

Italy Is a Young Country
1815: Italy was divided into 8 countries. Parts controlled by France and Austria.
1815-1860: Various wars for independence.
1860-1861: Voted to create a new, united Kingdom of Italy.
1866: Venice joined.
1870: Rome joined with separate Vatican City.
1946: Kingdom abolished. Republic.



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 Levels of Government

- The State (national government).
- Regions.
- Provinces.
- Communes (municipalities).

20 Regions

- Top level administrative division.
- **Tuscany** is a region.
- Each region has a parliament and a regional government headed by a governor.



Regions have all powers not granted to the State. State powers include:

- International relations. Citizenship.
- Relations with religions.
- Defense.
- Economy.
- Administration of the State agencies.
- Public order.
- Law, judicial system.
- Education, social security, customs, borders protection.
- Environment and cultural heritage.

Regions are divided into provinces

- Second level administrative division.
- 122 provinces total.
- Provinces have powers of planning and zoning, transportation, local police and fire.

10 Provinces in Tuscany

- Arezzo
- Florence
- Grosseto
- Livorno
- Lucca
- Massa & Carrara
- Pisa
- Pistoia
- Prato
- Siena



Third level administrative division: Comune (municipality)

- 280 communes in Tuscany.
- Biggest population: Florence – 360,000.
- Smallest population: Capraia – 400.

Tuscany History

264 BC–500 AD: Tuscany part of Roman Empire.

500 BC–1500s AD: Split into small kingdoms.

1569–1860: Tuscany was independent country.

1860: Tuscany joined newly united Italy.

Tuscany History - 2

- 500 to 1500 AD: Tuscany split into small communes:
 - Flourished. Strong economy, trade, banking, culture, religion.
 - Wealthiest communes were Pisa, Siena, Arezzo, Florence, Lucca.
- Florence expanded in 15th c:
 - Annexed Arezzo (1384), Pisa (1405), Livorno (1421).

Tuscany History - 3

- 1534 Medici dynasty **Tuscan Lira** established by Pope. **1500s-1807**
- 1555 Siena joined Tuscany.
- 1569-1860 Grand Duchy of Tuscany was an independent state.
 - Occupied by France from 1808-1814.



Tuscany History - 4

- 1860: Tuscany became part of new Kingdom of Italy under Victor Emmanuel II.
- 1864-1870: Florence was capital of Kingdom of Italy.
- 1922-1943: Fascist control, then Nazi control.
- 1944: Allied liberation.

Let's begin our visit to Tuscany by looking at four fantastic places where we are not going!

- Pisa.
- Florence.
- Lucca.
- Arezzo.

Like all Tuscan holidays, there's just not enough time.

Pisa



Florence



Lucca



Arezzo



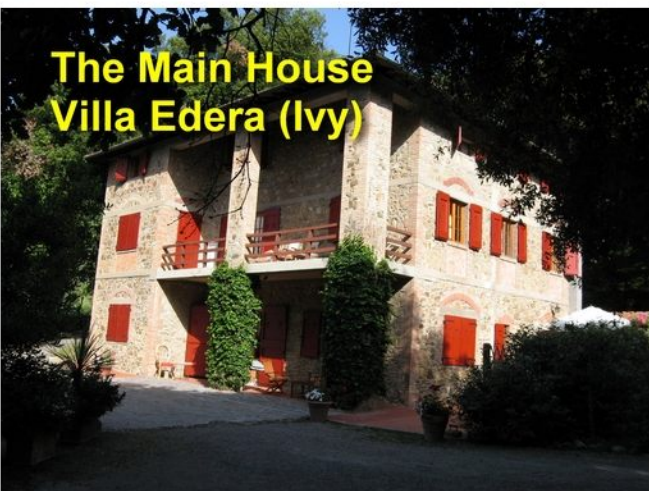
Our rental villa
Fattoria = farm, homestead
La Sciolta = Easygoing



Quiet Tuscan country house
Unpaved road
Olive farm



The Main House
Villa Edera (Ivy)



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





Living Room



Dining Room
For lunch and dinner we ate outside



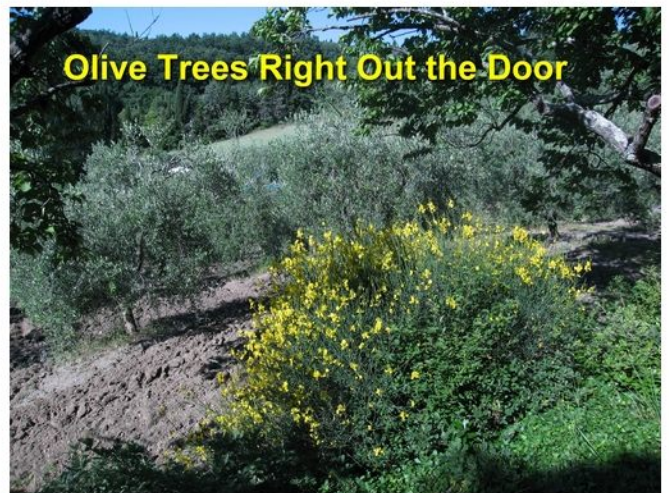
Four Double Bedrooms



Kitchen



Bathroom



Olive Trees Right Out the Door



Villa Edera = Ivy Villa
9 double bedrooms
Big living room.
Piano room.
TV room.
Dining room:
– Table for 20 people.



Living Room

Dining Room
We ate outdoors
most nights.



Huge Fireplace



Piano Room



**Cinghala
Wild Boar**



La Sciolta – Villa Edera – Bedrooms 1-4



Villa Edera – Bedrooms 5-8 – #9 Loft w/2 Beds



**Walk down to swimming pool
and sitting area**



**Owners have since added an
in-ground pool near the villas**



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."

A Light Dinner



Laura
Melora
Sara
Fred
Allison

Dinner with some friends who visited



Patrick

La Sciolta has many hiking trails



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



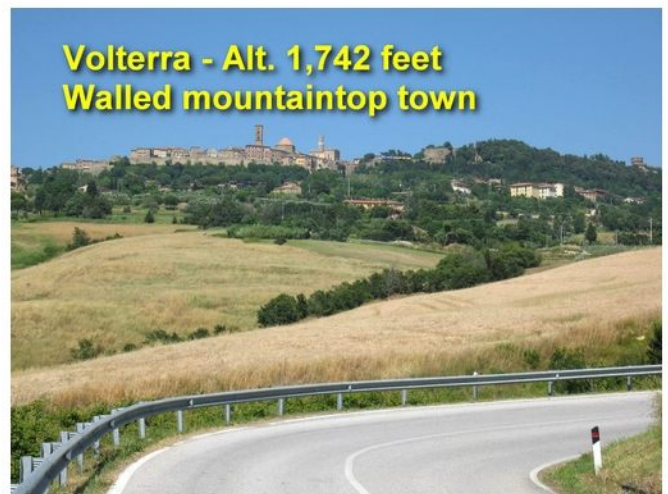
Vineyards along our drive to Volterra



Pear trees – drive to Volterra

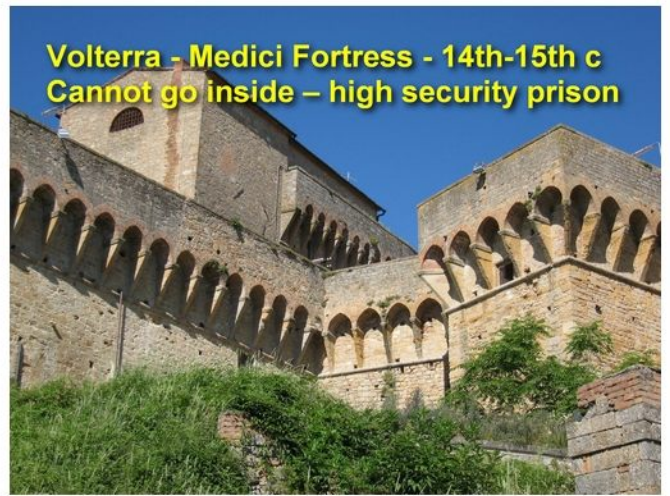


**Volterra - Alt. 1,742 feet
Walled mountaintop town**





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



**Volterra - Medici Fortress - 14th-15th c
Cannot go inside – high security prison**



Volterra - Medieval Town



Volterra



**Duomo
Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta**

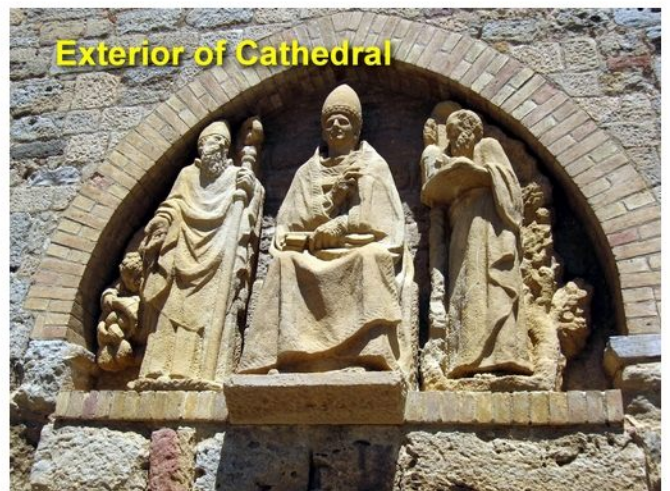


**Volterra's Cathedral
Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta
Early 12th c
Romanesque**

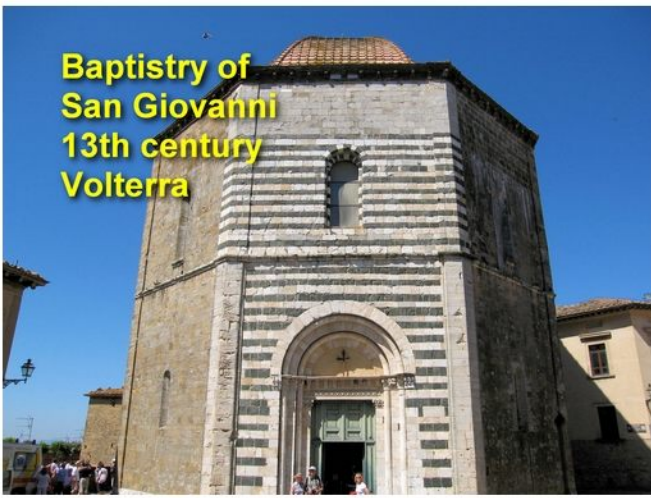


Melora and 3 children

**I have known Melora since
she was four years old.**



Exterior of Cathedral



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.



