abbey is still possible to hear Gregorian chants by French monks and the “**Castello di Bibbiano**” IX century.



Going back proceed to Sinalunga, whose old town is pretty and take the Siena - Bettolle towards Siena and if the time available is sufficient up to **Buonconvento**. The hamlet is small but really nice. It dates back to 1313 and represents the center of the “Crete” for importance and beauty.

Numerous churches can be visited: “**Chiesa dei Santi Pietro e Paolo**” (X century), “**Oratorio dell’Arciconfraternita della Misericordia**” (XV century), “**Chiesa di San Bartolomeo**” (XIII century), “**Chiesa di San Lorenzo a Percenna**” (Dating from before the tenth century and built over the ruins of a Pagan temple), “**Pieve di Sant’Innocenza a Piana**” (X century), and “**Cappella di Sant’Antonio**” (XVII century).



Keep going until Montepulciano, known to the world for the production of *Vino Nobile di Montepulciano DOCG*. This little town is rich in history and art. Born in the Etruscan period has since developed over the centuries and still retains an unique charm. Also visit the “Terme di Montepulciano” known for their healing properties.

After Sant'Antimo it’s recommend a visit to Pienza (City of Utopia), a medieval village of rare beauty, whose square at dusk presents a breathtaking spectacle, enough to be likened to a “Living Room”. Pienza is also included in “**Città decorate al Valor Militare per la Guerra di Liberazione**”, and awarded with “**Medaglia d’Argento al Valor Militare**” for the sacrifice of its population and for its activities in the partisan struggle during the Second War World. To return to Bucine reach Bettolle and take the freeway Siena - Bettolle (SS 75) towards Siena and turn right at Colonna Del Grillo.



4. Chianti Classico

A visit to the "**Chianti Classico**" area is a must! Starting from Bucine and going toward Siena, at the "Colonna del Grillo" turn right to Castelnuovo Berardenga (25 km from the capital). 500 meters (approx) after Castelnuovo Berardenga there is the "**Cantina Felsina**" that produce a great "**Sangiovese**".



After 5 km from the "**Cantina Felsina**" there is San Gusmè a small medieval village known since 867. Of particular interest it is the "**Pieve dei Santi Cosma e Damiano**" also mentioned in 867 but rebuilt over the centuries so that the one that can be visited today is in a "Romanesque" style of the twentieth century. In addition it's possible to visit the "**Chiesa della Compagnia della Santissima Annunziata**" (late XIX century).

"**Luca Cava**" (Tuscan wordplay that sound so: "He Shat") was a statue built in 1888 and located near a water gutter to indicate that if someone was in need for an urgent bodily necessity could do it there so that then the water took it along the fields as fertilizer!

From this is called a very important festival in early September that draws big names in Italian music and sees in it the "**Premio Giornalistico Silvio Gagli**".



Keeping on the road for 4 km and reach "**Borgo San Felice**". Today Hotel Resort 5 Star, refurbished and really cleaned up extremely well and in which the atmosphere is exceptionally medieval, also open for non-residents in the facility.

Continuing along the main road and get to Brolio (42 km from Bucine) it would be a big mistake don't visit "**Castello di Brolio**". (in municipality of Gaiole in Chianti). The building is from the eleventh century but becomes important when in 1252 became property of "Ricasoli Family " and when in 1835 the Baron Bettino Ricasoli began viticulture and the structure of the castle has undergone substantial changes going toward the taste of the time (a gothic revival on the British model).



Very beautiful and evocative it is the ancient "**Cappella**", completely renovated between 1867/69 at the behest of Baron Bettino Ricasoli. Inside the crypt, are the remains of the Ricasoli family members.

Shortly before reaching Gaiole in Chianti a brief stop it's suggested at the "**Cantina Cantalici**" in which it's possible to book prior to the number +39 0577 731038 or by contacting our office, to do some tasting and enjoy a breathtaking view.



Gaiole in Chianti is a delightful village existing since the year 1000, it's full of churches and castles, such as: the "**Chiesa di San Sigismondo**", the "**Pieve di Santa Maria a Spaltenna**" (1030) and the "**Castello di Ama**" (XIII century).

