



Some Info About Italy
Capital: Rome.
Population (2024 est):
 Italy: 61 million.
 US: 342 million.
Area:
 Italy: 116,000 sq miles.
 US 3,800,000 sq miles.

Member: UN, NATO, OECD, WTO, G7, G20, EU, Schengen.
GDP: US\$2.2 trillion.
Currency: €. = \$1.11.
Religion:
 79% Christian (most RC).
 20% Agnostic.
 1% Muslim.

Italy Info – Government Different type of republic from USA
 – **Government Type:** Parliamentary republic.
 – **Formation:**
 – Unified Kingdom: 1861.
 – Republic: June 2, 1946.
 – EU: Original Member, 1958.
 – **Legislature:**
 – Senate: 315 elected plus 6 life.
 – Chamber of Deputies: 630.

Italy Info – Government Leaders
Head of State:
Elected by Parliament.
 President Sergio MATTARELLA

Head of Government:
Appointed by President.
 Prime Minister Giorgia MELONI

So neither is directly elected by citizens.

Italy Levels of Government
 – The State (national government).
 – Regions:
 – **Top level administrative division of the country.**
 – Provinces.
 – Communes (municipalities).



Powers of the Regions:

All powers not given to national government by law.

Some regions have extra powers. Keep 20% of taxes. 80% to national government.

Functions generally run by regions:

- Health care.
- Vocational education.
- Land use (municipalities involved).
- Some policing.

Tuscany Region

- 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.

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.



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

Internet Photo



Let's Begin Our Visit

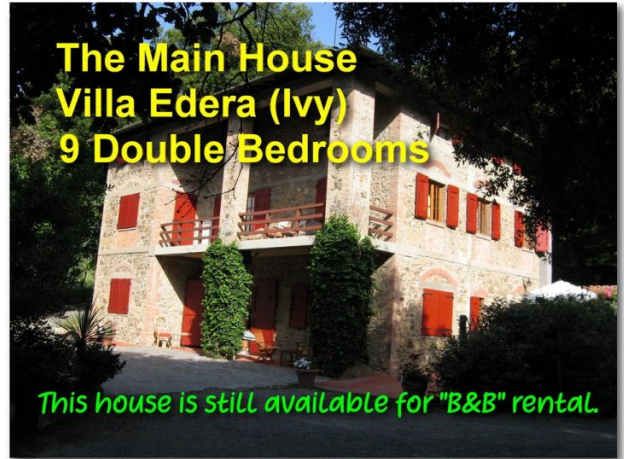
Tuscany

● We will visit today!

● Highly recommended but not in today's presentation



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 (il soggiorno)



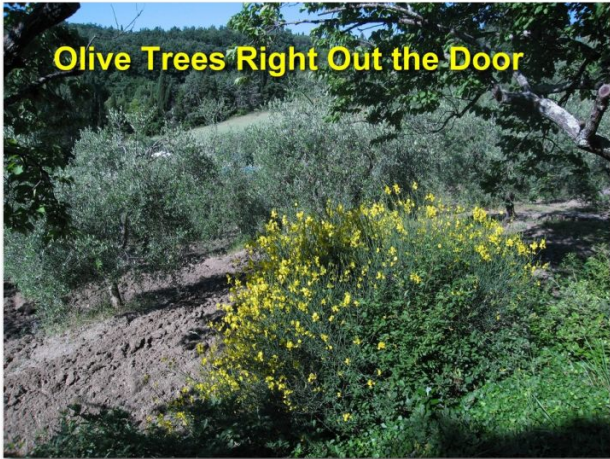
Dining Room
For lunch and dinner we ate outside