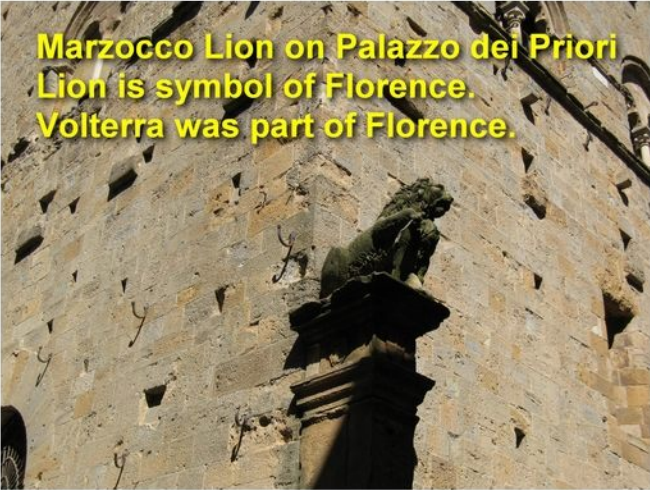
Profumeria = Perfumery
Edicola = Newsstand



**Palazzo dei Priori
Town Hall
Built 1208-1257
Volterra**



**Palazzo
dei Priori
Tower
13th c.
Great
views!**



**Marzocco Lion on Palazzo dei Priori
Lion is symbol of Florence.
Volterra was part of Florence.**



**These plaques honor famous
citizens or events.**

**Palazzo dei Priori has a municipal
museum and viewing tower.**



**These plaques honor famous
citizens or events.**

**Palazzo dei Priori has a municipal
museum and viewing tower.**



**Cassa di Risparmio
= Savings Bank.
Many local brands in Italy.**



**Piazza dei Priori
Volterra's main square.
Tourism Office.**



**Melora, Ally, Sara, and Patrick
are looking down upon...**



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

Baths

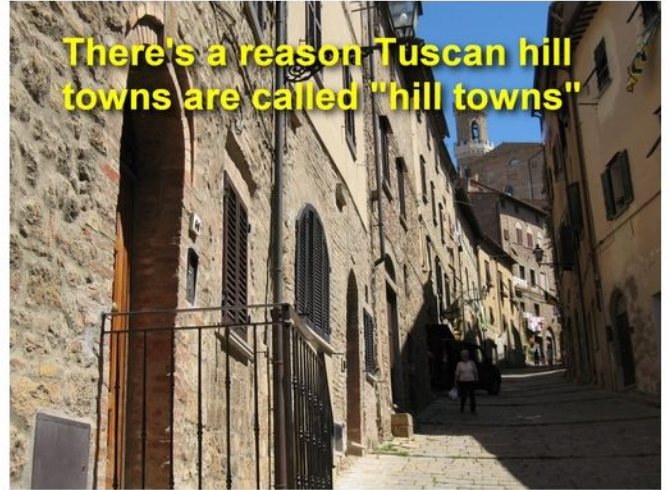
Theatre



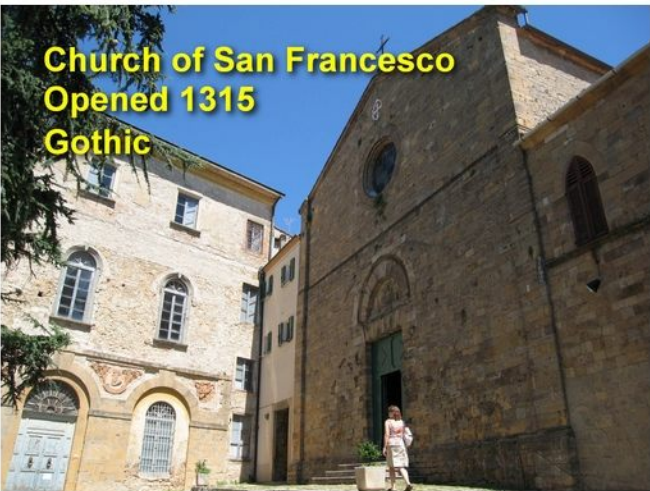
**Volterra 1st c BC Roman Theatre
Seated 1,800**



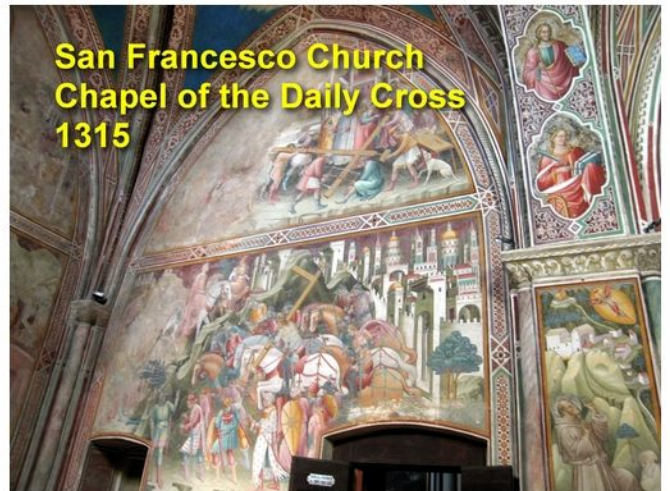
**Great views from
Volterra hill town**



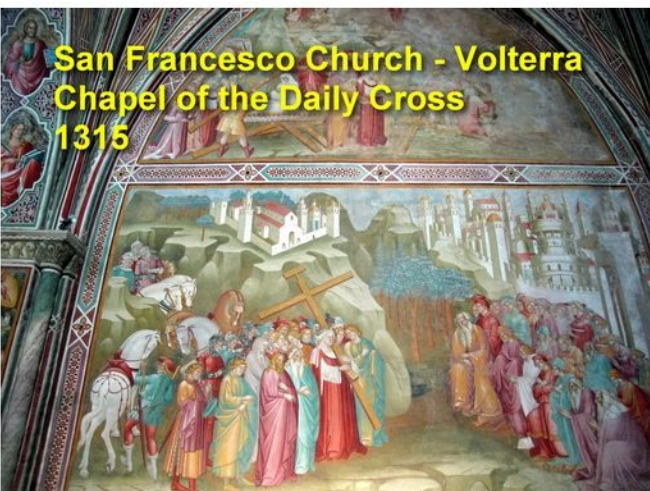
**There's a reason Tuscan hill
towns are called "hill towns"**



**Church of San Francesco
Opened 1315
Gothic**



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



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



**Lunch restaurant in Volterra
but we ate outdoors**



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.**

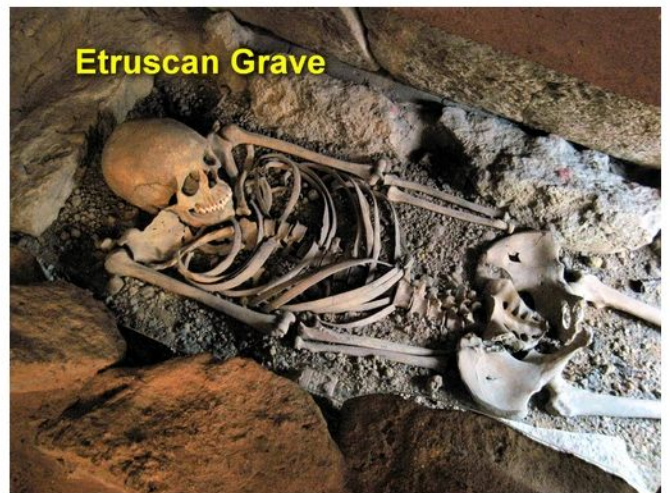
**Etruscan Period = 900 BC to 264 BC
Etruria Today = Tuscany, Lazio, Lombardy**



