



Tuscany

- Known for its landscapes, history, artistic legacy, and influence on Italian culture.
- Area: 8,900 sq mi (about size of New Jersey).
- Population: 4,000,000.
- Language: Both standard Italian and the Tuscan dialect (dialetto toscano) are spoken.

Italy's 20 Regions

Each region has:

- Parliament.
- Governor.
- Regional government.



Tuscany History (Very Brief)

- 1300 BC-264 BC:** Etruscan states.
- 264 BC-500 AD:** Part of Roman Empire.
- 500-1500 AD:** Split into many communities. Wealthiest were Pisa, Siena, Arezzo, Florence, Lucca.
- 1569-1861:** Grand Duchy of Tuscany. United, independent state.
- 1861:** Joined new Kingdom of Italy.
- 1922-1943:** Fascist then Nazi control.
- 1944:** Allied liberation.

Our rental villa
Fattoria = farm, homestead
La Sciolta = Easygoing



The Main House
Villa Edera (Ivy)
9 Double Bedrooms

This house is still available for "B&B" rental.

Smaller House "Leccio Antico"
The one we rented
But no longer available





Living Room



Dining Room
For lunch and dinner we ate outside



Four Double Bedrooms



Kitchen



Bathroom



Olive Trees Right Out the Door



Great Tuscan views from the sitting area

La Sciolta was the refuge of the famous Finzi-Contini family mid-1940s -1954. "Garden of the Finzi-Continis."



Dinner with some friends who visited

**A nearby restaurant...
But we ate in most nights.**



**Vineyards along our drive
to Volterra**



Pear trees – drive to Volterra



**Volterra - Alt. 1,742 feet
Walled mountaintop town**



**Volterra - Medici Fortress
Built 1342-1475**



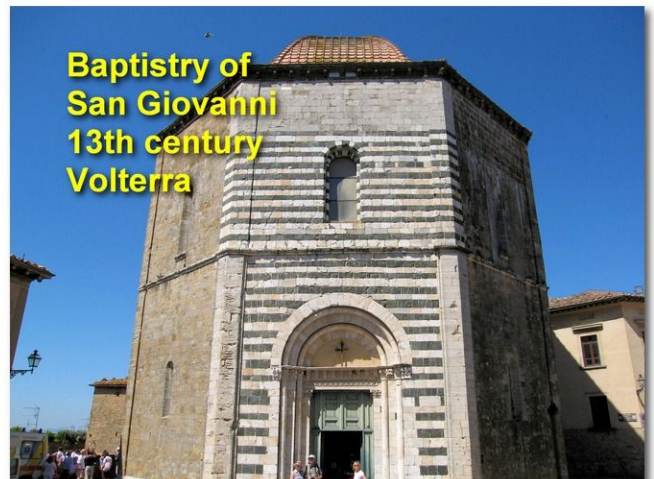
Volterra - Medieval Town



**Duomo
Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta
Early 12th c
Romanesque**



**Baptistry of
San Giovanni
13th century
Volterra**





Octagonal marble baptismal font sculpted 1502 by Andrea Sansovino.



Chiesa sul Piazza XX Settembre
Rome joined Italian unification
on Sept 20, 1870

(Church of St Agostino)



Madonna Ascending
Giovanni della Robbia
15th c



- The Della Robbias – Ceramic Artists**
- Luca della Robbia: 1400–1482.
 - Marco della Robbia: (brother of Luca, father of Andrea) 1385–1448.
 - Andrea della Robbia: (nephew of Luca) 1435–1525.
 - Giovanni della Robbia: (son of Andrea) 1469–1529.
 - Girolamo della Robbia: (son of Andrea) 1488–1566.
 - Francesco della Robbia: (son of Andrea) 1477–1527.



Luca

Marco

Andrea

Giovanni

Girolamo

Francesco



Dutch-based chain of independently owned grocery stores

- 13,000 stores.
- 48 countries.
- US\$40 billion sales.
- Not in USA.



Palazzo dei Priori
Town Hall
Built 1208-1257
Volterra



These plaques honor famous citizens or events.

Palazzo dei Priori has a municipal museum and viewing tower.