la sala da pranzo



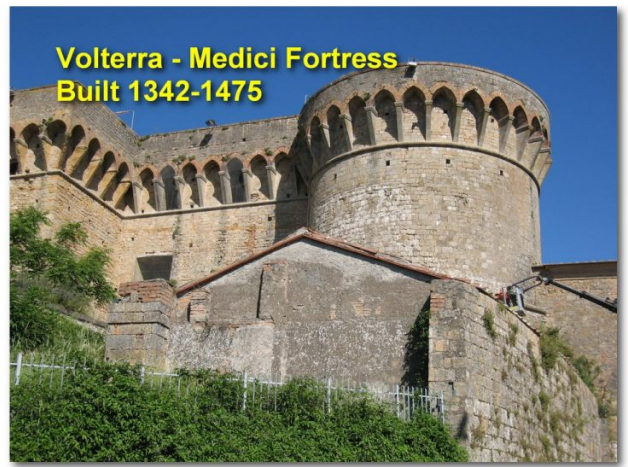
Four Double Bedrooms

Camara da Letto





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



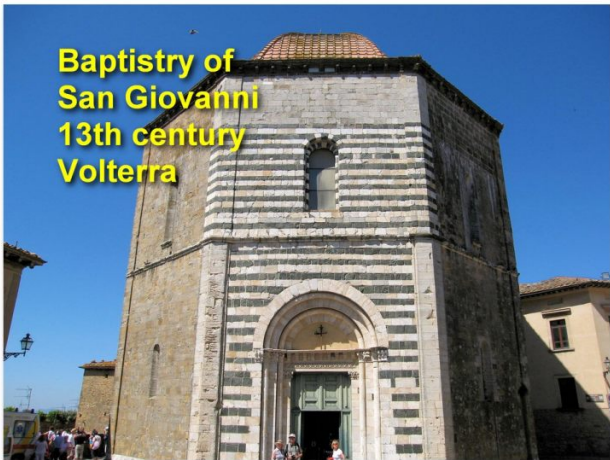
**Volterra - Medici Fortress
Built 1342-1475**



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
Church on 20 September Plaza
Rome was captured by newly
united Italy on Sept 20, 1870,
completing unification of Italy.**



**Madonna Ascending
Giovanni della Robbia
15th c**

The Della Robbias – Ceramic Artists

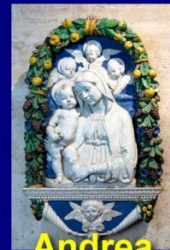
- Luca della Robbia: 1400–1482.
- Marco della Robbia: (brother of Luca, father of Andrea) 1385-1448.
- Andrea della Robbia: (nephew of Luca) 1435–1525.
- Giovanni della Robbia: (son of Andrea) 1469-1529.
- Girolamo della Robbia: (son of Andrea) 1488–1566.
- Francesco della Robbia: (son of Andrea) 1477-1527.



Luca



Marco



Andrea



Giovanni



Girolamo



Francesco



SPAR **Volterra**

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

Priori = Head Monks



These plaques honor famous citizens or events.

Palazzo dei Priori has a municipal museum and viewing tower.