For fans of cycling every year, around the end of September, in the municipality of Gaiole in Chianti, takes place a famous cycling race: l'**Eroica** – www.eroica.it



Following the main street there is Radda in Chianti, about 32 km from Bucine. Exactly as Gaiole in Chianti Radda in Chianti also offers a beautiful view and a story that starts out since 2000 A.C. and that through many hardships did it get to this day! Among the many thing to see: the "**Mura**" (XIV century), "**Palazzo del Podestà**" (XV century) and the "**Ghiacciaia Granducaie**" situated outside the village, near the communal gardens.

Going back towards Bucine, it's recommended to go to visit Badia a Coltibuono and its "**Abbazia di San Lorenzo di Coltibuono**", founded in 1049 with inside a tenth century church.



The "**Cappella di San Lorenzo**" of the tenth century still retains much of its old charm. Inside lie the mortal remains of Blessed Benedetto Ricasoli (1107).

5. Firenze

The outskirts of Florence is about 1 hour drive away but probably there will be some problems of parking and it's quite important using the public services to reach the center. Alternatively it's possible to reach Florence by train. There are two alternatives: From Montevarchi station (13 km, 17 minutes from Bucine), which has the fastest and more frequent racing; or from Bucine Station, where, however, the selection of the trains is a bit smaller.



Florence is really one of the most beautiful cities of Italy. Its story starts from the pre Etruscan but it's in the Middle Ages (thanks to the "Famiglia dei Medici") that Florence became the Renaissance home of the entire globe. There are many monuments to see, such as: the "**Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore**" (whose construction began in 1296 to end in 1436), the "**Palazzo Vecchio**" (XV century), the "**Piazzale Michelangelo**" or "**Giardini di Boboli**" and so much more.

NB: Every first Sunday of each month, all the museums managed by the state in Italy are free of charge.

This means that there will be a high possibility of finding large queues to visit museums such as Gli Uffizi or the Accademia in Florence.

On the web site www.firenzemusei.it (055 294883). it's possible to book the ticket to visit the most famous Museum of the city the "Galleria degli Uffizi. First Sunday of every months the entrance is free but it's not possible to book in advance. There is also the opportunity to get a single ticket to visit all the monuments and museums in one day and without waiting at € 72. For info please visit the web site www.firenzecard.it We are at disposal for printing online tickets because the electronic one it's not accept.



Taking the "*autostrada del Sole*" and exit to "*Impruneta*", going through Strada Statale Firenze / Siena it's possible to go to "*Bargino*". Going right for less then one km, on the left there is the entrance to the famous "**Cantine Antinori**". The landscape is very suggestive and coming in the "*Cantine*" the sensation will be that to go inside a hill with on top endless fields of vineyards.
www.antinorichianticlassico.it

6. Pisa and Lucca

Going to Pisa and driving on the FI-PI-Li it's possible to arrive to Collodi and visit the wonderful "**Parco di Pinocchio**". Exit: Chiesina Uzzanese and follow direction to "Pescia – Collodi".



It is possible visiting Pisa (141 km, 1h 54 minutes from Bucine) taking the Perugia-Siena-Florence, towards Siena and exit at Poggibonsi Nord. Then follow the signs for Empoli and just before taking the FI-PI-LI exit at Pisa. Pisa is rumored to have been founded by the Achaeans immediately after the "Trojan War". Closely linked to the image of the Madonna (present on medieval coins) is a beautiful city in which only the "Piazza dei Miracoli" would be enough but instead it's full of so many monuments and pieces of the history of a glorious past.

Leaving Pisa it's possible to go to Lucca (21 km) proceeding along the state road 12 (SS12 follow the signs to Lucca), no fee. Lucca was founded in 180 A.C., as a Romanesque town before becoming the capital of the Lombard Duchy of Tuscia. In the sixth century and then, in the eleventh century it's been Municipality and then Republic. Intact are the "walls" that surround it. Just to mention some monument, remember the "**Palazzo Ducale**" (1370), the "**Torre dell'Orologio**" (XIII century) and the "**Cattedrale di San Martino**" (1070). For fans of comics, Lucca is home (at the end of October and beginning of November) of the famous "**Lucca Comics**". Event recognized worldwide.

For info: www.luccacomicsandgames.com

To return to Bucine taking the highway towards Florence and from Florence towards Rome and exit at Valdarno.



