

## VILLA SPADA

### **A little history of Orbicciano**

Orbicciano is in the part of the Lucca area where the Tuscan countryside meets the gentle, sunlit hinterland of the Versilia. Positioned on the foothills that separate the coast from the rugged mountains of the Garfagnana, halfway between Lucca and Camaiore, Orbicciano is a little agricultural settlement that grew up round the property of the Cenami Spada family who owned farmland and farmhouses.

Lucca, Pisa and Florence are within easy reach of Orbicciano. The famous villas of Lucca, the Versilian beaches and the Apuan mountains with their spectacular marble quarries are all just a few kilometres away.

You can go cycling, play tennis and golf or relax in the spas in Bagni di Lucca or the Beauty Farm in Vico Pisano and Montecatini.

Isabella Spada, the owner and manager, will be here to welcome you and to offer suggestions and ideas to help you decide what to do and to make your stay more enjoyable.

In the house you will find information and telephone numbers for everything that you may need.

### **FOOD SHOPS**

The nearest supermarket, **S.M.A.**, is in S. Martino in Freddana (on the right going towards Lucca). (open every day from 8 to 13-from 16 to 19.30- open on Sunday)

**FORNO** (bread, focaccia and cakes) in S. Martino in Freddana (on the left going towards Lucca) The best supermarket is **ESSELUNGA** in Lucca, Viale Carlo del Prete 0583490671. (open from 8 to 21 every day except on Sunday)

### **TENNIS COURTS**

Associazione Sportiva Tennis Lucca, Via Stadio, 2. 0583 955080  
Tennis Club Luigi Orsini, Maulina, S. Concordio di Moriano. 0583 395010

### **RIDING STABLES**

Susan Deghé, S. Martino in Freddana, loc. Consani. 0583 38010

### **GOLF COURSES**

Tirrenia 9 holes. 050 37518  
Cosmopolitan-Tirrenia 18 holes. 050 33633  
Forte dei Marmi 18 holes. 0584 881574  
Montecatini 18 holes. 0572 62218 / 628174

## **LOCAL EVENTS**

Lucca holds an Antique Market on the 3rd Saturday and Sunday of every month in Piazza S. Martino area. For other events, the easiest and most accurate source of information is *Grapevine*, a monthly guide in English to what's going on in the Lucca area. You can buy it in good newsagents, such as "Brancoli" in Via Beccaria, or in Piazza Napoleone (at the corner with Via Beccaria). You can also get international newspapers in these shops.

**TOURIST OFFICE** Lucca 0583 419689

**AIRPORT (Pisa)** 050 500707

**British Consulate, Florence** 055 284133. Emergencies, advice.

**American Consulate, Florence** 055 2398276. Emergencies, advice.

**POST OFFICE and BANK** are in Monsagrati on the road to Lucca.

## **USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

### **TAXI:**

**TAU TOURING-** Cell.337-711592/393-9062228/393-9062365 /328-3197280

**ALBATROS** Tel.0583-999852 Cell. 339-6748582 / 339-6694579

**VIP SERVICE** Cell. 340-6480653

**LUCCA ON BOARD** Cell 348-3586654

**INTERNET POINT:** In Lucca

**NEAREST PETROL STATION:** San Martino in Fraddana.

### **EMERGENCY NUMBER:**

**POLICE** 113

**CARABINIERI** 112

**FIRE BRIGADE** 115

**AMBULANCE** 118

**MISERICORDIA** 0584 983366

**HOSPITAL IN LUCCA** (Ospedale "Campo di Marte") 0583 9701 They can pass you to the casualty department from here.

### **DOCTORS**

Dr Claudio Bonin 0584 44800 or 0335 5213285 (Viareggio)

Dr Riccardo Sarti 0584 969118 or 0335 6395038

Pharmacy Valpromaro. 0584 956012

English speaking dentists

Dr. Francesco Sodini, Via Battisti 26, Lucca. 0583 47964

Dr. Irelli, Via Puccini 311, S. Anna, Lucca. 0583 581380

## RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS IN AND AROUND LUCCA

### **CAMAIORE** area

Da BERNARDONE 0584 951118. In Nocchi, on the road to Camaiore. Tuscan food.