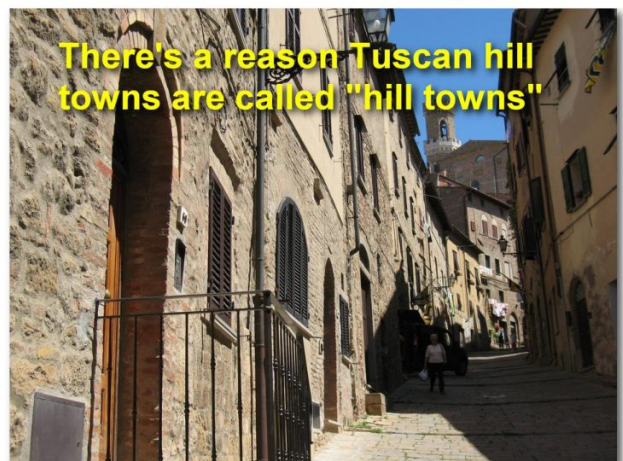
1st c BC Roman Theatre & Baths
Volterra

Baths

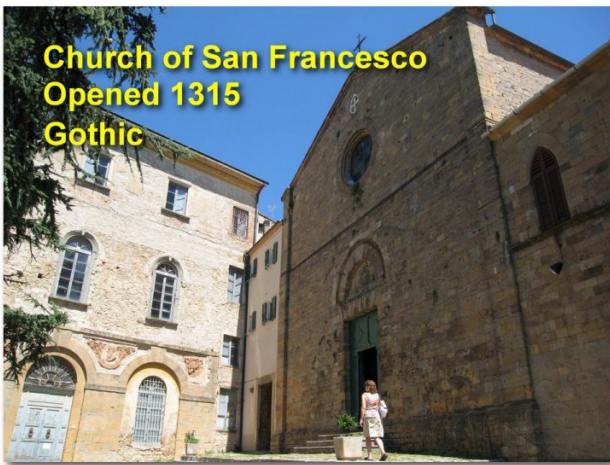
Theatre



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**

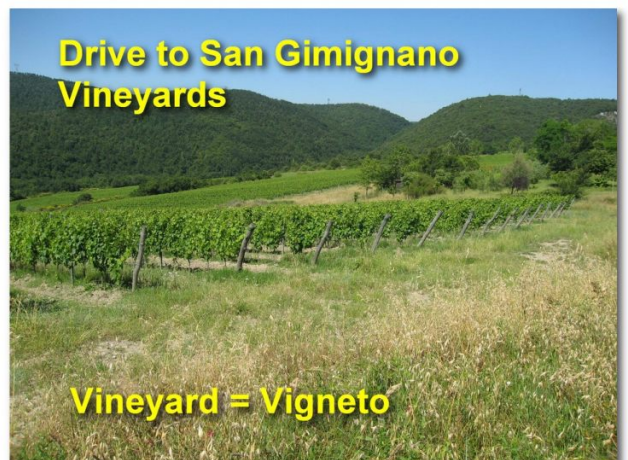
**Etruscan Period = 900 BC to 264 BC
Etruria Today = Tuscany, Lazio, Lombardy**



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



Etruscan alabaster sarcophagus

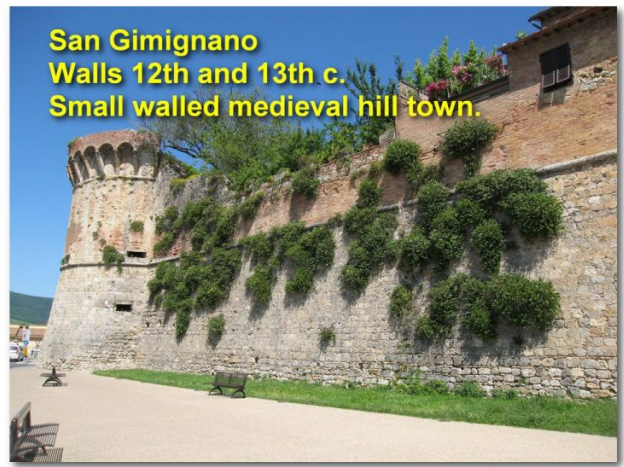


**Drive to San Gimignano
Vineyards**

Vineyard = Vigneto



Grapes = Uva



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 Cugnesi Tower
13th c



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**



**Piazza della Cisterna
Devil's Tower**



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



**View of Tuscan Hills
from San Gimignano**



Lunch in San Gimignano

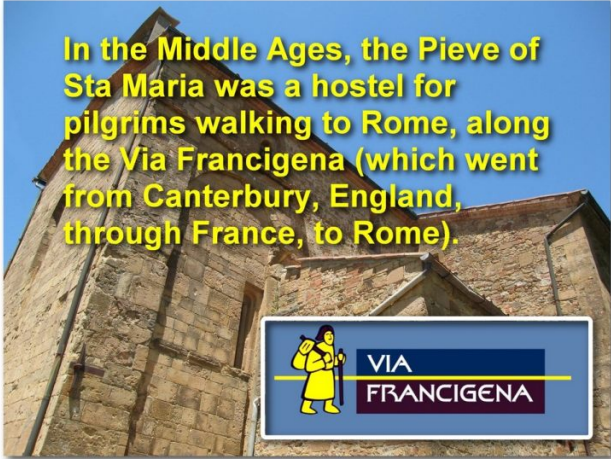
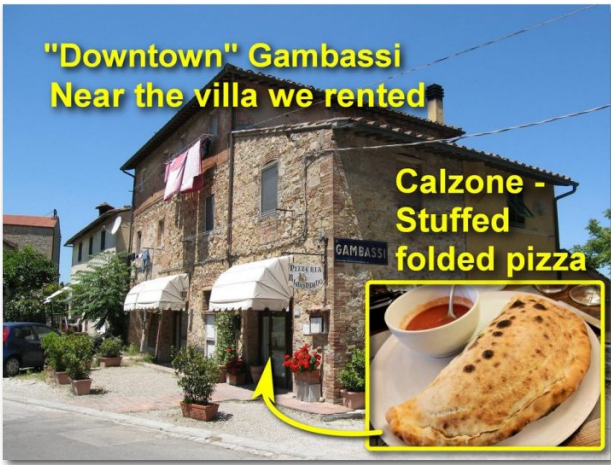
Tip: Find a restaurant as soon as you arrive in San G in the morning and book for lunch.

