

July 07-14th 2017

Had a wonderful stay! The Pool/Chalet was awesome!

If you have time (1h45 min) to Ferry, 1 hour ferry to ELba Island. This was the highlight of our trip, highly recommend!!!

Hot Springs 1h30 min south of here would be good in winter months, not so in the summer!

July 15-22/17

Had a nice day - enjoyed a nice wine tasting here with dinner. Was very worthwhile also highly recommend a tasting at Castel Serrino - lots of history there - learned a lot about the region.
* Discovered 2 days before we left - the local station when you turn right into the main road (Total way?) has a great coffee bar with a wonderful selection of pastries - great cappuccino + very cheap! If you have been looking to stop - "Fogli" small bar a good selection 2-5 mins away. Recommendations for the unit: narrow in between so is difficult with steep knives. Search around would be great!

22-29 July.

A great place for a vacation - quiet and peaceful when you want it or full of day trips - pick your pleasure.

Marc & I decided on a combination of both.

Day 1 - spent the day in Siena - lots of things to see and do. They have several card options available from a few buildings/events to lots.

Day 2 - we googled wine tastings and stumbled on Tenute Torciano - a great tour/tasting/lunch for your money but their wines were expensive. A winery in its 14th generation.

Day 4 - we made an attempt to visit the villages of Cinque Terre but due to timing we only got to visit Monteveneri and take the boat to Monterosso, the seas were too rough for the boat/ferry to go into the others but got to see them from the water. Great views!!

Day 3 - we visited Modena which is great for ~~for~~ anyone who enjoys Formula 1 as they have two great museums - one right in Modena and one on the outskirts. We also visited a small villa for balsamic vinegar tasting, Modena is known for their balsamic vinegars.

Day 5 - we visited Castello di Sonnino - great wine, great history.

Also on Day 1, after Siena we visited a small castle in Monte regionè.

July 1-8/2017

11)

Had a fabulous time here at the chalet & under the Tuscan sun. So much to see & do with an excellent location for home base. Ina is very helpful & friendly so you are in good hands.

NOTE: Use washing machine with caution. Had a few pieces come out with threads pulled out of the fabric.

MY TRIPS:

- 1) CINQUE TERRA - took the train to explore. Breathtaking! Try to book a boat tour (we were unsuccessful due to poor planning)
- 2) LUCCA - walked medieval village, rented bikes to go around the top of the wall & around village.
- 3) PISA - easy parking close to tower, buy tickets first before exploring. Easy 1/2 day.
- 4) VOLTERRA - beautiful old village to walk around.
- 5) SAN GIMIGNANO - GO HERE! Amazing old village with a ton of towers, great shopping, world champion gelato (literally) "Gelateria Rondelli" & just cool stuff around every corner. Very nice at night too! (we went twice)
- 6) SIENNA - lots to see, especially the cathedral (Duomo) A good 1/2 day to walk around & see everything
- 7) FLORENCE - need 1-2 days. Book tickets for everything in advance. Be prepared for high crowds & a lot of walking. (To be honest - best favourite place this week)

RECOMMENDED RESTAURANTS:

3) LICCHIO

- would be a great lunch stop!
- the staff are amazing!

- 1) PODERE TORRICELLA - FATTORIA IL TUCCO (went 2x)
 - it's the one affiliated with the chalet.
 - book ahead of time with a table on the terrace
 - amazing food, plan ahead to eat 2x!
- 2) IL FOCOLARE (in Montagnana 1.5km away)
 - book ahead with a table in the back garden.
 - amazing food! (went 2x)

initial →

GROCERIES - lots of little shops close by in Cerbara, Montesper.
- best big one we found with everything was the
Coop in San Casciano (Viale Europa 20, 50026 SC.)

* FARMERS MARKET TUESDAY MORNINGS
IN MONTESPERTOLI

(vegetables, meat, cheese, fish, arts, clothes, etc)

Had an amazing time! Hope all of you do too!