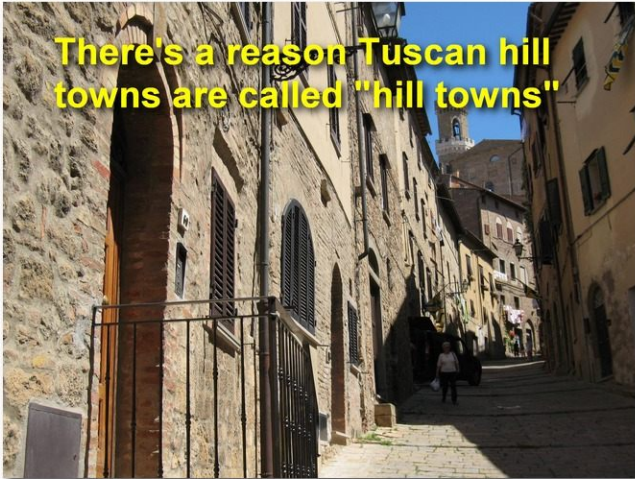
**1st c BC Roman Theatre & Baths
Volterra**

Baths

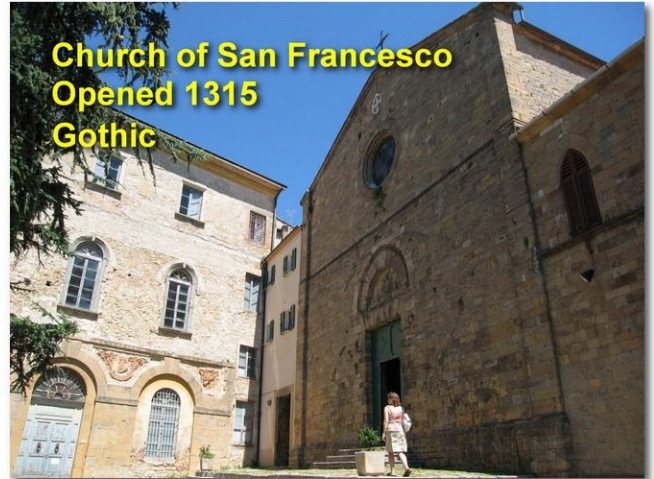
Theatre



**Volterra 1st c BC Roman Theatre
Seated 1,800**



**There's a reason Tuscan hill
towns are called "hill towns"**



**Church of San Francesco
Opened 1315
Gothic**



**San Francesco Church
Chapel of the Daily Cross
1315**



Lunch in Volterra



**Guardia di Finanza
National military police
force.**

- Drugs.
- Smuggling.
- Financial crime.
- 60,000 officers.



**Guarnacci Etruscan Museum
Volterra
Thousands of Etruscan urns,
sculptures, sarcophaguses, etc.**

**Etruscan Period = 900 BC to 264 BC
Etruria Today = Tuscany, Lazio, Lombardy**

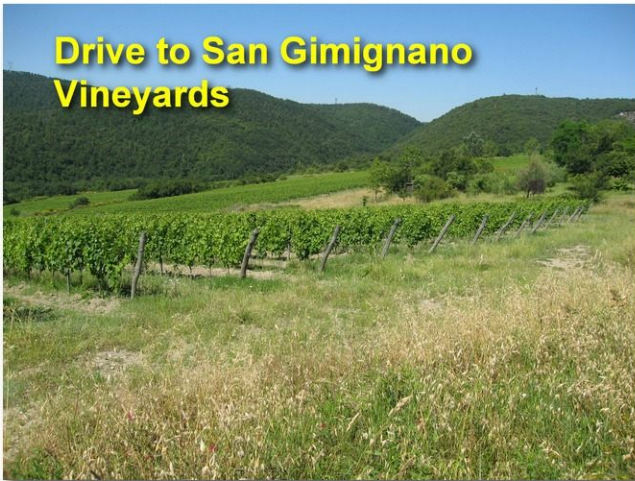
**Husband and Wife sarcophagus
Guarnacci Etruscan Museum
6th c BC**



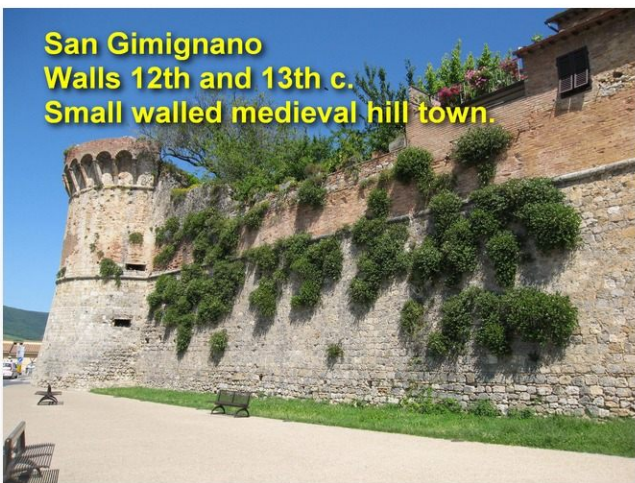
Etruscan alabaster sarcophagus



**Drive to San Gimignano
Vineyards**



**San Gimignano
Walls 12th and 13th c.
Small walled medieval hill town.**



**San Gimignano has preserved its
medieval appearance more completely
than any other town in Tuscany.**



**San Gimignano is famous for its
remarkable 14 preserved tower
homes.**



**In the 13th century there were
72 of these tower homes.**

**San Gimignano
Cugnanesi Tower
13th c**





Lunch in San Gimignano

Tip: Find a restaurant as soon as you arrive in San G in the morning and book for lunch.