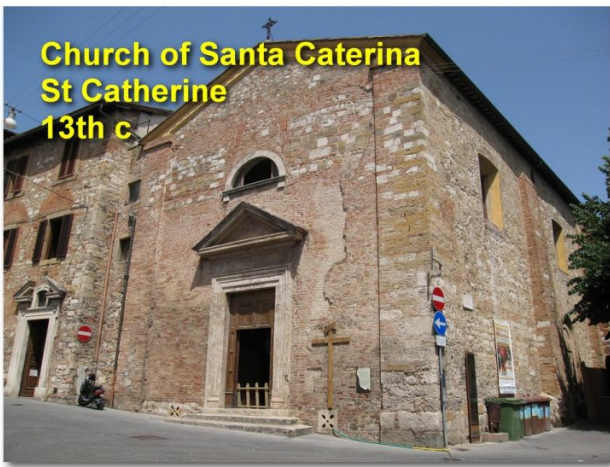


**Torre del Diavolo
Devil's Tower**



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





**Church of Santa Caterina
St Catherine
13th c**

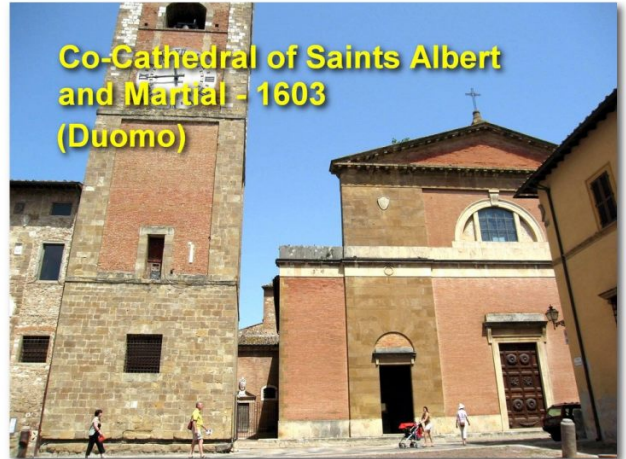


**Sagra della Miseria
Festival of Misery at St Catherine
Now in its 32nd year
Dinner, Weekends in June**
"Flavors of poor peasant cuisine. Menu includes soups, chickpeas, bread, and dishes based on bread like panzanella and bruschetta with anchovies and cod."



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

Duomo



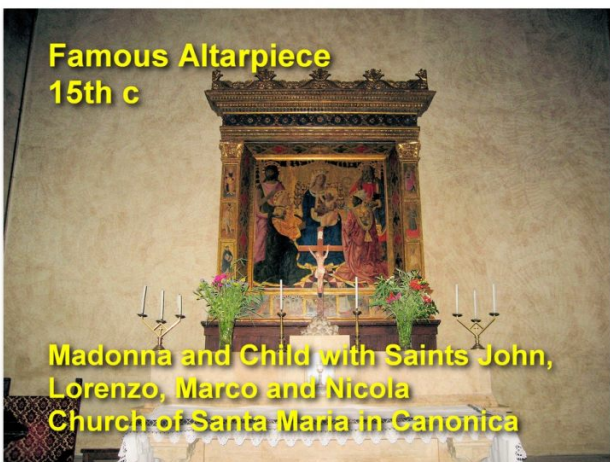
**Co-Cathedral of Saints Albert
and Martial - 1603
(Duomo)**