Most days we made meals here if we weren't visiting other places at supper time. But I do recommend (thanks to the fathers) Il Foculare - and definitely ask for the back garden (you need to make a reservation as it is very popular).

Tonight will be a meal at the restaurant attached to Pedere Tonicella (once again reservations are required) and from other reviews I am sure we will enjoy.

The second fan would have been nice if it had been working. A sharp knife would be an added nicety to the kitchen for those who like to make some of their own meals.

July 29 - Aug 5 - "Enjoy 😊"

It was a hot week in Tuscany. With temperatures holding steady at 38-40°C highs we made great use of the pool and had lots of cold showers!

We toured Pisa, Lucca, Siena, Volterra and San Gimignano. We planned on Florence too, but with the high temperatures, the kids won out and we stayed by the pool.

A few tips.

* In Volterra - follow the signs to P3 - the parking is free and it's a beautiful walk up an old scenic staircase - great if no mobility issues in your party.

Isola del gusto gelato (Via Gramsci 3) - Also, look for the Gelato 2017 World Champion here - the gelato really was fantastic!

Highly recommended * Ristorante Bistrot Lo Zero in Montespertoli (12min. from here)
If you are looking for a nice evening out, we found this small bistro on Trip Advisor. It was great. You can make reservations online before you go through Trip Advisor.

* Go to the laundry room and get a drying rack for your towels 😊

* Best Coop in Montelupo (15+ min) large selection, bakery, hot & prepared food to go. (Via Raffaello Caverni, 60 50050 Montelupo)

* Important note for security. Please ensure you use the security bar in addition to locking up at night. We had an attempted break-in between 3-4 am one night. They took the lock out, but could not get in because of the security bar. Very thankful that we remembered to lock up properly. Another unit forgot and had their cash stolen while they slept.

Aug 5-12/17.

- After 4 days in Rome at +40, 35°C Not too bad in Tuscany.
- Enjoyed Pisa on day ~~one~~². The tower & the marina for a swim.
- Day ~~3~~³ ~~was for + day with~~ ^{up early caught 10 AM Boat from La Spezia} Cortina.
- Day 4. - visited Vinci & took in all the sites (4 different exhibits). Pretty impressed with the museum & displays.
- Day 5. wine tour & tasting after a relaxing day.
- Day 6. Siena & San Gimignano a full day.
- Day 7. Lucca trip to day. Highlight of trip for me. (fascinating old town & not too touristy with reasonable prices)

Aug 11 - 18 2017

Average temperature
30° - 38°C

Fabulous Stay —

Definitely loved our visits to Siena, San Gimignano
and Florence — ~~and~~ all day visits each —
and with every moment in the hot sun — Each day
ended with a refreshing swim in the pool !! Early
morning swims were also awesome —

The night views from the pool deck ended our days
with glass wine

- we also enjoyed Monte Lupo and the amazing terraces
surrounding area —

- wine tasting at both Casaleto Senese and — a wonderful
way to spend a few hrs —

→ Parking in Siena was difficult —

- Took the train into Florence from Monte Lupo which
was the "way to go" — make sure you get your
train tickets validated once you buy them.

→ great grocery market was Monte Lespesu

→ ~~Best~~ wonderful place to eat is at the foot of the villa hill
high - at the intersection and then 1st Ⓣ - Lago Le certane

The only suggestions for
The Villa are

- ① missus for Bedrooms
- ② maybe a Blender for smoothies
- ③ no ice making ability
- ④ working from a ceiling fans

But overall an awesome place
to vacation !!

- ⑤ need ice
- ⑥ need Alc for day time

Aug 19-26

Great visit!

Truly enjoyed all aspects ~~fo~~ of
the visit.

26 Aug - 1 Sep 2017

A wonderful Experience

This was an incredible experience - it lives up to the expression "Under the Tuscan Sun".

Flamere provides all the cultural indulgence you would need or want → "David" at the Academy is a must. Do the free walking tour, it's well worth it.