CERU' 0584 971901. In Gombitelli, on the road to Camaiore. Very informal trattoria.

ENOTECA MARCUCCI Pietrasanta, Via Garibaldi 40. 0584 791962. Very good selection of wine.

Ristorante GINA Monsagrati, Via per Camaiore. Tel 0583385651

### **LUCCA** (inside the city walls)

BUCA DI S. ANTONIO Via della Cervia, 3 (closed on Sunday evening and Monday). 058355881

GIULIO in PELLERIA Via delle Conce, 47 (closed on Sunday and Monday).

0583 55948 Very busy trattoria in the centre with typical Lucchese food.

ANTICO CAFFE' DELLE MURA Piazza Vittorio Emanuele, 2 (closed on Tuesday). 0583 47962

IL GIGLIO Piazza del Giglio, 2 (closed on Tuesday evening and on Wednesday). 0583 494058

RISTORANTE PUCCINI Fish restaurant. Corte San Lorenzo. 0583 316116. Tables outside.

L'OLIVO Piazza S. Quirico. 0583 46264. Tables outside.

### **LUCCA** (outside the city walls)

VIPORE Via Pieve di S. Stefano, 4469. 0583 394065

LOMBARDO Via Pieve di S. Stefano, 4801. 0583 394268 (closed on Monday)

In Ponte a Moriano

LA MORA Via Sesto di Moriano, 1748. 0583 406402 (closed on Wednesday)

### **FORTE DEI MARMI**

LORENZO Via Carducci, 61. 0584 84030 Very good, expensive fish restaurant.

MAITO' Via Arenile, 38. 0584 80940. Very good, expensive fish restaurant.

## SPA – THERMAL RESORTS

**Terme Bagni di Lucca**  
**Piazza San Maritno, 11 - 55021**  
**Bagni di Lucca - LU**  
**Telephone: +39 0583 87221**  
**Fax: +39 0583 808224**

**Casciana Terme**  
Piazza Garibaldi 9 - Phone 0587 644608.

**Tirrenia**  
SPA - Green Park Resort, Via delle Magnolie, 4. Phone 050 3135711  
([www.greenparkresort.com](http://www.greenparkresort.com))

**San Giuliano (Pisa)**  
Bagni di Pisa Terme e Hotel, Largo P. Shelley 18. Phone 050 88501  
([info@bagnidipisa.com](mailto:info@bagnidipisa.com))

## SIGHTSEEING

**CRESPINA** beautiful landscape and nice XIX century villas  
**LARI**'s castle. You can also buy hand-made Martelli's pasta there  
**SAN MINIATO** small village on the highway to Florence .  
The city centre of **PISTOIA** is wonderful (40 minutes by car).  
The **CALCI**'s Certosa  
Medieval village of **VICOPISANO**  
Antique shops in **BIENTINA**  
**CARRARA**: a visit to the nearby marble caves, still active since the times of Michelangelo, jagged white slopes high up in the surrounding hills is a fascinating experience, while artists can still be seen working in the marble workshops below.

### Historical and famous villas around Lucca

**Villa Oliva**  
San Pancrazio tel. 0583406462 (6 km from Lucca )  
Visits from 9:30am to 12:30pm and 2pm to 6pm.  
Website: [www.villaoliva.it](http://www.villaoliva.it)

**Villa Grabau**  
It is especially recommended to visit "The limonaia"  
San Pancrazio Tel. 0583 406098 (9 km from Lucca)  
Closed on Monday except when it is a holiday.  
Opening hours: 10am to 1pm and 3pm to 7pm  
Website: [www.villagrabau.it](http://www.villagrabau.it)

### **The beautiful gardens of Villa Reale di Marlia**

Visits of the beautiful garden.

