



PALAZZETTO BARBERINO VAL D'ELSA

INTRODUCTION

- DAILY LIFE
- WINE AND FOOD
- WINERIES
- RESTAURANTS
- SURROUNDINGS
- SPORTS

INTRODUCTION

The house *Palazzetto* belongs to the Corsini family. The first Corsini of which there are documented records is Don Tommaso, a capable entrepreneur, who in the year 1316 settled in Florence. By placing his sons and nephews in all the influential positions such as the Church, politics and trade, he set the foundations of what was to become one of the most important and powerful families in Italy. Andrea, Bishop of Fiesole in the late fourteenth century, was made a saint three centuries later. Pietro became cardinal and was responsible for the Pope's return to Rome from exile in Avignon. Matteo made a fortune by trading wool, silk and other merchandise between England and Italy in the 14th Century.

In 1730 Cardinal Lorenzo Corsini was elected Pope Clemente XII. A patron of the arts he founded the Capitol Museums in Rome and commissioned the Trevi Fountain and the facade of the basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano. Over the following centuries the Corsinis extended their properties by acquiring large estates in Tuscany Umbria and Latium, at the same time built palaces in Rome and in Florence. Their interest in arts is visible in the celebrated painting collection in Florence, which still belongs to the Family.

Today the family is involved in many activities linked to past traditions but with an eye to the future. Wine and olive oil are produced according to the most up-to-date technologies at the Family's Estate Le Corti in Chianti and Marsiliana in Maremma. Shooting and farming are just some of the activities in Marsiliana. Whilst two younger members of the family are successful painters and decorators.

Palazzetto stands in Barberino Val d'Elsa, a hilltop village half way between Florence and Siena. A small jewel of Renaissance architecture it was built in the traditional alberese stone with architectural features typical of the Tuscan understated elegance. Please notice the finely carved cornices around the main door and the windows as well as the elegant curve of the arches in the courtyard. This house is an example of the spontaneous sense of style and proportion which the Tuscans developed early on. The main entrance to the house - a large wooden double door with a Renaissance stone cornice - leads into a courtyard filled with flowers which again opens onto a large terrace with a pergola for meals outside. From there a few steps lead to the garden, the pool and the open countryside. The view and the sunsets to be seen from here, as well as from all windows looking out to the back of the house, are magnificent - the famous Chianti hills with vineyards and olive groves and the towers of San Gimignano in the backdrop.

Florence, Siena and San Gimignano can be reached in about half an hour's drive. Volterra, Arezzo and Lucca will take about an hour. The facade looks onto the main street of the village (which is very quiet as it has been closed to traffic). *Palazzetto* used to be lived in by the owners before they moved to the family's Palazzo in Florence and therefore lives up to the standard of an elegant private mansion with all the modern conveniences to which we have become accustomed. Family antiques, books, terracotta flooring, exposed beams and Mediterranean colourings create an elegant and welcoming atmosphere. The house is spacious and even a larger group will find that it is possible to be together in the living and dining areas, or to seek some privacy in one of the many corners both inside and outdoors.

PALAZZETTO

2/8

INTRODUCTION

DAILY LIFE

WINE AND FOOD

WINERIES

RESTAURANTS

SURROUNDINGS

SPORTS

DAILY LIFE

FOOD SHOPS - 8 am to 1 pm, 5 pm to 8 pm, in Tavarnelle and Barberino on Wednesday afternoon food shops are closed.

SUPERMARKET - In the village of Barberino, at the south end to your left is a small supermarket and bakery store. In Tavarnelle there is a large COOP Supermarket. Follow the signs. In Poggibonsi you will find an even larger and better equipped supermarket, the first exit of the highway to Poggibonsi.

DRUGSTORE - In Barberino, Masi E. via Cassia 27, just out the old village, on the right along the Cassia road toward Siena.

SPECIALS IN BARBERINO- Every Saturday morning, at the south end of the village opposite the bar, you will find an ambulant vegetable sale and fishmonger.

SHOPPING ON A SUNDAY - In Tavarnelle, the COOP Supermarket is open on Sundays from 8:30am to 1pm. Open year-round.

MARKETS- All villages and towns have a market once a week which usually lasts from 9 am to 1 pm. Markets are excellent for buying fruit and vegetable as well as cheese. They also have endless stalls with clothes, household ware and sometimes second hand clothes which can be fun. Poggibonsi on Tuesday. Siena on Wednesday is considered the best market. Tavarnelle on Thursday.