Torre del Diavolo Devil's Tower

Podestà Palace - 12th-14th c Home of San Gimignano Mayor

"Downtown" Gambassi Near the villa we rented

Calzone - Stuffed folded pizza

Gambassi Pieve of Sta Maria Pieve = Small rural church 12th-13th c

In the Middle Ages, the Pieve of Sta Maria was a hostel for pilgrims walking to Rome, along the Via Francigena (which went from Canterbury, England, through France, to Rome).



Via Frangcigena

Ancient Christian pilgrimage route.
Canterbury to Rome.
1,100 miles.

Since 990 AD.

Today: A few thousand
walk it each year.
Takes around 90 days



www.viefrancigene.org/en/

Gambassi



Hill Town of Colle di Val d'Elsa



Porta Nuova - 15th-16th c
One of two circular towers
Colle Val d'Elsa



Colle di Val d'Elsa
Cistern - 1764



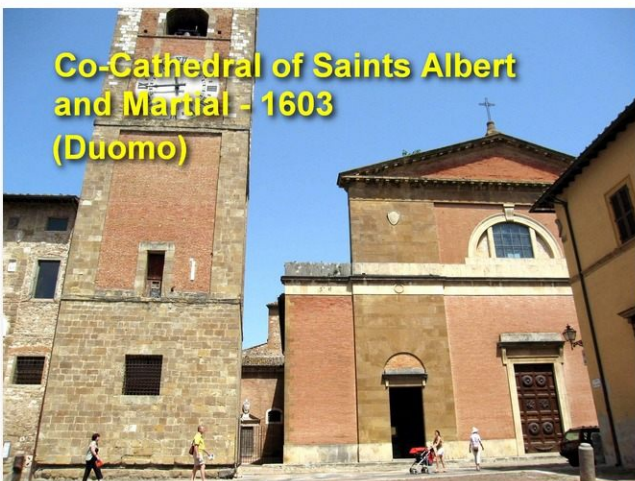
Church of Santa Caterina
St Catherine
13th c



Sagra della Miseria
Festival of Misery at St Catherine
Now in its 32nd year
Dinner, Weekends in June
"Flavors of poor peasant cuisine. Menu includes soups, chickpeas, bread, and dishes based on bread like panzanella and bruschetta with anchovies and cod."



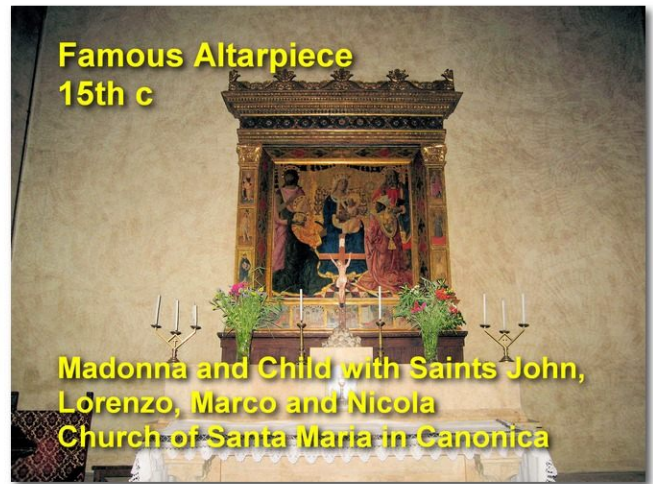
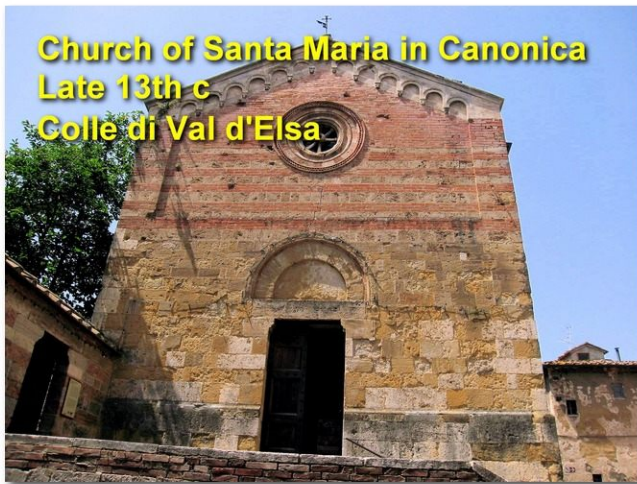
Colle di Val d'Elsa
Piazza del Duomo
Palazzo dei Priori - 1365



Co-Cathedral of Saints Albert and Martial - 1603
(Duomo)



Arnolfo di Cambio - 1240-1300
Sculptor from Colle di Val d'Elsa.
Worked on Siena Cathedral, St Peter's, S. Maria Maggiore, S. Maria in Aracoeli, Orvieto. Designed Florence cathedral.