**Guarnacci Etruscan Museum
Volterra
Urn
7th c BC**



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



Etruscan Grave



Etruscan alabaster sarcophagus

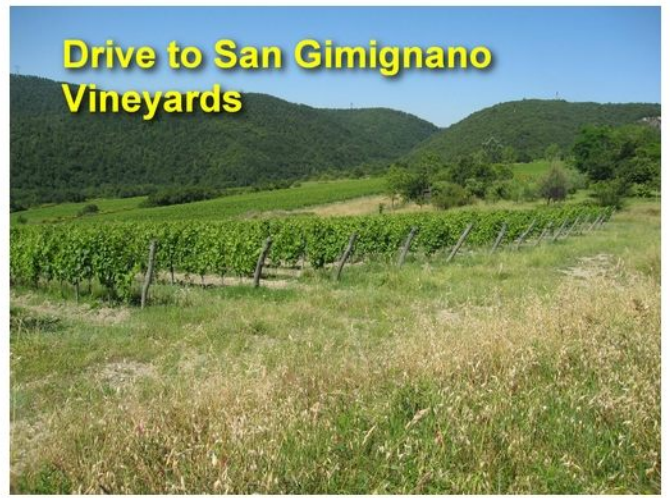


**Church of St Peter in Selci - 12th c
Statues of Sts Lino and Giusto
Volterra**

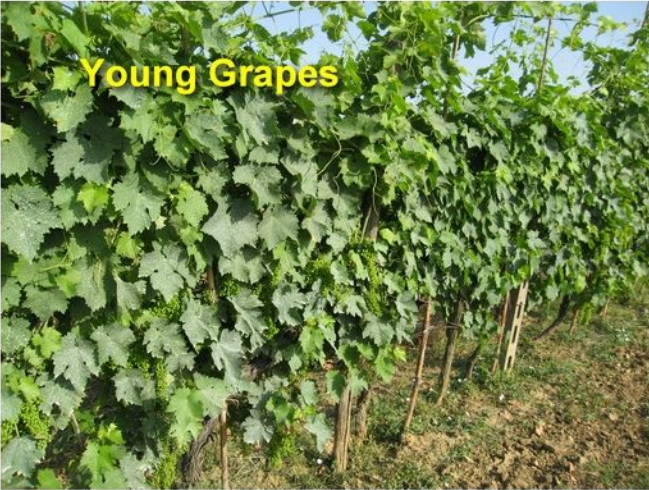
Drive to San Gimignano



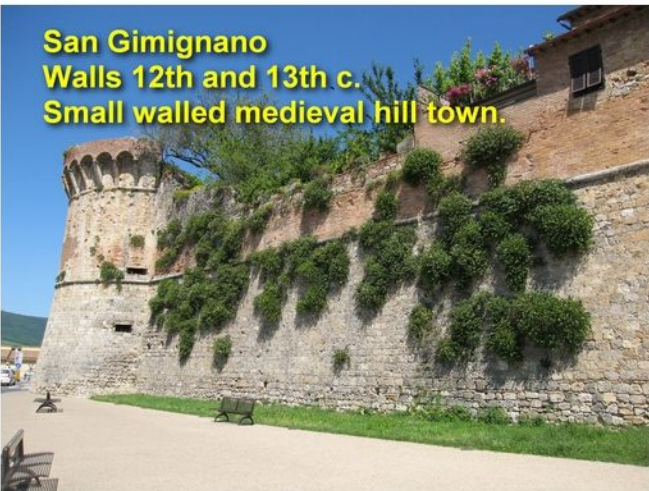
Drive to San Gimignano Vineyards



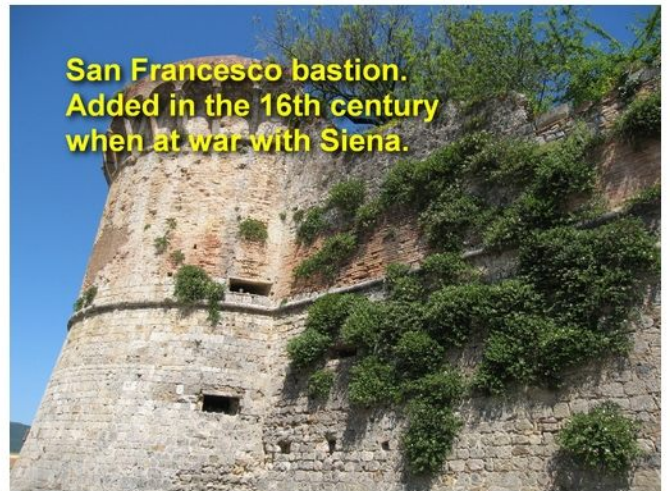
Young Grapes



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



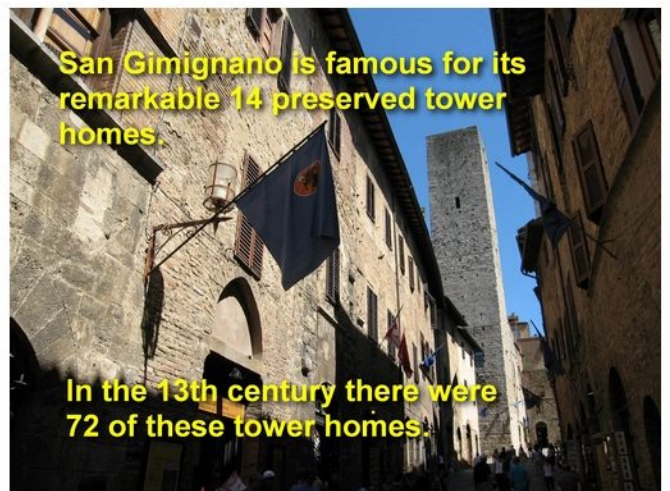
**San Francesco bastion.
Added in the 16th century
when at war with Siena.**



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



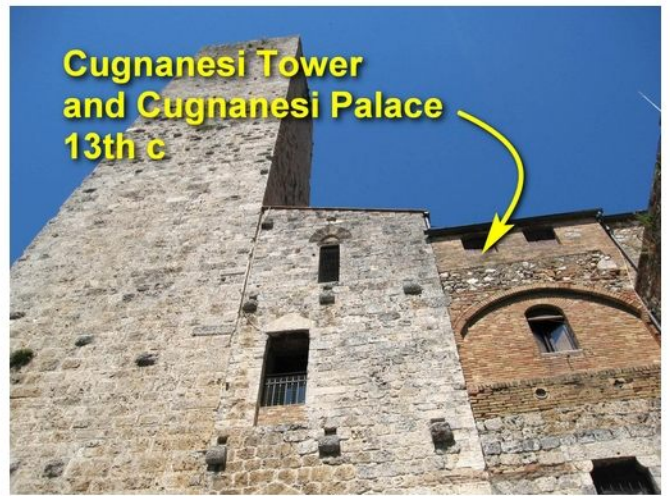
**San Gimignano is famous for its
remarkable 14 preserved tower
homes.**



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



San Gimignano
Cugnanesi Tower
13th c



Cugnanesi Tower
and Cugnanesi Palace
13th c



San Gimignano



Piazza della
Cisterna

Torre
Rignosa



Torre Grossa
1310. 177'.
Can climb

Ardinghelli Towers
12th c. Ardinghellis were
bitter enemies of Salvuccis,
who also built 2 towers.



Salvucci Towers

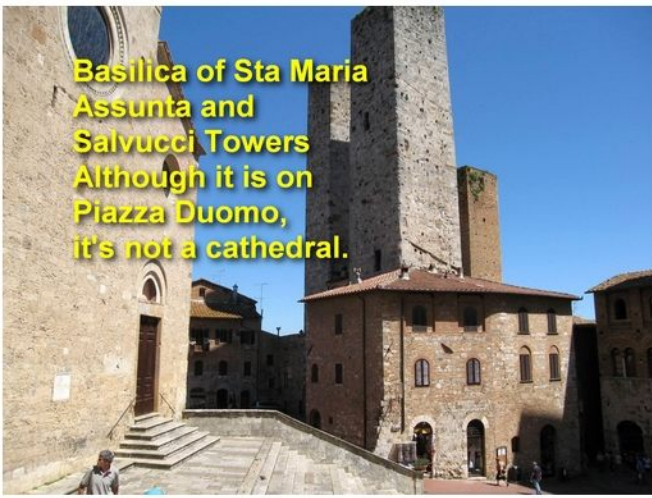
Torre Rignosa



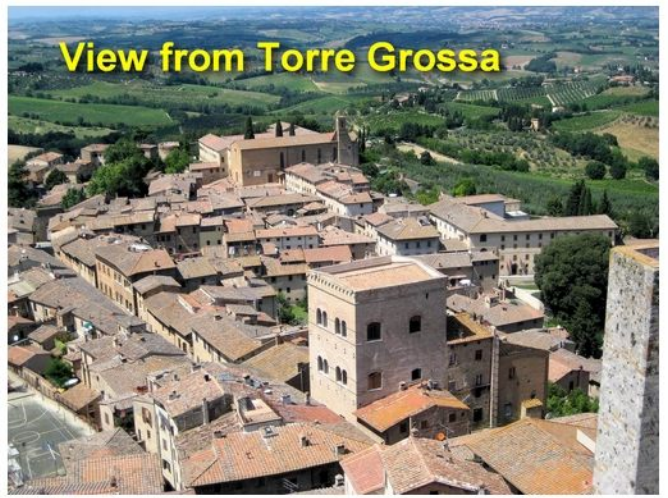
Piazza della Cisterna
San Gimignano's
main square



Basilica of Sta Maria Assunta
12th c



Basilica of Sta Maria Assunta and Salvucci Towers
Although it is on Piazza Duomo, it's not a cathedral.