**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.**



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



**Famous Altarpiece
15th c**

**Madonna and Child with Saints John,
Lorenzo, Marco and Nicola
Church of Santa Maria in Canonica**



Colle di Val d'Elsa

**Walled Medieval Hill Town
of Monteriggioni**



**Monteriggioni – Park below
and walk up to the town**



**Monteriggioni walls built by
the Sieneese in 1214-1219 to
defend against Florentines.**



**Piazza Roma
Monteriggioni**



Monteriggioni



Monteriggioni Piazza Roma



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



Pieve = Rural Church

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



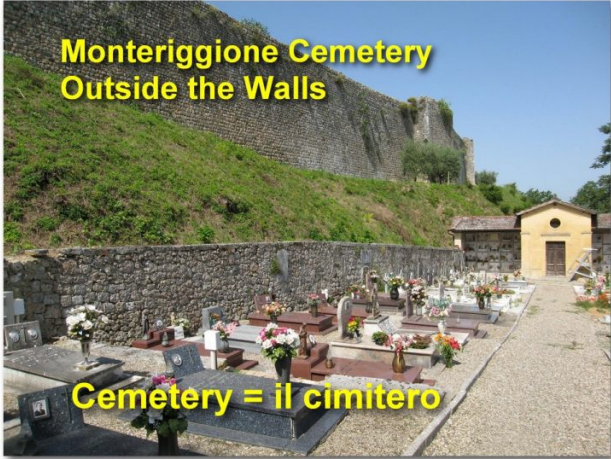


Walk along Monteriggioni walls

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

Cemetery = il cimitero



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.




Cooking Lesson

Teacher

Allison



Making ravioli from scratch



Zucchini Flowers

Fiori di Zucca



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



Cooking



Add ravioli to the sauce...



Ready to serve



Ally's chicken cacciatore



Crostata di Marmelatta di Fico

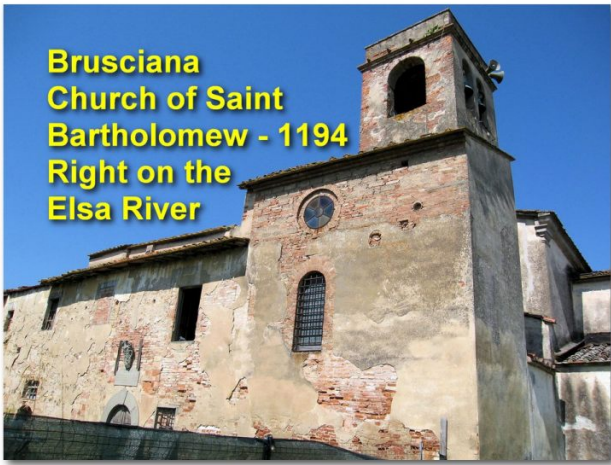
Fig jam pie Italian style



An excellent dinner!