Monteriggioni Piazza Roma



**Pieve di Santa Maria Assunta
13th c**

Pieve = Rural Church



**Pieve di Santa Maria Assunta
Monteriggioni
13th c.**

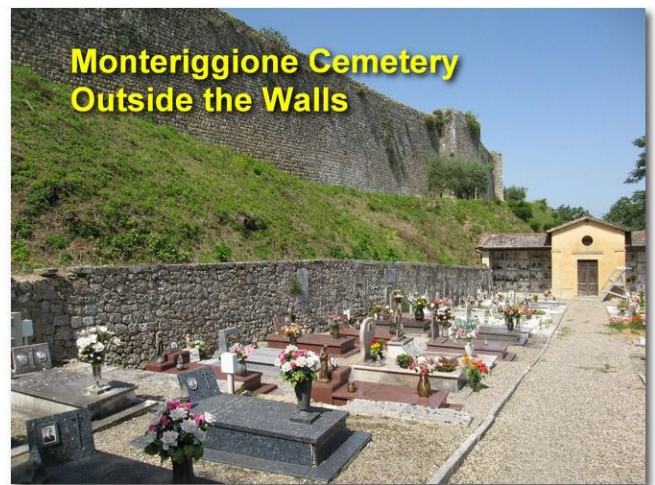


Walk along Monteriggioni walls

Wikipedia: "Monteriggioni's walls and the buildings that make up the town are the best preserved example of their kind in all of Italy."



View from Monteriggioni walls



**Monteriggione Cemetery
Outside the Walls**



Tuscan Countryside

**Lombardy
Poplars**

Tuscan Cuisine:

- Simplicity. No heavy sauces.
- Legumes (beans), bread, cheese, vegetables, mushrooms and fresh fruit are used.
- Olive oil. Not butter.
- White truffles.
- Salamis.
- Beef of highest quality.
- And, of course, wine.







Ally will make two kinds of ravioli: using a mold and also freehand



Using a mold



Freehand



Finished product ready to cook



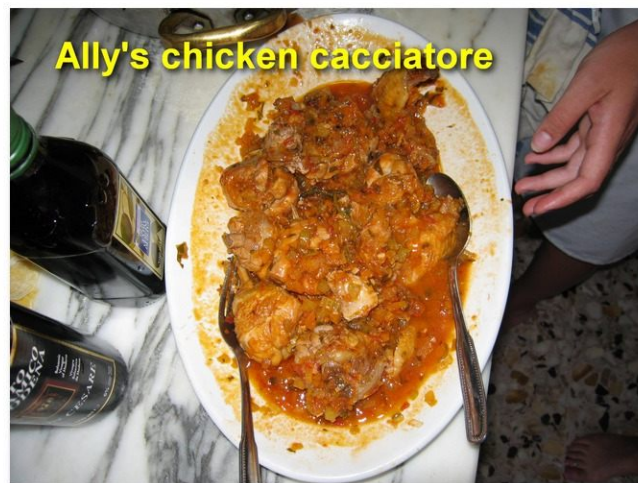
Cooking



Add ravioli to the sauce...



Ready to serve



Ally's chicken cacciatore

Crostata di Marmelatta di Fico



Fig jam pie Italian style

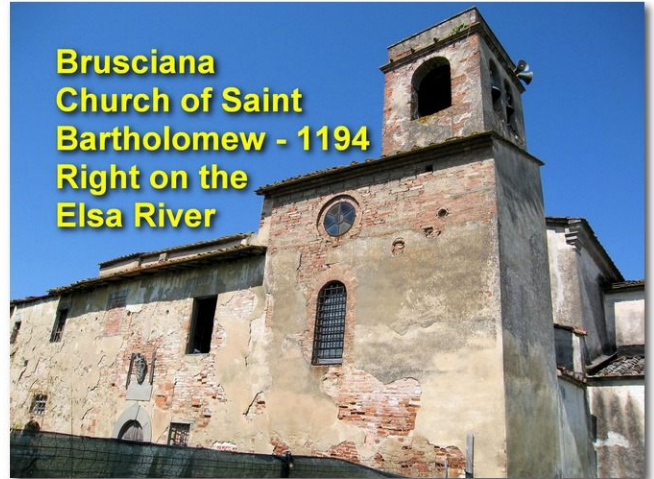
An excellent dinner!