View from Torre Grossa



Piazza della Cisterna
Devil's Tower



Palazzo del Popolo (Town Hall)
San Gimignano
13th c



Palazzo del Popolo (Town Hall)
13th c



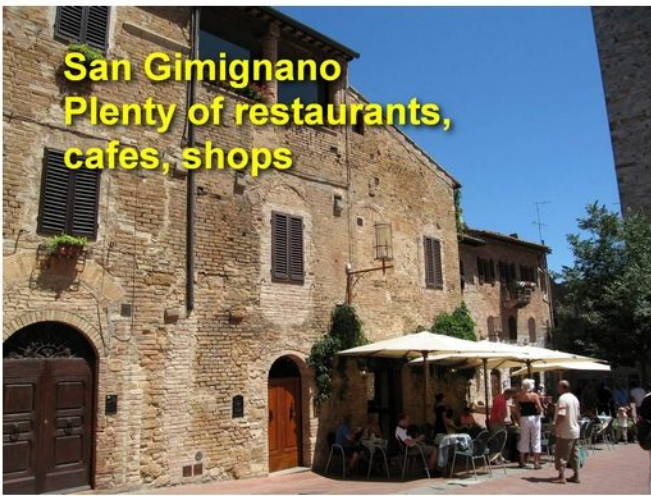
View of Tuscan Hills
from San Gimignano



View from San Gimignano



View from San Gimignano



San Gimignano
Plenty of restaurants,
cafes, shops



Hand-painted Ceramics



Ceramics shops offer
worldwide shipping



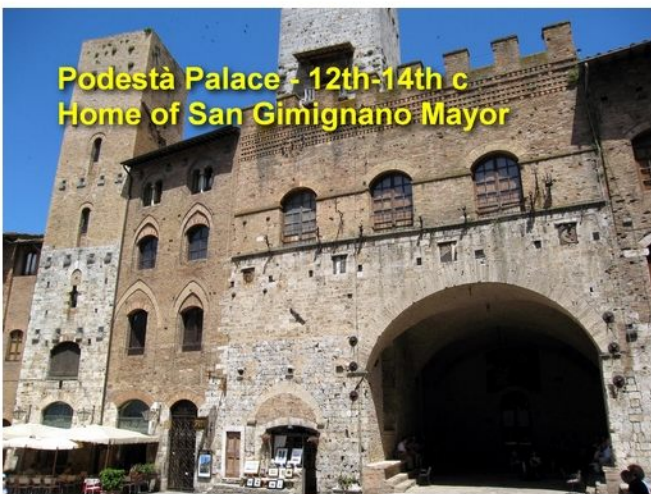
Lunch restaurant in San
Gimignano. Tip: Find a place
as soon as you arrive in a
town and book for lunch.



Lunch in San Gimignano



Torre del Diavolo
Devil's Tower



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



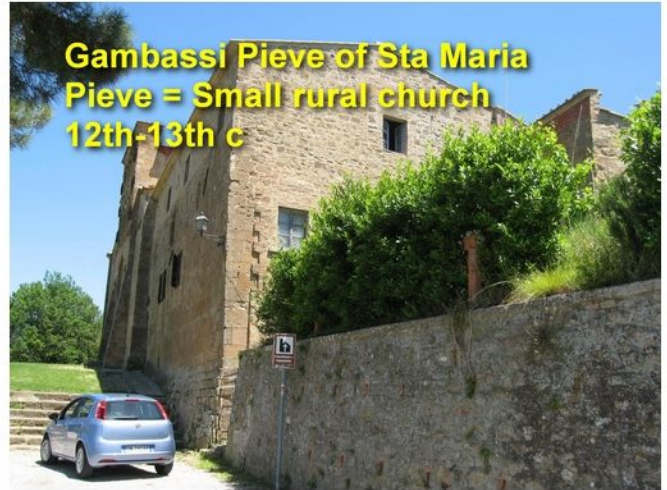
Hills near Gambassi Terme
where our villa was located

"Downtown" Gambassi

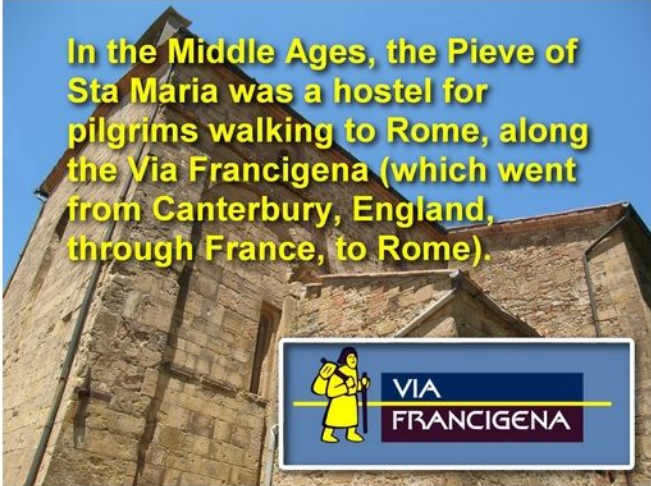


**Calzone -
Stuffed
folded pizza**

**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
Francigena**

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

**Since 990 AD.
Today: A few thousand
walk it each year.**



www.viefrancigene.org/en/

**Church of Christ the King
Gambassi
13th c but rebuilt after WWII**



Gambassi



Gambassi



Drive to Colle di Val d'Elsa

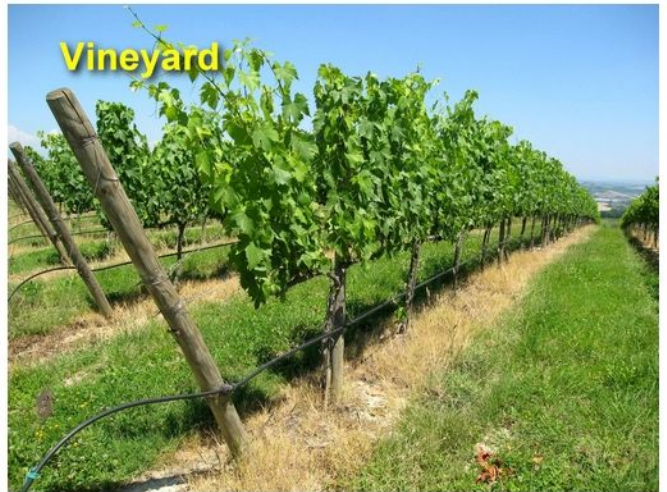


Italian Cypress

Vineyard



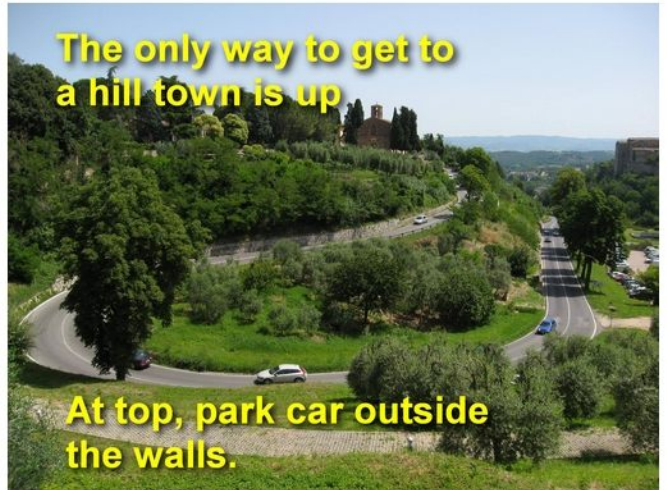
Vineyard



Hill Town of Colle di Val d'Elsa



The only way to get to a hill town is up



At top, park car outside the walls.

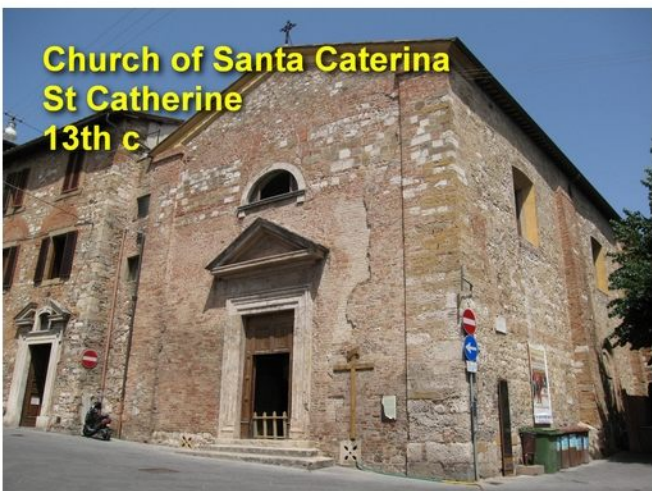
**Porta Nuova - 15th-16th c
One of two circular towers
Colle Val d'Elsa**



