

BUCINE AND THE SURROUNDING **AREA**

The lovely area of Bucine lies in Central Tuscany at the centre of a triangle formed by three outstanding historical cities of art: Arezzo, Siena and Florence. It borders on Chianti, an area which has come to be considered as an internationally renowned icon for the richness of its history, the beauty of its landscape and the quality of its Tuscan food and wine.

Coming from Valdarno, the Bucine countryside forms a privileged gateway to the Chianti region; it is a verdant area, prevalently rolling hills and high land, where valleys cover only 19% of the total. The most important cultivation is of the typically Tuscan olive trees and vines. The valley has managed to preserve its rural physiognomy over time, and a social environment which is still, in many ways, traditional.

A valley rich in history:

This area, like other areas in Italy, has a long history behind it which goes back to Roman times, but being in Tuscany, seat of the Etruscans (prior to the Romans), it also bears archaeological traces of that civilisation. Its geographical position, a natural link between the north-south and east-west axis of the peninsular, has made it a place of strategic roadways. Because of this, at least up to the fifteenth century, it was the scene of bitter, bloody battles between the nearby cities (Arezzo, Siena and Florence). During the Middle Ages fortified hilltop villages were built to defend the territory, traces of which are still visible in Cennina, San Leolino, Civitella and so on.

How to get to Bucine:

- **by motorway** A1 Milan-Rome, Valdarno exit (50 km south of Florence);
- **by dual carriageway** Siena-Bettolle, exit at the Arezzo-Bucine-Ambra turn off;
- **by rail** Montevarchi or Bucine railway stations (Milan-Rome line);

The main road artery through the territory of Bucine is the **S.S 540**, which runs from Valdarno towards Siena along the bottom of the valley.

THE VILLAGES:

There are a number of picturesque villages of historical interest in the Bucine area, which still bear witness to its rural, farming roots. Among those worth visiting are:

BUCINE: seat of local government and the largest town in the area, it offers facilities such as the post office, banks and automatic cash dispensers, a CO-OP supermarket, other food shops, car repair garage and bars.

SAN LEOLINO lies on the edge of the ridge of hills which lead down from the Chianti Mountains, a few kilometres from the little town of Gaiole in Chianti.

GALATRONA: the most visible remaining part of the ancient castle is the look-out tower which can easily be reached on foot. The Pieve Romanica di S. Giovanni Battista (Romanesque parish church) can be seen at Petrolo, near the tower. Inside the church are works by Giovanni della Robbia, which date back to the first half of the XVI century.

CENNINA has preserved its characteristics as a mediaeval castle better than any other place in the area. The keep, which is still clearly visible, was built in 1167.

MONTEBENICHI nestles on a hilltop overlooking the Chianti region. The ancient castle in the heart of the village is of Lombard origin. The Pieve di Santa Maria in Altaserra (parish church of St Mary), one of the most beautiful monuments in the area, can be reached on foot from the village.

CAPANNOLE: the old part of the village, situated above the nucleus of modern buildings, is well worth a visit. The settlement owes its importance to its position at the intersection of main roads from Valdarno, Arezzo, Valdichiana, Siena and the Chianti hills.

RAPALE: from its panoramic position the village enjoys wide-sweeping views of green rolling hills, woodland and valleys, and an enchanting mediaeval atmosphere.

SOGNA: the level pathway from Rapale makes it an easy walk to the lovely village of Sogna, which apparently dates back to the XI century.

BADIA A RUOTI: the ancient monastery is well worth visiting. The exact date of its foundation remains uncertain, but it was undoubtedly built before the beginning of the XI century. A splendid painting by Neri di Bicci can be seen inside the church.

All the villages in the valley can easily be reached by car or by bicycle as they are only a few kilometres apart.

e.g. from Bucine to Capannole = 4.5km

from Bucine to Galatrona = 3 km

from Ambra to Cennina = 4km

WALKS AND MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDES:

1. Mercatale – Galatrona – S.Leolino – Cennina

Departure from Mercatale, accessible by car. Walk up C.A.I. pathway n.45A, through the vineyards, towards Pieve di Galatrona. From the Pieve continue up a steep path through the woods to the Tower of Galatrona, the highest point on the walk. The tower dominates the ridge and the Valdarno side of the Chianti hills.

Continue along C.A.I. path n.45, in the direction of Poggio del Fattore and descend towards the village of S.Leolino. After looking round the village, continue along the hill ridge path (C.A.I. n.45) past the Marianna farmstead on your left and fork left towards the village of Cennina, which you will reach after passing the little wooden crucifix implanted in the rock.

Difficulty: medium

Length: 8.5km

2. Cennina – Solata – Montebenichi

Departure from the village of Cennina, accessible by car. Take the C.A.I. path n. 45 and walk to the little village of Solata up quite a steep stretch of pathway. Continue along C.A.I. path n.47 past the old, abandoned farmsteads of Vergaia, Monte di Rota, Monte della Via, and Poggialto along the ancient ridge road. A little brick church dedicated to St. Francis marks the final part of the walk and the entrance into Montebenichi.

Difficulty: medium

Length: 8 kms

3. Rapale – Sogna – Badia a Ruoti

Departure from the village of Rapale, accessible by car. Take C.A.I. path n. 117, a relaxing walk through olive groves and fields. On arrival at the village of Sogna you can decide whether or not to continue to Badia a Ruoti along C.A.I. path n. 125.

Difficulty: easy

Length: 4 km

4. Pogi – Iesolana – Montozzi

Departure from Pogi, accessible by car. Take C.A.I. path n. 127A which runs along the cart track to Iesolana. Before reaching Iesolana the path turns right, but our route continues straight on along the road to Iesolana. At Iesolana continue along the cart track as far as Montozzi.