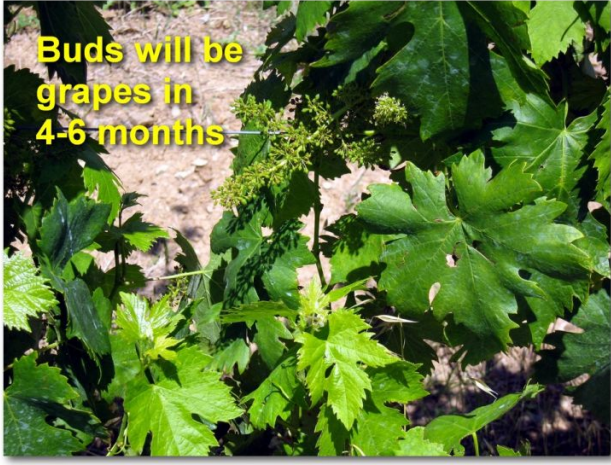
Tuscan Countryside



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



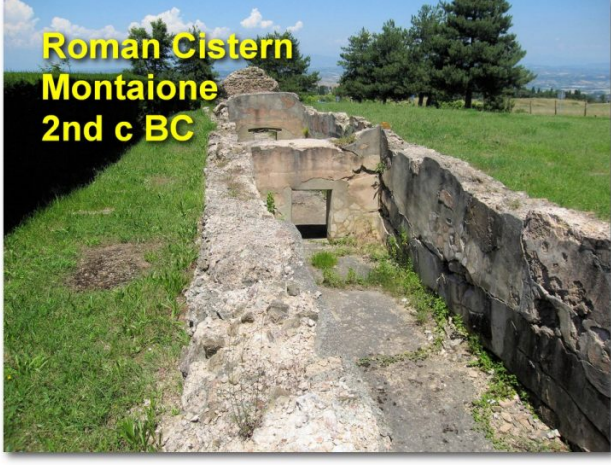
**Vineyards on the way
to Montaiione**



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



**Pieve of San Regolo
Montaiione - 1765**



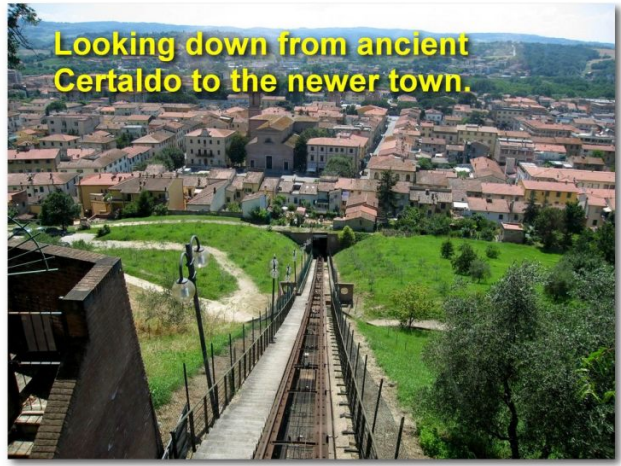
**Roman Cistern
Montaiione
2nd c BC**



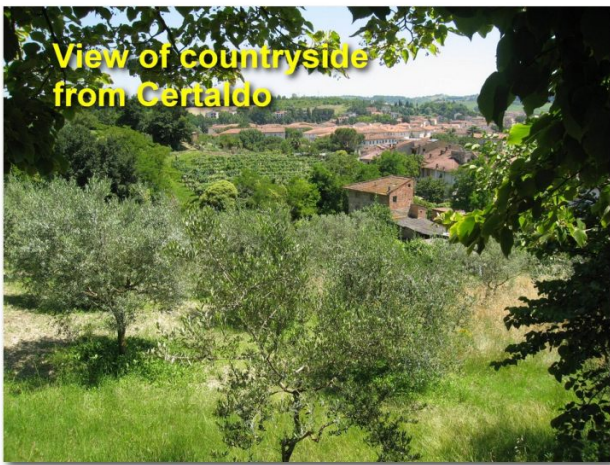
Drive to Hill Town of Certaldo



**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

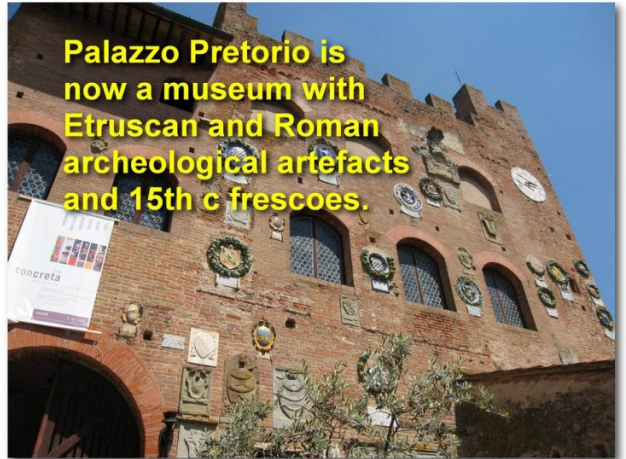


Entrance to ancient Certaldo