**Colle di Val d'Elsa
Cisterna - 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."

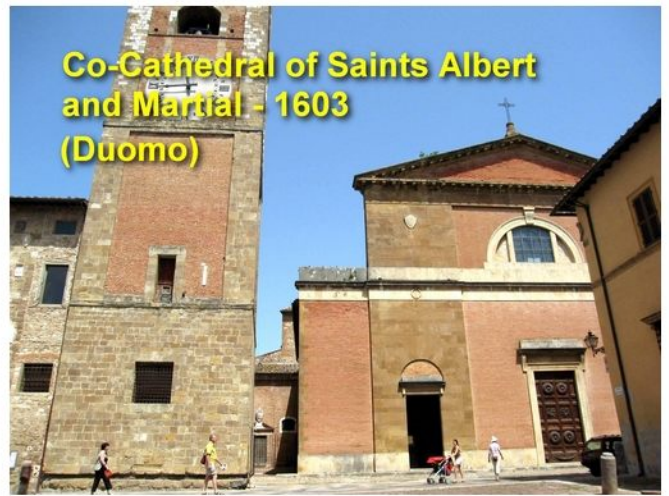




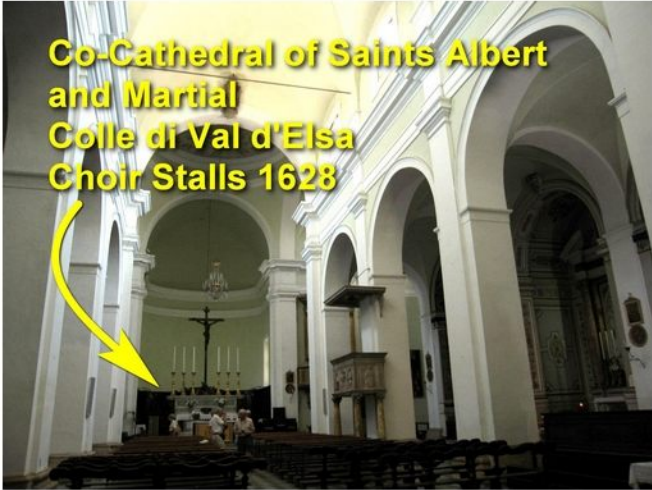
Colle di Val d'Elsa
Piazza del Duomo

Palazzo dei Priori - 1365

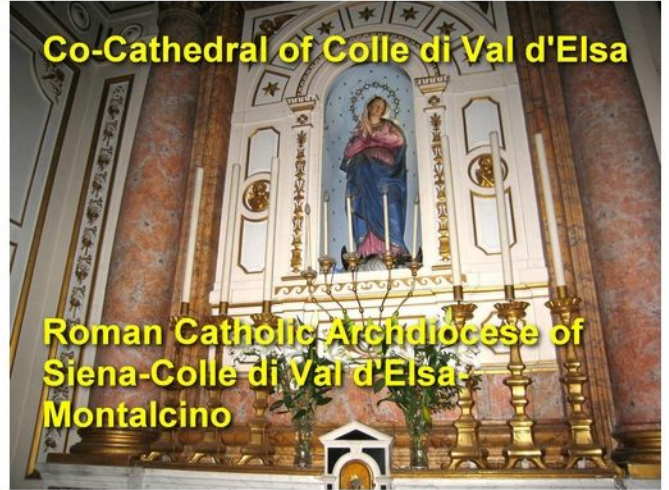
Duomo



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

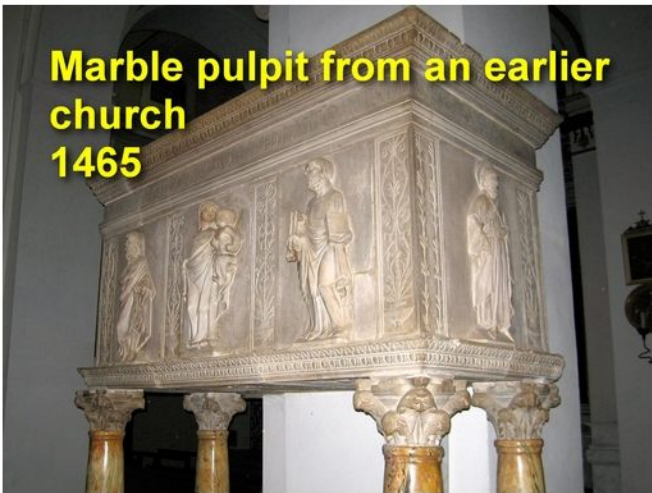


Co-Cathedral of Saints Albert
and Martial
Colle di Val d'Elsa
Choir Stalls 1628



Co-Cathedral of Colle di Val d'Elsa

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of
Siena-Colle di Val d'Elsa-
Montalcino



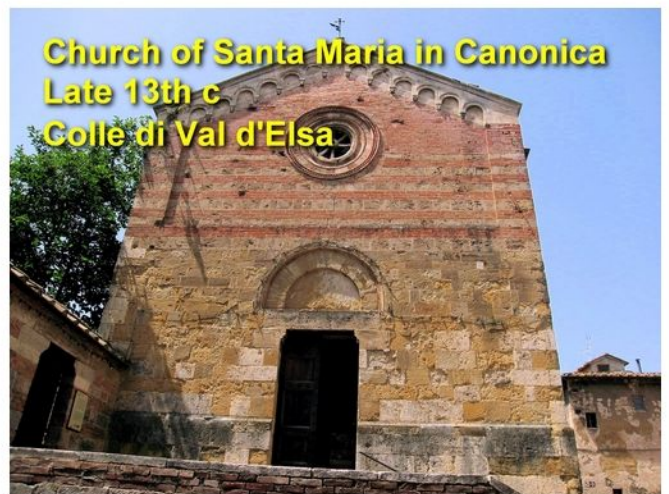
Marble pulpit from an earlier
church
1465



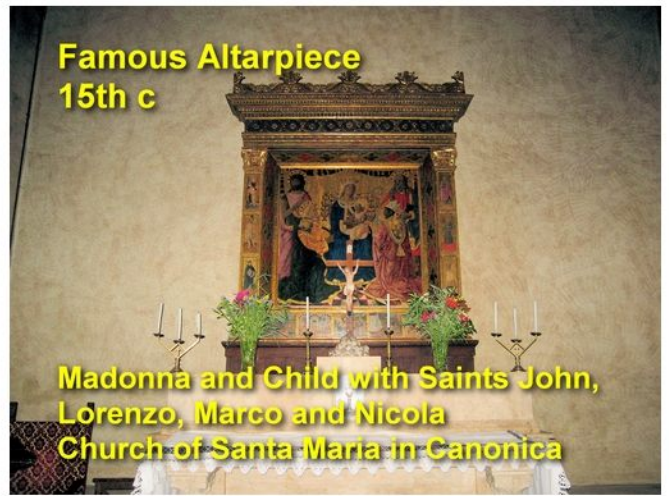
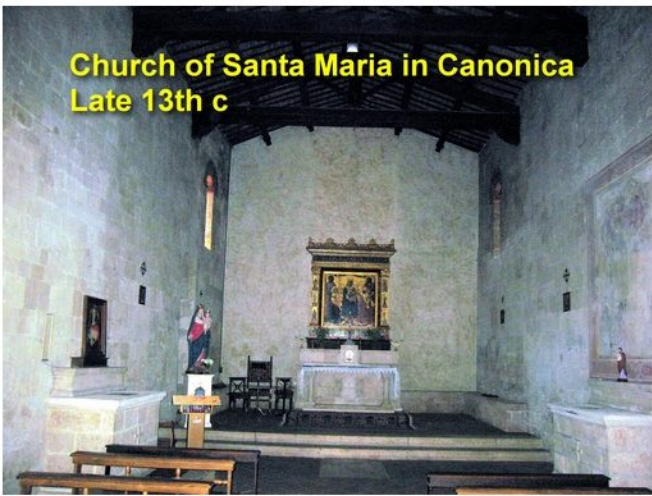
Arnolfo di Cambio - 1240-1300
Sculptor from Colle di Val d'Elsa.
Worked on Siena Cathedral, St Peter's,
S. Maria Maggiore, S. Maria in Aracoeli,
Orvieto.



Arnolfo Tower
13th c
Home of Arnolfo di Cambio



Church of Santa Maria in Canonica
Late 13th c
Colle di Val d'Elsa



**Piazza Roma
Monteriggioni**



**Piazza Roma
Monteriggioni**



Monteriggioni



Monteriggioni Piazza Roma



Monteriggioni



Monteriggioni



**Pieve di Santa
Maria Assunta
Pieve = Rural Church**



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



Pieve = Rural Church



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



**Monteriggioni walls built by Siena
13th c. to defend against its
rival Florence.**

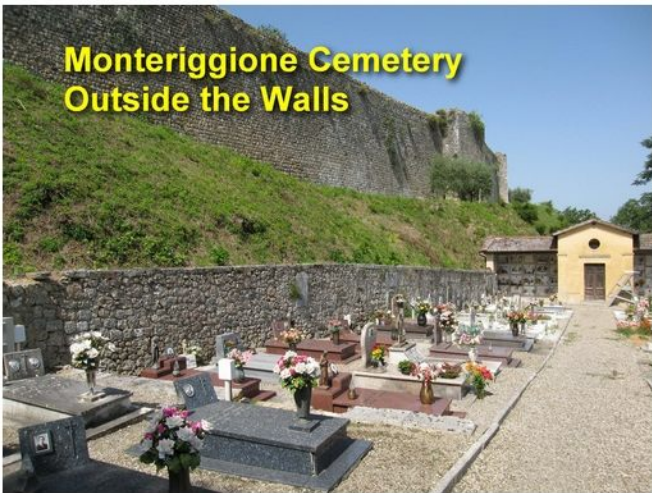


Walk along Monteriggioni walls

**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



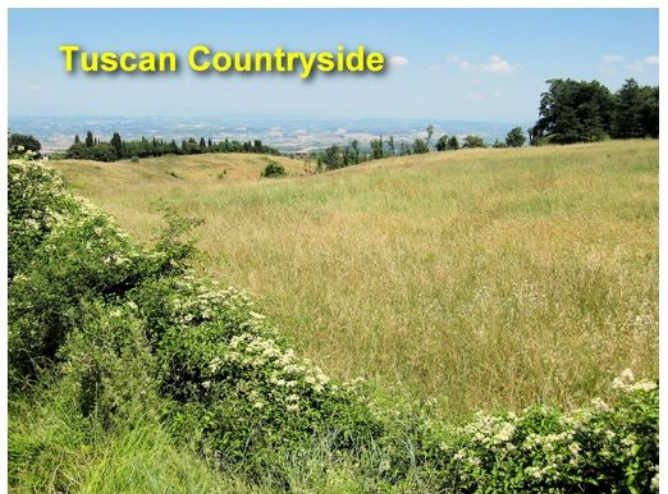
**Monteriggione Cemetery
Outside the Walls**



Monteriggione Cemetery



Tuscan Countryside



Tuscan Countryside

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.