Tuscan Countryside



**Brusciana
Church of Saint
Bartholomew - 1194
Right on the
Elsa River**



**Vineyards on the way
to Montaione**



**Buds will be
grapes in
4-6 months**



**Pieve of San Regolo
Montaione – 1765**



**Roman Cistern
Montaione
2nd c BC**



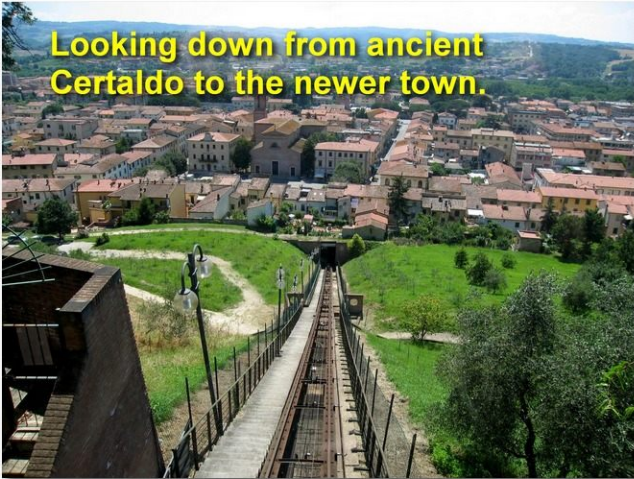
Drive to Hill Town of Certaldo



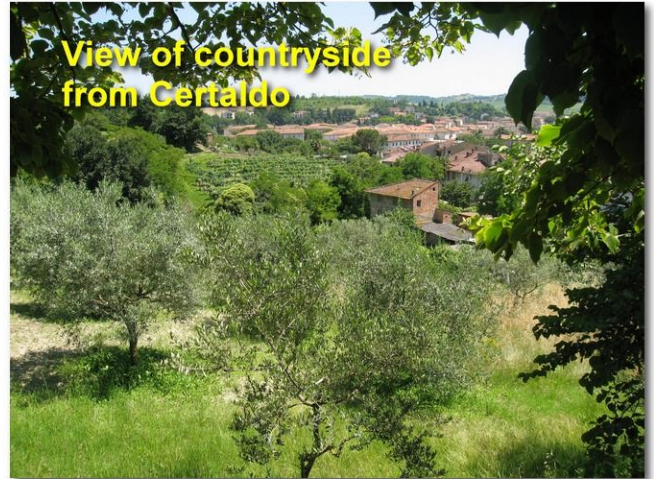
Certaldo is a timeless Medieval hilltop town. Leave your car at the bottom and take the funicular up.



Looking down from ancient Certaldo to the newer town.



View of countryside from Certaldo



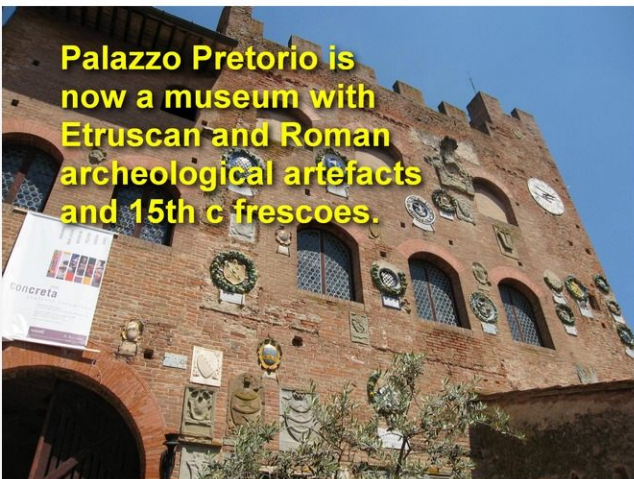
Entrance to ancient Certaldo



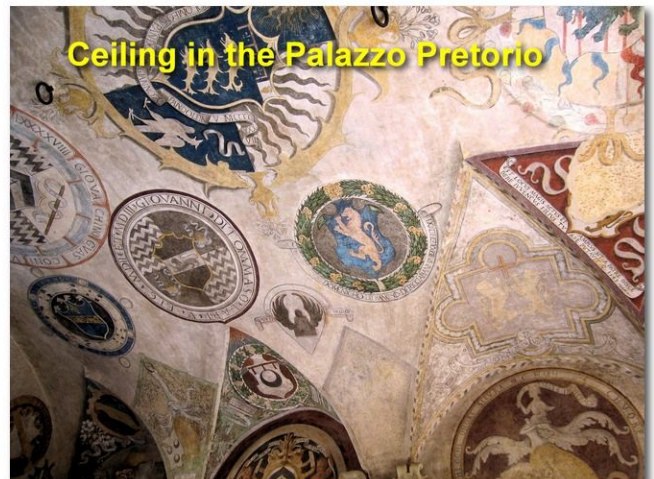
**Palazzo Pretorio - Certaldo
Built 1117-1164**