7. Traveling to Rome

It's possible to reach Rome by train at Rapolano Terme Train Station (28 km, 29 minutes from Bucine) or at Chiusi Train Station (79 km, 61 minutes from Bucine). But if there is the possibility of using a car, it's suggested a fascinating journey through the center of Italy to discover little gems of the nation in just a two-hour trip.



On the highway junction take the direction to Perugia located at 106 km, 1 hour and 30 minutes from Bucine. Etruscan city that still retains a charm intact. There are several things to visit, such as: "**Fontana Maggiore**" (1278), "**Palazzo dei Priori**", (Gothic 1293) "**Cattedrale di San Lorenzo**" (1490), "**Sala dei Notari**" (XV century) and a number of museums such as: "**Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria**", "**Museo Archeologico Nazionale**" and "**Museo Storico Perugina**". In October it hosts the Chocolate Festival "Eurochocolate".

Left Perugia continue to the junction E45 towards Cesena and follow the signs to Assisi. A wonderful city that was the birthplace of San Francesco. It's a village that gives the impression of being completely out of time. Each corner has an anecdote and a small piece of history to tell. And beautiful is the "**Basilica di San Francesco d'Assisi**" (1253) with inside frescoes of Giotto.



Taking the highway, before reaching Rome it's recommend going to visit Orvieto. A pretty jewel in the heart of Umbria with the "**Duomo**" (1591) whose facade is considered the most beautiful of all across the world's religious monuments! Very beautiful is also "**Il Pozzo di San Patrizio**".

And then Rome! About Rome there would be lots of things to say but it's quite easy to find an online guide and this is only a mini guide. It's the main town of Italy. It's been the main town of the entire world. Thanks to Rome it's possible to talk about progress, history and many inventions still in use today as "**L'acquedotto Romano**". Monuments like "**Colosseo**", "**Fontana di Trevi**", "**Campidoglio**", "**Circo Massimo**", "**Villa Borghese**" and many more speak by themselves and will leave you breathless.

An advice: Parking in the Eur Area and from there take metro Line A for "**Piazza di Spagna**".



8. Ferrari, Lamborghini and Ducati



At Maranello (192 km, 2 hours and 18 minutes from Bucine) visit the Ferrari Gallery. Here it's possible to try a 10-minute race simulation with a Ferrari driven by yourself but with the assistance of an engineer (€ 25.00) and also having the video of the performance.

Book tickets at:

<http://museomaranello.ferrari.com/prices-and-tickets/#>

So, it's possible to reach the Lamborghini factory in Sant'Agata Bolognese in 45 minutes (34 km). The visit includes not only the museum, with the beautiful Lamborghini cars, but also the factory and the possibility of seeing how the cars are assembled.

For information and reservations:

<http://www.lamborghini.com/en/museum/information/>

Usually to find the availability it is necessary to book a couple of weeks in advance.



Returning from the Lamborghini factory, at the outskirts of Bologna, there is the headquarters of Ducati sport bike where it is possible take guided tours at the Ducati Museum and at the factory.

For information and reservations:

www.ducati.com

A stylized graphic featuring a white outline of Italy. A large yellow sun is positioned behind the map, partially obscured by it. Below the map, there are green hills. The word 'TUSCANY' is written in a light green, stylized font across the bottom right of the map. The text 'Quick Guide to Fashion Outlets' is centered over the map in a bold, black font.

Quick Guide to Fashion Outlets

Fashion Outlets

1. Pratesi Shoe Factory (8 km from Bucine)

“Pratesi Shoe Factory” is located in Ambra. It’s on the left side for those who came from Bucine and it’s got a parking area too.

In this outlet available to buy shoes and handmade bags in good quality leather at a reasonable price.



2. Prada (11 km from Bucine)

The outlet mall, close to the headquarters of Prada is one of the biggest of its kind. During periods with greater affluence it's necessary to take a numbered ticket and wait just for the turn to enter. In the meanwhile time can be passed in the trendy bar next to the store. Inside the outlet there are clothes (for men and women) Prada, Miu Miu and Helmut Lang. Besides clothing, there are also shoes, bags and other leather goods. Discounts up to 50% on items of the previous season. To get there from Bucine proceed towards Levane, reach Levanella and follow the signs with the word SPACE that is the name of Prada Outlet.