Cooking Lesson

Teacher



Allison



Making ravioli from scratch



Zucchini Flowers



For the pasta sauce



Making the ravioli dough



Making the ravioli dough



Kneading the dough



Rolling the dough



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



Using a mold



Freehand



Finished product ready to cook



Freehand

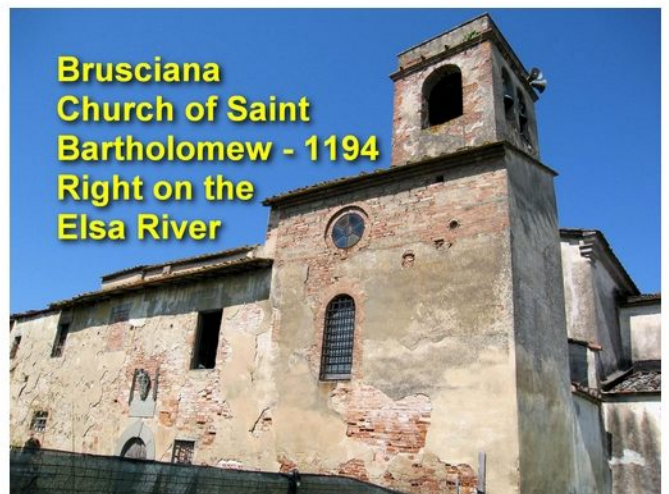
Mold



Cooking



Add ravioli to the sauce...

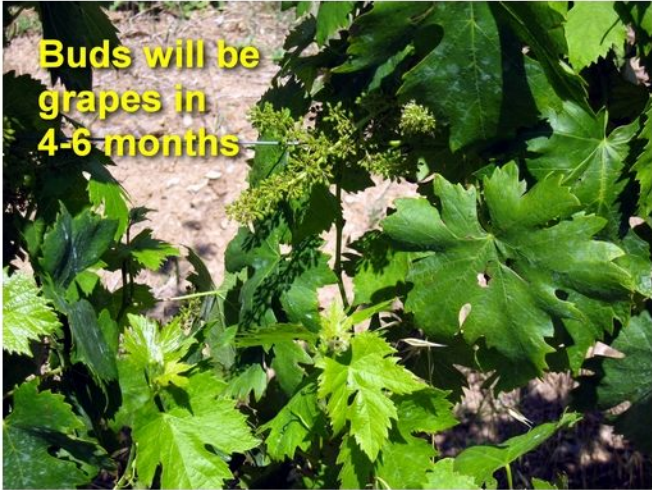




Vineyards on the way to Montaione



Vineyard near Montaione



Buds will be grapes in 4-6 months



Pieve of San Regolo Montaione – 1765



Roman Cistern Montaione 2nd c BC



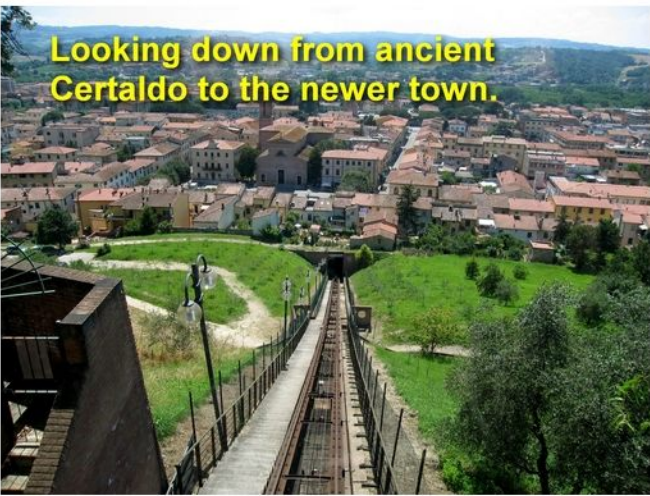
Roman Cistern – 2nd c BC 3 tanks provided water to local commune



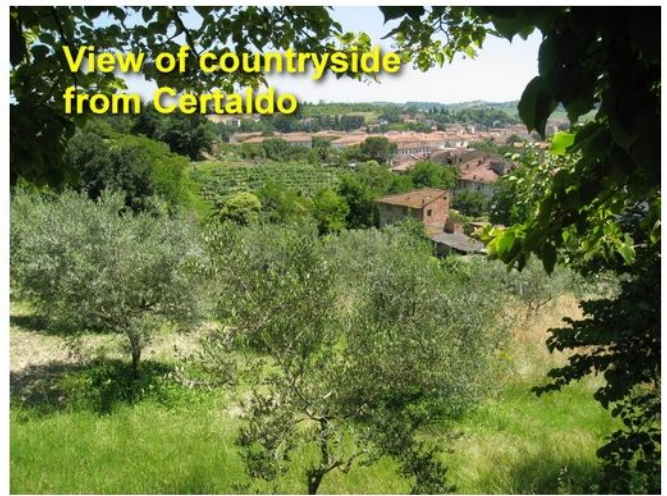
Drive to Hill Town of Certaldo



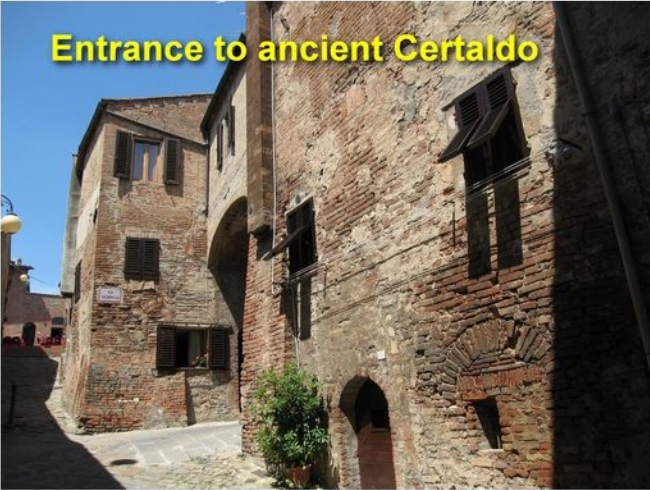
Certaldo is a timeless Medieval hilltop town. Leave your car at the bottom and take the funicular up.



Looking down from ancient Certaldo to the newer town.



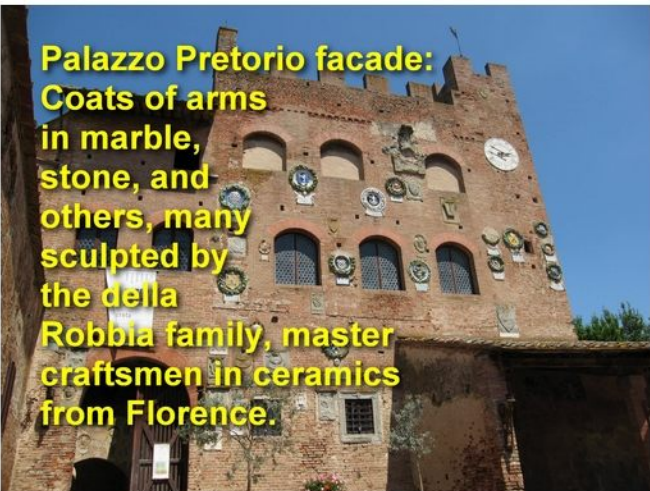
View of countryside from Certaldo



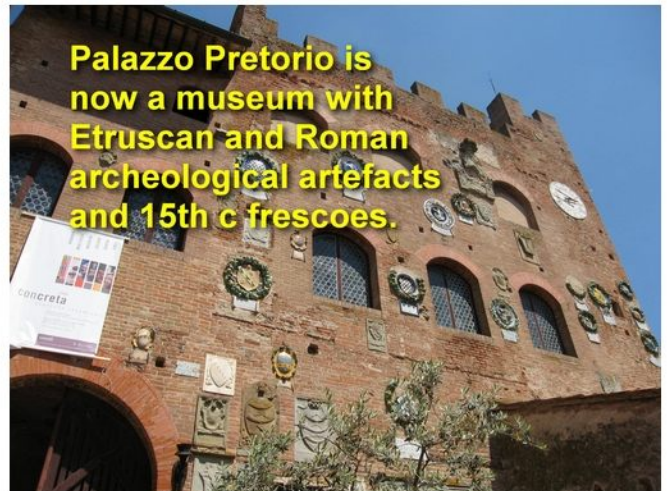
Entrance to ancient Certaldo



Palazzo Pretorio - Certaldo
Built 1117-1164



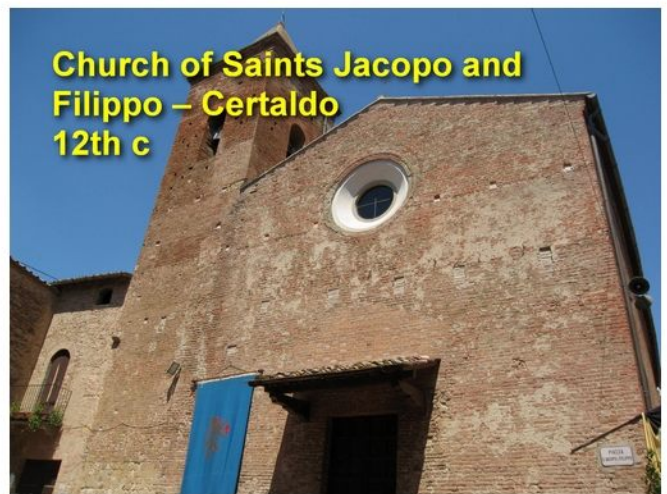
Palazzo Pretorio facade:
Coats of arms in marble, stone, and others, many sculpted by the della Robbia family, master craftsmen in ceramics from Florence.



