

*The Medici and the territory, art and faith, museums,
arts and crafts, the Faentina railway, events*



t u s c a n y

MUGELLO



t **ourism**

*tradition
art
culture
at the gates
of Florence*



t u s c a n y

MUGELLO

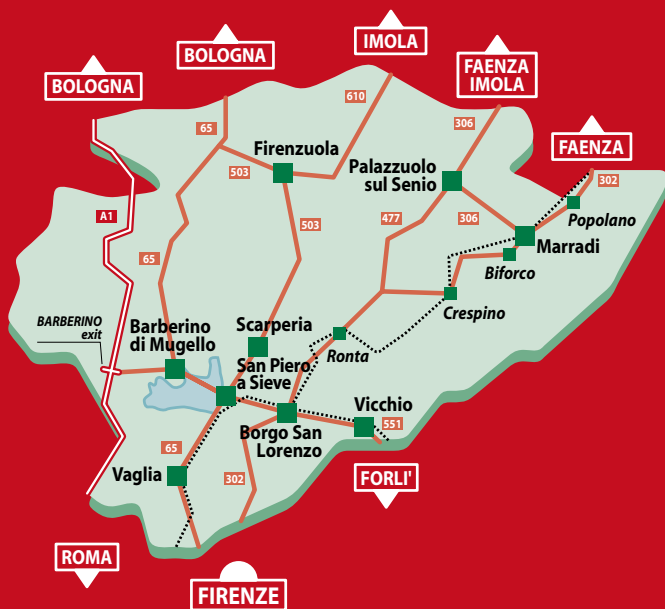


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o u r i s m



Comunità
Montana
Mugello



MOTORWAY

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MUGELLO: WHERE IT IS AND HOW TO GET THERE



*Mugello:
landscape*



In Tuscany, at just a stone's throw from Florence, we find Mugello: it is situated among the rolling hills and the tall cypress trees, on the backdrop of the high lofty crests and mountain passes.

The incredible landscape, the hospitable, quiet and hard working people, the genuine food, the land of the Medici, the museums, the tradition of arts and crafts, and the ancient churches and remote convents are just outside the gates of the city of Florence.

Mugello offers history, culture, and quality services in an enchantingly natural setting.

Access by bus or by car is excellent: you can reach Mugello by taking the A1 motorway and exiting at Barberino di Mugello, or a number of interesting state and local roads from the Tuscan or Emilia-Romagna regions.

The old and enchanting Faentina railway line allows the traveller to reach the Mugello territory both from the north, the Romagna side of the Apennines, and the station of Faenza, and the south, the Tuscan side, and the station of Florence. Local transport services allow the visitor to move freely within the territory.

THE TERRITORY

The Mugello valley occupies the mid-upper part of the hydrographic basin of the Sieve River. It is a vast basin that is enclosed, North, by the important Apennine watershed (from Mount Citerna to Giogo di Villore), South, by Mount Giovi and Mount Senario, and to the West by Mount Calvana, which extends to the province of Prato.

Here we find the towns of **Vaglia, San Piero a Sieve, Barberino di Mugello, Scarperia, Borgo San Lorenzo and Vicchio.**

The Mugello countryside is complex: from the dense forests that cover the mountain crests and give shelter to numerous wild boar, roe deer and foxes, it extends to areas with chestnut woods and olive groves; from the vast stretches of terraced hillside bordered by fields of wheat and sunflower, it extends to the deep fertile valleys in which the principal towns and roads are situated.

To the north, amid the Mugello crests and mountain passes that descend towards Bologna and the Romagna region, in upper part of the Santerno, Senio and Lamone basin, we find **Upper Mugello**, or what is sometimes called **Tuscan Romagna**, and **Firenzuola, Palazzuolo Sul Senio** and **Marradi.**

The enormous boulders and summits, though just over 1000 metres high, delineate massive, even immense, profiles and contours. The landscape is dominated by uncontaminated beech, chestnut and oak woods, endless stretches of meadows dotted with juniper bushes and



Young roe-deer

Mountain crests in Mugello

Captain's Palace (Palazzuolo Sul Senio)



*Mugello:
landscape*



outcrops of rugged boulders. The limpidness of the waters and the lush vegetation of this valley is the ideal habitat for many species of birds and fish.

The weather is a transition from the harsh Padana Plain climate, in which the cold winds sweep down from the spurs of the Alps, and the milder Mediterranean climate, so typical of Central Italy.

The Mugello basin, which is situated just below the higher summits of the mountain range, is often a place where the cold north wind meets the warm and humid south-western, western and south-eastern winds. The result is that often, in winter, the northern winds sweep away the fog brought on by the warm and humid southern winds, and that in summer they help mitigate the hot and muggy weather.

IN COMMUNION WITH NATURE

The uncontaminated mountains, rivers, lakes, and still waters that make up this hidden part of Tuscany invite travellers to vacation in the great outdoors, and in communion with nature.



There are numerous nature trails, rich in both flora and fauna, for nature lovers, and it is not difficult to sight fallow deer, roe deer, wild boar and moufflon. The wolf has returned to the territory, and the eagle has been seen flying high above the Val dell'Inferno and the Valle del Rovigo near the Giogo-Casaglia reserve.

The best way for nature lovers to commune with nature is to set off on long walks along the numerous paths and country Mugello roads.

The SOFT (Florence Springs Trekking) excursion trail links the Mugello mountains to the Val di Sieve hills: the SOFT trekking trail consists of a network of paths made up of a main trail from which twenty-two other minor trails branch off. THE MAIN ROUTE runs along a section of Apennine ridge (the Futa Pass - Monte Falterona is part of the GEA - GREAT APENNINE EXCURSIONS), the watershed that separates the territorial domains of the Adriatic and the Tyrrhenian seas, and the range that separates the Mugello basin from the Florence-Prato valley and from the Bisenzio vale (Mount Giovi, Passo Croci di Calenzano and Calvana).

The twenty-two secondary paths offer the traveller the opportunity to take day trips that focus on a specific environmental and historical-artistic theme.

Some paths run along ancient roads that date back to the Etruscan-Roman and Medieval periods, offering a view of castles, ancient churches, archaeological ruins and prestigious Medicean villas.



Trekking



Nature walks and trekking are not the only activities that the traveller can enjoy in this corner of the world. The territory also offers: **horse back riding, mountain biking, golf, archery, gliding and flying for pleasure and sport.**

Bilancino Lake, near the town of Barberino di Mugello, offers the vacationer other pleasant sports such as swimming, canoeing, sailing, and windsurfing as well as sport fishing. The nearby **Gabbianello Natural Oasis**, created for the preservation of humid habitats, gives the visitor the opportunity to learn about the specific area and the numerous bird species that inhabit it.

More information about in "Mugello - A green vacation in Tuscany", free guide published by Comunità Montana Mugello.

*Bilancino
Lake
(Barberino
di Mugello)*



THE HISTORY

In Mugello, at just a stone's throw from Florence, we find traces of a history that could well be that of a great European capital.

Life in Mugello can be traced back to the early **Palaeolithic period**. Interesting remains (scrapers and flint), which date back to that era, have been recovered in Camoggiano (Barberino di Mugello).

Thousands of centuries ago, the Ligurian **Magelli** tribe, which seem to have given the territory its name, settled in upper Mugello. At the time, the Mugello valley was completely covered in water. The Ligurians were succeeded by the **Etruscans**: the important remains from the second half of the 7th century BC that were recovered in Poggio Colla, Vicchio, and Poggio Frascole, Dicomano, are proof of this.

The Etruscans, from the nearby Fiesole, in an attempt to conquer the territory on the other side of the Apennines, brought their agricultural and commercial traditions to the area. They reclaimed the land from the waters, filling in the areas to the south that had just been drained, canalized the Sieve River, built roads (routes which were later used by the Roman military), and kept close relations with the powerful city of Fiesole, relations that deteriorated only after the **Roman conquest** of the territory in the 2nd century BC.

The Roman dominion brought on the progressive impoverishment of the area. The only visible improvement lay in the network of roads that were built. The ancient Sagginale Bridge, which crosses the Sieve River in the town of Borgo San Lorenzo and has been known as "Hannibal's Bridge" for centuries, is an example. The perfectly preserved stretches of road that have been brought back to light in the last 20 years in the area of the Futa Pass (Firenzuola - Barberino), are attributed to Consul C. Flaminius and date back to 187 BC. They



*Mugello:
landscape*



may actually be part of the **Military Flaminia**, which the consul had constructed to link Bologna, Fiesole and Arezzo, and therefore wipe out the Ligurian Apuani and Magelli tribes.

In the course of the 3rd century AD, according to legend, **Christianity** made its way into Mugello through the works of Saint Cresci and his companions who suffered the martyrdom of the Valcava. Later, during and after the Lombardic period, the territory was divided into parishes. Unfortunately, documents from the period date back only as far as the 9th century.



*Old tower near Giugnola
(Firenzuola)*

During the Middle Ages, the Mugello territory was the property of the great noble **Ubalдини and Guidi** families, but other families from Florence and the surrounding areas - for example, the Medici, Cerretani, Baldovinetti, Ghinazzi, and Cerchi - joined them in time. Another important feudal lord was the Bishop of Florence, whose diocese had taken over good part of Mugello in 1125, roughly, after the destruction of Fiesole by the Florentines.

In fact, before this time, the territory lay entirely under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Prelate of Fiesole.

Meanwhile, the **City State of Florence** gradually extended its control over the entire region and confined the old feudal lords to the harsher territories further inland. In 1306, after the destruction of Montaccianico Castle, the City-State decided to found two "**new lands**": Scarperia and Firenzuola (though the latter was only erected in 1324). Furthermore, in 1324 in Vicchio, and in 1352 in Borgo San Lorenzo, great walls were constructed to fortify the towns. In the course of the 14th and 15th centuries, the region went through a relatively prosperous time. This was due, in part, to the numerous estates established by the rich and eminent landholders: the **Medici** family were



*Trebbio Castle
(San Piero
a Sieve)*

one of the leading exponents. The family's origins lie in Mugello and they invested great sums of money to consolidate their presence in this land just outside Florence.

During the period of the Medicean Grand Duchy, the territory experienced highs and lows, but was essentially neglected and impoverished. This was mostly the result of the frequent periods of famine and plague that were often the consequence of warfare.

During the period of the Lorraine Grand Duchy that followed, especially thanks to Pietro Leopoldo of Lorraine (the person responsible for the opening of the road leading to the Muraglione Pass), Mugello went through economic rebirth and administrative reform. All alliances, as well as the Vicariate of Scarperia, and, above all, numerous confraternities and religious groups were abolished.

Finally, in 1860, following the plebiscite, Mugello (as well as all of Tuscany) became a part of the Kingdom of Sardinia and thus begins the more recent history of the territory.

FAMOUS PEOPLE



*Giotto's
statue
(Vicchio)*



The few biographical facts that exist concerning the early life of **GIOTTO** are not very reliable. "The beginnings of this great man can be found in the hamlet of Florence, XII miles from the city." These are the words of Vasari in his famous *Life of the most excellent architects*. These "beginnings", using present day powers of deduction, date back to 1266 or 1267. He was born in **Colle di Vespignano**, a locality in the town of Vicchio, son of Bondone, an accomplished farmer (Vasari), skilled in the use of the tools of his trade, which he employed with nimble-fingered hands, as if he were an expert jeweller or engraver. The name Giotto is possibly the diminutive of the name Angiolotto, Ambrogiotto, Parigiotto, or maybe Biagiotto (the diminutive "Giotto" for the name Biaxio was in vogue in Florence in the 15th century). We know very little of Giotto's infancy and childhood. Historical sources are, in fact, very unreliable. Vasari, for example, speaks in general terms of a well educated, lively and highly intelligent youth who was capable of enchanting not only Bondone but also his relatives and everyone who knew him, inside and outside the villa. In the 1280's, and therefore when he was about ten

years old, he encountered Cimabue. This is the famous encounter that is said to have led to his move to Florence and a period of apprenticeship in the master's workshop. The encounter can be found in Vasari's account, but also in Lorenzo Ghiberti's *Commentarii*, written in 1447. Nothing more is known about the artist's formative years.



The **MEDICI FAMILY** finds its roots in the **San Piero - Barberino di Mugello** area. According to the legend, the family was poor, very poor. They were said to be carbon merchants who worked in the Mugello mountains until one of the members of the family became a doctor and gave the family its name "Medici" and coat of arms: the "spheres" that are represented there, in fact, are nothing other than pills and dosing cups. Cosimo de' Medici loved the Mugello territory and hired Michelozzo to reconstruct the **Trebbio** and **Cafaggiolo** residences. In fact, the family lived for many years in Cafaggiolo: it was even the **scene of a homicide**, that of Don Garcia da Toledo's daughter Eleonora. The woman, who had become a part of the Tuscan court at a very young age, fell in love with her uncle Cosimo I. He thought best to wed her to his son Pietro, but the marriage was not a happy one. Pietro, in fact, was so depraved and such an adulterer that he neglected his young wife totally. Eleonora, herself, soon began to show interest in other men. To find favour with Eleonora, one of these men, while playing football in Piazza Santa Croce, offended a contestant who had spoken openly about their affair. It resulted in a quarrel and the contestant was killed. Consequently, Eleonora's admirer was imprisoned in the Elba Fortress from which, however, he continued to court Eleonora. When he was found out he was taken to Florence and beheaded in the Bargello courtyard. The husband, therefore invited his wife to Villa Cafaggiolo, where, having preceded her, at nightfall,



*Ceramic plate
from Cafaggiolo Furnace
- detail of Medici
coat of arms*



killed his young wife by stabbing her numerous times. The night of July 11, 1576, the body of Eleonora was brought to Florence and secretly buried in the San Lorenzo Chapel. It is said that the ghost of the unfortunate woman still haunts the castle.

Guido di Piero, who is better known as **BEATO ANGELICO**, was born between 1395 and 1400, in **Vicchio**. At the beginning of the 15th century, in the City State of Florence under Medici rule, he began his profession as a painter.

Brother Giovanni da Fiesole, is a curious figure in art history. He is no less curious in the history of the church. The fame of his holiness distinguished him from others to the point that his nickname *Angelicus* (angelic) and *Beatus* (blessed) was officially recognized. The Dominican painter is the only artist in the history of the church to be considered saintly. He is the only one, in the ecclesiastical trial which ended in 1983, not to have theological or spiritual works attributed to him, but a complete catalogue of paintings: the 135 panels that reproduce his works. Vasari was the first to understand that

*"The
Deposition"
of Beato
Angelico (San
Marco Museum
- Florence)*



Beato Angelico's art could not be understood but in the light of his personal life: he was his first (and foremost) biographer. He starts his account in his masterpiece *The Lives*, by writing: "Brother Giovanni Angelico from Fiesole, born with the name Guido, was not only an excellent painter and miniaturist, but an excellent cleric who therefore deserves, for both reasons, to be honourably remembered."