Difficulty: easy

Suitable for cycling

Length: 3 km

RESTAURANTS AND PIZZERIAS IN THE BUCINE AREA:

RISTORANTI/PIZZERIE:

Ristorante Pizzeria “*Zio Coco*”, Via Poggio Amaro 1/C, Bucine, Tel: 055-9911296, Closed on Tuesday

Ristorante Pizzeria “*Lo Schicchero*”, Via G. Verdi 45, Mercatale, Tel: 055-9707453, Only open on Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Ristorante Pizzeria “*Il Poggio*”, Loc. San Pancrazio, Tel: 055-995679, Always open during the summer

Ristorante Pizzeria “*L’Antico Portale*”, Loc. Capannole, Tel: 055-9955514, Closed on Monday

Ristorante Pizzeria “*Pomodoro*” Loc. Laterina stazione Via Nazionale 58. Tel 0575-896591 Closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Ristorante Pizzeria “*Le Cantine*”, Via Casenuove 15, Pergine Valdarno, Tel: 0575-896547, Closed on Tuesday

Ristorante Pizzeria “*IL Bivacco*”, Colonna del Grillo, Castelnuovo Berardenga, Tel: 0577-352009. Closed on Wednesday

RISTORANTI:

Ristorante “*Alla corte di Bacco*”, Via Trieste 69, Ambra, Tel 055 9917420, Closed on Wednesday.

Ristorante “*La Querce*”, Loc. la Querce 75, Levane, Tel: 055-9788074, Closed on Tuesday

Ristorante “*Il Paguro*”, P.zza Pertini 7, Bucine, Tel: 055-992936, Closed on Monday

Enoteca-Fiaschetteria “*Da I’Frasca*”, via Mochi 18, Montevarchi, Tel: 055-983372, Closed on Wednesday

Ristorante “*La Valle dell’Inferno*”, loc. Acquaborra, Levane, Tel: 055-9180031, Closed on Tuesday

Ristorante Osteria “*L’Orciaia*”, Loc. Montebenichi, Tel: 055-9910067, Closed on Tuesday M

Ristorante “*La Leccarda*”, turn off for Montebenichi, Tel: 055-998100, Closed on Monday

Ristorante “*L’Antico Borgo*”, via di Mezzo 35, Civitella In Val Di Chiana, Tel: 0575-448160, Closed on Monday and Tuesday

Ristorante “*I Laghi*”, Via della Trove 27, Civitella In Val Di Chiana, Tel: 0575-448201, Closed on Wednesday

Ristorante “*Ambra*”, Via D. Alighieri 116, Ambra, Tel: 055-996578, Closed on Friday

Ristorante “*L’Osteria di Rendola*”, loc. Rendola, Montevarchi, Tel: 055-9707491, Closed on Wednesday

Ristorante Osteria “*Il Canto del Maggio*”, fraz. Penna 30/d, Tel: 055-9705147, Closed on Monday

Ristorante “*Osteria Dell’Angelo*”, vicolo della Madonna 3/5, Tel: 055-943799, Closed on Sunday

Ristorante “*Fiaschetteria de’ Redi*”, via de’ Redi 10, Arezzo, Tel: 0575-355012, Closed on Monday

WEEKLY MARKETS:

Bucine: Wednesday morning

Ambra: Tuesday morning

Pergine: Friday morning

Montevarchi: Thursday morning

HOURS OF HOLY MASS

Bucine: Saturday 18.00 (winter: 17.30) Sunday 8.00 and 11.00

Pogi: Sunday 9.30

Telephone number for Father Don Walter: 055-9911138

SERVICES AND USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS:

Banks: Bucine, Ambra,

Petrol stations: Ambra, Badia Agnano

Post offices: Bucine, Ambra, Pietraviva, Badia Agnano, Mercatale V-no

Food shops: Bucine, Ambra, Pietraviva, Capannole, Badia Agnano, Mercatale V-no
(open on Sunday: Bottega di Capannole)

Chemists: Bucine (tel: 055-9911347), Ambra (tel: 055-996844), Badia Agnano (055-995961),
Mercatale V-no (055-9707127), Levane (055-9789781)

Ambulance and First Aid: Ambra, via Della Caserma 3, tel: 055-9917220

Emergency doctor: Hospital switchboard, tel: 055-91061

Police: (carabinieri) Bucine (tel: 055-9911305)

Tennis courts: Bucine, Tennis Club, via S. Salvatore, tel: 055-992976
Capannole, c/o Camping La Chiocciola, tel: 055-995776

Riding:

Centro Ippica della Berardenga, owned by Donatella Zambon, Podere S.Margherita, S.S. 540
just after the Montebenichi turn off, tel and fax: 0577-355071

Lessons in the paddock for beginners, summer courses for children, hacking in the country , 2/3
day mini-tours for expert riders, equestrian tourism.

Rendola Riding, owned by Genny Bawtree, loc.Rendola, Montevarchi, tel and fax: 055-9707045
Lessons in the paddock, summer courses for children, hacking in the country, pony trekking in
Chianti for expert riders, equestrian tourism.

Tourist service agency: "Viaggi D'Ambra" S.N.C. owned by A.Rosadini and C. Scalone, loc.
Capannole, c/o campeggio "La Chiocciola" tel: 339-4421495 / 333-3973444
Organised tours, guided visits, wine and oil tasting, bicycle hire, transfer to and from airports.