Marlia Tel. 0583 30108 (7 km from Lucca)

Opening hours: 10am – to 1pm and 2pm to 6pm.

Closed on non-festive Mondays. Timetable for guided visits : 10-11-12-15-16-17-18.

Website: [www.parcovillareale.it](http://www.parcovillareale.it)

### **Villa Mansi**

Segromigno in Monte Tel. 0583 920234 (9 km from Lucca)

Opening hours: 10am to 1pm and 3pm to 7pm.

Closed on Mondays.

### **Villa Torrigiani**

Camigliano Tel. 0583 928041 (10 km from Lucca)

Opening hours: 0am to 1pm and 3pm to 7pm

Closed on Tuesdays.

## **Day trips to Garfagnana and Versilia**

### **Garfagnana**

*Hot springs in Bagni di Lucca*

Reservation & information Tel. 058387221

We recommend to book before 10.30am

*Teatrino di Vetriano*

Vetriano di Pescaglia (Lucca)

Included in the "Guinness Book of Records 1997" as the most historic small theater in the world. (70 meters squares).Tel. 0583358131 – 058356891.

### **Versilia**

*Forte dei Marmi*

For the day at the beach in Forte dei Marmi: "Bagno Piero", owner Roberto Santini. Tel. 348.3045330

*Pietrasanta*

Happy Hour: in Piazza del Duomo.

Dinner: Wine bar and restaurant „L'Enoteca Marcucci" via Garibaldi, 40. tel. 0584791962

Restaurant: "San Martino" Via Garibaldi, 17. Tel. 0584793197

## WHERE TO GO TO THE SEASIDE

Forte die Marmi ( 40 minutes from Villa Spada)

Bagno America  
Via della Repubblica – Ph. +39 0584 483996  
(Mrs Marcella. Recommended by Mr. And Mrs. Forattini)

Bagno Twiga  
Viale Roma 2 - Marina di Pietrasanta  
Ph. Santa +39 39356127 or 3473021769

Bagno Piero  
Via della Repubblica 1  
Ph. +39 058481647 or 058480368

Public Beach – with low price beach umbrella and sun beds and chairs. Beautiful place. Located between Bagno Piero and Bagno America.

Tirrenia ( 1 hour from Villa Spada)

Bagno Lido  
Viale del Tirreno 2  
Ph. +39 05037143  
Very good restaurant

Bagno Cosmopolitan  
Viale del Tirreno (shuttle bus every 20 minutes)  
Ph. +39050 30023  
Manager: Carlo Mencacci ph. +39 3460857884

Sunset Café  
Recommended for cocktail at sunset (not during the week-end)  
Via del Tirreno 4  
Ph. +39 050384135

All mentioned Bagno's above rent beach umbrellas and bathing huts, as well have a restaurant.

*Other suggestion*

The **MAREMMA** with long sand beaches and old villages on the hills.

## FOR THE CHILDREN

### **Pinocchio theme park - *Il Parco di Pinocchio***

In Collodi, 17km northeast of Lucca. The park tells Collodi's version of the story of Pinocchio through sculpture, mosaics and puppet shows. It features a museum with Pinocchio related items. Open daily from 08.30 to sunset. There are spaces in the park to have bag lunches, and there's also a restaurant, the Osteria del Gambero Rosso, inside the park.

Collodi's other great attraction is 17th century Villa Garzoni, which is located across the street from Pinocchio Park. The steeply sloped land around the Villa offers a cascading garden merging the geometric symmetry of the Renaissance with the spectacular effects of the Baroque. The garden contains the last remaining labyrinth among Lucchese villas as well. A combination ticket is available to visit both places.

### **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](mailto:staff@museoragazzi.it)

### **Football museum „ *Museo del Calcio*“**

Florence. Open Monday to Friday from 09,00 to 13.00 and from 16.00 to 18.00. On Saturday it is open only in the morning, Sunday is closed.