The origins of the noble Della Casa family are to be found in Mugello and their name was taken from a village in the valley located near San Giovanni Maggiore Parish Church (Borgo San Lorenzo). In 1544, a member of the family, **GIOVANNI DELLA CASA**, became Archbishop of Benevento and Apostolic Nuncio of the Republic of Venice. The Monsignor wrote the famous "**Galateo**" (book on etiquette), which taught the world good manners. The title page of the first edition stated:



"Text by Mister Giovanni della Casa in which, in the person of an old idiot and educator of a youth, he discusses the things one must do, or not do, or avoid in everyday conversation, and namely GALATEO."



In 1535 a new edition of the "**Facezie del pievano Arlotto**" (The witticisms of Father Arlotto) was published. **ARLOTTO MAINARDI** (1396-1484) was born in Florence and later became the parish priest of San Cresci a Macioli (Vaglia). He was consequently the chaplain of a Florentine merchant fleet; he travelled greatly and became famous for his witticisms, which would be published for the first time in about 1438-1450. Two

Giovanni della Casa portrait by Pontormo

S. Cresci a Macioli Church (Vaglia)

Ghibellines of Maghinardo in Middle Ages Festival of Palazzuolo Sul Senio



portraits of the priest can be found in Pitti: "The ideal portrait of Father Arlotto" by G. Mannozi (1592-1636), and "The prank of Father Arlotto," by Volterrano (1611-1689).

MAGHINARDO PAGANI DA SUSINANA holds an important place among the most famous aristocrats and leading figures of the time. He is also notorious for the not so complimentary quotation by Dante in the Divine Comedy: "leads the lion from the white lair/who changes face from summer to winter" (Hell, XXVII, 50-51). Maghinaro, known as "the lion," was, in fact, famous for his changes of party: he was a Guelf on the south side of the Apennines and a Ghibelline on the north side. He played a central part in the political and military events of Northern Tuscany in the last quarter of the 13th century and no-one was better suited to Dante's Hell than the leader (after the death of Guido da Montefeltro) of the Ghibelline party and lord of Forlì (1292), Imola (1292-1302), Faenza (1282-1285 and 1291-1302), as well as dozens of other castles between Lamone and the Santerno. The blue lion on a white field, coat of arms of the Pagani family, dominated the Senio Valley where, along with the Castle of Susinana (**Palazzo Sul Senio**), the family controlled, from the 11th century on, the Apennine pass that led to Florence.



Dino Campana

Marradi 1885. On August 20, the poet DINO CAMPANA was born son of Giovanni, an elementary teacher, and Francesca Luti, nicknamed Fanny.

Like many other famous artists and authors whose genius bordered on folly, this charming figure had an aura of mystery about him. By 1913, Campana had already experienced mental institutions and prison, failure and misconceptions, the life of the vagabond and numerous jobs in Italy, Europe and South America.



Marradi

That year, on a cold December day, Giovanni Papini and Ardengo Soffici, renowned directors of the Florentine magazine "Lacerba", found a German looking young man, freezing in his tattered lightweight clothes, on their doorstep. Campana handed his manuscript to them: it was "the only defence and justification" of his life. In his book, "The longest day", he wrote about nightfall and daybreak, cities and mountains, and his comings and goings. Unfortunately, the two intellectuals lost the manuscript, (it came back to light in 1971), and the poet had to rewrite it. The second copy, transformed and lengthened, called "Orphic Songs", was published in Marradi in 1914 and received notable reviews. After the war, possibly as a result of the brief but passionate love story with the writer Sibilla Aleramo, Campana fell prey to the folly that had haunted him all his life. In January 1918, he was recovered in the Castel Pulci mental institution and remained there fourteen years, until his death on March 1, 1932.

CURIOUS FACTS



*Ancient
cutlery shop
(Scarperia)*



In winter, Mugello farmers used to come together “a veglia” (entertaining tales) in the kitchen, around the fire. They talked about the facts of the day and told stories about strange and mysterious events to scare the children.

The protagonists of these tales were the devil, witches, ghosts, and werewolves. According to legend, in Pietramala and Piancaldoli (Firenzuola), the Bishop of Florence, San Zanobi, won a bet with the devil: they had wagered on who would be able to carry the biggest boulder to the top of the mountain. They bet the souls of the inhabitants of the surrounding areas, who were saved from damnation thanks to a meteorite, known as **“San Zanobi’s rock”**. The Bishop, in fact, carried the great boulder to the Apennine summit, while the “devil’s rock” is smaller and placed lower on the mountainside.

“If you go to Scarperia, you won’t come back: they’re sly, and spy and file horns,” is an ancient saying in these parts and not at all fair to the people of Scarperia. Yet, if the first two remarks are unjust and mean, the third is based on the ancient tradition of knife making and the numer-

ous **Scarperia cutler's shops** that used bullhorns to make knife handles. The trade was born in Scarperia immediately following the construction of the castle. A statute that privileged the citizens of the hamlet was written up and bound them to the use of first quality steel only. Not just knives, but every kind of cutting device was made: for domestic use (scissors, shears, forks); and for warfare (daggers, spears, swords). In a census taken on the 600th anniversary of the castle (1906), there were 46 cutler's shops and 300 craftsmen.



In 1559, **Cosimo I de' Medici put out a proclamation to safeguard the woods:** it was the first law in favour of the environment. It mostly regarded the forests on the mountaintops and their capacity to form a barrier against the gusty winds and to prevent the land from sliding and destroying the towns below in case of heavy rains. The decree, written on the 17th of November, among other things, prohibited the cutting and trimming of any trees within a one-mile radius of the mountain crest.



*Wood
in Upper
Mugello*

THE MEDICI FAMILY AND THE TERRITORY



*Villa of
Cafaggiolo
(Barberino
di Mugello)*



The Medici family, whose origins lie in Mugello, have left the territory numerous extraordinary traces of a power that united economic and political expansion with the most innovative forms of artistic expression.

The traveller can discover castles, villas and convents immersed in a beautifully austere but balanced environment where nature and the ancient transformations of the countryside performed by man live in perfect harmony.

The suggested route starts in Mugello and moves along roads that lead to the town of Vaglia, San Piero a Sieve, Barberino and Scarperia.

The itinerary

From Florence the route moves along via Bolognese up towards Mugello; at a distance of 15 kilometres we come to Pratolino.

Here we find **VILLA DEMIDOFF PARK**, one of the first great 16th century traces of the Medici at the time of the Grand Duchy.

The estate in Pratolino was bought in 1569 by Grand Duke Francesco I de' Medici who entrusted Buontalenti with the task of transforming it into a villa. Left in ruins by Ferdinand III and Leopold II of Lorraine, the villa was demolished and the park landscaped into an English style garden. Sometime later, it was bought by Prince Paolo Demidoff who, in 1872, had the pages' quarters turned into the existing villa. On August 4, 1981, the complex was bought by the Province of Florence for public use.

The park is magnificent, and in it are the remains of artificial caves and fountains. Of the original Renaissance structure we can still admire the colossal statue-fountain of the Apennine by Giambologna with the adjacent lake, the statue of the Mugnone, and the hexagonal chapel designed by Buontalenti with its lead-laminated cupola supported by 14 stone columns. Here, the traveller can walk along dirt roads, paths and tracks that run for kilometres and kilometres through the park's breathtaking natural surroundings.

For information: Villa Demidoff
tel. +39 055 409427 - 055 409225

Again, by way of via Bolognese, once past Vaglia but before reaching San Piero a Sieve, we turn left for Barberino di Mugello. Shortly after a dirt road rises to the left towards the **TREBBIO CASTLE**, whose tower rises above a dense cypress tree wood that covers the hill.

This castle-residence was built on the ruins of an earlier feudal fortress by Michelozzo Michelozzi at the request of the famous "pater patriae" Cosimo de' Medici, known as il Vecchio (the Elder).

This imposing structure stands 500 metres above sea level on a hill that dominates the entire Mugello



Cave of the Mugnone
(Villa Demidoff Park)



territory and which, in the past, was the intersection of important communications routes.

The building is made of a massive square central body with a display of projections and is overlooked by a crenellated tower with a sloping base. Today, it is surrounded by tall monumental cypress trees and continues to hold a typical Italian garden on the west side, and spacious terraced kitchen-gardens to the south and a splendid 17th century pergola supported by red brick columns.

Lorenzo the Magnificent greatly loved to hunt here; his wife Maria Salviati lived here, as did his son Cosimo I, the future Grand Duke of Tuscany, and also the famous captain of fortune Giovanni dalle Bande Nere. In 1476, the young Amerigo Vespucci, who was running from Florence and the plague, also stayed over. The Trebbio Castle belonged to the Medici family until, in 1644, Ferdinand II sold it to Giuliano Serragli for 113,500 scudos. For information: tel. +39 055 8456230



Trebbio chapel
(San Piero a Sieve)

From the Trebbio, back onto via Bolognese, on our way to Barberino di Mugello, we reach **THE VILLA OF CAFAGGIOLO**: it stands backed against the hills in the centre of meadows and fields that fall away to the Sieve river to the east.

This imposing structure was one of the favourite residences of Lorenzo the Magnificent. Like Trebbio Castle, it was built by Michelozzo Michelozzi, in about 1451, at the request of Cosimo il Vecchio.

The architect converted the former manor house into an innovative estate-type residence.

The existing structure is the result of numerous 19th century renovations, but it is still fairly easy to identify the parts designed by Michelozzo. The design of the merlons and the corbels are today ornamental elements and blend with the more simple window cornices, supported by brackets, and with other elements of interior design such as the stone fireplaces, which characterize the halls on the ground floor and are easily attributed to Michelozzo's original design.

The estate provided the noblewomen and merchants,

captains and intellectuals, artists, cardinals, popes and princes who gathered here for hunting expeditions, symposiums and peasant feasts, a pleasant backdrop, and was also the summer and winter residence of the Medici family. Here Luigi Pulci read his *Morgante* and Lorenzo composed his carnival songs; Poliziano, Marsilio Ficino and Pico della Mirandola sojourned here, as did Leo X in 1515. In one of the rooms on the second floor, Eleonora of Toledo was stabbed by her husband in 1576. In 1778, after the estate had passed into the hands of the Lorrainese, the Grand Duke entertained his brother Joseph, Emperor of Austria, and also Leopold II, as well as the King and Queen of Naples who stopped here on their way north. It was subsequently auctioned off by the Italian government and bought by Prince Marcantonio Borghese. At the height of its splendour, between the end of the 15th and the beginning of the 16th century, Cafaggiolo was also the home of a famous ceramic factory whose kiln would later be used by Ferdinand I in the mirror and glass works that he founded with French masters. A vast, dense wild wood surrounded by walls, which had been the hunting grounds of the Medici family, stretches behind the estate.

For information: Villa di Cafaggiolo
tel. + 39 055 8479293 - 340 2538894 - 347 1918130

In the near vicinity of Villa di Cafaggiolo we find: **BO-SCO AI FRATI CONVENT**. It is just a few kilometres off, along the road that goes to Panna-Galliano. Founded by the Ubaldini prior to the 11th century, this convent is considered one of the most ancient in Tuscany. The church and convent, designed by Michelozzo Michelozzi, were rebuilt at the request of Cosimo de' Medici.

As with Cafaggiolo and Trebbio Castle, this architectural structure, too, unites the characteristics of the innovative Renaissance experience with those of the Medieval one. Therefore, ribs, vaults and cornices, clearly late Gothic references, were used in the building of the choir, while the new architectural lines that had



Bosco ai Frati
Convent
(San Piero a Sieve)



begun to be in vogue in the city were used to construct the cloister, the cenacle and the Monks' cells. Early members of the Medici family left the convent many precious gifts, among which we find the precious wooden crucifix attributed to Donatello. Today it is preserved in the small sacred art museum near the convent.

For information: Bosco ai Frati Convent
tel.+39 055 848111

From Bosco ai Frati Convent we move towards Scarperia where we can visit **THE VICAR'S PALACE**.

From the 15th century on, Scarperia, the "New Land", was the Vicar's residence and, therefore, housed the legal and administrative offices of the Florentine Republic in this vast part of Mugello.

The Medici family, whose policy was to maintain progressive control of the Republican Magistrature, was particularly interested in holding the office and appointing members of loyal families as Vicar. The members of these families took turns running the office throughout the 15th century.

The Vicar's Palace is a 14th century structure that has undergone numerous transformations and renovations throughout the centuries. The façade, which is

Coat of arms
in Vicar's
Palace
(Scarperia)





*Vicar's
Palace
(Scarperia)*



decorated with the coats of arms of the members of the Medici family who held office here throughout the ages, bears witness to the unlimited power of the Medici.

The building is composed of a massive elongated central body with a display of projections - which, on the part overlooking the square, are the result of modern renovations - and a sloping base.

It is now the home of an extremely precious historical archive, and that of the Museum of Cutting Blades (see "Museum Network" pp. 44): a century old trade of which Scarperia boasts hundreds of years of highly esteemed production.

On the same square that holds the Vicar's Palace we find: the Madonna di Piazza Oratory, in which the Vicar was proclaimed with great ceremony, and the Rectorry of St. Jacopo and St. Filippo (see "Art and Faith" pp. 33).

For information: Pro Loco Scarperia
tel. +39 055 8468165



Detail of the Torrino
(Scarperia)

In via Roma, we find the interesting **TORRINO**.

This ancient donjon, situated at the southwest corner of the original town walls, was built between 1305 and 1370 by the Florentine Republic to defend the Castle of Scarperia. It has recently undergone extensive restoration and the excavations have brought to light an extremely interesting Medieval communication trench. It holds a beautiful park with enormous trees.

For information: Il Torrino, tel. +39 055 846253

From Scarperia we move back to San Piero a Sieve where, on the last stop of our journey, we can admire the **MEDICEAN FORTRESS OF SAN MARTINO** and take a walk along its ancient walls.

The construction of the fortress, by request of Gran Duke Cosimo I, was begun on June 30, 1569, but the final layout of this imposing structure is by Bernardo Buontalenti, who probably completed it in the last decade of the 16th century.

It is characterized by seven bastions that stand at intervals along the irregular walled confines. The fort is almost a mile long and at its summit we find the

mastio (Tuscan for male), also known as the knight on a horse.

Inside the fortress were once the quarters of the castellan and those of the garrison, which, along with the chapel, made up the actual defensive core of the fort. The fort held vast subterranean vaults - which included a passageway that led to the Sieve River and could be run on horseback - cisterns, warehouses, casemates, arms and munitions deposits, foundries for cannons, and wind mills.

It was constructed to act as an important war machine but was never put to use; it did, however, act as an exceptionally strategic deterrent.

It is now being restored.



*Medicean Fortress
(San Piero a Sieve)*

ART AND FAITH



*San Giovanni
in Petroio
church
(Barberino
di Mugello)*



The architectural and artistic wealth of Mugello, which includes parish churches, chapels, sanctuaries and convents, is extraordinary and yet fairly unknown to most.