3. Valdichiana Outlet Village (52 km from Bucine)

An Outlet Village with dozens of shops selling products at discounted prices. The shops include Guess, Calzedonia (collant, stockings and bathing costumes), Mila Schon, Calvin Klein, Swatch, Nike, Benetton and many more. To get there it should be taken the 4 lines highway Siena-Perugia in direction of Rome. Exit at the junction with the A1 Milan-Rome and follow signs to Valdichiana Outlet.



4. The Mall (36 km from Bucine)

A big shopping mall with great discounts near to Florence. Labels are Yves St. Laurent, Bottega Veneta, Giorgio Armani, Loro Piana, Sergio Rossi and Gucci. Outside The Mall are: Fendi, D & G and Moncler.

It's reachable by taking the A1 – Valdarno - and proceeding towards Florence. Exit Incisa. From there follow the signs to “Il Leccio” and to the shopping center.

A stylized graphic featuring a white outline of the Tuscany region in Italy. A large yellow sun is positioned behind the map, and green hills are at the bottom. The word 'TUSCANY' is written in a light green, blocky font across the lower part of the map. The text 'Quick Guide to bike paths' is centered over the map in a bold black font.

Quick Guide to bike paths

Tours for bike or mountain bike

1. Crete di Siena (circa 30 - 50 km)

Proceed to the crossroad - direction Siena – Colonna del Grillo.

Going uphill following the indication of "Pista go-kart". In the same way it's possibile to arrive to Siena. Go back toward Castelnuovo Berardenga. Before arriving in Castelnuovo Berardenga, turn right towards Colonna Del Grillo.



2. Val d'Orcia (about 45 km)

Proceed to the crossroad - direction Siena – Colonna del Grillo.

Turn left towards Monte San Savino.

Passing the Ombrone River and turning right towards Rapolano Terme. Follow the signs to Asciano and then Monte Oliveto. From Monte Oliveto it's possible to return to Asciano by a different route.



3. Chianti Classico (about 50 km)

Proceed to the crossroad - direction Siena – Colonna del Grillo.

Turn right in direction of Castelnuovo Berardenga.

Continue towards Villa a Sesta, Castello di Brolio and then in direction of Radda in Chianti that deserves a visit for a quick lunch and then go back to Badia a Coltibuono, Montevarchi and Bucine. There is the possibility to have a shorter trip (40 km) via Mercatale Valdarno and from there to Nusenna e Montelupo. From Montelupo, turn left to San Gusmè and Castelnuovo Berardenga, Colonna del Grillo, Ambra and Bucine.



4. Valdichiana (about 45 km)

Proceed to the crossroad - direction Siena – Colonna del Grillo. Turn left towards Monte San Savino.

At Monte San Savino at the bottom of the hill, turn left towards San Pancrazio.

Continue in direction of *Strada Provinciale 540* towards Ambra and finally Bucine.