Address: 50135 - Viale Aldo Palazzeschi, 20 - Coverciano (FI)

### **Peccioli prehistoric park**

South-east from Empoli. One of the most exiting theme parks for

young visitors, the Peccioli Prehistoric Park allows you to plunge into the distant past, amidst a series of life-size prehistoric giants: from the tyrannosaurus to the tarbosaurus, from the mammoth to the cave bear, from the iguanodon to the brontosaurus, about twenty monsters, more fascinating than frightening, stimulate children's imagination and invite visitors to start reflecting on the enormous distance in time that separates us from those days.

In addition to a large picnic area, the centre is equipped with a bar and amusements for smaller children. Prehistoric Park: via dei Cappuccini, 20, 56037 Peccioli (Pisa); tel. and fax 0587/636030. Open: every day, from 9am-12 noon and from 2pm to sunset.

### **Leonardo da Vinci hands-on museum**

In the pretty village of Vinci, north from Empoli. Open daily from 10.00 to 18.30.

Many of its discoveries are displayed with English explanations. It is also amazing for adults!

### **Empoli palaeontology museum**

In the historical centre of Empoli. Open on Mon/Sat from 09.00 to 12.00 and Tue/Thurs/Sat/Sun from 17.00 to 19.00. Display of a fine collection of fossils presented with a method of teaching the role of palaeontology applied, in order to understand the functioning of our planet and its main energetic resources.

## **PUCCINI FESTIVAL**

July - August

### The Puccini Festival and its history

Torre del Lago, home of the Puccini Festival, lies between the Lake of Massaciuccoli and the Tyrrhenian Sea, 4 kilometres far from the magnificent beaches of Viareggio on the Tuscan Riviera, 18 kilometres from Lucca and Pisa. The Festival welcomes about 40.000 spectators every year to its open-air theatre, just a few steps from the Villa Mausoleum where Giacomo Puccini lived and worked. His mortal remains are now in a small chapel inside the Villa. Torre del

Lago is a favourite destination of opera lovers and tourists who wish to visit the places where the most beloved composer of the 20th century lived.

The Puccini Festival was born in 1930 following Puccini's wishes. "... I always come out here and take a boat to go and shoot snipes ... but once I would like to come here and listen to one of my operas in the open air...". (Puccini in a letter to Giovacchino Forzano in November 1924, before he left to the clinic of Brussels where he died shortly after). The author of *La Bohème* and *Madama Butterfly*, "the last great poet of the Italian opera, the best composer of operas Italy and the whole world had in our century" (Roman Vlad), expressed his wish to see his creatures come to life in the extraordinary natural stage offered by the Massaciuccoli Lake.

Forzano (placwright and librettist of *Suor Angelica* and Gianni Schicchi, also director of *Turandot*'s first night at La Scala Theatre, Milan, on April 25th 1926) was so impressed by those words that, after Puccini's death, he decided to realise his dream. In 1930, together with Pietro Mascagni, who had been fellow-student and room-mate to Puccini, Forzano began to carry out the first performances of Puccini's operas on the lakeshore, in front of the Maestro's house.

In 1966 the Festival moved to the reclaimed land just near the small lake harbour. Here the present theatre was built, a large structure enjoying the charming background of Massaciuccoli Lake with the small villages on the opposite shore, whose flickering lights at night assure an unforgettable natural scenery to the performances taking place on the wide stage.

During summer several collateral events connected to Puccini's music and contemporary art, both distinctive features of Torre del Lago Festival, will be implemented in the most charming sites of Tuscany.

**Contact:**

Festival Puccini

Information

[info@puccinifestival.it](mailto:info@puccinifestival.it)

[www.puccinifestival.it/eng](http://www.puccinifestival.it/eng)

**NOTICE: Tickets must be booked as soon as possible!**