BANKS - Bank & cash dispenser in Barberino on the left along the Cassia Road out the historic center on the left Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze, in the Capocchini square the Banca di Credito Cooperativo di Cambiano Castelfiorentino, open from 8,35 am to 13,30 pm. In Tavarnelle you will find the "Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze" which is open form 8.30 - 1.30 and from 2.45 to 3.45.

POST OFFICE - There is a small post office in Barberino on the left hand side of the road, as you enter the village, next to the bar "La Pineta". Hours: 8am - 1.20 pm from Monday to Saturday. Stamps can also be bought in any tobacconist shop.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAPERS - In the village of Tavarnelle there is a newsagent that sells international newspapers.

BUSES - You can reach Florence, Siena, San Gimignano, Volterra by bus if you want to avoid taking your car. The buses leave from Barberino. Timetable of the SITA bus. To go to Siena and San Gimignano you will have to change bus in Poggibonsi. In Poggibonsi there is also the train Station to Florence, Pisa and Siena.

TRAIN

From Barberino Val d'Elsa station (Loc. La Zambra)

- * 1 Train every hour from/to Siena
- * 1 Train every hour from/ to Empoli

From Poggibonsi

- * 2 Trains every hour from /to Siena
- * 2 Trains every hour from /to Empoli
- * 1 Train every hour from /to Florence

PETROL STATION - In Barberino "Shell", Via Cassia, 29-31

TOURIST OFFICE - Ufficio Informazioni Turistiche Via Mannucci n.3, 50021 Barberino Val D'Elsa (Fi) tel. e fax 055.80.52.290. ufficioturistico@barberinovaldelsa.net.

INTERNET POINT - In the public library in the historic center of Barberino, near the bakery store. Open 2-3 times per week. Piazzetta Spedale de' Pellegrini 2, phone 055 8052291 - 055 8052292.

DOCTORS - For any emergency call the first aid number 118. Otherwise the doctor in Barberino is called Dr. Cappelli, his phone number is 055 8075051. The closest hospital is in Poggibonsi. Pediatrician in Vico d'Elsa "Guardia Medica Pediatrica", phone 055 8073161

PHARMACY - Barberino Val d'Elsa, Via Cassia, 27, phone 055 8075002. Tavarnelle Val di Pesa, Via Roma, 158, phone 055 8076555

INTRODUCTION

DAILY LIFE

WINE AND FOOD

WINERIES

RESTAURANTS

SURROUNDINGS

SPORTS

WINE AND FOOD

Tuscany is a region of excellence in the area of food and wine. Its lands produce highly appreciated wines, such as the Chianti Classico and the Brunello di Montalcino, that are known worldwide. The region produces many lesser-known wines such as the Vernaccia di San Gimignano, Morellino di Scansano and Rosso di Montepulciano. Just as important is the region's production of Tuscan olive oil and local cheeses (Pecorino di Pienza) and cold cuts (such as salumi di cinto senese). Tuscan cuisine distinguishes itself for its tasty dishes made with genuine, natural ingredients which make even the simplest dishes true delicacies to savor and enjoy (bistecca Fiorentina, cinghiale, pappa al pomodoro, ribollita).

WINERIES

THE WINERY OF LE CORTI CORSINI

Fattoria Le Corti is a nearby estate which belongs to the Corsini family and is managed by Duccio Corsini. The estate produces excellent Chianti Classico and Extra Virgin Olive Oil. Fattoria Le Corti lies just outside of San Casciano. Even though there is a direct road across the country side, the easiest way to reach San Casciano is by taking the highway towards Florence. Exit at San Casciano, drive up to the village, and shortly after the petrol station turn to the left towards MERCATALE. As you leave the village, you will see a large villa in front of you. Follow the signs to the right saying "fattoria Le Corti" and then "vendita diretta".

The cellars and the direct sale where you can buy wine and olive oil are open to the public every day from Monday to Sunday from 10.00 to 18.00. Throughout the year, they offer guided tours of the cellars, the frantoio and the orciaia with illustrations of the winemaking techniques and olive pressing. The tours conclude with a tasting of the products of Principe Corsini. If you are interested in a tour and tasting, please call Sara Verdiani or Daniela Munani to make an appointment under 0558293026 or 055829301.