5. Chianti Hills (about 65 km)

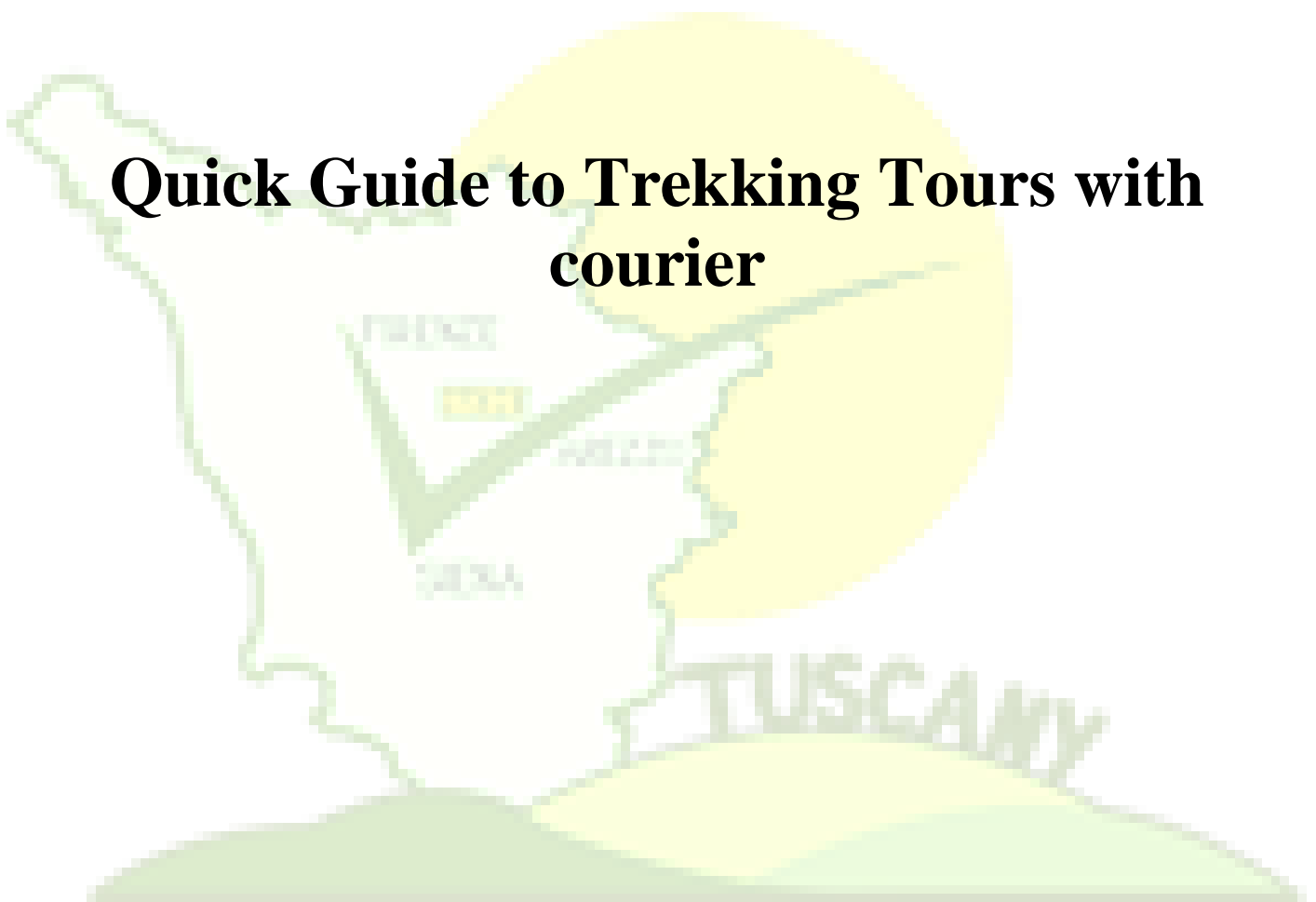
Proceed to the crossroad - direction Siena – Colonna del Grillo.

Turn right in direction of Castelnuovo Berardenga.

Go through Castelnuovo Berardenga, San Gusmè, Campi, Montelupo, Nusenna, Mercatale Valdarno and get to Bucine.



Quick Guide to Trekking Tours with courier





Valdambra: the Tower of Galatrona. Walking time 4 hours.

An easy walk through the woods and long rows of vines, between art and history, to enjoy a huge and beautiful landscape, from Valdambra to Pratomagno.

Valdambra: the castle of Cennina. Walking time 5 hours.

A fascinating place, a timeless place, an icon of this valley known and inhabited since ancient times. A hike in the nature and history of this land.



Valdambra: Badia a Ruoti and Rapale. Walking time 4 hours.

From a rich and powerful abbey to an ancient castle that watched over the valley. An easy walk accompanied by stories of monks and soldiers, from the silence of the forest and vast landscapes.

Valdambra: Badia Agnano. Walking time 5 hours.

A walk on the ancient streets that passed through this valley, from the times of the Roman Empire to the transhumance and to the pilgrimage routes.



Chianti: Montefioralle and Passignano. Walking time 5 hours.

From a medieval castle to a Vallombrosian Abbey, a path between two symbolic places to learn about the beauty and the peculiarities of the Florentine Chianti.

Chianti: The Castle of Brolio. Walking time 5 hours.

This beautiful route that runs around a true icon of the Chianti landscape, with vineyards as far as the eye can see, huge live oaks, imposing walls, churches and old houses. Many images that will never forget.





Chianti: Gaiole area. Walking time: 3 hours.