PURCHASE OF WINE AND OLIVE OIL:

- **Fattoria “IESOLANA”, Loc. Iesolana, Bucine, Tel: 055-992988**
- Fattoria “Villa La Selva”, Loc. Montebenichi, Bucine, Tel: 055-998203
- Azienda Agricola “Mannucci Droandi”, Loc. Caposelvi, Mercatale Valdarno
Tel: 055-9707276
- Azienda Agricola “Petrolo”, Mercatale Valdarno, Tel: 055-9911322
- Azienda Agricola “Migliarina”, Levane, Tel: 055-9789029
- Fattoria “Le Ginestre”, Loc. Pieve a Presciano, Pergine Valdarno, Tel: 0575897160

LOCAL FESTIVITIES AND FAIRS IN AND AROUND BUCINE:

SAN LEOLINO: 30/05-01/06, *Crostini festival*

PIETRAVIVA: 07/07-13/07, *Frog festival*

PERELLI: 19 e 20/07, *Threshing festival*

BADIA A RUOTI: 21/07-27/07, *Fête of the Wheel*

AMBRA: 08/09-14/09, *Snail festival*

BUCINE: 15/09-22/09, *Village fête*

PIETRAVIVA: 4 e 5/10, *Festival of Our Lady of the Rosary*

BADIA A RUOTI: 11 e 12/10, *Festa of Our Lady of the Rosary*

TRAIN TIMETABLE (call centre: 892021)

Bucine Railway station

Bucine-Arezzo

8,23 – 8,47
9,23 – 9,47
10,23 – 10,47
12,23 – 12,47
13,23 – 13,47
14,23 – 14,47
15,08 – 15,32
15,38 – 16,02
16,23 – 16,47
17,23 – 17,47
18,33 – 18,57
19,23 – 19,47
20,23 – 20,47

Arezzo-Bucine

8,13 – 8,37
11,13 – 11,36
12,13 – 12,36
13,13 – 13,36
14,13 – 14,36
15,13 – 15,36
16,13 – 16,36
17,13 – 17,36
18,13 – 18,36
18,30 – 18,54
19,13 – 19,36
20,13 – 20,36

Bucine-Firenze

7,13 – 8,24
7,44 – 8,56
8,37 – 9,45
11,37 – 12,45
12,37 – 13,45
13,37 – 14,45
14,37 – 15,45
15,37 – 16,45
16,37 – 17,37
17,37 – 18,45
18,37 – 19,45
19,37 – 20,45
20,37 – 21,45

Firenze-Bucine

8,15 – 9,22
9,15 – 10,22
11,15 – 12,22
12,15 – 13,22
13,15 – 14,22
14,35 – 15,37
15,15 – 16,22
16,15 – 17,22
17,25 – 17,30
17,25 – 18,32
19,15 – 20,22
20,15 – 21,22
21,15 – 22,22
22,15 – 23,22
23,15 – 00,17

Stazione di Montevarchi (free car park behind the station)

Montev.-Arezzo

8,03 – 8,34
8,47 – 9,11
9,15 – 9,47
9,47 – 10,11
10,30 – 10,49
11,47 – 12,11
12,15 – 12,47
12,30 – 12,54
12,47 – 13,11
13,47 – 14,11
14,15 – 14,47
14,30 – 14,54
14,47 – 15,11
15,00 – 15,32
15,47 – 16,11
16,30 – 16,54
16,47 – 17,11
17,15 – 17,47
17,47 – 18,11
18,11 – 18,47
18,18 – 18,52
18,25 – 18,57
18,47 – 19,11
19,30 – 19,54

Arezzo-Montev.

9,11 – 9,35
11,06 – 11,29
11,13 – 11,44
11,46 – 12,11
12,46 – 13,11
13,13 – 13,44
13,30 – 14,00
13,46 – 14,11
14,13 – 14,44
14,46 – 15,11
15,06 – 15,29
15,46 – 16,11
16,13 – 16,44
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21,46 – 22,11

Montev.-Firenze

7,59 – 8,38
8,12 – 8,51
8,30 – 9,25
8,45 – 9,45
9,12 – 9,51
9,36 – 10,45
11,30 – 12,25
11,45 – 12,45
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Firenze-Montev.

12,09 – 12,46
12,35 – 13,29
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21,09 – 21,46
21,15 – 22,14
21,35 – 22,29
23,10 – 00,09

MONTEVARCHI

HOW TO GET TO MONTEVARCHI:

By car from Pogi, go to Levane (km. 4) and turn left at the traffic lights in the centre of the village, following the signpost to "Autostrada". Go straight on for about 5 km, as far as the centre of Montevarchi. (Total 9 km from Iesolana).

WEEKLY MARKET: Thursday morning.

THINGS TO SEE: it is worth taking a look at the historical centre, with a pleasant walk to the main square: **Piazza Varchi**.

Here we find the most famous church in the town: "the **Collegiate Church of San Lorenzo**", which represents one of the few examples of strictly "Baroque" architecture in the valley and is certainly one of the most beautiful in Tuscany.

Access to the two roomed **Museum of Sacred Art** is inside the church. Paintings, sculptures, miniatures, silverware and ceremonial furnishings are on display in the first room. In the second, can be seen the shrine of the "Holy Milk" with sculptures in relief from the School of Andrea della Robbia, dating back to the end of the fifteenth century. (Museum tel. 055-980468)

The **Palaeontological Museum**, situated in the ex-Convent of S. Ludovico, is worth visiting. About 1700 exhibits found in the Arezzo areas of Valdarno and the Val di Chiana are preserved and on display here. (Museum tel. 055-981227).

SAN GIOVANNI V.NO

HOW TO GET TO SAN GIOVANNI:

By car from Pogi, go to Levane (km. 4) and turn left at the traffic lights in the centre of the village, following the signpost to "Autostrada". Go straight on for about 5 km, as far as the centre of Montevarchi. (Total 9 km from Iesolana).

The road you are on (S.S. 69) goes through the town of Montevarchi and continues straight to San Giovanni V.no. (Total 13 kms from Iesolana).

WEEKLY MARKET: Saturday morning

THINGS TO SEE: its worth a visit to the historical centre, with a very pleasant walk past some lovely shops, and the leafy, shady footpath along the river.