The following itineraries lead the traveller to enchanted locations surrounded by woods, to lofty heights with breathtaking views, and along ancient cypress tree lined roads. The atmosphere in these corners is particularly spellbinding for all visitors, both the secular, who will appreciate its artistic and cultural beauty, and the devout in search of spiritual enlightenment.

Along via Bolognese: ancient churches and convents

Moving from Florence up along Via Bolognese, the ancient road that links Florence to Bologna and upon which numerous villas, castles and “spedali” (hostels) for pilgrims and travellers have sprung up over the centuries, we reach, after coasting the walls of the splendid Villa Demidoff Park, the town of **PRATOLINO**. Travelling right, onto the road that leads to Bivigliano, at about 500 metres there is a road to the left that leads to **San Cresci a Macioli Parish Church [1]**. The 15th century church has a splendid Romanesque bell tower, a façade with a lovely brick cornice and a stone door with magnificent Doric decorations. In the 15th century, the parish priest, Father Arlotto, also famous for his pranks, had the church fully restored.

Open Sundays for Holy Mass.

Tel.+39 055 409291

Once in **BIVIGLIANO**, we find **S. Romolo Romanesque Church [2]**, which stands in an enchantingly scenic location. The church, founded prior to the 11th century, holds a glazed terracotta alter-piece by Andrea della Robbia in the apse, and a 15th century wooden statue of St. John the Baptist in the niche near the Baptismal font.

Open Saturday and Sunday for Holy Mass.

Tel.+39 055 406640

Just above Bivigliano, towering over the whole Mugello valley, stands the **Servite Convent of Montesenario [3]**. We can reach the convent both by driving along the fir lined road in asphalt or by taking the suggestive ancient road that runs through the pine wood and along which we can admire the tabernacles representing the way of the cross. The hermitage of Montesenario is one of the most important expressions of Florentine religious zeal. On September 8, 1233, the date of birth of the Blessed Virgin, seven Florentine monks abandoned their comfortable lives in the city and retired to the hermitage, thus founding the Order of the Servants of Mary.



*Montesenario
Convent (Vaglia)*



The church was originally built in 1241; it was the ancient home of the Seven Founding Saints. The church-convent, enlarged and enriched by Cosimo de' Medici in 1539, was restored in Baroque style in 1717 and again in 1888.

Inside the church, decorated in 18th century Baroque stuccowork, there are numerous important 17th century paintings among which we find the **Adoration of the Magi** by Cigoli. The church also holds interesting choir stalls of carved wood in fine Baroque style dated 1707, and in the Chapel of the Apparition, a lovely polychrome terracotta Pieta by Lottini. In the Refectory, which dates back to the 17th century, we find the **Last Supper** by Matteo Rosselli. It is possible, with the permission of the monks, to visit the small 15th century cloister and the vast terrace with its splendid view of Mugello. It was built in the 17th century on top of an enormous cistern that holds up to nine thousand hectolitres of water.

Just below the convent, on the northern side of the hill, we can visit the two grottos that first sheltered the Seven Founding Saints.

The grotto of St. Phillip Benizi is formed by enormous boulders and stands behind a small stone temple, dated 1629, from which pilgrims draw water to honour the saint and obtain protection. The nearby grotto of S. Alessio Falconieri, who died in 1310 at the age of 110, is a small lair with a memorial stone commemorating the saint. A set of steps, carved in the boulders, lead from the grotto to an ancient retreat. The Convent Drugstore produces and sells the renowned Gemma d'Abete liqueur.

Open every day. Offers hospitality for pilgrims.

Tel. +39 055 406441

Upon leaving the centre of Bivigliano, the road moves down to the town of **VAGLIA**, ancient domain of the Florentine Bishops who built **San Pietro Parish Church [4]** in the 8th century. The building, completely modified and enlarged in the



S. Pietro parish church (Vaglia)

18th century, holds precious 17th century paintings, a wooden Crucifix said to be the work of Giambologna, numerous paintings by Angelo Nardi and a panel portraying the **Madonna with Child**, a Florentine artwork dating back to the first half of the 14th century.

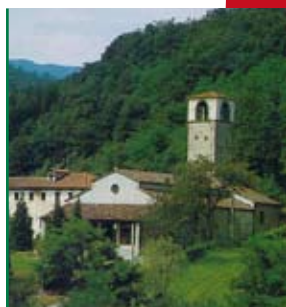
Of striking interest is the Baptismal Font in glazed terracotta from the school of Giovanni della Robbia.

Open for Holy Mass. Tel.+39 055 407836

Continuing along Via Bolognese past the localities of Tagliaferro and Campomiglio, just before reaching San Piero a Sieve, the road meets a fork at Novoli; we move left towards **BARBERINO DI MUGELLO**. Just before reaching Barberino, on the road to Montecuccoli, a small road on the left leads to the **church of S. Andrea a Camoggiano** [5] noted for the elegant loggia style façade of fine architectural quality dated 1470, and crowned with a gable. The façade holds many surprising similarities with the Chapel of the Pazzi, the first cloister in the famous Santa Croce Church in Florence, which was designed by Brunelleschi.

From Barberino, we move back onto the provincial road north towards **SAN GAVINO**. Here we find the **San Gavino Adimari Parish Church** [6], built in 1037 by the Alberti, Counts of Mangona. It was once among the most important churches in Mugello and ruled over 17 other suffragan churches. The façade and the bell tower hold numerous coats of arms of the Medici family, benefactors of the church from the 15th century.

Back onto Via Bolognese, we take the road that climbs up to Passo della Futa (the Futa Pass). Here we find the monumental German Military Cemetery where 30,683 fallen soldiers from W. W. II are buried. From Futa we continue towards **FIRENZUOLA**. Just before reaching the town, on our right, a small road leads to **CORNACCHIA** and



*S. Giovanni Battista
Decollato parish
church (Firenzuola)*



S. Giovanni Battista Decollato Parish Church [7].

The church stands on the important Medieval road of "S. Agata", and presents a typically Romanesque structure that is very similar to S. Agata Parish Church, on the opposite side of the Apennine watershed. It was restored in the 19th century and inside preserves early 20th century frescos.

Open every day. Tel. +39 055 8149000

From Firenzuola we move on towards Passo del Giogo (the Giogo Pass). Upon reaching Rifredo, we move left onto the road for **S. Pietro in Moscheta Abbey [8]**. The abbey is immersed in a vast green reserve rich in flora and fauna. It was founded in 1034 by the Blessed Rodolfo dei Galigai, of the Val-lombrosian order of St. Giovanni Gualberto. Of the original structure we can still admire an enormous wall and part of an arch. It is said that Galigai constructed a convent that was much too big and that it was destroyed by the flood of a nearby river, which swelled suddenly as a result of the prayers of the humble S. Giovanni Gualberto. The more recent Abbey dates back to the 15th century and holds an extraordinary portico.

Once across the Giogo Pass, the road descends first

*Rectory
of S. Jacopo
and S. Filippo
(Scarperia)*



through a vast pine forest, and then a chestnut and oak wood to the town of **SCARPERIA**. In the important town square, where the magnificent Vicari Palace (1306) stands, we find **Madonna di Piazza Oratory [9]** where, by tradition, the vicars took office and received the title of Podestà del Vicariato (Podesta of the Vicariate). It is an elegant 15th century construction: the façade is enhanced by a portal and fine sandstone mullioned windows with two lights. Inside we can admire a cross-vault ceiling covered in frescoes attributed to Jacopo del Casentino, creator of the precious panel of the **Madonna on the throne with Child and Angels** that hangs in a fine late Gothic temple. The Madonna is inside an impressive marble cornice shaped like a tabernacle, complete with a base and lunette, by Mino da Fiesole.

Open every day. Tel.+39 055 846046

On the same square stands the **Rectory of S. Jacopo and S. Filippo [10]**, once part of an Augustinian convent. In fact, a part of the 15th century cloister is still visible. Inside the church we can find period frescos, a wooden **Crucifix** by Sansovino, a marble tondo by Benedetto da Maiano (15th century), and a tabernacle for the holy oil by Mino da Fiesole.

Open every day. Tel.+39 055 846046

From Scarperia we suggest a change of direction and a short stop at **Sant'Agata Parish Church [11]**, situated on one of the most important Medieval routes: the **"VIA DI SANT'AGATA"** which connected Florence to Bologna by way of the Passo dell'Osteria Bruciata (Burnt Inn Pass). The town rose around the church, the most important holy shrine in Mugello. It was built before the 11th century and has undergone numerous renovations while maintaining, for the most part, its original structure. The façade is quite unpretentious and intertwining bands are carved into the architrave above the portal. The structure, built in limestone



*Madonna
di Piazza Oratory
(Scarperia)*



with touches of sandstone and green serpentine, has a central nave and two side aisles which, in a rather original but functional architectural fashion, support the wooden beams that brace the double sloping roof. Inside we find a wooden panel by Jacopo di Cione portraying **Our Lady of Grace** to whom expectant women pray. On occasion, especially after earthquakes or other grave events, the panel is carried in procession. We can also find a panel of the **Madonna on the throne with Child, San Jacopo and Sant' Agata** said to be by Ridolfo del Ghirlandaio, a panel of the **Madonna and Child holding a ring out to St. Catherine of Alessandria** on a predella by Bicci di Lorenzo, and a 16th century octagonal baptismal font of sandstone surrounded by a balustrade composed of seven marble slabs from the 12th century ambo.

Open every day. Tel. +39 055 8406926

Once back in Scarperia, we continue along via Imolese towards **SAN PIERO A SIEVE**. At about 3 km from Scarperia, on a nearby hill on the left, we find **S. Maria a Fagna Parish Church [12]**. It is an 11th century structure with late Baroque features due to the radical renovations of 1770. The only remnants of the Romanesque period include a white marble and green serpentine polygonal pulpit composed of six engraved mirrors and a fine octagonal baptismal font covered in ceramic. These date back, respectively, to the mid and late 12th century. Ultimately, we can admire an interesting **Assumption of the Virgin** (1587), by Santi di Tito, and a wax **Christ Departed** (1805) by Clemente Susini.

Open for religious ceremonies. Tel. +39 055 8469832

Just before reaching San Piero a Sieve, a narrow dirt road on the left leads us to one of the most ancient Tuscan convents: **Bosco ai Frati Convent [13]** (see "The Medici Family and the Territory" pp.23).

Once in San Piero a Sieve, an important crossroad that holds some the most ancient Medici proper-

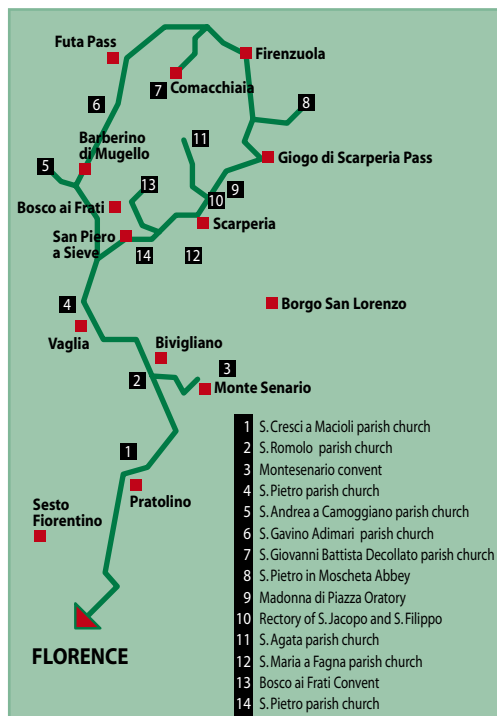


*S. Maria a Fagna
parish church
(Scarperia)*

ties, we find **S. Pietro Parish Church [14]**. The parish priest from 1482 to 1529 was Leonardo di Bernardo de' Medici, Bishop of Forlì; his family's coats of arms still hang above the main door. It is thanks only to the Medici family's patronage that the splendid baptismal font (1508) in glazed polychrome terracotta representing the life of St John the Baptist by Della Robbia ornates this church. On the main altar we can admire a wooden **Crucifix** by Raffaello di Montelupo. In the presbytery, which includes a splendid 16th century hall, we can admire numerous priceless works of art.

Open every day. Tel. +39 055 848161

From San Piero a Sieve the road turns back to Florence along Via Bolognese.



*S. Pietro parish church
(San Piero a Sieve)*

Along Via Faentina: to the sites of devoutness in Mugello



Moving along Via Faentina from Florence, past ponte alla Badia, the road runs through the Mugnone valley among enchanting hills dotted with castles, churches and villas belonging to some of most ancient and rich Florentine families.

Once at the Passo di Vetta le Croci (Vetta le Croci Pass), Via Faentina descends towards Mugello. It winds through pastures, pinewoods and forests, passing some of the most characteristic farmhouses to **POLCANTO** and **FALTONA**. Here we can admire the 11th century **Romanesque Parish Church [1]**, renovated many times, and the 12th century bell-tower.

Just before reaching Borgo San Lorenzo the road turns right towards **SAGGINALE**. Once past the small locality, a road on the right leads to **BARBIANA**. The locality, totally immersed in nature, lies at the foot of Monte Giovi. Here we find **Sant' Andrea Church [2]** where Don Milani was the parish priest and founded the school and his famous teaching methods. **Don Milani's** tomb lies in the little cemetery in front of the church in Barbiana.

*For church hours: Tel. Vicchio Church, +39 055 844167
For information: Centro Don Milani and Istituzione Don Milani e Scuola di Barbiana: +39 055 8448251*

Once in the main square in **VICCHIO** we find the 14th century **S. Giovanni Battista Parish Church [3]**. The building has undergone numerous renovations, the last one dated 1830. It is built in the shape of a Latin cross headed by a Renaissance style colonnade. It holds interesting 16th century paintings: **Madonna with Child and Saints John the Baptist and Sebastiano** by Ridolfo del Ghirlandaio, and **Madonna of the Rosary** by Alessandro Fei.

In the near vicinity, along a tree lined lane that leads back to Borgo San Lorenzo, we find the **Sacred Art and Popular Religiousness Museum** (see "Museum Network" pag. 44).



Faltona parish church
(Borgo San Lorenzo)



SS. Crocifisso
Oratory
Borgo San
Lorenzo)

Once on the Traversa del Mugello, on the way to Borgo San Lorenzo, past the town of **VESPIGNANO**, we find the home of Giotto, and the 13th century **San Martino Church**.

Open for Holy Mass. Tel. +39 055 844022

Upon entering **BORG SAN LORENZO** we reach the **SS. Crocifisso dei Miracoli Oratory [4]**. It was built in the 18th century to hold a wooden **Crucifix**, possibly by Giovanni Pisano (14th century). The crucifix was left here in the 15th century by some German pilgrims who were fleeing from the plague. In fact, just above the high altar, we find a deep niche in which the cross is kept. The niche is hidden by a heavy 19th century curtain which, run by a mechanical device, moves up and down unveiling the cross for the devout on important occasions. Numerous miracles have been attributed to the Crucifix: the end of the plague in 1400, minor damage to Borgo San Lorenzo in the violent earthquake of 1542, the liberation of the territory from the French in 1799.