From the square of a medieval market to the discover of beautiful Renaissance villas and to an ancient castle in a stunning natural beauty and breathtaking views environment.

Pratomagno: along the Ciuffenna. Walking time 4 hours.

From a castle to another, from Poggio di Loro to Rocca Ricciarda, on the slopes of Pratomagno, walking along the banks of a creek that has always fascinated travelers and artists.



Pratomagno: the Vallombrosa forest. Walking time 4 hours.

A route loop that starts and returns to an ancient and powerful abbey from thousand years protected by a beautiful fir-wood. A hike in spirituality and incomparable beauty of the vallombrosana forest.



Valdarno: The cliffs of Castelfranco di Sopra. Walking time 3 hours.

An easy walk to go back to ancient times where the Valdarno was a lake. Discovering those rock formations that fascinated Leonardo da Vinci.



Crete Senesi. Walking time 5 hours.

A land of many gentle hills of a rare and unique beauty. It will be like walking on a painter's palette with colors that change with the changing seasons.



The hills of Chianti: The nature trail of Poggio Citeria. Walking time 2 hours.

A short walk to get on a hill overlooking the small village of Poggio alla Croce. A natural terrace overlooking the Florentine plain and the Arno Valley between history, nature and ancient traditions.



A stylized graphic featuring a white map of Tuscany with a green outline. The map is set against a background of a large yellow sun and green hills. The word "TUSCANY" is written in a green, blocky font across the bottom of the map. The text "Quick Guide to Events" is centered over the map in a bold, black font.

Quick Guide to Events



BADIA AGNANO – Saturday 8 and Sunday 9

Festa della Birra

Two days in which tasting and eating beer and typical Tuscan products

MERCATALE VALDARNO – Sunday 9

Festa Paesana

A festive day in which to drinking, eating and buying various items plus typical Tuscan products, having fun

PERELLI (HAMLET OF BUCINE) – Sunday 23

Associazione Culturale Niccolò Angeli “Rievocazione Storica – Passeggiata”

A temporal journey into the history of our municipality

MERCATALE VALDARNO – Sunday 7

Passeggiata degli Antichi Sapori

A Sunday in which tasting and eating the most ancient and typical products of our history

BUCINE (Piazza del Campo Vecchio) – from Friday 12 to Sunday 14

Festa di Primavera – Sagra della Trota

An entire weekend. in which savoring Spring’s flavors and scents with the possibility to taste dishes with trout

BUCINE – from Thursday 18 to Monday 29

Festival delle Regioni

All the Italian regions together in celebrating and improving their own typical products. With tastings, dinners and music. Day and Night

BUCINE – Friday 19

StraBucine Night Run



SAN LEOLINO – from Thursday 1 to Sunday 4

Sagra del Crostino

A series of dinners and tastings of typical Tuscan “crostini” with music, dancing and entertainment

LEVANE – Saturday 10

“Mangialoga”

It’s an ancient tradition represented by a gastronomic journey through the streets of the village

AMBRA – Tuesday 24

Festa d’inizio Estate

Let’s celebrate Summer in the streets with dancing, music, dinner and tasting typical Tuscany products

AMBRA – Tuesday 24

Notti d’Ambra

On Tuesdays night all along the streets of Ambra music, dancing, dinners and lots of fun

BADIA AGNANO – from June 28 to July 02

Borgo d’Estate

Five days of music, dancing and tasting typical Tuscan products

BUCINE – Wednesday 28

Mercoledì sotto le Mura



AMBRA – Tuesday 4

Notti d’Ambra

On Tuesdays night all along the streets of Ambra music, dancing, dinners and lots of fun

BUCINE – Wednesday 5

Mercoledì sotto le Mura

Dinner, music and lots of fun

PIETRAVIVA (HAMLET OF BUCINE) – from Thursday 6 to Saturday 9

Sagra della Rana

Four days of plays, music, dancing and the possibility to eat the typical dish of the “Frog”

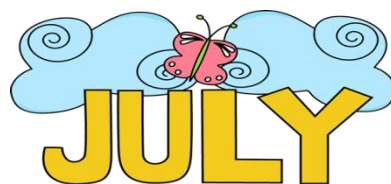
AMBRA – Tuesday 11

Notti d’Ambra

On Tuesdays night all along the streets of Ambra music, dancing, dinners and lots of fun