In the centre of the town is the splendid **Basilica di Santa Maria delle Grazie** which dates back to the late fifteenth century. The **Museum of Santa Maria delle Grazie** is situated here, displaying numerous works of distinction among which, the "**Annunciation**" by **Beato Angelico**.

On your walk, stop off at the **Birthplace of Masaccio** who was born in San Giovanni V.no in 21 December 1401.

Also very beautiful are the **Pieve di San Giovanni Battista** and the **Church of San Lorenzo**.

Tourist Information Office: Tel. 055-9126326

AREZZO

HOW TO REACH AREZZO:

By train: see timetable

By car: 1) motorway A1, enter “Valdarno” (Montevarchi), exit “Arezzo”, follow the motorway slip road for 10 km to Arezzo (total of 36 km from Bucine)
2) from Bucine go to Levane and take the S.S. 69 to Arezzo (total of 30km from Bucine)
3) from Bucine go to Capannole and turn left for Badia Agnano. Continue on this road to **Civitella**, historical village with beautiful views, well worth stopping off for a visit. From Civitella go straight on to Badia al Pino and take the S.S. 73 to Arezzo (total of 34 km from Bucine).

MUSEUMS IN AREZZO :

- *Museum of Mediaeval and e Modern art*, Palazzo Bruni-Ciocchi, via S. Lorentino 8, tel: 0575/409050
- *Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art* from the Duomo di S. Donato, square behind the Duomo 12, tel: 0575/23991
- Restored Piero della Francesca frescoes, “*La Leggenda della Vera Croce*”, Basilica di San Francesco, Information tel: 0575-352727, to book phone tel no: 0575-900404

RESTAURANTS RECOMMENDED IN THE “GAMBERO ROSSO” GUIDE:

- Ristorante/Trattoria “*Il Saraceno*”, via Mazzini 6/A, Tel: 0575/27644. closed on Wednesday
- Trattoria da Guido, via Madonna del Prato, Tel 0575/23760, closed 1st Sunday of the month
- Ristorante/Trattoria “*La Torre di Gnicche*”, piaggia San Martino 8, Tel: 0575/352035. Closed on Wednesday
- Ristorante-Wine Bar “*I Tre Bicchieri*”, Piazzetta Sopra i Ponti 3/4/5, Tel: 0575/26557 Closed on Wednesday

INFORMATION

Tourist agency, Piazza Risorgimento 116, Tel: 0575 - 23952/3
Information office, Piazza della Repubblica 28, Tel: 0575-377678

FAIRS AND EVENTS IN THE CITY OF AREZZO:

Giostra del Saracino:

Date: last Saturday but one in June (evening event) and the first Sunday in September.

Place: city streets and Piazza Grande.

Information: 0575/377262

Antiques fair:

Date: every first weekend of the month

Place: streets in the historic centre.

FAIRS AND EVENTS IN THE PROVINCE OF AREZZO:

CORTONA: 30/08–14/2003 Antiques Exhibition and Market, Palazzo Casali and Palazzo Cagnotti
Information Tel: 0575/630352

CIVITELLA IN VAL DI CHIANA: 10/08/2003, Calici Di Stelle (wine tasting by starlight)

SAN SEPOLCRO: 14/09/2003, Mediaeval crossbow competition and pageantry

LUCIGNANO: 18/05 and 25/05/2003, May Day celebrations

MONTEVARCHI: Antiques Market, every last Sunday of the month

TERRANUOVA BRACCIOLINI: Valdarno Antiques Fair, every second Sunday of the month.

CORTONA

HOW TO GET THERE:

From Bucine take the main road n. 540 towards Ambra – Siena and keep on for 20.7 km, as far as the junction at “Colona del Grillo”. Here, turn onto the road n. 326 (this is a left turn) in the direction of Sinalunga. After 18.5 km turn right for **Lucignano**, a lovely village which is undoubtedly worth a visit on the way.

After looking round the village, go back onto the road n.326 and keep on for another 23km, as far as the exit for Cortona. (Total distance from Bucine 78km)

MUSEUMS IN CORTONA:

- *Museum of the Etruscan Academy*, Palazzo Casali, tel: 0575-630415
- *Diocesan Museum*, tel: 0575 – 62830

RESTAURANTS RECOMMENDED BY THE “GAMBERO ROSSO” GUIDE:

- Ristorante “*Preludio*”, via Guelfa 11, Tel: 0575-630104, always open
- Ristorante “*Il Falconiere*”, loc. San Martino 370, Tel: 0575-612616, closed on Monday
- Wine Bar “*Taverna Pane e Vino*” p.zza Signorelli 27, Tel:0575-631010, closed on Monday

LUCIGNANO:

- Ristorante “*Il Goccino*”, via G. Matteotti 88, Tel: 0575-836707, closed on Monday

WEEKLY MARKET: Saturday morning

INFORMATION:

APT, Via Nazionale 42, Tel: 0575-630352

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS IN CORTONA:

Copper Fair, 24-27/04, Palazzo Casali

Mediaeval Week, 30/05–08/06, Mediaeval plays, displays and flag-wavers

Steak Festival, 14-15/08, Public Gardens

Porcini Mushroom Festival, 24/08, Public Gardens

EVENTS AT LUCIGNANO:

May celebrations, 18/05 and 25/08

SIENA

HOW TO REACH SIENA BY CAR:

From Bucine take the road n. 540 towards Ambra-Siena. Go on for 20.7 km, as far as the “Colonna del Grillo” junction. Here take the road n.326 in the direction of Siena (this will be a right turn) and enjoy the magnificent landscape of the **crete senesi**. The exit recommended is “Siena Ovest”, then keep on in the direction of “San Marco”. Recommended car park: “Il Campo”, Porta Tufi, near Piazza del Campo, free on Sundays and public holidays. (Total distance from Bucine – 42km)

HOW TO REACH SIENA BY BUS:

OUTWARD JOURNEY:

Departure: Bucine 7.25 – Pogi 7.30-----*Arrival:* Siena, Piazzale Rosselli railway station 8.22

RETURN JOURNEY:

Departure: Siena Piazzale Rosselli railway station 13.49----- *Arrival:* Pogi 14.35 – Bucine 14.38
Siena Piazzale Rosselli railway station 18.29-----*Arrival:* Pogi 19.15 – Bucine 19.20

RESTAURANTS RECOMMENDED BY THE “GAMBERO ROSSO” GUIDE

- Ristorante “*Da Enzo*”, via Camollia 49, Tel: 0577/281277, closed on Sunday
- Trattoria “*Osteria Doccino*”, via Doccia 10, Tel: 0577/40039, closed on Sunday
- Trattoria “*Osteria La Chiacchiera*”, costa di Sant’Antonio 4, Tel: 0577/280631, always open

WEEKLY MARKET: Wednesday morning

INFORMATION

Information office, Piazza del Campo 56, tel: 0577/280551

EVENTS IN SIENA:

Festivities on the Eve of the Palio:

01/07 and 15/08, benediction of the horses, and traditional religious ceremony.

Palio delle Contrade (bareback horse racing competition between the different areas of the city):

29/06 and 30/06 trial running

02/07 PALIO

03/07 procession of the winning “contrada”.

16/08 PALIO

17/08 procession of the winning “contrada”.

FAIRS AND EVENTS IN THE PROVINCE OF SIENA:

ASCIANO: Clay Market, historical town centre, every second Sunday of the month

Information – tel: 0577/718745-719510

MONTICCHIELLO: Teatro Povero, July-August at 21.00, info-tel:0578-755118

MONTERIGGIONI: July: Historical Pageant and Mediaeval Festival, Info-tel: 0577-304810

September: Street Banquet with mediaeval dishes and theatrical performance

Info-tel: 0577-304021

SAN GIMIGNANO: 14/06 and 15/06 “Le Ferie dei Messi” – Mediaeval festival, performances, ballads and story-telling, processions in costume. Info-Tel: 0577/940008

GAIOLE: 14/09/2003 Wine festival and neighbourhood torneo, Info-Tel: 0577/749411

THERMAL SPA BATHS IN THE PROVINCE OF SIENA

The Siena area is famous for its wealth of thermal springs and spas, source of health and well-being, as first the Etruscans and then the Romans knew well. Siena is the richest province in terms of thermal waters with numerous springs in its territory.

You will have many opportunities and an ample choice of places to visit in the province of Siena.

Thermal Park of **Bagni San Filippo**, with its huge plane trees, leafy avenues and streams of steaming water.

Petriolo, only example of a fortified spa, the most popular in the fourteenth century.

San Casciano dei Bagni, famous from Etruscan times.

Rapolano which offers us the San Giovanni spa, baths which date back to IV-III centuries BC and The Ancient Querciolaia, with a thermal swimming pool fed by the hot waters from the spring, and the ruins of the Etruscan-Roman baths.

Bagni Vignoli, a lovely old mediaeval village in the heart of Valdorcia, with its famous “water squares”.

Chianciani Spa, with its green parks.

USEFUL ADDRESSES:

Terme di San Filippo, loc. S.Filippo 23, tel: 0577-872982

Bagni di Petriolo, Terme Salute Ambiente S.P.A, tel: 0577-757104

San Casciano dei Bagni, Centro Termale Fonte Verde, tel: 0578-58023

Rapolano Terme, Stabilimento Termale “Antica Querciolaia”, tel: 0577-724091
“Terme di San Giovanni”, tel: 0577-724030

Bagno Vignoni, Stabilimento Termale, piazza del Moretto, tel: 0577-887365

Chianciano Terme, Stabilimento Termale, via delle Rose, tel: 0578-68111

SAN GIMIGNANO

HOW TO GET THERE:

From Bucine, take the road n. 540 towards Ambra-Siena. Go on for 20.7 km, as far as the “Colonna del Grillo” junction. Here take the road n. 326 towards Siena (this will be a right turn) and enjoy the magnificent landscape of the **crete senesi**. From Siena take the motorway link Siena-Florence towards Florence and go on for 24 km as far as the Poggibonsi Nord exit. From here follow the signposts to San Gimignano.

(total distance from Bucine 77 km)

RESTAURANTS RECOMMENDED IN THE “GAMBERO ROSSO” GUIDE:

- Enoteca-Wine Bar “*Enoteca Gustavo*”, via San Matteo 29, tel:0577/940057, Closed on Tuesday
- Ristorante “*Da Pode*”, loc. Sovestro 63, tel:0577/943153, Closed on Monday

INFORMATION

Pro Loco, p.zza del Duomo 1, tel: 0577/940008

MONTERIGGIONI

HOW TO GET THERE:

From Bucine, take the road n. 540 towards Ambra-Siena. Go on for 20.7 km, as far as the “Colonna del Grillo” junction. Here take the road n. 326 towards Siena (this will be a right turn) and enjoy the magnificent landscape of the **crete senesi**. From Siena take the Siena-Firenze motorway link towards Florence and go on for 9 km as far as the Monteriggioni exit.

(Total distance from Bucine 50 km)

RESTAURANTS RECOMMENDED IN THE “GAMBERO ROSSO” GUIDE:

Ristorante “*Casalta*”, loc. Strofe, via Matteotti 22, tel: 0577/301171. Closed on Wednesday

INFORMATION

Pro Loco, Castello di Monteriggioni, tel: 0577/304001

LA VAL D'ORCIA

HOW TO GET THERE:

1. From Bucine, take the road n. 540 towards Ambra-Siena. Go on for 20.7 km, as far as the "Colonna del Grillo" junction. Here take the road n. 326 towards Siena (this will be a right turn) and enjoy the magnificent landscape of the **crete senesi**. Before reaching Siena turn left along road n.438 towards Asciano. From here take road n. 451 as far as the splendid abbey of **Monte Oliveto Maggiore** (total distance from Bucine 65 km). Continue in the direction of Buonconvento and take the S.S. n.2 through the lovely Val d'Orcia. A few kilometres further on you will find the first signpost for **Montalcino**, then **San Quirico D'Orcia** and finally **Pienza**. (Total distance from Bucine 110 km).