Antipasti Winey is a must - both the tour & the lunch - reservations required on both occasions.

A visit to Siena & San Gimignano are highly recommended, however a visit to Certaldo is overrated.

A few 1/2 days by the pool are well worth it, to slow the pace down so that you can fully embrace the Tuscan experience. The sunsets are well worth getting up early to experience.

The local restaurant "Fattori il Turco" is highly recommended, good value & excellent food - you will not be disappointed, but reservations are a must.

The highlight by far was our cooking class & the wine tour that preceded it. You need to book - arrange with Eliza @ +39 377 6801494 or e-mail at isentieridelgustofirenze@gmail.com - she is wonderful, a great cooking teacher & a fabulous gastronomical experience. (see her business card attached).

Overall, a great place that has filled us with many memories. Enjoy the experience, as we certainly did.

Sep 2-9th 2017:

Wow!!!

Great experience. Pisa + Siena - parking
was not an issue → 1/2 day for each.
Went mountain climbing on 4th → Incredible
views.

Florence can be busy - parking difficult -
recommended parking outside city limits -
walking involved !! or in.

Pisa - med coast → ?

Rome was incredible today (Wed) → only 3 hrs away.

Coliseum - wow!

Pisa & beach on Thursday - incredible

Coming back to this place

Heading Home Friday

Ciao !!

Sat 9-10 & 17

Arrived in Soriano. There was nothing for us to do as we were not in luck in finding a good view of the area & swimming out a distance

Sunday: Rains all day that did not stop us, we went for a drive in the area + received the Parco, Banks + good views @ Monte Carlo (15 min from here)
- Great wine tasting just 15 min from here
- No reservation needed: TENUTA IL CORNO

Tel: +39-455-824851

www.tenutailcorno.com

Restaurant: at the apt restaurant, try Steak T-Bone

Monday: Drove to Lucca for the day. Parked just Great!
Beside train station parking - cost: 4 Euros for 6 hrs!!

• Wonderful city, historic heritage / Great Shopping + very affordable

Tuesday: We Drove to Cinque TERRE (1h30)
Great scenery, not much traffic.
• Parking is 2 Euros / hrs @ Manarola.
• Spectacular place to visit, it looks like scenery of Romantic Italian film!!
• Lots of beautiful + affordable places to eat w/ view or clean
• Try the fried calamari in take out booths
• Simply fresh + delicious
• You can take a train at any Cinque-Terre cities @ 4 Euros / each / each way.

SEA?

Sept 9-16 2017

→ Manerola
+ Corniglia

- We visited 2 of the 5 cities, that was enough for us since they are very similar.
- Wonderful Day + highly recommended visit

N.B.

- Lots of steep walking bring good walking shoes!
- Lots of stairs in Corniglia going up+up+up!
- Bottles of water are easy to find + buy
① 1 Euro/each.

Wednesday: Took the ~~Train~~^{tram} + went to Florence for the day

- Drive: • Very easy to do, Put this Address in your GPS: 23 Via Edoardo Detti, 50143 - Tram station: Nenni-Torregalli
- 15 min TO COOP!!
- And park for free in the Coop parking lot
 - Tram is across the road, you buy your tickets right at the tram area for 1.20 Euros/one way
 - Florence was great, but 1 day was enough for us. Walked around, good shopping + great Terraces!
 - Beautiful Cathedral + Historic areas, Great + relaxed day!

Thursday: Drove to Volterra + Siena. 1/2 day in each city is enough / Great visit - Historic Places, very nice to walk around.

Friday - Relax day, stayed by the Pool in A.M. + went to San Gimignano in P.M. - Great Place, easy walking + parking.

Sept 9-16 2017

You Must Go at SAN MARINO

A Little Country @

3 hrs from here.

So so so worth it. We went
there on Saturday before coming

Here.

GORGEOUS + SO Romantic

Breathtaking landscape /
Mountain Views.

Great shops + everything is
very cheap!