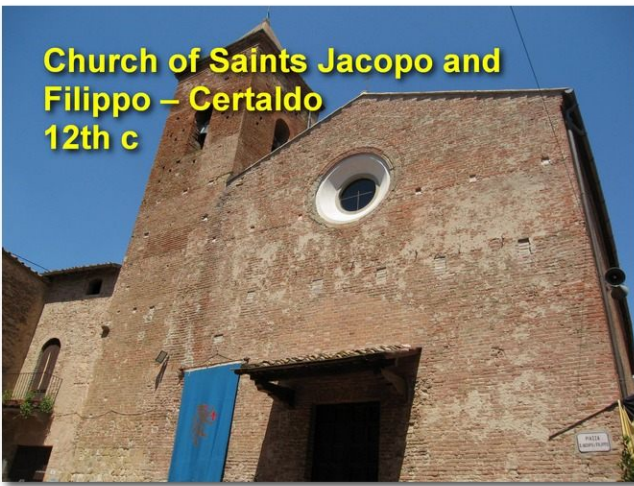
Palazzo Pretorio is now a museum with Etruscan and Roman archeological artefacts and 15th c frescoes.



Ceiling in the Palazzo Pretorio



**Church of Saints Jacopo and Filippo – Certaldo
12th c**



**In the center of Certaldo, two
Saturday nights in June:
medieval reenactment and
gastronomic dinner.**



**Certaldo: Tables being set up
for the Medieval Dinner.
Medieval menu.
Waiters in Medieval costumes
Sword duels.
After dinner, fireworks.**



**Certaldo
Osteria can be a
tavern and/or
guest house**



Certaldo Cemetery



On our way to Siena



Siena

- Founded by Senius and Aschius, sons of Remus, nephews of Romulus.
- Stole Rome's symbol of she-wolf suckling twins to be Siena's symbol.
- Medieval Siena major sights:
 - **Campo (main plaza).**
 - **Cathedral.**
 - **Palazzo Pubblico.**
- Siena is built on a ridge. Park car below. Free public escalator up.

Palio di Siena

- Horse race held twice a year:
 - **2 July.**
 - **16 August.** **Since 1633**
- Ten horses and riders, bareback.
- Represent 10 of the 17 contradas, or city wards.
- A pageant, the Corteo Storico, precedes the race.
- Race is run around the Campo – Siena's main square.

- Dirt laid down for track.
- 3 laps.
- 90 seconds or so.
- Treacherous. Dangerous turns.
- Much rivalry among contradas. Passion. Pride. Some corruption.
- Riders can whip not only their own horse but other horses and riders!
- Animal rights issues.
- Tallies kept since 17th century.



**Piazza del Campo – Siena town square
Palio**



**Piazza del Campo – Siena
One of Europe's greatest medieval squares**



The palazzi signorili (wealthy family homes) that line the square have unified rooflines.



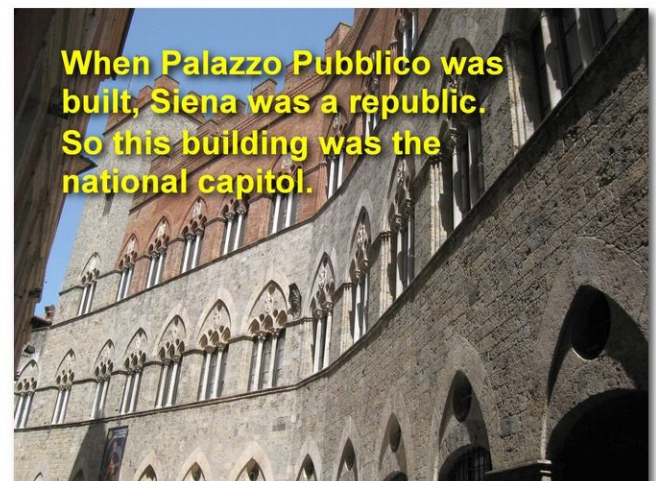
**Photo taken late June.
Getting ready for July 2 palio**