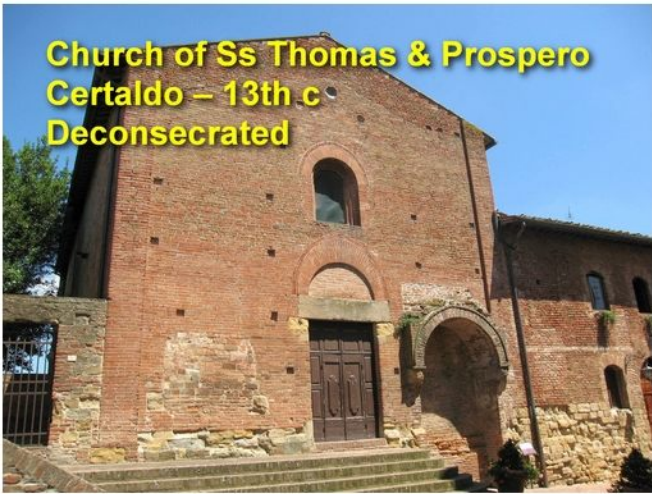
Palazzo Pretorio is now a museum with Etruscan and Roman archeological artefacts and 15th c frescoes.



Ceiling in the Palazzo Pretorio



Church of Saints Jacopo and Filippo – Certaldo
12th c



**Church of Ss Thomas & Prospero
Certaldo – 13th c
Deconsecrated**



**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.**



Medieval Menu:
– Morsini of Bread (?).
– Pig Soup with Fave Menate
(Ground Beans).
– Crostone (Fried Bread with
Meat).
– Shin of Veal.
– Aromatic Fantasy Dessert.
– Sweet Wine.
– €39



**Terracotta dishes and
wooden spoon as in ancient
times.**



2017 dinner



Getting ready



**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.**
- 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



Piazza del Campo – Siena



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





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



Building the seats for the
upcoming Palio



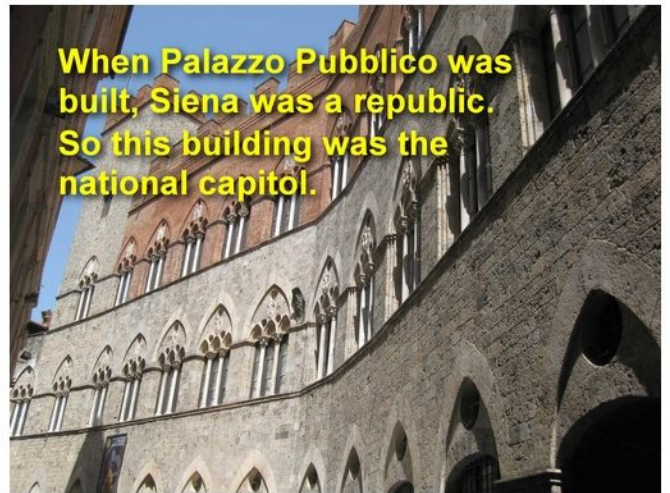
Will be reserved seats for
the upcoming Palio



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.



Courtyard of the Palazzo
Chigi-Saracini



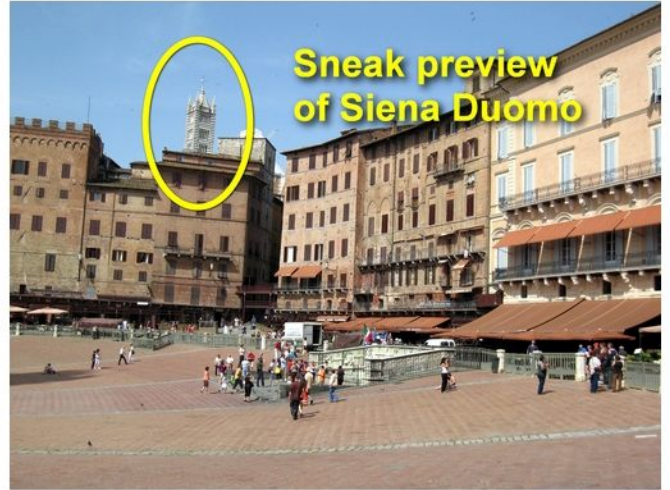
Fonte Gaia (fountain) in the Piazza del Campo – 1419



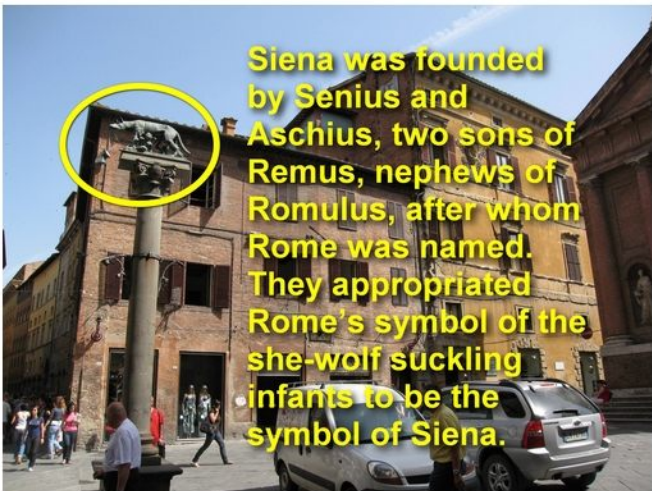
Fonte Gaia – Basin adorned on three sides with bas-reliefs of Madonna surrounded by classical and Christian Virtues



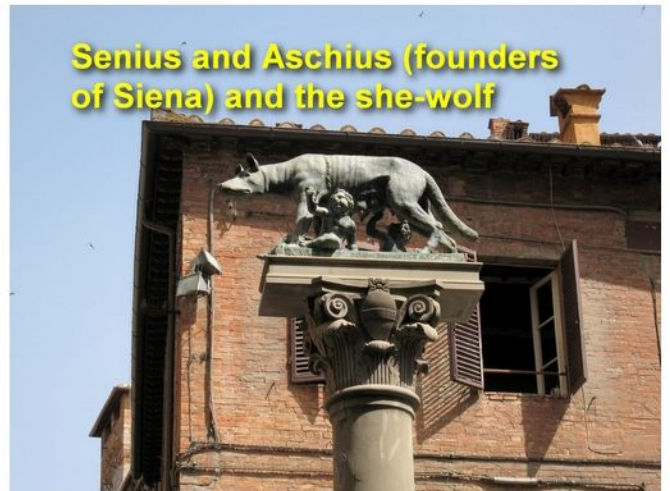
The symbolism of Fonte Gaia (1419) is that Siena has good (virtuous) government.



Sneak preview of Siena Duomo



Siena was founded by Senius and Aschius, two sons of Remus, nephews of Romulus, after whom Rome was named. They appropriated Rome's symbol of the she-wolf suckling infants to be the symbol of Siena.



Senius and Aschius (founders of Siena) and the she-wolf



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



Pastry shop
Pizzeria for sale
Double-bed room for rent



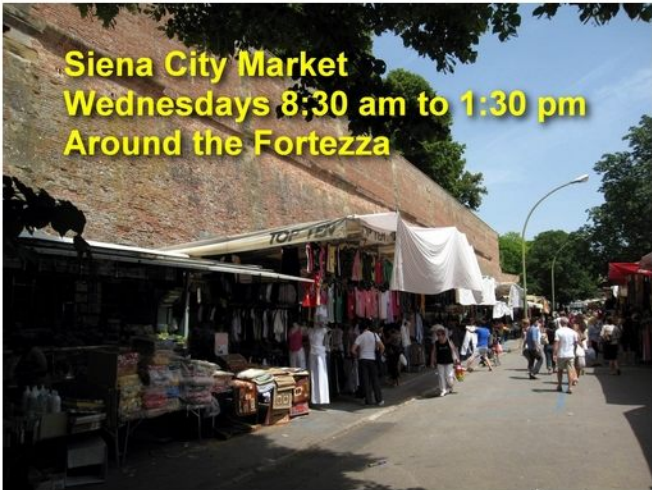
Panforte – chewy Italian dessert containing fruits, nuts, honey.

Tuscan origin. Siena is the panforte capital of Italy.

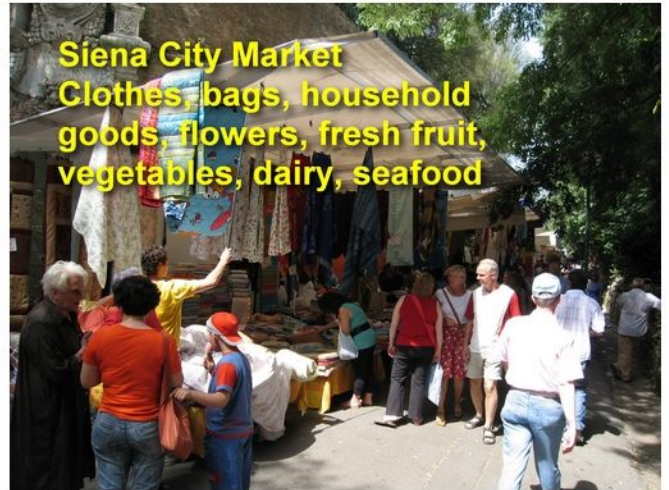


Chocolate Stracciatella Panna Cotta Hazelnut Walnut Cream

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

Arance – Oranges

Mele – Apples



**Meloni
- Melons**



Salumeria - Delicatessen



**Salumi = Italian cold cuts
made from salted pork or beef**



Salami = Dried cured meat

**These were £4 each
Cured pork shoulder £35 each**



Salami = Dried cured meat

**These were €4 each.
Cured pork shoulder €35 each.**

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).




Salami = Dried cured meat

**These were €4 each.
Cured pork shoulder €35 each.**



**Sedano
- Celery**

**Scalognò
- Shallots**



Peperoni = Peppers

Note: Peperoni (with 2 p's) is an American variety of salami.