Open every day. Tel. +39 055 8459088

Just left of the Oratory, we find the immense **San Francesco Church**. It holds an extensive nave in



Gothic style, the remains of 14th century frescos, and a chapel, all made from bits of pebbles from the river.

In the centre of Borgo San Lorenzo we find **S. Lorenzo Parish Church [5]**, built in 941. It is the biggest Romanesque construction in Florentine countryside. It was rebuilt in 1263 and this seems to be the date of construction of the bell tower, set on the semicircular apse and built in brick in the shape of a semi dodecagon. The magnificence of the works of art held within the church is testimony of its past importance. Among these we find: **Madonna**, attributed to Giotto, a panel of the **Crucifix** from the school of Giotto, **Madonna on the Throne with Child** by Agnolo Gaddi, **The Virgin and the Saints Francis and Domenic** by Matteo Rosselli. The apse holds the frescos of Galileo Chini. On the right side of the façade, we find a tabernacle in polychrome terracotta by the Chini Furnace. *Open every day. Tel. +39 055 8459295*

Near Borgo, on the road to Scarperia and Luco di Mugello, stands the **Cappuccini di San Carlo Convent [6]**, which dates back to 1613. On the façade we can admire a Pieta in terracotta produced in

S. Lorenzo
parish church
(Borgo San
Lorenzo)



the Chini Furnace of Borgo San Lorenzo, while inside we find a **Holy Family** from the school of Ghirlandaio. In the cloister we can also admire a 33 metre well which was drilled in 1617.

Open for Holy Mass. Tel.+39 055 8459385



Once back in Borgo, we move north along Via Faentina through the small-cultivated hills. At a distance of about three kilometres, a cypress tree lined road moves left towards **San Giovanni Maggioro Parish Church [7]**, a 10th century structure which was reconstructed between 1520 and 1530, and later modified in the 19th century. The 11th century bell tower is interesting for its peculiar structure: although it is octagonal, it rests on a square base. Three sets of windows with one opening, of increasing size, run along the sides. Inside the church we find a wooden crucifix from the 16th century and a striking 12th century marble ambo. The glass panes are by Chini Manufacturing.

Open for Holy Mass. Tel. +39 055 8403378

Once past the locality of Panicaglia, we reach a curve in the road that offers a breathtaking view of the Pulicciano hills and the Valle dell'Ensa with the ancient church of Ronta and its high tower. Upon leaving **RONTA** we soon reach **Madonna dei Tre Fiumi Sanctuary [8]**. It was built in 1578 and enlarged by Brunni in 1705. The portico, with three archways, was cut in about 1789 to permit the construction of the new via Faentina. Attached to the church was a hospice, today a hotel, which was associated with the one in Quadalto in Palazzuolo Sul Senio. According to the legend, some women were praying in front of the tabernacle, where today we find the Sanctuary, when the face of the Blessed Virgin materialized and began to cry. Many pilgrims visited the site to beg for "grace" and numerous miracles are said to have taken place there. It was for this reason that the Sanctuary was built.

For information: Tel.+39 055 8403015

c/o Tre Fiumi Hotel or tel.+39 055 8403014



*Madonna
dei Tre Fiumi
sanctuary
(Borgo San Lorenzo)*



The uphill climb to the Sanctuary rises rather sharply and the road runs through lofty stratifications and steep woodland slopes along the banks of the tortuous Enza river. We thus reach **RAZZUOLO** and the church, which was once a part of the Vallombrosian **Abbey of San Paolo [9]**, founded in 1035 by S. Giovanni Gualberto. Numerous other steep curves take us up to Passo della Colla di Casaglia (the Colla Pass). Continuing from the pass, the road moves towards Palazzuolo Sul Senio. The road descends through an uncontaminated stretch of beech, chestnut and oak woods until it reaches **QUADALTO** and **S. Maria della Neve Sanctuary [10]**.

A small oratory was first built in 1459 and enlarged at the beginning of the 17th century to become the present day church. We are enchanted first by the vast sweeping portico, and then by the inside with its two side aisles and central nave separated by pillars and arches. On the high altar in stone, we can admire a valued image of the Madonna in the style of Botticelli. In the choir chamber, which stands behind precious wrought iron gates by Dino Chini, are two precious Baroque style andirons and a charming 18th century organ. Both the convent, built in 1744, and the ancient Quadalto mill, now occupied by guest rooms, stand near the church.

Open for Holy Mass. Also accommodates school camps and retreats.

Tel. +39 055 8046072

From Quadalto we move on to **PALAZZUOLO SUL SENIO**: in the square, just right of the Capitani Palace, we find the 17th century **S. Antonio Church**. The beautiful three arch portico is decorated with 17th century stucco adornments.

For information Tel. +39 055 8046014

The ancient **S. Stefano Church [11]**, restructured at the beginning of the 20th century also offers a suggestive sight. Numerous precious paintings,



*S. Antonio church
(Palazzuolo sul Senio)*



*Senio river
(Palazuolo
sul Senio)*



sculptures, sacred ornaments and vestments from the abandoned churches of the territory are held in the presbytery. The apse and the side chapels are rich with floral decorations created by Dino Chini in 1945.

Open every day: Tel. +39 055 8046014

Nearby we can admire **Susinana Abbey**, once the property of the Vallombrosian monks, but now a farm estate with an ancient church that has recently been restored (open only by appointment: tel +39 055 8046014). Here we find the Medieval **Misileo Parish Church** which includes a crypt and a Romanesque bell tower.

From Palazzuolo we move on to **MARRADI** and happen upon the **Archpriestly Church of S. Lorenzo [12]**. The pre-existing medieval structure was reconstructed majestically in the 18th century in neoclassic style. Inside it holds paintings by the Master of Marradi who worked in Badia del Borgo at the end of the 15th century: his style much resembles that of Ghirlandaio.

Open every day: Tel. +39 055 8045024

Marradi, before it came under the domain of the Florentine Republic in 1258, belonged to **Badia del Borgo (S. Reparata in Salto) [13]**, a town that can be reached by taking the provincial road from Marradi to S. Benedetto in Alpe. It is an important monastic community that dates back to the 11th century and which once belonged to the Benedictine and then the Vallombrosian monks. It was renovated in Baroque style in the years from 1741 to 1765, but the unadorned, solid square bell tower maintains a typically Romanesque aspect. The church's simple stone façade under the sloping roof is a prelude to the luminous Baroque interior with its central nave and large transept.

For information: Tel. +39 055 8045024

Moving along towards San Benedetto, a brief excursion along a path that runs through the



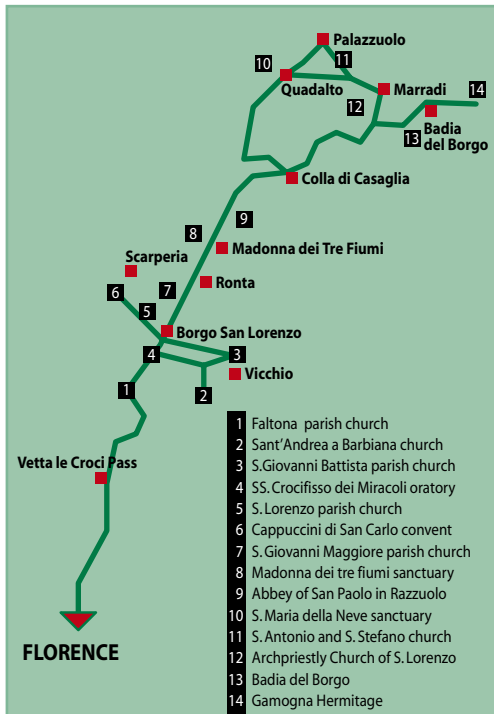
*Badia del Borgo
(Marradi)*

beech and chestnut woods leads us to the solitary **Gamogna Hermitage [14]**. It was founded by San Pier Damiani around 1053 and is now undergoing renovations.

Offers hospitality for spiritual retreats.

Tel.+39 055 804866

We return to Marradi, southbound, along via Faentina and climb towards the Colla Pass and through the quaint mountain towns of Camurano, Poggio di Termini, Crespino and Casaglia. After we cross the Pass, the descent leads us back to Borgo San Lorenzo and via Bolognese, or via Faentina, and then again to Florence.



Casaglia
landscape

MUSEUM NETWORK



The small quaint museums found in Mugello and Val di Sieve are part of what is known as the "Museum Network". The network covers four thematic itineraries: ethnography, art, nature, and archaeology.

1. THE DEMO-ETHNO-ANTHROPOLOGICAL SYSTEM

It unites museums and laboratories dedicated to the traditional trades and crafts of the territories.

Museum of Cutting Blades

Vicar's Palace - Scarperia (Fi)

Scarperia has been linked to the production of cutting blades since the 16th century. This florid activity, passed down over the centuries, is now limited to four cutler's shops and the Museum of Cutting Blades. In the Vicar's Palace the museum branches into five different itineraries: knives in the hands of man, the shapes and parts of a knife, the principal knife producers in Italy, the cutlers, and the knives of Scarperia.

The Ancient Cutler's Shop (Antica Bottega del Coltellinaio) is the only shop that preserves its original set up. It is, in fact, a real **Living Museum** in which you can follow the actual stages of knife making.

It exhibits the **original tools** used by the cutlers, who hired children for the lighter jobs and women, who were called "giratora" (turners), to turn the wheels of the grinders to sharpen the blades.

For information and booking of guided tours for groups and schools:

Public Library: tel. and fax +39 055 8468027

bibl.scarperia@newnet.it

Pro Loco Scarperia:

tel. +39 055 8468165 fax +39 055 8468862

www.prolocoscarperia.com

Prolocoscarperia@virgilio.it

Museum of farm life and customs Casa d'Erci

Grezzano - Borgo San Lorenzo (Fi)



*Ancient knife
of Scarperia (Museum
of Cutting Blades)*

The museum is set up in an ex-farmhouse in the Regional Agriculture and Forestry complex in Giogo-Casaglia. The location is characterized by its extraordinary environmental and natural beauty. It holds a great quantity of data documenting ancient farming methods and life in general in Mugello.

The data regards everything from breeding animals, working the land, harvesting and threshing, to the work in the cellars, the granary, and the oil mill. Particular interest is given to the work in the home like spinning, weaving and washing; to the crafts of the farmers; and to the various skilled workers, for example carpenters, wheelwrights, coopers, shoemakers, smiths, and masons.

The museum includes: the presentation of the various rooms as they once were, for example, the bedroom, the cellar and the kitchen; a section dedicated to the work in the woods; popular religiousness; carts and other means of transportation; woodworks; extensive data regarding education, sharecropping; and photographs. In the surrounding area we find the **Natural-History Trail**: the trail is about 1,500 metres long and offers a splendid view of 120 well-marked plants. The visitor will



*Casa d'Erci
(Grezzano,
Borgo San
Lorenzo)*



learn to recognize the typical vegetation of the territory and various elements that made up the agricultural and woodland setting in the historical evolution of the past century.

Nearby, in the ancient **Faini Mill**, which is still functioning, visits are open to those who wish to receive information about the history of milling.

For information and booking of guided tours for groups and schools:

Gruppo Casa d'Erci: +39 338 6880647

Public library: tel. +39 055 8457197

biblioteca@comune.borgo-san-lorenzo.fi.it.



Museum of Pietra Serena (Firenzuola)

Museum of Pietra Serena

(the typical Mugello sandstone)

La Rocca - Firenzuola (Fi)

In the cellars of the Rocca, the fortified 15th century outpost of the Florentine Republic, of which we can still admire the “cannon room” and the murder holes along the underground passageway, we find the museum. It underlines the importance of the extraction and working of the precious sandstone in the Firenzuola area. The museum branches into six distinct sections that display the various phases of the working of the sandstone: the extraction, the working and the final creation of objects. The display of everyday tools and utensils made of sandstone, and the precious artworks are particularly interesting because they underline the great craftsmanship of the Firenzuola stonecutters.

For information and booking of guided tours for groups and schools:

Public library: tel. +39 055 8199434/5

Museum of the Mountain Folk

Captains' Palace - Palazzuolo Sul Senio (Fi)

Numerous objects that represent the customs and traditions of the mountain folk that lived on the hills between the Tuscan and Romagna border are held in the Medieval hall of the Captains' Palace. The museum is noted for its characteristic

reconstruction of different settings, like the mill, and the different rooms of the house in which we can find an array of utensils and farming machinery.

For information and booking of guided tours for groups and schools: tel. +39 055 8046125 055 8046008 - turismo@palazzuolo.it

Museum of Wine and the Vine

Villa di Poggio Reale - Rufina (Fi)

The museum, which occupies a part of the splendid 16th century Villa of Poggio Reale, contains 500 pieces including a variety of vintners' tools and the equipment needed to produce and preserve wine. The display is accompanied by a slide projection and audiovisual material (from the 1920's to the 1950's), and a vast historical database. A wine shop stands near the museum and hosts guided visits through the different historical farms and cellars of the **Chianti Rufina and Pomino Wine Roads**. The two wines are D.O.C.G. (of controlled origin) and are a product of the territory.

For information and booking of guided tours for groups and schools: tel. +39 055 8397932 museo@chiantirufina.com

Crafts and Farming in Sant'Agata by Leprino

Centro Polivalente - Sant'Agata - Scarperia (Fi)

The characters and scenes in display depict the environment and trades in Mugello from 1920 to 1950, and were created by Faliero Lepri, also known as Leprino. The characters are built on a wood frame and are run by motors. They are made out of papier-mâché and dressed in period costumes. The buildings are in cardboard while the



Farmer's shoes - Museum of Mountain Folk (Palazzuolo Sul Senio)

Villa of Poggio Reale (Rufina)

Crafts and Farming in Sant'Agata Artigiana by Leprino



tools and utensils are out of wood or aluminium. The figures are linked by a fine mesh of electric threads that allows them to move in perfect time: each character mimes a determined trade or craft perfectly.

For information and booking of guided tours for groups and schools: tel. +39 055 8406750

2. THE HISTORICAL ARTISTIC ESTATE SYSTEM

includes museums and collections dedicated to the art works from holy sites and palaces on the territory, and objects in Art Nouveau style from Chini Manufacturing (see "Art Nouveau and the Chini Ceramic Museum, pp. 54")

Museum of Sacred Art and Popular Religiousness Beato Angelico

Vicchio (Fi)

The Beato Angelico Museum preserves paintings and liturgical fittings from all the abandoned or isolated churches in Mugello. We can find crucifixes, religious documents and the reconstruction of interiors like, for example, the sacristy. Holy vestments and candlesticks are on display inside the original pieces of furniture. The itinerary ends in an area where the works are kept in their original order: first the baptismal font and a 13th century bell, then, on the sides, the altars and the vestments, objects and paintings.