**Palazzo Pubblico on the Campo.
Government Palace.
Built 1297-1308.
Now a museum (Museo Civico).**



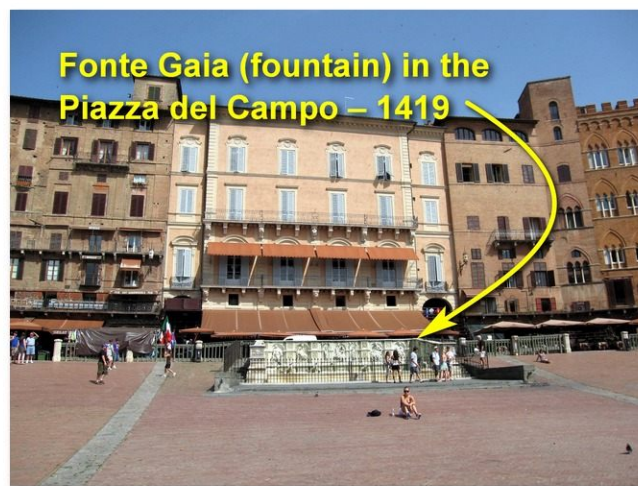
**Torre del Mangia
Bell tower
Built 1325-1344.
Great views of the city after climbing 400 steps.**



**When Palazzo Pubblico was built, Siena was a republic.
So this building was the national capitol.**



Palazzo Chigi-Saracini.
Built by Marescotti family
in the 12th century.
Now museum.



**Fonte Gaia (fountain) in the
Piazza del Campo – 1419**



**Fonte Gaia – Basin adorned on three
sides with bas-reliefs of Madonna
surrounded by classical and Christian
Virtues.**



Palazzo Tolomei
Built
1270-1275
by Tolomei
family.
Now a
bank
branch.



Pastry shop

Pizzeria for sale

**Double-bed
room for rent**



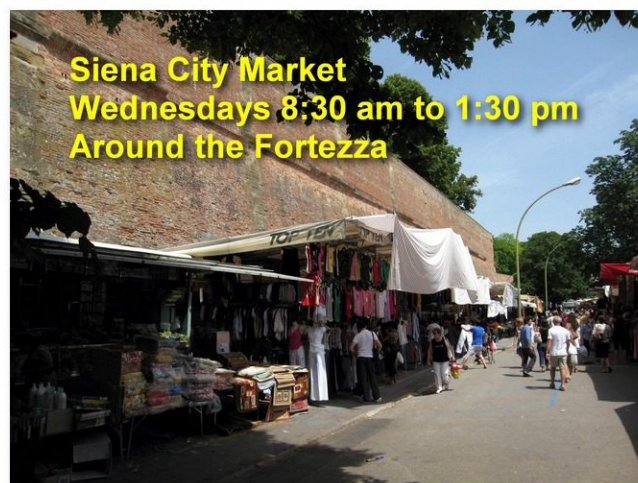
**Panforte – chewy Italian dessert
containing fruits, nuts, honey.**

**Tuscan origin. Siena is the
panforte capital of Italy.**



**Chocolate Stracciatella Panna
Cotta Hazelnut Walnut Cream**

**Berries Pistachio Cherry Strawberry Lemon
Yogurt**



Siena City Market
Wednesdays 8:30 am to 1:30 pm
Around the Fortezza



Siena City Market
Clothes, bags, household goods, flowers, fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy, seafood



Formaggio – Cheese



Pesce – Fish

White Fish from Elba

Rock Fish



Calamari, Seppia, Totanini – Squid



Pesche = Peaches

Mele = Apples

Arance = Oranges



Salumeria – Delicatessen

Salumi = Italian cold cuts made from salted pork or beef.
Examples of salumi:

- Salami = dried cured meat.
- Bresaola (made from beef).
- Mortadella (cooked).
- Prosciutto.
- Speck.
- Capicola.
- Pancetta (Italian bacon).