BUCINE – Wednesday 12

Mercoledì sotto le Mura



Dinner, music and lots of fun

PERELLI (HAMLET OF BUCINE) – from Friday 14 to Sunday 16

Festa della Battitura – Sagra della nana

Historical commemoration of the wheat harvest with music, dancing, entertainment and typical dishes with duck

BADIA AGNANO – Saturday 15

Sere d'Estate

Music, dancing and entertainment all along the streets of the village

AMBRA – Tuesday 18

Notti d'Ambra

On Tuesdays night all along the streets of Ambra music, dancing, dinners and lots of fun

BUCINE – Wednesday 19

Mercoledì sotto le Mura

Dinner, music and lots of fun

BADIA A RUOTI – from Tuesday 20 to Sunday 23 & from Tuesday 28 to Sunday 30

Festa della Ruota

Two weekend plays, music, dancing and typical Tuscan food

MERCATALE VALDARNO – Sunday 23

Bisteccata sulla Strada

The famous Fiorentina Steak and other typical Tuscan products for a dinner in the street

AMBRA – Tuesday 18

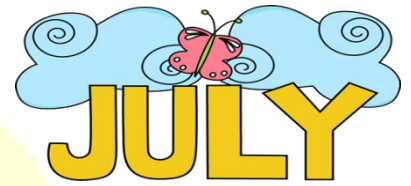
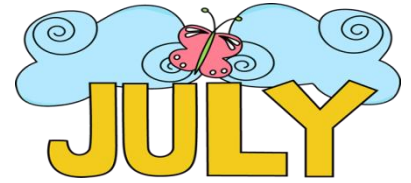
Notti d'Ambra

On Tuesdays night all along the streets of Ambra music, dancing, dinners and lots of fun

BUCINE – Wednesday 19

Mercoledì sotto le Mura

Dinner, music and lots of fun



AMBRA – Tuesday 1

Notti d'Ambra

On Tuesdays night all along the streets of Ambra music, dancing, dinners and lots of fun

BUCINE – Wednesday 2

Mercoledì sotto le Mura

Dinner, music and lots of fun

BADIA A RUOTI (ABBZIA) – Friday 4

Concerto "Terre d'Arezzo Music Festival" 12° edizione

Classical music concert

POGI (HAMLET OF BUCINE) – Sunday 6 H 20,00

Festa Religiosa di san Donato con Cena in Piazza

Religious folk festival with dinner in the square

AMBRA – Tuesday 8

Notti d'Ambra

On Tuesdays night all along the streets of Ambra music, dancing, dinners and lots of fun

PIEVE DI GALATRONA (BUCINE) – Friday 11

Concerto "Terre d'Arezzo Music Festival" 12° edizione

Classical music concert

BADIA AGNANO – Monday 14

Aspettando Ferragosto

Shops, music and entertainment all night long

AMBRA – Tuesday 15

Notti d'Ambra

On Tuesdays night all along the streets of Ambra music, dancing, dinners and lots of fun

BADIA AGNANO – Saturday 19

Mezzanotte Bianca: percorso enogastronomico

Tasting typical Tuscan products walking on the streets of the village by night

AMBRA – Saturday 26

Cena in Paese

Dinner and tasting of our wine and our typical products

POGI (HAMLET OF BUCINE) – Saturday 26

Cena al Ponte

Dinner and tasting of our wine and our typical products



AMBRA – from Saturday 2 to Sunday 10

Sagra ella Lumaca

Nine days of games, music, dancing and the possibility to eat the typical dish of the "Snail"

BUCINE – from Thursday 14 to Monday 18

Fiera e Festa di San Salvatore

Religious festival with typical Tuscan products, music and fun



BUCINE – Sunday 1

2° Rievocazione storica della Festa dell'Uva

Historical commemoration of the ancient grape folk festival

BUCINE – TREKKING IN VALDAMBRA Saturday 7 and Sunday 8

MERCATALE VALDARNO – Sunday 15

Maratona

Race through the streets of the village

BADIA AGNANO – Tuesday 31

Festa di Halloween

Let's celebrate Halloween in the square

BADIA AGNANO – Sunday 5

Festa dell'Olio

Festival of the Olive Oil with fun and entertainment