For information and booking of guided tours for groups and schools:

tel. +39 055 8448251 - 055 8439258

The Sant'Agata Collection of Sacred Art Scarperia (Fi)

The museum is the continuation of the actual living "museum", that is to say, Sant'Agata Parish Church itself. The church is, in fact, one of the greatest examples of Romanesque architecture in Mugello. It holds one of the most important works of art in its interior (see pp. 33). The collection of sacred art is in the Compagnia di San Jacopo



The Sant'Agata collection of Sacred Art (Scarperia)

Oratory, an early 16th century building to the left of the courtyard. Inside we find a vast rectangular room in which we can admire paintings and sculptures of different styles and from different eras. In the sacristy we find a collection of liturgical fittings: chalices, thuribles, ostensories, reliquaries, and then the most important and ancient piece of the collection: a processional cross dated 1378.

For information: tel +39 055 8406853 – 055 8406794



3. THE NATURE SYSTEM

is dedicated to aspects that regard the territory's vegetation and fauna, and finds its focal point in the Museum of the Historical Landscape of the Apennines.

Museum of the Historical Landscape of the Apennines

Moscheta - Firenzuola (Fi)

The museum is set in the thousand year old Vallombrosian Abbey of Moscheta and we can follow five different itineraries that will help us understand the Apennine territory of Mugello. From the hypothetical year 1000 (when the land was covered in woods and castles), we move on to the occupation of the territory for agricultural use ("New lands", cultivated lands and woods), and then finally the era of the great transformations of the settlements and the natural environment (the modelling of the Apennine area: roads, towns, and countryside from the 18th to the 19th century). The most recent signs of human intervention are mainly found in the organization of agriculture (Landscape farm estates from the 19th to the 20th century), in the progressive abandonment of the mountain, first, and the reconsideration of its cultural value, second (from an uninhabited mountain to an inhabited one).

For information and booking of guided tours for groups and schools: tel. +39 055 8144900 - 055 845271 - info@ischetus.com



*Abbey of Moscheta
(Firenzuola)*



Sant'Agata
church
(Scarperia)



4. THE ARCHEOLOGICAL ESTATE SYSTEM

touches upon some of the most important archaeological sites of the territory and includes two museum-laboratories specialized in early, ancient and medieval history.

Sant'Agata Centre for Archaeological Documentation

Chiostro della Pieve di S. Agata - Scarperia (Fi)

This learning lab and exhibition centre documents the principal archaeological finds in western Mugello from early history to modern times.

The first hall is dedicated to the Palaeolithic period and preserves remains from 200-300 thousand years ago to the more recent ones from 10 thousand odd years ago or so. In the second hall we find documentation regarding the end of prehistory, from the Neolithic period to the bronze age, and the Etruscan-Roman period up until Medieval times, and the modern age, with mostly ceramic remains.

*For information: tel.+39 055 8406853
055 8406794*

Upper Mugello Archaeological Museum*Captains' Palace - Palazzuolo Sul Senio (Fi)*

The exhibition documents the remotest and less renowned past of the Lamone, Senio and Santerno valleys. Quite a lot of attention has been afforded to the illustration of the most important phases of the evolution of mankind. The remains collected and preserved in the museum bear witness to a distant past and have helped fill a thousand year void that documents man's presence in the most remote corners of Upper Mugello.

For information and booking of guided tours for groups and schools: tel. +39 055 8046125 - 055 8046008 - turismo@palazzuolo.it

The Archaeological Ruins of Frascole*Frascole - Dicomano (Fi)*

The numerous excavation sites have allowed us to discover, along with the foundations of the ancient Romanesque Church of San Martino al Poggio, the impressive quadrangular perimeter of an Etruscan building, which was probably a fort of some kind used to control the road from Casentino. It may be presumed that the building was a fortified residence belonging to a great aristocratic family from the area, or maybe a temple. The most interesting remain consists in a Fiesole style funerary stele from the 6th century BC.

For information: Dicomano City Hall tel. +39 055 838541

**OTHER MUSEUMS, EXHIBITIONS,
AND CULTURAL CENTRES****House of Giotto***Vespignano - Vicchio (Fi)*

This important stop, and the exposition of 80 colour gigantographies, helps the visitor understand the works of Giotto, and is cured by the International University of Art of Florence.

For information and booking of guided tours for groups and schools: tel. +39 055 8448251 - 055 8439258



*Upper Mugello
Archaeological
Museum*



Historical Ethnographic Exposition

Bruscoli - Firenzuola (Fi)

The exposition displays traditional farm objects, and war records and testimony of WWII.

Campana Research Centre "Enrico Consolini"

Via Castelnaudry, 5 - Marradi (Fi)

The centre is dedicated totally to the Marradi poet Dino Campana: it collects the various editions of his works; written monographs of his life and his poetry; theses; magazines and news papers that first published Campana's works and the reviews; documents from the registrar's office in Marradi; and iconographic material.

For information: tel. +39 055 8045943

centrostudi@dinocampana.it

www.dinocampana.it

Don Milani and the School of Barbiana Research Centre

Public Library - Vicchio (Fi)

The centre has a vast collection of research material - used for articles, books, conferences, theses, publications etc. - on the life and work of Don Milani, and it is available to anyone who requests it.

For information: tel. +39 055 8448251

www.barbiana.it



*House of Giotto
(Vicchio)*



*Barbiana
church
(Vicchio)*

LIBERTY STYLE: ART NOUVEAU IN MUGELLO



*Glasswork with
the denomina-
tion "S. Lorenzo
Furnace Chini
& Co. Borgo
San Lorenzo
(Mugello)"*



Two centuries ago Chini Manufacturing was founded in Mugello. It is an excellent example of artistic craftsmanship in the production of ceramics.

At the beginning of the 19th century the head of the Chini family, Piero Alessio Chini, a decorator, passed down his passion for the arts to his children and nephews, who, from simple apprentices soon became eclectic, creative and able artists. One of the family's most prominent figures was definitely Galileo Chini who, along with his cousin Chino Chini, founded the "San Lorenzo Furnace" manufacturing in 1906, in Borgo San Lorenzo. They produced ceramics and glass works that immediately gained success. At the beginning of the 20th century Galileo Chini became one of the major representatives of Liberty (Art Nouveau in Italian) in Italy and by 1906 his fame as an artist had reached the far east. In fact, he left for Bangkok to paint the walls the Palace of the Throne with frescoes.

Next, the manufacturing company dressed the thermal spa in Salsomaggiore "Lorenzo Berzieri" in grès ceramic, and Galileo Chini, along with other artists of the period, painted a fresco on a part of

it. From 1925 on Chini Manufacturing took part in a number of national and international exhibitions in which the artwork of Galileo Chini, by this time a renowned decorator and able craftsman, was very much appreciated and valued.

The manufacturing company continued to produce works of great value until 1943 when, following the terrible bombing of Borgo San Lorenzo, which caused extensive damage and many victims, the damage to the company was so great that it could not continue to produce as it once had.

Today we can admire what the descents of Pietro Alessio Chini have created and what time has preserved in the Chini Ceramic Museum in Borgo San Lorenzo, as well as in many buildings all over Italy and the world.

THE LIBERTY ITINERARY IN BORGO SAN LORENZO

The suggested itinerary starts in **Villa Pecori Giraldi**. Constructed on the site of an ancient Giraldi property, in 1748 it passed into the hands of Count Pecori who gave the property both his name and the former owner's. In 1979, the family donated the building to the town of Borgo San Lorenzo.

The façade is in Renaissance style, while the interior, including the **Chini Ceramic Museum** which it houses, is proof of the vibrant Art Nouveau style brought to Mugello by the family.

The halls have both geometrical and floral frescoes, and reproductions of Medieval works created by Galileo Chini in the early 20th century. Of important value is the cyclic decoration representing Saint George on the walls of the main hall. Of great interest is the exhibition of ceramic objects in grès, and rare polychrome glassworks. The museum also holds a collection of important art works (impressive watercolours, lithographs,



*Villa Pecori Giraldi
(Borgo San Lorenzo)*



oil paintings, drawings and sketches) of Mugello by the painter **Pietro Annigoni** (1910-1988).

For information and booking of guided tours for groups and schools: tel. and fax +39 055 8456230 villapecori@cm-mugello.fi.it

The itinerary continues along via IV Novembre and the **Villino Chini**, which was built by Chino Chini in 1923 for his family, which still resides there. For this reason it is impossible to visit the inside.

The villino once stood near the San Lorenzo Furnace, but today it stands next to the workshop and exposition room of the Franco Pecchioli Ceramic Company.

(see pp. 69)

We move towards the historical centre along via della Repubblica and past numerous **Villini Liberty** (Art Nouveau style homes). They were constructed by the Chini family at the beginning of the 20th century and are very similar to the homes we find in famous thermal and sea resorts like Montecatini Terme, and Viareggio.

City Hall is in Piazza Dante. It was constructed at the beginning of the 20th century and on the first floor we find the **Mayor's Office**, which was completely decorated by Chini. It is particularly interesting to note the floor covering, a sunburst, and the Art Nouveau style glass panes.

For information:

Borgo San Lorenzo City Hall, tel. +39 055 849661

To the left of City Hall we find the Neo-Gothic style **Misericordia Oratory**, inaugurated in 1908. The portal is adorned with a majolica Pieta created by Galileo Chini. A rosette made by Chini Manufacturing stands above the entrance. Two angel shaped candlesticks in glazed white terracotta, and two bas-reliefs - Saint Joseph on the left wall, and Madonna with Child on the right - in painted terracotta are also products the furnace.



*Mayor's office
(Borgo San Lorenzo)*

On the vault of the apse we find a painting of the “Madonna della Misericordia” (Our Lady of Mercy).

Once back at City Hall and along via Bandini we reach **San Lorenzo Parish Church**.

In this imposing example of Romanesque-Lombard architecture (11th century), we find the “Christ Blessed among the Saints Lorenzo and Martin”, a mural in which Galileo Chini celebrated his all-embracing, eclectic talent. The motifs and the incisive lines that define the figures are typical early 20th century Italian style. The church also includes a splendid Madonna attributed to Giotto. It is the last trace of the painter in the Mugello territory.

*For information: San Lorenzo Parish Church
tel. +39 055 8459295*

Next to the church we find the **San Francesco Tabernacle**. It was built entirely by the Chini family in 1926 to commemorate the centenary of the death of the saint.

The niche, which is situated in a part of the wall of the monastery of Santa Caterina and holds a ceramic statue of Saint Francis, is completely covered in tiles. It is decorated with paintings of a lamb and a wolf, and it also contains some impressive tiles representing the coats of arms of the most important Mugello families. The entire piece is enclosed under a tile-covered roof from which a wrought iron lamp hangs.



Detail of flower stand - Chini ceramic museum

Plate with peacock - Chini ceramic museum

S. Francesco Tabernacle - Borgo San Lorenzo



*Lutiano
Tabernacle
(Borgo San
Lorenzo)*



OTHER STOPS ALONG THE LIBERTY ITINERARY IN MUGELLO

The Chini family left numerous examples of their artistic talent in the various buildings and places of worship in area of Borgo and the Mugello territory. Searching these places out gives us cause to experience the tranquillity and the beauty of the Tuscan countryside.

The large, well kept **Tabernacle Lutiano**, which stands at the corner of the road that leads from Borgo San Lorenzo to Sagginale and near the Lutiano residence, was constructed in 1721 to commemorate a miracle. In 1914 it was enriched with the image of the Madonna with Child. The work, a mosaic in ceramic tile, was carried out by the San Lorenzo Furnace.

Above the entrance in **Santa Maria at Olmi Church**, just outside Borgo, on the road to Salaiole, we can admire a grand polychrome stained glass window of Christ the King. The church also holds six semicircular windows, which are attributed to Tito and Galileo Chini, above the main nave. The 9th century structure, which was enlarged successively, is in

19th century style and conserves a stone tabernacle by Michelozzo, as well as a triptych from the school of Giotto.

The church is open for Holy Mass Tel. +39 055 8459561

Poggiolo alle Salaiole Chapel (Borgo San Lorenzo) was built in 1923 at the request of the Duchess Maria Grazioli Lante della Rovere. It was decorated by the San Lorenzo Furnace under the supervision of Tito Chini who designed and projected the work. The unmistakable Chini craftsmanship is apparent in the geometrical designs and floral decorations that are found both on the façade and inside the chapel. Of particular interest are the polychrome stained glass windows.

The Cappuccini Convent of San Carlo and the **San Giovanni Maggiore Parish Church** (see pp.38-39).

Above the main door in the 13th century **S. Maria a Pulicciano Church**, which stands in a breathtaking location just above Ronta (Borgo San Lorenzo), we can admire a ceramic polychrome half-moon by Galileo Chini.

Open for Holy Mass. For information

Borgo San Lorenzo Church: Tel. +39 055 8456940

Villa Striano, just outside Pulicciano, stands on the ruins of an ancient Ubaldini lookout tower. At the end of the 17th century Striano was a hamlet constructed around a square central "villa" with a tower. It was the property of Antonio Cocchi, founder of the Florentine Botanical Society. In 1875 Michele Gordigiani, portrait artist of many great queens, bought the villa. The structure was renovated in Art Nouveau style by the architect Del Moro. A double tower was added, and the residence was embellished with squares, terraces and a two-tier arcade, the upper floor of which holds the frescoes of Galileo Chini. The villa is surrounded by a vast English garden with imposing age-old trees among which some rare species can be found. The lemon-house is bathed in light and magnificent.



*Villa Striano
(Borgo San Lorenzo)*



The large square offers a splendid view of Mugello. Gabriele D'Annunzio, Eleonora Duse, Arturo Toscanini, Guglielmo Marconi, Giovanni Papini, the Belgian painter De Groux, the philosopher Balbino, the violinist Joachim, and the cellist Cassadò spent many summers here.

Open everyday for guided tours of the park and the villa - by appointment only: tel. +39 055 8403060 3356644454 www.villastriano.it - info@villastriano.it

If we move towards Faenza, past Ronta and the Colla Pass we reach our last stop: Marradi. **Palazzo Torriani**, built at the end of the 16th century on the ruins of a pre-Roman tower, stands in the historical centre of the town. Recently restored, it has regained its ancient splendour. Its most precious decorations are 20th century ones and are the work of Galileo Chini and Silvestro Lega. In the centre of the façade we find the portal above which a sandstone coat of arms of the noble and ancient Torriani family is situated.

