



VILLA SPADA ORBICCIANO, NORTHERN TUSCANY

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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.

DAILY LIFE

Food Shops

The Nearest Supermarket S.M.A - is in S. Martino In Fraddana (on the right going towards Lucca). Open every day from 8am to 1pm and 4pm to 7:30pm. Open on Sunday.

The best supermarket is **ESSELUNGA** in Lucca, Viale Carlo del Prete 0583490671. (open from 8 to 21 every day except on Sunday)

FORNO (bread, focaccia and cakes) in S. Martino in Fraddana (on the left going towards Lucca)

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

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.

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Tourist Office - in 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.

Emergency number

Police 113

Carabinieri 112

Fire Brigade 115

Ambulance 118 -

Misericordia 0584 983366

Hospital in Lucca (Ospedale "Campo di Marte") +39 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

WINERIES

Tenuta dell'Ornellaia

Tenuta dell'Ornellaia is amongst the most famous to date of all of Maremma's vineyards and wineries.

Founded in 1981 it comprises of 192 hectares (at Ornellaia and the adjacent property of Bellaria) producing internationally renowned and extensively written about wines.

Their wines:

Vino rosso: red wine

* Ornellaia Bolgheri DOC Superiore . 60% Cabernet Sauvignon 22% Merlot 14% cabernet Franc 4% Petit Verdot. First produced in 1985, this was the flagship wine.

* Le Serre Nuove dell'Ornellaia Bolgheri DOC Rosso 50% Merlot 35% Cabernet Sauvignon 9% cabernet Franc 6% Petit Verdot

* Le Volte Toscana IGT 52% Sangiovese 36% Merlot 12% Cabernet Sauvignon

* Masseto Toscana IGT 100% Merlot

Wine tasting and tours:

tours of the estate and cellars with wine tasting - with or without dining at the estate - can be arranged.

Reservations in advance are required. Please contact :

Tenuta dell'Ornellaia

Via Bolgherese, 191

57022 Castagneto Carducci (LI)

Tel: +39 0565 718 242 or +39 056571811

Fax: +39 0565 718240

www.ornellaia.com

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Recommended restaurants in and around Lucca

Cammaiore 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 Caffè 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.**Cooking Lessons** - organised by Heather Jarman an American lady living in Italy. Isabella Spada, the owner of Villa Spada highly recommend the gastronomic adventures by „Sapori e Saperi“.

Please have a look at Heather's website :

<http://www.sapori-e-saperi.com/personal.html>.

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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

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

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

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

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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

www.puccinifestival.it/eng

NOTICE: Tickets must be booked as soon as possible!

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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.

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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

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.

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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

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.

In Tirrenia

SPA - Green Park Resort - Via delle Magnolie, 4. Phone 050 3135711 (www.greenparkresort.com)

In San Giuliano (Pisa)

Bagni di Pisa Terme e Hotel - Largo P. Shelley 18. Phone 050 88501 (info@bagnidipisa.com)