E-mail: info@principecorsini.com Le Corti Restaurant - In the newly opened restaurant built inside the wine shop, you can match the Principe Corsini wines with dishes made using produce from the Le Corti garden and game hunted on the Estate Marsiliana. Open for lunch from Monday to Sunday. The evening is by reservation.

FATTORIA DEL BARBI

In 1790 the Colombini family bought the Barbi Farm. In 2007 the Barbi wines reached the highest international lists with Brunello Riserva and Brunello Vigna del Fiore. Daily wine cellar tours are organized for singles or groups. Languages: English, German and French. The Barbi Farm lies at Montalcino (about 40km from Siena, 150km from Florence).

Fattoria dei Barbi - Loc. Podernovi, 170 - 53024 Montalcino (SI) - Tel 0039(0)577 841111 - Fax 0039(0)577 841112 - info@fattoriadeibarbi.it . Reservations required.

CASTELLO DI VOLPAIA

Visitors can take a guided tour of the castle cellars starting from the sacristy and ending up in the cellars of the various churches which are now dedicated to the making and aging of Volpaia wine. Fattoria Castello di Volpaia di Giovanna Stianti - Loc. Volpaia. 53017 Radda in Chianti (SI) E-mail: info@volpaia.com phone: +39 0577 738066 www.volpaia.it

ISOLE E OLENA

Outside Barberino. To reach Isole e Olena, take the highway from Florence to Siena and exit at San Donato, then head towards Castellina. Turn right at the sign for Isole e Olena, and bear left, up the hill, at the fork. The winery will be to your left after about a kilometer. To find out if Paolo is available, call on (055) 8072763; should he be away, Piero Masi and Gianpaolo Chiettini are quite pleasant, the cellars are beautiful, and the wine is worth a journey. In addition to Chianti Classico, there is Cepparello and a Vinsanto. The winery also produces a Cabernet Sauvignon, a Chardonnay, and L'Eremo, a Syrah.

PALAZZETTO

4/8

INTRODUCTION

DAILY LIFE

WINE AND FOOD

WINERIES

RESTAURANTS

SURROUNDINGS

SPORTS

RESTAURANTS IN THE AREA

Pizzeria L'Archibugio

Barberino Val d'Elsa

below the church

055 8075209

This pizzeria is well known even in Florence. Please book ahead.

Osteria di Vico

Loc. Vico d'Elsa

Via della Villa, 11

055 8073222

This is a wonderfully simple and good trattoria, which we highly recommend. Out on a large "aia" (where the corn used to be threshed) children and cats will be running around your table. The food is excellent Tuscan fare. The menu includes "Torta salata di ricotta e zucchine" (a sort of quiche), melanzane alla parmigiana, lasagne made with spinach and pecorino cheese, duck with prunes, deep fried vegetables, etc.

Good Tuscan wine list.

Closed on Tuesday, only open in the evening, except for Sunday and holidays. Credit card Visa accepted.

La Gramola

Via delle Fonti, 1

Tavarnelle Val di Pesa

055 8050321

A cosy family run trattoria owned by Massimo Marzi, where the menu changes nearly every day. Excellent traditional Tuscan food, as for instance "bruschetta con cavolo nero" (toast with a local type of cabbage with olive oil and garlic), Pappa al pomodoro (a first course recalling the simple origins of Tuscan cuisine, using stale bread and ripe tomatoes, and of course olive oil), minestra di farro (an excellent soup made with a local variety of grain), roasted duck, kidneys, chick peas and baccalà (a fish soup from Livorno), and excellent meat dishes. Very personal wine list mostly Tuscan.

Closed on Tuesday, only open in the evening, except for Sunday and bank holidays. Visa accepted.

La Galleria

Galleria Cav. Di Vittorio Veneto, 20

Poggibonsi (SI)

0577 982356

The restaurant recalls Italian family trattoria of the 50ies, (nothing special) and the service is more hectic than anything else, but the food and wine are simply exceptional at a reasonable price. Both meat and fish dishes are worth trying. Closed on Tuesday, and in August. Visa and Amex accepted.

Arnolfo

Via XX settembre, 50/52

Colle di Val d'Elsa (SI)

0577 920549

One of Tuscany's best restaurant. Refined cuisine with excellent meat and fish dishes. Rabbit terrine with a sauce of peppers, flan of asparagus with parmesan cheese, veal with raw tomato sauce, pea soup with scampis, pigeon, sweet sour onions, crispy potatoes. Also the deserts are good, amaretto soufflé with cinnamon ice cream, nut cake with vanilla ice cream and hot apricots. To make the choice easier, you can opt for a "menu degustazione".