1. From Bucine go as far as Siena and take the S.S. n.2 as far as the signpost for **Montalcino**, **San Quirico D'Orcia** and **Pienza** (Total distance from Bucine 95 km)

PLACES TO VISIT:

1) THE ABBEY OF MONTE OLIVETO MAGGIORE

2) MONTALCINO

Restaurants recommended in the "Gambero Rosso" guide:

- Ristorante "Banfi", Castello di poggio alle Mura, tel: 0577/816001. Closed on Sunday and Monday
- Ristorante "Boccon Di Vino", loc. Colombaio Tozzi 201, tel: 0577/848233. Closed on Tuesday

3) SAN QUIRICO D'ORCIA

4) PIENZA:

Restaurants recommended in the "Gambero Rosso" guide:

- Trattoria "Latte di Luna", via S. Carlo 2/4, tel: 0578/748606. Closed on Tuesday

5) MONTEPULCIANO

Restaurants recommended in the "Gambero Rosso" guide:

- Ristorante "La Grotta", loc. S. Biagio 15, tel: 0578/757607, Closed on Wednesday

INFORMATION

Montalcino: Local Tourist Office, Costa del Municipio 8, tel: 0577/849331

San Quirico D'Orcia: Local Tourist Office, via D. Alighieri 33, tel: 0577/897211

Pienza: Pro Loco, via R. Magi 25, tel: 0578/55684

FIRENZE

HOW TO REACH FLORENCE

By train: see timetable

By car: from Bucine, go to Levane and at the traffic lights in the centre of the village turn left towards Montevarchi. When you reach Montevarchi follow the signposts to the motorway (green A1 signs). Enter the motorway at the Valdarno entrance (on the outskirts of Montevarchi) in the direction of Florence. Leave the motorway at the “Firenze Sud” exit, park the car well outside the city centre and take a taxi into the heart of the city. (Total distance from Bucine 48km).

MUSEUMS IN FLORENCE:

- *Galleria degli Uffizi*, tel: 055-23885 (to book tel: 055-294883)
- *Museo Nazionale del Bargello*, via del Proconsolo 4 (to book tel: 055-294883)
- *Cappelle Medicee*, p.zza Madonna degli Aldobrandini, tel: 055-2388602
- *Cappella Brancacci*, Chiesa del Carmine, p.zza del Carmine, tel: 055-2382195
- *Cupola del Brunelleschi*, Cathedral, p.zza Duomo, tel: 055-2302885
- *Giardino di Boboli*, p.zza Pitti, tel: 055-218741

To book visits to the Musei Statali (publicly owned museums): Firenze Musei Tel: 055-294883

RESTAURANTS RECOMMENDED IN THE “GAMBERO ROSSO” GUIDE:

- Ristorante “*Cibreo*”, via Andrea del Verrocchio 8/r, Tel: 055/2341100, closed on Sunday and Monday
- Ristorante “*Enoteca Pinchiorri*”, via Ghibellina 87, Tel: 055/242777, closed on Sunday and Monday, and on Tuesday and Wednesday at lunch time
- Ristorante “*Don Chisciotte*”, via C. Ridolfi 4/r, Tel: 055/475430, always open
- Ristorante “*Beccofino*”, p.zza degli Scarlatti lungarno Guicciardini, Tel: 055/290076, closed on Sunday

INFORMATION

Azienda di Promozione Turistica Firenze (tourist agency)

via Cavour 1r, tel. 055/290832-3 Comune di Firenze (town council)

Borgo Santa Croce 29r, tel. 055/2340444 - 2264524

Piazza Stazione, kiosk at the bus stops outside the “arrivals” side of the station

IL CHIANTI

The name “Chianti” comes from the Etruscan name “Clant-i” meaning “Water”, which seems to be reflected in the way the borders of the Chianti Classico protected area are marked by the rivers Pesa and Arbia as well as numerous springs. The Chianti area stretches over an area about 50 km long and between 20 and 30 km wide. The region embraces nine “comuni” (local government areas): Castelnuovo Berardenga, Castellina in Chianti, Poggibonsi, Barberino val d’Elsa, Tavernelle val di Pesa, San Casciano val di Pesa, Greve in Chianti, Radda in Chianti and Gaiole in Chianti. Greve, Radda, Gaiole and Castellina all lie entirely within the Chianti Classico protected area, while only 421 hectares of the land in Poggibonsi, 80% of San Casciano, 64% of Castelnuovo, 45% of Tavernelle and 35% of Barberino are included inside the area. The Castelnuovo, Castellina, Radda, Gaiole and Poggibonsi tracts form part of the Senese Chianti covering 42,631 hectares; the land in the territorial areas of Greve, San Casciano, Tavarnelle and Barberino, totalling 30,412 hectares, form part of the Florentine Chianti. The borders of the Chianti area, or to be more precise the confines of the Chianti wine production area – an area of about 70,000 hectares - were decreed by the Grand-duke of Tuscany, Cosimo III in 1716 and have remained virtually untouched since then. The present borders were established in 1932. The importance of wine in the Chianti area can be traced back to Etruscan times, though the name “Chianti” was first used to refer to wine in 1404.

HOW TO GET TO THE CHIANTI AREA:

From Bucine there are two “gateways” into Chianti: via Cavriglia and via Castelnuovo Berardenga.