Guided visits on the second Sunday afternoon of each month - by appointment only: tel. +39 055 8042363 www.palazzotorriani.it - info@palazzotorriani.it

*Frescoes by
Galileo Chini
in Torriani
Palace
(Marradi)*





Glass window
of S. Giovanni
Maggiore
parish church
(Borgo San
Lorenzo)

THE CRAFTS OF TRADITION



Chair mender

In the 14th century, under the growing influence of the Florentine Republic, numerous new hamlets sprang up in Mugello. Economic activities, which became typical of the area, developed. The manual skills and the artistic capacities of the inhabitants of Mugello were expressed in the creation of hand made products, art works and objects of great value. Numerous arts and crafts form the rich tradition of Mugello. Much of this cultural tradition has been handed down to the present, like, for example, the commercial role that certain town centres have reserved: "trading" that has been going on for centuries in these "new" hamlets. The historical structure of the buildings, like the porticos, or the make-up of the open squares and the old roads, offer present-day visitors the opportunity to interrelate on a personal level in the different shops, stores and traditional craft manufacturers. The memory and the love of local traditions has always been felt in Mugello; in fact, there are numerous collectors of antique working tools and utensils, and countless antique shops that have lived on to bear witness to what once was: the trades and life of a long-ago past.

By tracing the ancient trades and crafts of the territory, it is possible to discover important towns like Scarperia, Firenzuola, Palazzuolo Sul Senio and Marradi, but it is also a way to come upon small vales and ancient abandoned hamlets, farm houses covered in overgrown bush, and mule tracks left by woodsmen or coal miners. It is a journey into a past that will enrich the present; the description, the memory, and the understanding of the "life that once was," will develop into the incentive, the way and the yearning to renew the world in which we live.



WATERMILLS

The presence of watermills has been very widespread since Medieval times. They were generally quite small with a single "millstone" that ground grains of wheat, corn and dry chestnuts for man, and "fodder" (barley and oats) for the livestock. They worked on a "horizontal intake system" and were surrounded by irrigation canals and mill courses, and by a water reserve ("millponds"). The number of mills grew until the beginning of the 19th century when they began to be closed progressively and replaced with electricity. There are only a few mills still running today, but the workings continue to enchant us with their age-old charm.

Ancient Magheri Mill

Madonna dei Tre Fiumi - Ronta - Borgo San Lorenzo
This ancient water mill, which was probably built around 845, continues to function. It offers the sale of mill ground products: chestnut flour, corn flour, and common wheat flour. Open every day except on holidays where visits are only upon request.

For information tel. +39 055 8403051

Property of the Margheri-Cerbai family.

Faini Mill

Grezzano - Borgo San Lorenzo



*Upper Mugello
water mill*



This ancient Medieval watermill dates back to 1588 and still functions. It is open for visits and provides information on the history of the mill.

*For information and guided tours for groups and school trips: tel. +39 055 8457197
biblioteca@comune.borgo-san-lorenzo.fi.it*

Arrighetti Mill

Via Stieto Sala - Cirignano - Barberino di Mugello
Still functioning. It offers the sale of stone ground products: chestnut flour, corn flour and common wheat flour.

Visits only by appointment: tel. +39 055 8417958

Sant'Agata Mill

Loc. Sant'Agata - Scarperia
Still functioning.

*Visits only by appointment: tel. +39 055 8406648
Property of the Parrini Family.*

Razzaiole Mill

Loc. Cornacchiaia - Firenzuola

Visits per school trips and groups.

*For information: tel. +39 055 8149067
Property of Lamberto Fabbri.*

*Ancient
watermill
Margheri
(Borgo San
Lorenzo)*



De' Lotti Mill

Via Cornacchiaia, 91 - Firenzuola

The mill preserves the millstones, the weights and measures, and the tools used to repair the age-old grindstones and lever scales. The antique gaslights are also still in function.

Visits by appointment only.

For information: tel. +39 055 8149076

Property of Ottorino Ricciardelli

Valtellere Mill

Loc. San Pellegrino – Firenzuola

Still functioning.

Visits by appointment only.

For information: tel.+39 055 819346

Property of the Livi Family

SWORDS, BLADES AND CUTLERY

The cutlery making tradition in Scarperia is at least five centuries old, and in the beginning these craftsmen were actually armourers of a very vast region.

In 1538 the "Statute of cutlery makers" was written up and the artisans became part of a cutler's union. Up until the 18th century, numerous cutlers' shops existed in the hamlet of Scarperia. There was a vast production of numerous types of blades: for war purposes (daggers, swords and spears); and for work in the home and the fields (forks and punches, pruning knives, shears and pocket-knives).

In 1906 there were still 46 "knife and scissor" shops with about 300 craftsmen. Today in Scarperia there are only four cutlers' shops that put out a great quantity of different types of knives: from hunting knives to butcher knives, from kitchen knives to complete sets of cutlery with horn handles, as well as a variety of scissors and pruning tools of all shapes and sizes.

One antique shop on via Solferino, 19, has recreated the atmosphere in which cutlers once



Artisan cutlery production (Scarperia)



worked, and in the Vicari Palace we can visit the Museum of Cutting Blades (see "Museum Network" pp. 44).

CUTLERS' SHOPS

COLTELLERIE BERTI

property of Andrea Berti & Co.

Via della Resistenza, 12 (workshop) - Scarperia

Tel. +39 055 8469903 - Fax +39 055 8468014

Via Roma, 43 (shop) - Tel. +39 055 846585

www.coltellerieberti.it

info@coltellerieberti.it

Traditional Italian knives.

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Consigli Bros. & Co.

Via G. Giordani, 20 (workshop) - Scarperia

Tel. +39 055 846197 - Fax +39 055 846603

Via Roma, 8 (shop) - Scarperia

Tel. +39 055 8430270

www.conaz.com - conaz@dada.it

Hand made regional knives.

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Via dell'Oche, 48 (workshop, shop) - Scarperia

Tel. +39 055 846148

COLTELLERIE SALADINI

Via Solferino, 19/21 (workshop and shop)

Scarperia

Tel. +39 055 8431010 - Fax +39 055 8468946

Show room on Via Roma, 25 - Scarperia

www.coltelleriasaladini.it

info@coltelleriasaladini.it

Traditional kitchen knives and accessories.

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School and Workshop

Viale Giacomo Matteotti, 84 - Scarperia

Tel. +39 055 8468268 - 338 2810240

www.ferritaglienti.com

bcoltelliscarperia@tin.it

Organizes courses in knife making.



*Knife of
Scarperia*

STONE CUTTERS

The great amount of sandstone present in the area is at the origin of this ancient tradition. "Sandstone cutters" are especially widespread in the mountain areas of Upper Mugello: in the territory of Firenzuola, Palazzuolo and Marradi. There are numerous towns or small abandoned locations in the mountains that are built completely in sandstone, from the cobble stone roads to the tiles on the roofs of the homes, for example: Sceggiano, Tirli, Castiglioncello, Rapezzo, San Pellegrino, Piancaldoli, Coniale, Caburraccia and Cerreta. In these towns we can admire a variety of exquisitely made objects and particulars in sandstone: elegant volutes (spirals), which sometimes decorate the last step of an external staircase; splendid bas-relief coats of arms and friezes that decorate portals and the lintels above the entrance to the houses; the originality of the sundials; the perforations in the sandstone to allow ventilation in the attic; and the chimney tops. Today in Firenzuola and the surrounding towns, there are numerous workshops that make striking decorations for exteriors like cobblestones for paving roads and sidewalks, fountains and borders for flowerbeds. The interiors are equally important and sandstone can decorate floors, doorframes, window frames and sills, stairs, fireplaces, capitals (borders) and columns. On the www.mugellotoscana.it web site we can find names and addresses of cutters who still work the stone by hand, as:

COMAD *property of Andrea and Alberto Adalberti*
Via Imolese, 106 - Firenzuola Tel. and fax +39 055 819462
www.comad.it - comadsnc@tiscalinet.it

Fireplaces, fountains, handrails, benches, flowerpots, mosaics, bas-reliefs, sculptures and rosettes.

G.E.L.VA S.n.c.

Via Violla, 516 - Firenzuola
Tel. +39 055 819724 - Fax +39 055 8199826
www.gelva.it - maurotulio80@libero.it
Columns, vases, steps, tables, fountains, coats of arms, and street fittings.



Stone cutter



WOODWORKS

The working of wood is widespread in Mugello. The mountain territory, in fact, offers different types of wood, such as chestnut, walnut, and cherry-wood, which is often used for door, windows and furniture.

This tradition lives on in the art of restoring household furniture that was once a part of ancient Tuscan farm life: tables, benches, hope-chests, chest of drawers, cupboards and wardrobes that date back to the 18th and 19th century. These are often in walnut, or softwood with a light shiny coating, or even very antique furniture with dark coating.



Wood restorer

THE ART OF CERAMICS

In Mugello, the tradition of ceramic making goes back a very long way. At the beginning of the 16th century Pierfrancesco de' Medici founded a **ceramics factory near Cafaggiolo in Barberino**. The kiln and shop became functional in 1599.

Other kilns were present near Cafaggiolo, at Trebio Castle and perhaps Montecarelli.

They produced china in characteristic Medici style (like the plate that is preserved in the Bargello National Museum in Florence on which we find the words: "Made in Gagliano in 1551")

As regards Cafaggiolo, there are documents confirming the presence of two kilns: one which produced china exclusively for the Palace, and the other which produced well known works of art that made use of a precious secret red colouring. The kiln was situated next to the Castle and built around a long portico where the ceramic was set out to dry. It was in the long building that stands to the left of the Castle and is presently occupied by stables, granary, and vat-room. Concrete proof of the ceramic factory's abundant production was found in 1887 when Prince Borghese started to

transform the kiln into the vat-room: numerous pieces of ceramic were found under the room next to the chapel. The renovation was continued in more recent times.

In Mugello at the beginning of the 20th century **the Chini family founded its ceramic production** in Borgo San Lorenzo. Galileo Chini, Piero and Chino Chini founded the **“San Lorenzo Furnace”** and started to produce ceramics and glassworks with great success. Galileo Chini became one of the most important exponents of Art Nouveau in Italy, and in 1906 his fame as an artist reached the Far East (see *“Liberty style: Art Nouveau in Mugello”* pp. 54).

Today the Chini family business has been bought out by Franco Pecchioli Ceramics of Florence, which creates important floor tiles and fittings. The Chini family continues, however, to dedicate itself to the creation of small works of art in ceramic, for example vases, plates, jewel boxes and trays which are exhibited in their showroom in Borgo San Lorenzo near the workshop. Many other businesses in Mugello continue to create ceramics and carry on this ancient tradition.

FRANCO PECCHIOLI CERAMICA s.r.l.

Viale IV Novembre, 71 - Borgo San Lorenzo

Tel. +39 055 8459359

Fax +39 055 8494406

www.pecchioliceramica.it

info@pecchioliceramica.it - mattia.chini@tin.it

AZIENDA AGRITURISTICA I MONTI

Via Salecchio, 7 - Palazzuolo Sul Senio

Tel. +39 055 8046850 - 338 2076343

Fax +39 0546 74079

www.imontidisaiecchio.it

imontidisaiecchio@tiscali.it

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Tiles of Pecchioli
Ceramica



Tel. +39 347 4802930

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LE CERAMICHE DEL MUGELLO

Corso Matteotti, 134

Borgo San Lorenzo

Tel. +39 055 8495153

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Via Bolognese, 45

San Piero a Sieve

Tel. +39 055 848004 - Fax +39 055 8498284

www.terrecottecestenoli.com - cestenoli@tin.it

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production

LEATHER GOOD PRODUCTION

In Mugello the tradition of producing leather goods dates back to the Medici period. Barberino di Mugello was, in fact, renowned for its production of shoes. Today the territory is disseminated with small workshops and leather goods craftsmen who create accessories for clothes and other small leather goods with taste, precision and skill. These are traits that have been handed down for generations.

EMBROIDERY

The art of embroidery is a tradition in Mugello and goes back centuries and centuries. Barberino di Mugello and the localities of Cavallina and Galliano are areas where, traditionally, needlepoint has a long history. The art of needlework was passed down from mother to daughter for generations. In the Barberino School of Embroidery women stitched beautiful trousseaus for clients from Tuscany and other Italian regions. This tradition continues on today in the Borgo San Lorenzo school of Embroidery, which has been active since 1979.

SCUOLA DI RICAMO

*Corso Matteotti, 216
Borgo San Lorenzo*

Open from October to June, Tuesday and Thursday from 16.00 to 18.00. Organizes specialized courses in different types of needle point.

The school offers the possibility of participating in the "needle tourism" course held in September in the "Don Orione Village" in the locality of Figliano, Borgo San Lorenzo.

The course lasts three days.

*For information: Mrs. Maria Margheri Manetti
tel. +39 055 8490434
www.parrocchiaborgosanlorenzo.it*

IRIS di Bazzi Iris

*Corso del Popolo, 42 - Vicchio
Tel. and fax +39 055 844290*

The ancient art of Florentine needlework: hand made embroidery upon request.

RICAMI A MANO SILVIA

*Via Torrigiani, 3
Galliano - Barberino di Mugello
Tel. +39 055 8428064*

Production of embroidered products: we embroider bedspreads, tablecloths and bed linen upon request.

**WROUGHT IRON
AND BRONZE WORKS**

In the 16th century in Florence, and also in Mugello, there were many noteworthy manufacturers of wrought iron: mostly for churches and aristocratic homes. They include lanterns, flag posts, candleholders, rings for fastening saddles, door knockers etc. This art was passed down in Florence and the surrounding area until the first half of the 20th century. It has left us exceptionally beautiful works of art: precious gates, splendid lanterns, and Florentine style bedposts. In the



*Embroidery
of "Scuola di Ricamo"
of Borgo San Lorenzo*



second half of the 20th century wrought iron was replaced with stainless steel or other metals that were more resistant to the various elements and therefore which needed less care and attention. Now that numerous ancient homes have been restored to their original beauty, antique objects are very much appreciated and wrought iron is again considered an important part of the furnishings of the home, for example: gates and fences, window fixtures, stairs, tables, flower holders etc. Along with the introduction of steel, bronze and the fusion of different metals became very important to the art world. The search for a perfect fusion of metals started in Florence in the distant Middle-Ages and continued until the 19th century. They aimed to create bronze sculptures that needed no further cold-working by the artist. There are numerous factories that work steel in Mugello, but only one that has continued the difficult art of working bronze:



Working copper

BARTOLINI Bros.

Via dei Macelli, 16 - Vicchio

Tel. +39 055 844362

Art work in bronze and brass.

BASKET WEAVING

AZIENDA AGRITURISTICA I MONTI (Farm holidays)

Via Salecchio, 7 - Palazzuolo Sul Senio

Tel. +39 055 8046850 - 338 2076343

Fax +39 0546 74079

www.imontidisalecchio.it - imontidisalecchio@tiscali.it

Wicker and Crafts Workshop: basket weaving.