Closed on Tuesday and Wednesday, and the first ten days of August. Visa and Amex accepted.

PALAZZETTO

5/8

INTRODUCTION

DAILY LIFE

WINE AND FOOD

WINERIES

RESTAURANTS

SURROUNDINGS

SPORTS

L'antica Trattoria

Piazza Arnolfo, 23

Colle di Val d'Elsa (SI)

0577/ 923747

Beautifully located on the main square of the lower part of town, this restaurant has a refined cuisine, based on Tuscan traditions. Good wine list with wines from all over Italy. Vegetable terrine, spinach risotto, fresh pasta with hare sauce, ossobuco, wild boar, roasted quails, duck breast with aceto balsamico are part of the menu. The desert includes Bavaroise with strawberries and chocolate mousse.

Closed on Tuesday. Visa and Amex accepted.

SURROUNDINGS

THE PRIVATE ART COLLECTION AND THE GARDEN OF THE CORSINI FAMILY IN FLORENCE

Palazzo Corsini on the right bank of the river Arno, half way between the Ponte Santa Trinità and the Ponte della Cattaia, houses one of Italy's most interesting private art collections. The collection was assembled by the family in the 17th and 18th century. You will be able to see masterpieces by artists such as Botticelli, Bronzino, Pontormo and Raffaello, as well as Rigaud and Sustermans. Please call the following number 055 218994 or 055 210564 to make an appointment.

In July and August the gallery is closed. As there is no electricity, during the hot months opening the shutters would cause changes of temperature which could cause damage to the paintings.

The second palazzo of the Corsini's in Florence, situated in Via il Prato n° 58, has a garden which was planned and built in 1625 by the architect Gherardo Silvani. Intricate geometric flowerbeds, box hedges, lemon trees in terracotta pots, a central alley lined with statues and orangerie illustrate the baroque spirit of the artist. Please call Donna Giorgiana Corsini to make an appointment who will gladly show you the the garden on Wednesday morning at 11am. Phone number in the house, or contact Trust & Travel.

COLLE VAL D'ELSA spread over three gradients (the Borough, Castle and Plain), Colle Val d'Elsa is famous today for its production of fine handcrafted crystal, but it is also an important tourist destination. The Borough is entered through the monumental Porta Nova and winds its long and narrow way in a sequence of fine 16th and 17th-century noble houses

TIGNANO on an isolated knoll (334m) opposite to Barberino, with a vast view on the Val d'Elsa and on the narrow valley of the Drove, places the picturesque castle of Tignano. It's perhaps the most beautiful example of walled center of the Val d'Elsa. It's very original its circular structure with central square. You can enter in the castle through a steep ramp that conducts to the Florentine Door that is defended by a stumpy square massive structure, the quarter-deck.

SEMIFONTE today Semifonte doesn't exist anymore, it was razed to the ground from the fellow citizens of Dante, the Florentines, in 1202. It had four doors and a central construction with octagonal tower.

The dome of St. Donnino, the only present building today in that place, was built after four centuries in memory of that tragic event.

PETROGNANO, the suburb of Petrognano is stretched on the green hills planted with vines around the road that brings to Certaldo from Barberino. It's a group of old shed houses, placed in confusion around Villa Caponi; houses of cities with medieval towers, lost in the country. This because Petrognano is not anything else other than the suburb of a disappeared city: Semifonte.

PALAZZETTO

6/8

INTRODUCTION

DAILY LIFE

WINE AND FOOD

WINERIES

RESTAURANTS

SURROUNDINGS

SPORTS

CASOLE D'ELSA has always formed a bulwark for the Senese in a border area strenuously defended against the people of Volterra and Florence owing to its strategic position in the upper Elsa Valley. Romantic traces of fortifications emerge in several places, and noble houses gradually adapted to the needs of man.

VOLTERRA the "magic and mysterious" city of Volterra has its roots in three thousand years of history. It is possible to find evidence and traces from every historical period, which gives the artistic city a unique aspect. Today the city conserves above all a medieval aspect not only for the 12th century city walls but also because of the urban layout with narrow streets, palaces, tower houses and churches

SAN GIMIGNANO located on a hill overlooking the Val d'Elsa valley, surrounded by fortified walls, San Gimignano is an extraordinary example of medieval town planning. Art city, rich in art treasures, San Gimignano is an important tourist attraction that has been proclaimed natural and cultural heritage by UNESCO.