1. From Bucine, go to Levane and turn left, towards Montevarchi, at the traffic lights in the centre of the village. When you reach Montevarchi take the famous “Chiantigiana” road n. 408 to **Cavriglia**. Once you are in Cavriglia (distance from Bucine 17 km) you are already in Chianti. Follow the signposts to the place you wish to visit: Radda in Chianti (30 km from Bucine), Castellina in Chianti (42 km from Bucine), Gaiole (28 km from Bucine).
2. From Bucine follow the road n. 540 in the direction of Ambra – Siena for 20.7 km, as far as the “Colonna del Grillo” junction. Here turn right immediately for **Castelnuovo Berardenga** (distance from Bucine, 25 km). From here your are in the Chianti region. Follow the signposts for the place you wish to visit: Castello di Brolio (36 km from Bucine), Meleto (43 km from Bucine), Radda in Chianti (49 km from Bucine), Gaiole in Chianti (45 km from Bucine).

From Radda in Chianti it is possible to reach the Florentine area and the city of Florence, crossing the heart of the Chianti area.

Continue to **Greve in Chianti** and follow the lovely road n. 222 to Florence (total distance from Bucine, 95 km).

RESTAURANTS RECOMMENDED IN THE “GAMBERO ROSSO” GUIDE:

Radda in Chianti: Trattoria “La Bottega”, loc. Volpaia, p.zza della Torre 2, tel: 0577/738001,
Closed on Tuesday

Gaiole in Chianti: Ristorante “Osteria del Castello”, loc. Brolio, tel: 0577/747277, Closed on
Thursday

Castellina in Chianti: Ristorante “Albergaccio di Castellina”, via Fiorentina 63, tel: 0577/741042,
Closed on Wednesday and Sunday

Greve in Chianti: Ristorante “Giovanni da Verrazzano”, p.zza Matteotti 28, tel: 055/853189,
Closed on Monday

COMUNI (local administrative areas) IN THE FLORENTINE CHIANTI AREA:

- Greve in Chianti
- Impruneta
- San Casciano in Val di Pesa
- Tavarnelle in Val di Pesa

COMUNI IN THE SENESE CHIANTI AREA:

- Castellina in Chianti
- Radda in Chianti
- Gaiole in Chianti
- Castelnuovo Berardenga
- Poggibonsi

INFORMATION

Castelnuovo Berardenga: town tourist office, via del Chianti 61, tel: 0577-357150

Gaiole in Chianti: Pro-Loco, via Ricasoli 50, tel: 0577-749411

Radda in Chianti: Pro-Loco, p.zza Ferrucci 1, tel: 0577-738494

EVENTS IN FLORENCE:

Football in Mediaeval Costume:

19, 24/06 city streets from Santa Croce to Santa Maria Novella

28/06 final match in Piazza Santa Croce

EVENTS AND FAIRS IN THE CHIANTI AREA:

GREVE: Chianti Classico Festival, 2nd week in September

STRADA IN CHIANTI: Folk festival, 4th week in April

PERUGIA AND LAKE TRASIMENO

HOW TO GET THERE:

From Bucine go to Levane and turn left for Montevarchi at the traffic lights in the centre of the village. From Montevarchi go onto the A1 motorway at the “Valdarno” entrance and continue in the direction of Rome as far as the “Val di Chiana” exit (total distance from Bucine - 63 km). Take the “superstrada” (dual carriageway) to Perugia, Lake Trasimeno. Just before Perugia, the road runs alongside the lake where it is possible to stop and visit the lovely lakeside towns of Castiglione del Lago and Passignano sul Trasimeno. Leaving the lake behind you carry on towards Perugia (total distance from Bucine – 118 km).

THE LAKE is the largest stretch of water on the Italian peninsular and the fourth largest in the whole of Italy. Heart-shaped, it covers an area of 128 km, with a maximum depth of 6 m and a low-lying shoreline, in places fringed by reeds. Three islands rise out of the lake: la Maggiore, la Minore and the Polvese. The surrounding land has always been much contested for its strategic importance, its beauty and the richness of the water and soil.

PERUGIA

WHERE TO PARK:

- *Piazza Partigiani carpark*, linked to the central Piazza Italia by an escalator.

MUSEUMS:

- *Galleria Nazionale dell’Umbria*, Palazzo dei Priori, c.so Vannucci 1, tel: 075/5741247
- *Gipsoteca Greca, Etrusca e Romana*, via dell’Aquilone 7, tel: 075/5853807
- *Museo Archeologico Nazionale dell’Umbria*, ex Convento di San Domenico, p.zza G. Bruno 10, tel: 075/5727141

RESTAURANTS RECOMMENDED BY THE “GAMBERO ROSSO” GUIDE:

- Trattoria “*Fontanella di Porta Sole*”, via delle Prome 2, tel: 075/5734265, Closed on Sunday
- Ristorante “*Osteria del Gambero*”, via Baldeschi 17, tel: 075/5735461, Closed on Monday
- Ristorante “*Locanda San Lorenzo*”, p.zza Danti 19, tel: 075/5721956, always open

INFORMATION

A.P.T, via Mazzini 21, tel: 075/5728937

LA MAREMMA AND THE SEA

HOW TO GET THERE:

By car: from Bucine take the road n. 540 to Ambra-Siena and keep on for 20.7 km as far as the “Colonna del Grillo” junction. Here take the road 326 towards Siena and enjoy the magnificent landscape of the **crete senesi**. Just before Siena turn onto road n. 223 towards Grosseto and carry on for 65 km. From Grosseto, follow the signposts to the coastal areas you wish to visit. (Total distance from Bucine – 130 km)

IL PARCO DELL'UCCELLINA IN MAREMMA

The Park was established in 1975 and covers an area of 10,000 hectares. It stretches along the coast from Principina to Talamone and eastwards inland as far as the Aurelia main road. The central and southern part includes the "Uccellina" mountains where the highest peak, Poggio dei Lecci, reaches 451 m above sea level: these hills overlook the entire Tirrenian coast, the Tirreno sea and the islands of Giglio, Elba and Corsica providing a truly magnificent panorama. Especially beautiful, and characteristic, is the view of the mouth of the river Ombrone, its dark waters flowing offshore and gradually mixing with the green of the sea.