Porcini Mushrooms from Pomerania



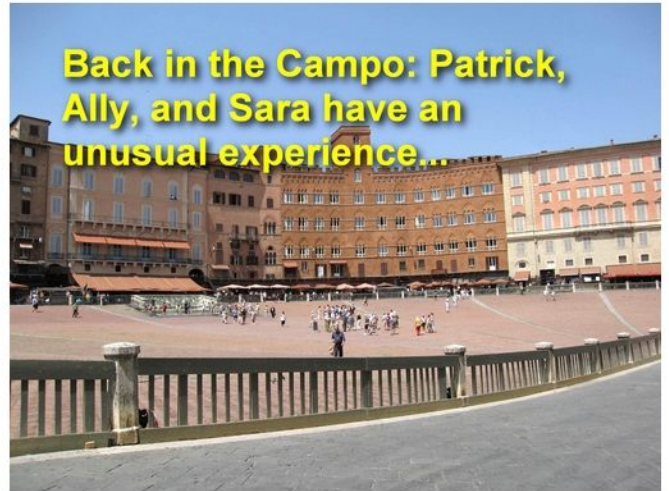
Persico – Perch from Tanzania



Palazzo Salimbeni 14th c Gothic palace Now a bank HQ



Tantucci Palace 1548 Also now a bank HQ



Back in the Campo: Patrick, Ally, and Sara have an unusual experience...



By coincidence, they run into students from their high school in Dallas on a class trip to Italy!



With a teacher and friends from Dallas

Cappella (Chapel) di Piazza



**Duomo
Masterpiece of Italian
Romanesque-Gothic
architecture.**



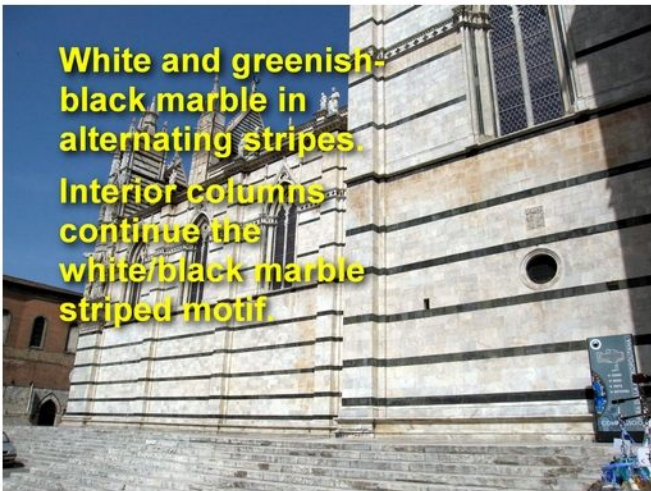
**Duomo
Construction started 1196
Completed 1263**



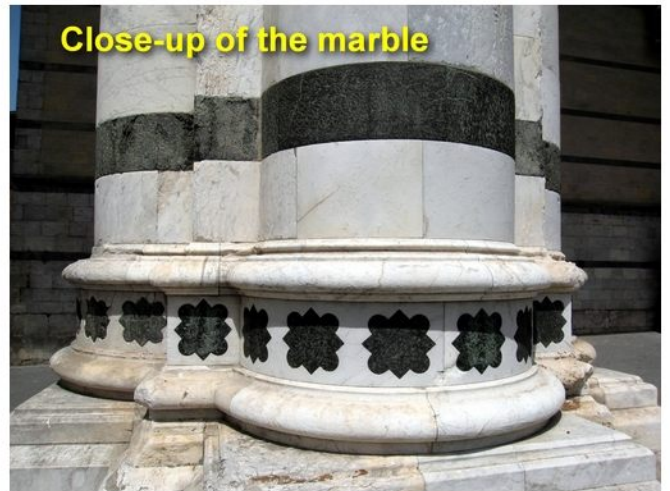
**Facade completed
in 1380.**



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

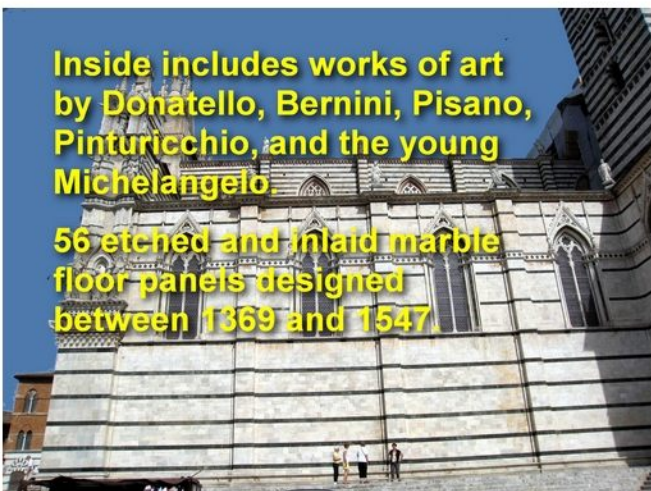


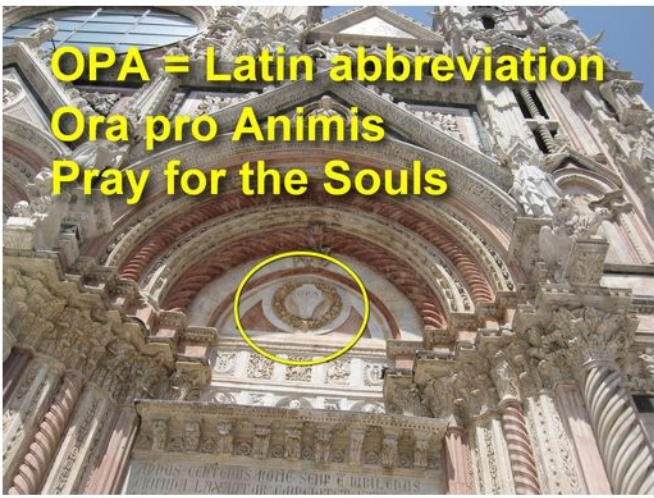
Close-up of the marble



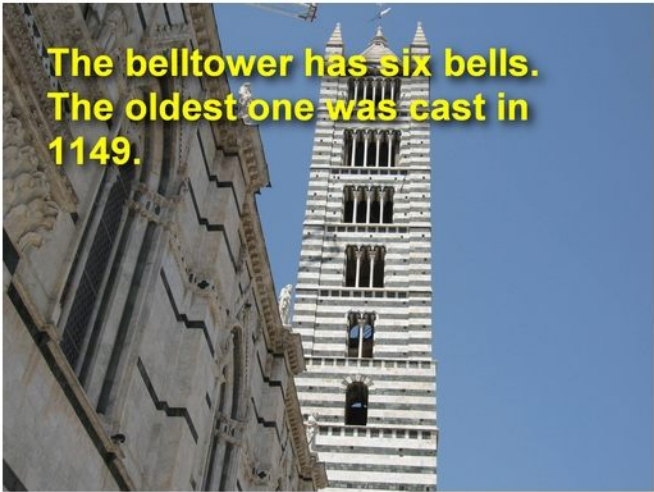
**Inside includes works of art
by Donatello, Bernini, Pisano,
Pinturicchio, and the young
Michelangelo.**

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





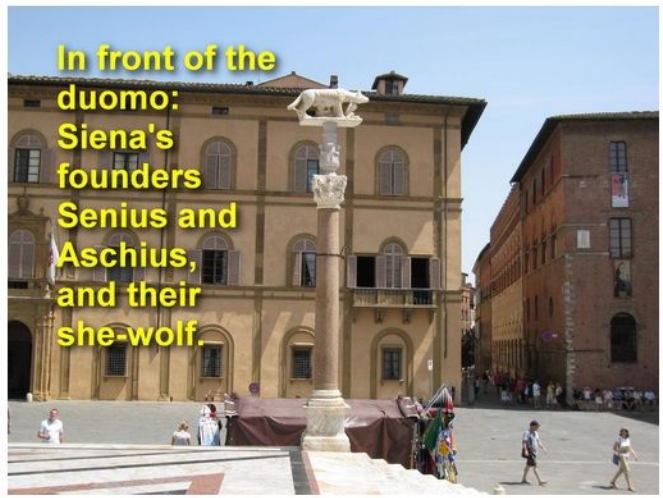
**OPA = Latin abbreviation
Ora pro Animis
Pray for the Souls**



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



No ugly construction crane!



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



Ugly construction crane?

Siena and Orvieto Cathedrals
Siena - 1215
– French Gothic and Tuscan Romanesque.
– Marble and mosaics.
– Designed by Giovanni Pisano.
Orvieto - 1290-1320
– 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

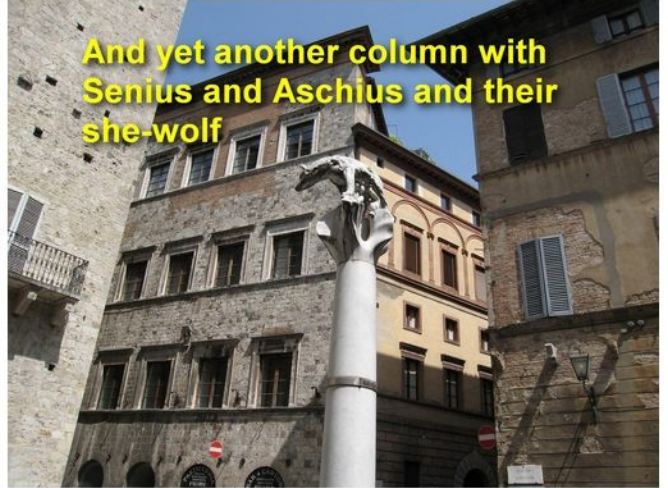
Orvieto 1290-1320



**Stained Glass: The Last Supper
1549**



Siena Duomo - Rear of Church



And yet another column with Senius and Aschius and their she-wolf



FINE (THE END)
of our Visit to Tuscany

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