CERTALDO without doubt the ancient part of the city is the most interesting. Located on a hill, it can be reached by cable railway from the modern city (the Borgo). The particular warm colour of the old city, which is surrounded by walls, is given by the red brick of its medieval buildings. Its origins date back to the Etruscan Roman period. It was the birthplace of the famous Italian poet, Boccaccio, who died there in 1375.

CASTELNUOVO BERARDENGA surrounded by the fertile hills of Chianti and the incredible wheat fields, the vast communal lands of Castelnuovo Berardenga encompass the north and east parts of Siena. Rich in water, the land, equally divided by forest and cultivable land, looks like a chessboard with unequal hills when looked at from castles, churches and fortresses.

MONTERIGGIONI is the Sienese door to Val d'Elsa, and thus it was made by the Republic to be the fort for Francigena. Today, crossing the Romea or Franca door (the reference to Francigena is immediate) is like going back in time. Once a year (first weekend of July) inside the walls of Monteriggioni there is a medieval festival that we recommend you attend.

CASTELLINA IN CHIANTI the view from Castellina is dominated by the south valley of Chianti, vineyards as far as the eye can see, and further in the distance, several towns of the Val d'Elsa, such as Colle, San Gimignano, Poggibonsi and Casole d' Elsa. Northward there is a small Etruscan necropolis which you can visit. Moreover, it is possible to taste some of the best wine. We are of course in the area of Chianti Classico Gallo Nero.

RADDA IN CHIANTI here is the actual heart of Chianti. There are many wineries, which house wines from the most recognised factories in the region. Hills and vineyards everywhere; it seems as if you are in another world!

PALAZZETTO

7/8

INTRODUCTION

DAILY LIFE

WINE AND FOOD

WINERIES

RESTAURANTS

SURROUNDINGS

SPORTS

FLORENCE CHILDREN MUSEUM - MUSEI DEI RAGAZZI

Florence's "Children's Museum" may be the best-kept public-access secret in Florence. It receives visitors from 3 years old, in order to make discover to the smallest, the art without getting bored (also the parents). Special tours and workshops are geared inside the prestigious historical Palazzo Vecchio. Kids will dress up as dukes and duchesses, visit the palace's most secret places, look through Galileo's binoculars, find out how Florence's monuments were constructed and how the city's history has developed over the ages, all in a fun, original way. Tours are in English and must absolutely be booked in advance. Information and reservations: Museo dei Ragazzi Association P.zza della Signoria, Tel.055 2768465, Weekdays: 9am-7pm, Thursday: 9am-2pm. Holidays: 9am-7pm
Email: staff@museoragazzi.it

SUGGESTION FOR GUIDED TOURS IN SIENA AND PROVINCE:

Pia Maria Selenka

Official Tourist Guide Siena Tuscany Italy

German (native language),english,italian

Loc. Toiano 253 - 53018 Siena - Italy

email: p.m.selenka@gmx.net

home: 0039 - 0577 314126

mobil: 0039 - 320 0479445

Prices:

HALF DAY: € 115,00 up to 30 pax + € 2,00 per pax extra (max 3 h)

FULL DAY: € 230,00 up to 30 pax + € 4,00 per pax extra (max 6 h)

Small groups up to 10 pax HALF DAY: € 135,00 FULL DAY: € 270,00

Groups with translator:

HALF DAY: € 95,00 up to 20 pax + € 2,00 per pax extra

FULL DAY: € 190,00 up to 20 pax + € 4,00 per pax extra

INTRODUCTION

DAILY LIFE

WINE AND FOOD

WINERIES

RESTAURANTS

SURROUNDINGS

SPORTS

SPORTS

TENNIS

You can play tennis on the courts of the tennis Club dell'Ugo - Via Noce

It is located on the road to the village of Noce. (between Tavarnelle and Noce) Please go there to book ahead.

Tel: 055 8077223, 055 8074223

Stefano Salvini (chief): 055 8050146

RIDING

You can ride on the estate IL PARETAIO, which lies in San Filippo, Via di Ponzano 26. Drive southwards. A while after the village of Barberino you will find signs for the estate. The telephone number is 055 8059218.

BICYCLE RENTAL

At the "Shell" gas station of Barberino on the main road halfway between the entrance and the exit of the village. The telephone number is 055 8075060.