The only way to enter the park is via the **Centro Visite di Alberese**, where you can board the bus which leaves every hour between 9.00 and 14.00 and will take you inside the park to "Pratini", the starting point for the various pathways.

THE ARGENTARIO PROMONTORY

From the park of the "Uccellina" continue south along the S.S. 1 (the Etruscan Aurelio road) towards Orbetello. The Argentario promontory is a peninsular, from which rises Mount Argentario (635 m above sea level), joined to the mainland by three narrow strips of land known as "Tomboli", only one of which can be driven along. A beautiful panoramic road runs round the promontory linking the little coastal towns of Porto Ercole and Porto Santo Stefano together. Ferries leave regularly from Santo Stefano to the lovely islands of Giannutri and Giglio.

The whole area of Maremma is of considerable historic interest because of the numerous Etruscan archaeological sites and remains.

Of special interest: Etruscan ruins at Roselle (Siena-Grosseto, S.S. 223, 8 km from Grosseto) and Etruscan Necropolis of Vetulonia (S.S. 1, between Grosseto and Follonica)

PLACES WORTH VISITING IN THE MAREMMA HINTERLAND:

- Magliano in Toscana
- Manciano
- Pitigliano

INFORMATION

Castiglione della Pescaia, Tourist Office: tel 0564/933678

Follonica, ProLoco: tel 0566/263332

Ente Parco Regionale della Maremma: tel 0564/407111

Centro Visite Parco, loc. Alberese: tel 0564/407098

WINE EVENTS

CALICI DI STELLE (*WINE TASTING UNDER THE STARS*)

Information Tel: 080/5234114

WINERIES IN THE PROVINCE OF AREZZO:

- *Fattoria "Iesolana"*
- Fattoria "Le Ginestre", Cometti family, via Giovanni XXIII, Pergine V-no, Tel: 0575/897160
- Tenuta di "Petrolo" Sajust family, loc. Galatrona, Mercatale V-no, Tel: 055/9911322

WINERIES IN THE PROVINCE OF SIENA:

- Az. Agricola "San Felice" S.P.A , loc. San Felice, Castelnuovo Berardenga, Tel: 0577/358087
- Az. Agricola Barone Ricasoli S.P.A, loc. Brolio, Gaiole in Chianti, Tel: 0577/7301
- Castello di "Poggio alle Mura Banfi" S.P.A, loc. S. Angelo Scalo, Montalcino, Tel: 0577/840111
- Castello d'Albola, via Pian D'Albola 31, Radda in Chianti, Tel: 0577/738019
- Dievole S.P.A, loc. Vagliagli, Castelnuovo Berardenga, Tel: 0577/322632
- Fattoria "Castello di Volpaia", loc. Volpaia, Radda in Chianti, Tel: 0577/738066
- Fattoria dell'Aiola, loc. Vagliagli, Castelnuovo Berardenga, Tel: 0577/322615
- Fattoria "Rocca delle Macie" S.P.A, Castellina in Chianti, Tel: 0577/7321

WINERIES IN THE PROVINCE OF FLORENCE:

- Castello di Uzzano, Greve in Chianti, Tel: 055/8544851

FASHION OUTLET

PRADA “SPACE”

Pellettieri D'Italia, loc. Levanella, S.S 69, Montevarchi, Arezzo.

TEL: 055-91901

Opening hours: Sun/Fri 10.30-20.00 Sat 9.30-20.00

HOW TO GET THERE:

From Bucine, go towards Levane and turn right for Montevarchi. Before reaching Montevarchi, in the locality of “Levanella”, you will find the outlet “Space” on your right. (Total distance from Bucine 7 km)

THE MALL

via Europa 8, loc. Leccio Reggello, Firenze.

TEL: 055-8657775

Opening hours: Mon/Sun 10.00-19.00

Closed: 25/04, 01/05, 25/12, 26/12

In the mall you will find outlets for **Bottega Veneta, Giorgio Armani, Gucci, Fendi, Loro Piana, Sergio Rossi, and Yves Saint Laurent.**

HOW TO GET THERE:

From Bucine, go to Levane and turn left, towards Montevarchi, at the traffic lights in the centre of the village. In Montevarchi, take the A1 motorway at the “Valdarno” entrance, in the direction of Florence. Leave the motorway at the “Incisa Valdarno” exit and continue, towards Pontassieve, as far as the little hamlet of Leccio.

(Total distance from Bucine, 33km)

DOLCE E GABBANA

Loc. S.Maria Maddalena 49, Pian dell'Isola, Incisa V-no, Firenze.

TEL: 055-8331300

Opening hours: Mon/Sun 10.00-19.30

HOW TO GET THERE:

From Bucine, go to Levane and turn left, towards Montevarchi, at the traffic lights in the centre of the village. In Montevarchi, take the A1 motorway at the “Valdarno” entrance, in the direction of Florence. Leave the motorway at the “Incisa Valdarno” exit and continue towards the little hamlet of Pian dell'Isola.

(Total distance from Bucine, 33km)

USEFUL LINKS

www.arezoweb.com

www.teresiena.it

www.sangimignano.com

www.siena.turismo.toscana.it/ufficiframeuk.htm

www.cortona.net

www.turismoverde.com/italia/info/eventi2.htm

www.parcodellavaldorcia.com

www.chianti.it

www.comune.greve-in-chianti.fi.it/ita_eventi_feste.htm

www.massamarittima.info/eventi

www.parks.it/parco.maremma/

www.movimentoturismovino.it

www.toscanagolf.it