***You can find further information
on crafts and workshops in Mugello on
www.mugellotoscana.it***



*Basket
weaving*

THE FAENTINA: A TRANSPENNINE RAILWAY FROM FLORENCE TO RAVENNA



Steam train
near Borgo
San Lorenzo



“On Sunday, April 23rd (editor’s note 1893) the Faenza-Florence railway line will be inaugurated... Tomorrow Faenza and the hospitable Romagna will embrace the friendly Florence and the culturally-rich Tuscany; together they will joyfully celebrate their long-awaited reconciliation, thus underlining the firm belief that a resurgence of cultural inspiration and well-being will spring from the depths of the Apennines with the powerful steam engine.”

(passage from the poster of the city-state of Faenza)

1893 was an unforgettable year for Tuscany and Romagna: the railway had finally triumphed over the mountain and created a link between two seas and two ports, the Tyrrhenian Sea with Leghorn and the Adriatic Sea with Ravenna.

The 101-kilometre railway left Santa Maria Novella Station in Florence and reached Faenza after sixteen intermediate stations (which include the stations of Vaglia, S. Piero, Borgo S. Lorenzo, Ronta, Marradi, and Brisighella).

The Faentina railway is rich in works of art that are extraordinary monuments of Italian railway engineering. These include the splendid arched “pietra

serena" (sandstone) bridge over the Rio Trillero (between Panicaglia and Ronta) with its 36 metre depressed arch, and additional eight archways; the railway viaducts that cross the Buggiano river, the Rio Morto and the Poggio river; and the enchanting 199 metre rail bridge that crosses the Lamone and the Faentina state road in Marradi.

On the June 30, 1913, 32 kilometres of railway line from Borgo S. Lorenzo to Pontassieve were inaugurated to create an efficient link to the Florence-Rome line and to central Italy.

The stations of Vicchio, Dicomano, Contea-Londa and Rufina were placed along the line, which coasts the Sieve River either on the left or the right bank.

In 1944-45, as the German troops withdrew from Florence, they systematically destroyed the stretch of railway that went from Florence to Borgo S. Lorenzo: road bridges, rail bridges and tunnels were mined with TNT and other explosives.

The Borgo S. Lorenzo-Faenza and Borgo S. Lorenzo-Pontassieve railway lines were reconstructed in the years shortly following the war, but the section that runs from Borgo S. Lorenzo to Florence did not undergo reconstruction until the 1980s. On January 14, 1999, the railway was officially inaugurated for the second time in its history.

The Faentina railway not only allows the traveller to discover "by slow train" two artistically rich cities, Florence and Ravenna, but to stop in Mugello and as well as in the Lamone river valley, in an enchanting uncontaminated landscape.



Near Ronta
train station

For information on Florence - Faenza schedules:
www.trenitalia.com tel. 892021

**It is possible to transport bicycles
on the Faentina railway**

From Florence to Borgo San Lorenzo



In the past, the Faentina railway line left Santa Maria Novella station from tracks 15 and 16 and occupied the Florence-Rome line as far as the "Pellegriano" junction where the actual Faenza railway line begins.

The Faentina line, though, almost always departs from the station of **Campo di Marte**, while only a few trains depart from **Santa Maria Novella**.

Upon leaving the station of Campo di Marte, the railway coasts the Mugnone River and passes extremely close to the 16th century villa Salviati. Towering above the valley, on the right, is the ancient Etruscan city of Fiesole.

The train, therefore, leaves the city of Florence and plunges into the suggestive beauty of the Apennines. It moves through the tunnels of "Monterinaldi" and "Spiccarello", at the foot of Fiesole, and into the Pian di Mugnone valley to the **Caldine/Fiesole** station.

The railway then moves through the tunnel of S. Andrea a Sveglia, which curves sharply to the left, and then through the 3,584.30 metre long tunnel just under the town of Pratolino, which happens to be the second longest tunnel on the Faentina line after the Allocchi tunnel, which stretches under the Apennines.

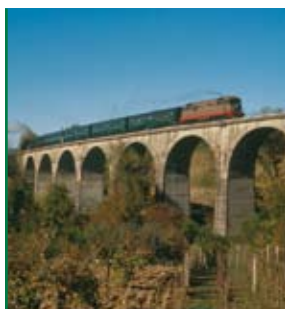
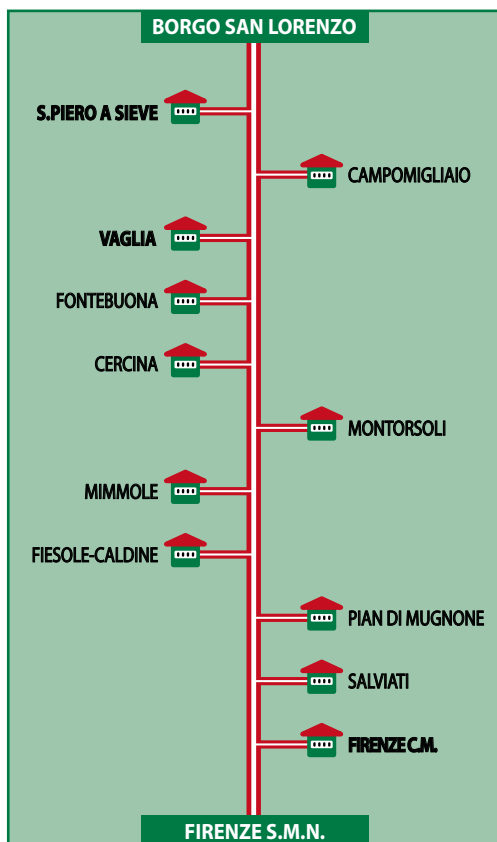
San Piero station



Just past the town of Fontebuona, the railway emerges from the tunnel and travels through the narrow Carza river valley. It then passes the stations of **Vaglia** and **San Piero a Sieve**, crosses the Sieve river and enters the heart of Mugello.



The line cuts the main road that goes to Scarperia - il Giogo - Imola and coasts the Sieve River and the state road, on its right, to the station of **Borgo San Lorenzo**.



Historical train close to Borgo San Lorenzo

From Tuscany to Romagna



As the train leaves Borgo San Lorenzo the tract becomes extremely picturesque and in steady ascent (up to 26‰). The train moves through a vast open area among fields of wheat, soybeans and sunflowers. The landscape becomes more and more suggestive: age-old vineyards and olive groves, thousand year-old parish churches, ancient farmhouses, and geometrically designed vegetable gardens accompany the traveller as far as the station of **Ronta**, the last town in the valley before reaching the Apennines.



Near Fornello

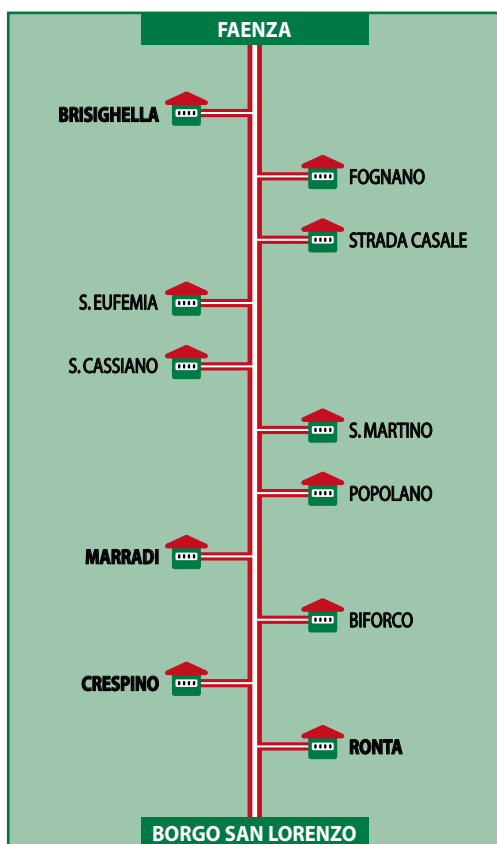
The two "Faentinas", the state road and the railway, then separate; the first climbs to the Colla di Casaglia Pass, while the railway enters the depths of the mountain through an almost continuous succession of tunnels and rail bridges. The brief intervals outside the tunnels enchant the traveller with glimpses of a territory that is both remote and uncontaminated, among chestnut woods, first, and beech tree woods, later. The traveller can marvel at the paths and ancient mule-tracks, the ancient ruins and the numerous line-inspector's homes along the line.

Just past the Fornello stop, where neither houses nor roads are to be seen, the track enters the great Apennine or Allocchi tunnel. Mid-way (about 1800 metres off) it reaches the full height of the pass, 578.38 metres above sea level. From there it begins its descent towards Romagna, and the stations of Crespino sul **Lamone** and **Marradi**, town of the poet Dino Campana.

Once past the station, which is large with a vast square and numerous railway tracks, the line begins its descent towards the Romagna plain. The view is breathtaking; villas, medieval castles, and a landscape that goes from mountainous to hilly with an abundance of peach and cherry orchards that dot the landscape with clouds of blossoms in the springtime. The train then passes through

the well-known medieval city of **Brisighella**, and reaches, just ten kilometres away, the city of **Faenza** where it meets the Adriatic railway line Bologna-Ancona.

In 1921 the Faenza-Russi tract was inaugurated and since then it is possible (in some cases without changing train) to reach the splendid city of **Ravenna**, the next station Classe, and the Adriatic coast.



Marradi station

From Borgo San Lorenzo to Florence



From Faenza the traveller can also chose to reach Florence by taking the railway line that from Borgo San Lorenzo coasts the Sieve River Valley instead of taking the Faentina.

The railway line, in fact, sometimes runs along the left or right bank of the river.

The view from the windows is rich and wide-ranging: lines of cypress trees that lead to a villa hidden under the shade of an age-old wood, ancient farm houses that look over the valley, the Mount Giovi mountain range on the right, Mount Falterona in the background, and the ridge of the Tuscan-Romagna Apennines on the left.

Upon leaving Borgo San Lorenzo the railway line reaches **Vicchio**, the birthplace of Giotto and Beato Angelico. The valley here is still open but it starts to narrow as we move closer to **Dicomano**.

The railway then bends south to the station of **Contea/Londa**. The landscape that is shaped by the Sieve River and its tributaries is pleasant: the gentle rolling hills display rows of vines alternated with the grey foliage of olive groves.

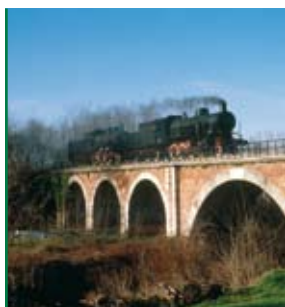
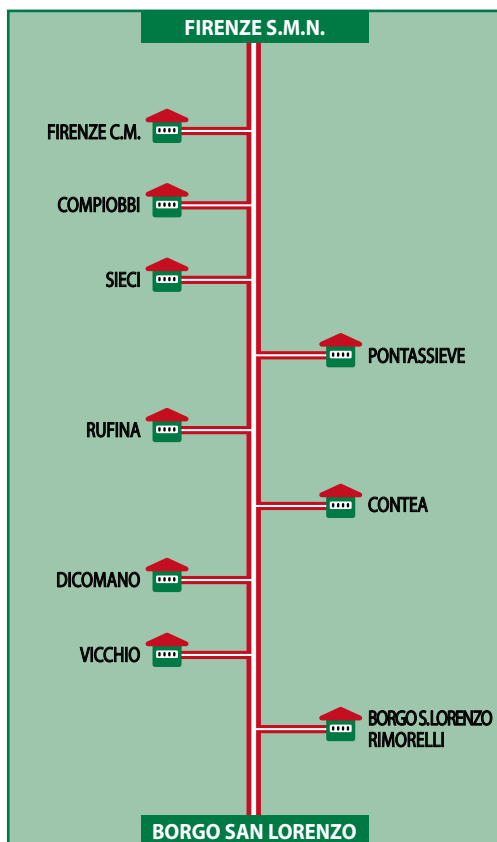
*Snowfall
at Borgo
San Lorenzo
station*



Once past the station of **Rufina**, famous for the excellent Chianti wine of the same name, the line coasts the main Forlivese road and reaches **Pontassieve**, where the Sieve River flows into the Arno River.



From Pontassieve to S. Maria Novella, the most important Florentine station, the train continues along the Rome-Florence railway line.



Steam train
close to Vicchio

EVENTS



*Trumpet
buglers*



A particular event, which may take place in an ancient hamlet, a castle or a parish church, can be a good reason for the traveller to take a trip to Mugello and learn about territory.

Numerous festivals and folkloristic evocations take place every year in Mugello. They are linked to specific farming and artistic traditions that range from breeding dairy cows and cattle, making exquisite Pecorino cheese from sheep's milk, harvesting I.G.P. marroni (chestnuts), and looking for white truffles, to making knives and working with pietra serena (sandstone) etc.

Equally interesting are the fascinating historical evocations, and the cultural and recreational initiatives that take place in almost every town in Mugello.

On a weekend or a day trip, you can go to food fests and open markets in search of a certain flavour, stopping to taste traditional local dishes and wines, all important and characteristic, genuine and authentic.

JANUARY

The Epiphany Train

January 6

A ride through Mugello on a steam locomotive: the train leaves the Santa Maria Novella station in Florence.

For information: tel.+39 055 845271



FEBRUARY

Berlingaccio Festival

Borgo San Lorenzo (town centre) Carnival Thursday

An atmosphere of mystery on the night of Carnival Thursday: fantastic and mysterious creatures in Venetian dress roam the squares and streets of the historical centre.

For information: tel.+39 055 849661

APRIL

Food and Wine Exposition

Scarperia (Vicar's Palace)

First weekend in April.

Exhibit and sale of typical local products.

For information: tel.+39 055 8468165 - 055 843161

www.prolocoscarperia.com

prolocoscarperia@katamail.com

Tortello Festivals

Borgo San Lorenzo

From the beginning of April to the first half of September.

The Tortello Festivals, a local gastronomic speciality, take place in various localities: Luco di Mugello, Ronta, Panicaglia, Grezzano and Sagginale.

For information: Borgo San Lorenzo City Hall

Tel. +39 055 849661

National Exposition of Romagnola Cattle

Piancaldoli (Firenze)

Last weekend in April.

National exposition of the Romagnola breed, and food stands with typical local products.

For information: tel.+39 0558199401



Exposition
in Piancaldoli
(Firenze)



MAY

The Mugello Magnalonga (eatathon)

May 1st

A walk through Mugello on a choice of trails along different paths that vary in difficulty with rest stops offering local products. Organized by Slow Food.

For information: tel. +39 055 8448155 - 338 2556304

Vivi lo Sport

Borgo San Lorenzo (Foro Boario)

Third and fourth weekend in May.

Sports and leisure fest.

For information: tel. +39 055 849661



Palio of the Fortezza: Regolo Festivities

San Piero a Sieve

(From piazza Colonna to the Fortress of San Martino)

Last weekend in May. Games between the different districts of the town, for example the wheelbarrow race (wheelbarrows filled with bricks are pushed up to the fort), and then the famous "passamano", (passing of bricks from hand to hand).