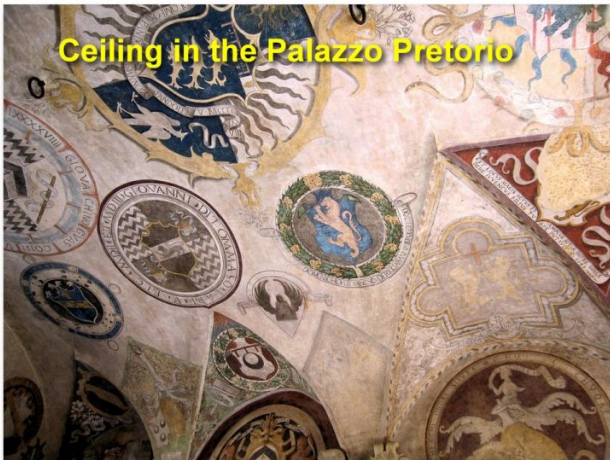


**Palazzo Pretorio - Certaldo
Built 1117-1164**

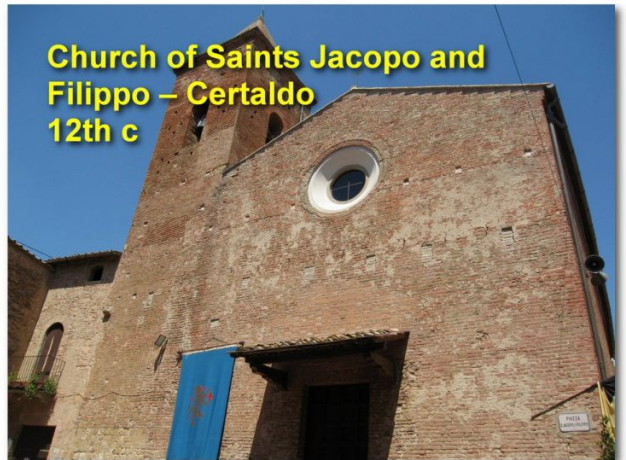
Palazzo pretorio = Mayor's office



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.**
- 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.

Since 1633

- 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.



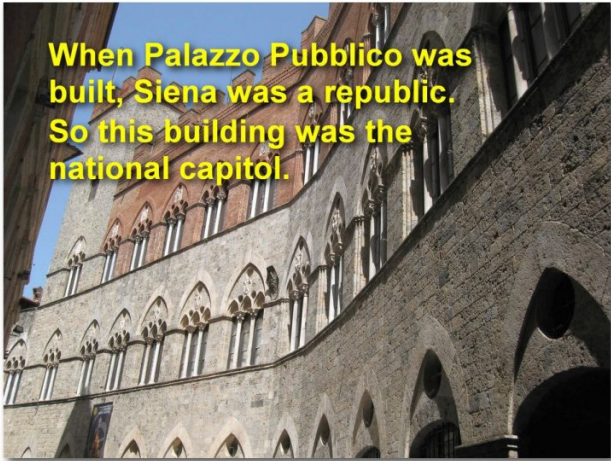
Photo taken late June. Getting ready for July 2 palio.



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**



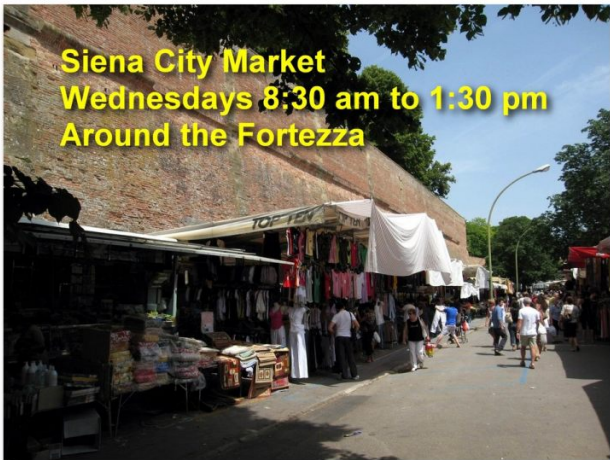
**Panforte – chewy Italian dessert
containing fruits, nuts, honey.**