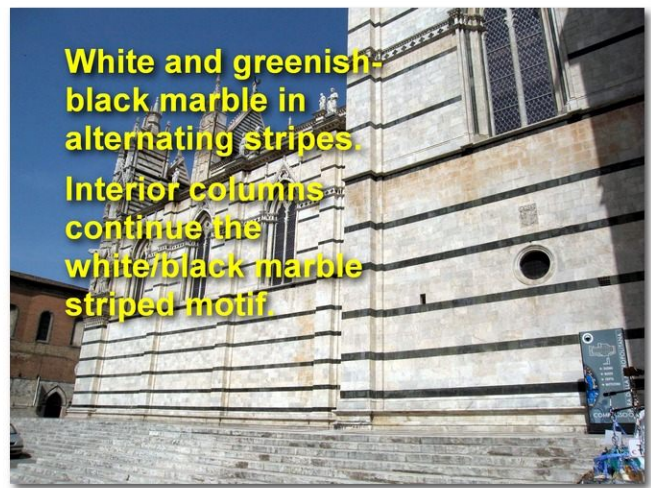



Salumi = Italian cold cuts made from salted pork or beef

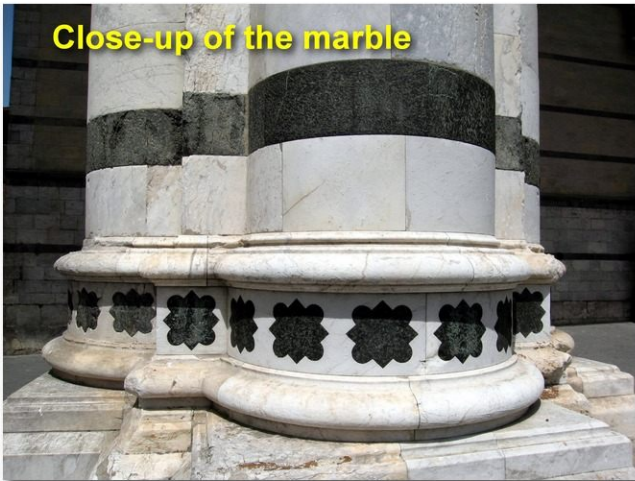




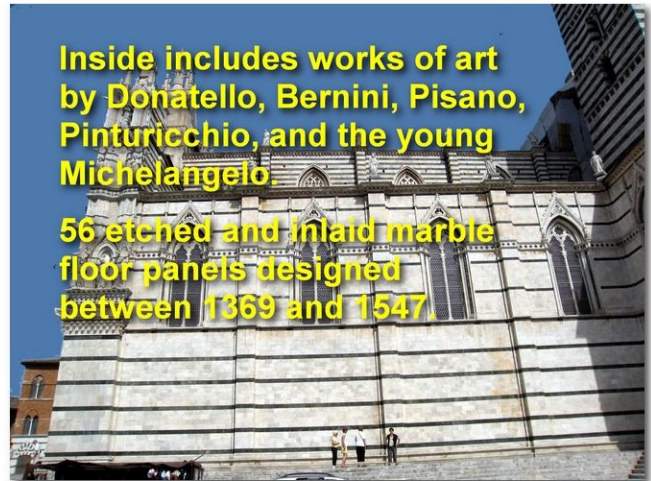
Facade Completed 1380



**White and greenish-black marble in alternating stripes.
Interior columns continue the white/black marble striped motif**

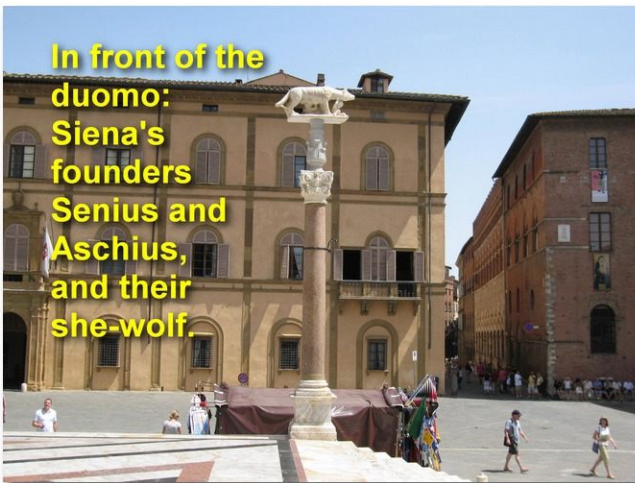


Close-up of the marble



Inside includes works of art by Donatello, Bernini, Pisano, Pinturicchio, and the young Michelangelo.

56 etched and inlaid marble floor panels designed between 1369 and 1547.



**In front of the duomo:
Siena's founders
Senius and Aschius,
and their she-wolf.**



**The belltower has six bells.
The oldest one was cast in 1149.**

Siena and Orvieto Cathedrals

Siena - 1215

115 mi NW of Rome

- French Gothic and Tuscan Romanesque.
- Marble and mosaics.
- Designed by Giovanni Pisano.

Orvieto - 1290-1320

60 mi NW of Rome

- Italian Gothic and Romanesque.
- Marble and mosaics.
- Designed by Arnolfo di Cambio (architect of Florence Cathedral). In 1309, Sienese architect Lorenzo Maitani took over. Major design changes, increasing the similarity to Siena Cathedral.

Comparison



Siena 1215



Orvieto 1290-1320



Coming Up in 2024 - All 3 to 4 pm

~~Italy: Tuscany~~ ~~Thurs Jan 18~~

Southern Japan Mon Feb 5

Estonia Mon Mar 4

Southern France Mon Apr 1

Rome Part 1 Mon May 6

Rome Part 2 Mon Jun 3

PDFs of Slides Posted at www.PaulVisits.com