For information: tel. +39 055 848751

Festival of the Blackthorn Mushroom

Firenzeuola

Last weekend in May. Typical dishes made with blackthorn mushrooms, and performances rich in folklore.

For information: tel. +39 055 8199401



Scarperia in Flower

Scarperia (town centre)

Fourth Sunday in May. Huge floral compositions made with petals, leaves etc. depicting one specific theme, cover the streets and squares of the historical town centre.

For information: tel. +39 055 8468165 - 055 843161

www.prolocoscarperia.com

prolocoscarperia@katamail.com

Magnalonga

Palio of the Fortezza (San Piero a Sieve)

Scarperia in flower

JUNE

Exhibition of Cutting Blades

Scarperia

From June to mid September, display and sale of knives, cutlery, scissors, cutting tools, wrought iron.

*For information: tel.+39 055 8468165 - 055 843161
prolocoscarperia@katamail.com
www.prolocoscarperia.com*

World Motorcycling Championships "Gran Premio d'Italia"

Scarperia (Mugello International Racing Circuit)
World Motorcycling Championships (125cc,
250cc, 500 CPI, and BMW Boxer Cup)

*For Information: tel.+39 055 8499111
www.mugellocircuit.it - info@mugellocircuit.it*

Mugello Farm Fair

Borgo San Lorenzo

At the Foro Boario on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the second week in June.
The fair specializes in products for farming and breeding.

For information: tel. +39 055 849661.

JULY

Cinema under the Stars

July - August

Films are projected in villa gardens, squares etc. on summer evenings. Offered every evening in different towns in the territory.

For information: tel. +39 055 845271

The Little Trebbio Fair

San Piero a Sieve

In the Trebbio Castle on the second weekend in July. Food and craft fair of local products.

For information: tel.+39 055 848751 - 055 848432

The Middle Ages at the Ubaldini Court

Palazzuolo sul Senio (town centre)



*World Motorcycling
Championship - Mugello
International Racing
Circuit (Scarperia)*



Medieval Festival on the third and fourth weekend in July. Medieval Fair.

On the last Sunday: "Palio of the Catapult"

For information: tel. +39 055 8046685 - 055 8046750.

Golden grill

Marradi

From the last weekend in July to August 10.

The districts compete against each other for the golden grill in different activities: a display of floats, water games, a race from Campigno to Marradi, dance contests and singing.

For information: tel. +39 055 8045170



AUGUST

Fireworks on Bilancino Lake

Barberino di Mugello August 15 - Bilancino Lake

Fireworks on the lake.

For information: tel. +39 055 84771

MAZE - Crafts Fair

Vicchio

The last ten days of August. Crafts fair of local products. Exposition of antiques, art, and agriculture, as well as livestock fair.

For information: tel. +39 055 843921



SEPTEMBER

Renaissance Day

Scarperia (town centre)

First Sunday in September.

Daylong: re-enactment of 16th century life with music, archers, craftsmen, serfs, common people, guards and nobles. Period food can be tasted and paid for in florins, the only coin accepted within the hamlet walls.

*The Middle Ages at the Ubaldini Court
(Palazzuolo sul Senio)*

*The harvesting of the grain in Vicchio
Renaissance day (Scarperia)*

For information: tel.+39 055 8468165 – 055 843161
www.prolocoscarperia.com
prolocoscarperia@katamail.com

Diotto

Scarperia (town centre)

Historical re-enactment of the official welcoming of the Vicar and awarding ceremony of the Palio of Diotto (8th day).

For information: tel.+39 055 8468165 – 055 843161
www.prolocoscarperia.com
prolocoscarperia@katamail.com

Food and nature

Palazzuolo sul Senio

Last weekend in September.

Food and nature fair.

For information: tel. +39 055 8046008 – 055 8046125

OCTOBER

Chestnut Festival

Marradi

All four Sundays in October. Sale of the "I.G.P. Marrone", Mugello Chestnut, and tasting of delicacies made with chestnuts.

For information: tel.+39 055 8045005 – 055 8045170
www.sagradellecastagne.it - info@pro-marradi

October in Palazzuolo

Palazzuolo sul Senio

All four Sundays in October. Food fair with chestnuts and organic products.

For information: tel.+39 055 8046008– 055 8046125

From the Woods and the Stone

Firenzuola

Second and third weekend in October. I.G.P. Mugello Marrone trade fair. Exhibition and sale of stone works made with the renowned local sandstone, and local crafts.

For information: tel.+39 055 8199401



Harvesting chestnuts



NOVEMBER

Exhibition of the White Truffle

Borgo San Lorenzo (Villa Pecori Giraldi)

Third weekend in November.

Mugello white truffle trade fair. A number of restaurants offer dishes made with white truffles.

For information: tel.+39 055 849661- 055 8456230

DECEMBER

Christmas Markets

Marradi (town centre)

First two Sundays in December. Exposition and sale of Christmas gifts, decorations, along with numerous attractions, for example Santa Claus that carries tourists along the city streets on his sled.

For information: tel.+39 055 8045005 – 055 8045170.

www.pro-marradi.it - info@pro-marradi.it

For information on activities and events on the Bilancino Lake: www.bilancinolagoditoscana.it

*Christmas
markets in
Marradi*



OPEN MARKETS

MONDAY

Firenze: all day

Marradi: morning



TUESDAY

Borgo San Lorenzo: morning

WEDNESDAY

Vaglia (Bivigliano): morning

THURSDAY

Vicchio: morning

FRIDAY

Scarperia: morning

Borgo San Lorenzo: afternoon

(in the Parco della Misericordia)

SATURDAY

Barberino di Mugello: morning

Palazzuolo Sul Senio: morning

San Piero a Sieve: afternoon



Market
in Firenze

USEFUL INFORMATION



COMUNITA' MONTANA MUGELLO

Mugello Tourist Office

Via Palmiro Togliatti, 45
50032 Borgo San Lorenzo (Fi)
Office: Villa Pecori Giraldi
Tel. +39 055 845271 - Fax +39 055 8456288
Web site: www.mugellotoscana.it
E-mail: turismo@cm-mugello.fi.it
Travel brochures are available upon request.

FLORENCE TOURIST OFFICE (A.P.T.)

Via A. Manzoni, 16
50121 Florence
Tel. +39 055 23320 - Fax +39 055 2346286
E-mail: info@firenzeturismo.it

MUGELLO TOURIST INFORMATION OFFICES

BARBERINO DI MUGELLO

Tourist Information Office

Via del Lago, 33 - Loc. I Boschi
c/o motorway exit Barberino di Mugello
Tel. +39 055 8420106 - Fax +39 055 8420942
E-mail: apt.barberinomugello@virgilio.it
barberinomugello@firenzeturismo.it
City Hall: www.comune.barberino-di-mugello.fi.it

BORGO SAN LORENZO

Mugello Tourist Information Office

Villa Pecori Giraldi
Tel. +39 055 845271 - Tel. and Fax +39 055 8456230
E-mail: villapecori@cm-mugello.fi.it
City Hall: www.comune.borgo-san-lorenzo.fi.it

FIRENZUOLA

Tourist Information Office
Palazzo ex Pretura - Piazza Agnolo, 15
Tel. +39 055 8199007
City Hall: www.comune.firenzuola.fi.it

MARRADI

Tourist Information Office



Mugello
countryside

Via Castelnaudary, 3
 Tel. and fax +39 055 8045170
 Web site: www.pro-marradi.it
www.sagradellecastagne.it
 E-mail: info@pro-marradi.it
 City Hall: www.comune.marradi.fi.it



PALAZZUOLO SUL SENIO
Tourist Information Office

Captains' Palace - Piazza E. Alpi, 3
 Tel. +39 055 8046125 - 055 8046008 - Fax +39 055 8046461
 E-mail: turismo@palazzuolo.it
comune@palazzuolo.it
 City Hall: www.palazzuolo.it

SAN PIERO A SIEVE

c/o City Hall Public Relations Office
 Piazzetta del Comune, 1
 Tel. +39 055 8487536 - 055 8487548 - Fax +39 055 848432
 E-mail: urp@comune.san-piero-a-sieve.fi.it
 City Hall: www.comune.san-piero-a-sieve.fi.it

SCARPERIA

Tourist Information Office

Vicar's Palace - Piazza dei Vicari, 1
 Office: Via dei Bastioni, 3
 Tel. +39 055 8468165 - Fax +39 055 8468862
 E-mail: prolocoscarperia@virgilio.it
 Web site: www.prolocoscarperia.com
 City Hall: www.comune.scarperia.fi.it

VAGLIA

Tourist Information Office

Piazzale della Compagnia - Loc. Pratolino
 Tel. +39 055 409784 - 055 500241
 City Hall: www.comune.vaglia.fi.it

VICCHIO

Tourist Information

c/o City Hall Public Relations Office - Via Garibaldi, 1
 Tel. +39 055 8439220
 Fax +39 055 844275
 E-mail: urp@comune.vicchio.fi.it
 City Hall: www.comune.vicchio.fi.it



Teatro degli Animosi
 (Marradi)



TOURIST ASSOCIATIONS IN MUGELLO

TERRE DI MUGELLO

Association of Women for the Territory

Office: Via San Giovanni Maggiore, 57

50032 Borgo San Lorenzo (Fi)

Tel. +39 055 8408741 - 055 8448421

Web site: www.terredimugello.it

E-mail: info@terredimugello.it

Quality hospitality in Mugello in farm holidays
and B&Bs and other structures.

TERRE NOVE DI T.I.A.R.A.

Via Roma 36 - 50038 Scarperia (Fi)

Tel. +39 055 8468259 - 339 7020555

Web-site: www.terrenove.it

E-mail: info@terrenove.it

Cooking courses, watercolour painting
and sculpting.

Tasting of local produce.

Thematic historical-nature routes.

TURISMO E AMBIENTE

Via Bandini, 6 - 50032 Borgo San Lorenzo (Fi)

Tel. and fax +39 055 8456230 - 055 8458793

E-mail: tea@terradientscana.com

villapecori@cm-mugello.fi.it

Guided tours. Foreign language courses and Italian for foreigners.

Cooking courses: typical Tuscan and Mugello recipes.

Excursions on foot and by mountain bike.

ISCHETUS

Viale Ugo Bassi, 6/r - 50137 Florence

Tel. and fax +39 055 5535003

Web site: www.ischetus.com

E-mail: turismo@ischetus.com

Excursions on foot, by bike and on horseback in Italian, English, French and German. Excursions and learning laboratories for school groups.



Swan's family
in Gabbianello
natural Oasis - Lake
Bilancino

INCOMING TOURIST AGENCIES

COLLICHIARI TURISMO S.R.L.

The agency is specialized in rent of summer homes on a weekly basis

Via Aldo Moro, 11

50032 Borgo San Lorenzo (FI)

Tel.+39 055 8495637

Fax +39 055 8495156

www.collichiari.com

info@collichiari.com

MYSTIC Viaggi

Corso Matteotti, 95

50032 Borgo San Lorenzo (FI)

Tel. +39 055 8455398

Fax +39 055 8459772

www.mysticviaggi.it

info@mysticviaggi.it

MUGELTRAVEL

by Promovacanze SRL

Piazza M.L. King, 5/6

50032 Borgo San Lorenzo (FI)

Tel.+39 055 8494220 - 055 8494177

Fax +39 055 8495772

mugeltravelincoming@virgilio.it

TOSKANA INCOMING SERVICE

by Demidoff Viaggi

Via Provinciale, 2/c - 50037 San Piero a Sieve (Fi)

Tel.+39 055 848490

www.tuscany-toscana.com

luciana@tuscany-toscana.com

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

TRAINS

ITALIAN RAILWAY

For information on the Florence-Faenza line:

tel 892021

Web-site: www.fs-on-line.com

www.trenitalia.com



*Cycle tourists
in Firenzuola*



BUSES

SITA BUS

Via Santa Caterina da Siena, 15r - Firenze
 Information on local services: tel. 800 373760
 Tourist Information for long distance trips:
 tel. 800 001311
 Web site: www.sita-on-line.it
 Connects the San Piero a Sieve station with
 Bilancino Lake.

AUTOLINEE CAP

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 Via Largo Alinari, 9 - 50100 Firenze
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 Piazza del Poggio, 12 - Borgo San Lorenzo (Fi)
 Web site: www.capautolinee.it
 E-mail: posta@capautolinee.it
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FLORENTIA BUS

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BUS, MINIBUS AND CAR RENTAL

SITA BUS LINES (See above)

Bus rental: tel. +39 055 4782260 - 055 4782247

AUTOLINEA CAP (See above)

Bus rental: tel. +39 055 214637

FLORENTIA BUS (See above)

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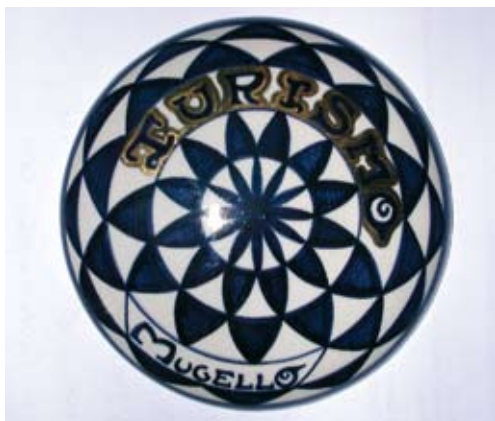
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GRECO ROBERTO (See above)



*Spugnole
church
(San Piero
a Sieve)*

CERTIFICATION FOR TOURIST AUTHORIZED ACCOMMODATION IN MUGELLO



The Tourist Office of the Comunità Montana Mugello has had ceramic plates created for all the officially recognized tourist facilities by the ceramics restorer Giulia Pasquini of Borgo San Lorenzo.

The creator of the ceramic plate was inspired by the tile found in the Romanesque baptismal font, dated, most probably, 1157, in Faltona Church in the Municipality of Borgo San Lorenzo.

The ceramic plate, a blue lozenge on a white backdrop on which the name Mugello and the name of the facility are inscribed in gold, will be displayed at the entrance of the various tourist facilities.

The Comunità Montana has created the plate to certify and assure the quality of the services for visitors and tourists.

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Comunità Montana Mugello

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In Tuscany, at just a stone's throw from Florence, we find Mugello: it is situated among the rolling hills and the tall cypress trees, on the backdrop of the high lofty crests and mountain passes.

Artists such as Giotto and Beato Angelico were born in this land where they found the perfect landscape and inspiration for their famous paintings.

The incredible landscape, the hospitable, quiet and hard working people, the genuine food, the land of the Medici, the museums, the Liberty itinerary, the tradition of arts and crafts, and the ancient churches and remote convents are just outside the gates of the city of Florence.

Mugello offers history, culture, and quality services in an enchantingly natural setting.



Comunità
Montana
Mugello