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

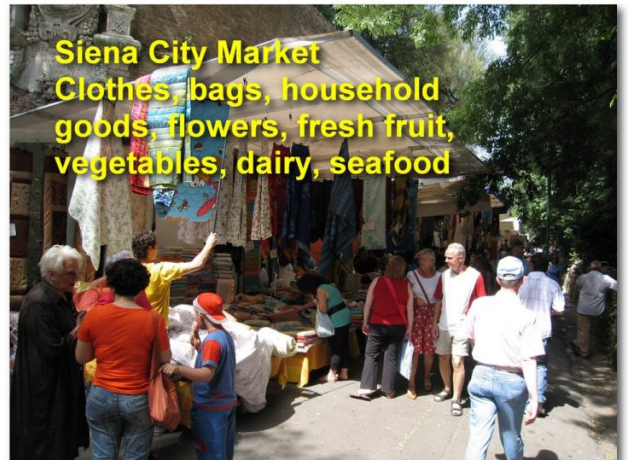


**Chocolate Stracciatella Panna Cotta
Hazelnut Walnut Cream**

**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

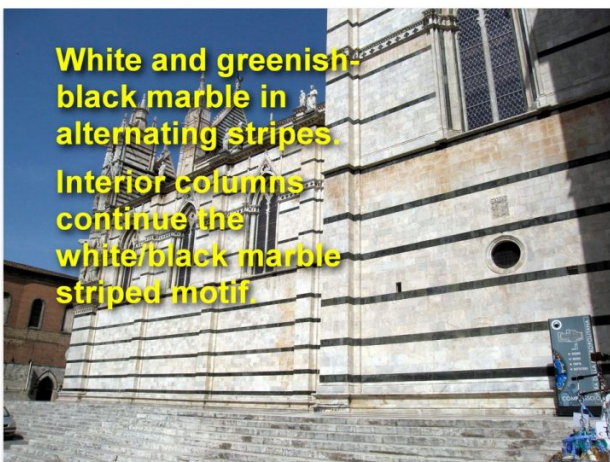


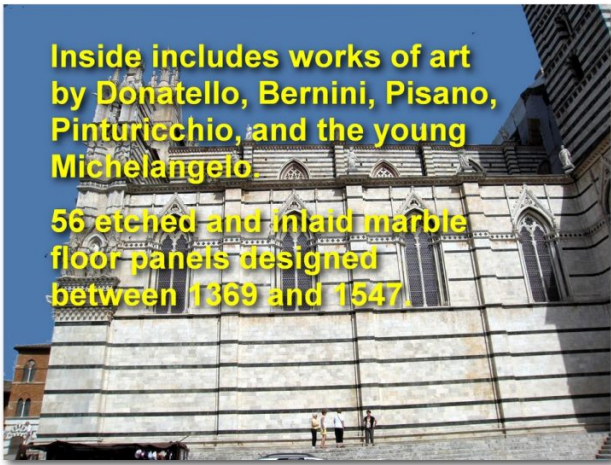
Salumi = Italian cold cuts made from salted pork or beef.

Examples of salumi:

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

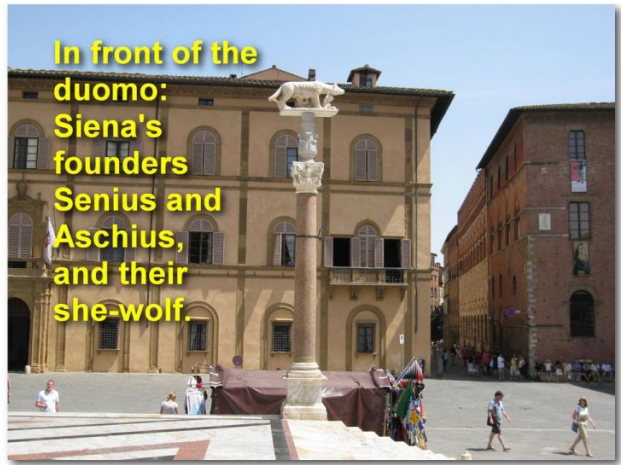


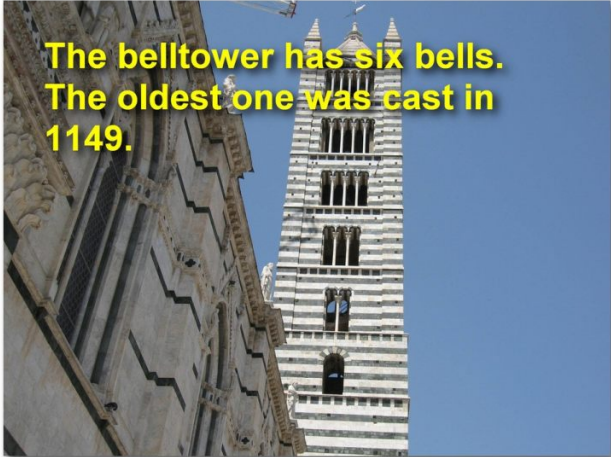


Inside includes works of art by Donatello, Bernini, Pisano, Pinturicchio, and the young Michelangelo.

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.*
– Designed by Giovanni Pisano.
Orvieto: 1290-1320 *60 mi NW of Rome.*
– Designed by Arnolfo di Cambio (also designed Florence cathedral).
– He died before completion.
– 1309 another architect took over. Major changes, increasing the similarity to Siena Cathedral.



Comparison

Siena 1215

Orvieto 1290-1320



Stained Glass: The Last Supper 1549



FINE (THE END)
of our Visit to Tuscany

ppacter@gmail.com
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