

SUMMMER

2016

14 MAY 16

We had a wonderful week in this great region of Italy and would not hesitate to return.

Alberto and his team were great hosts and offered great advice on all elements in making this week a superb holiday. We ate all meals at a different restaurant daily and have a hard time finding anything negative to say about any of them. We ate at the restaurant here and found the service and food excellent. Three days were spent exploring the Florence area and do not regret taking the time to do this. The Coop and workshop in Molin del Pigno had ~~also~~ ^{all} required ~~us~~ to support a week long holiday. Enjoy your time ~~we~~ definitely did.

15 July 2016

He had a wonderful session with our family of 5. The information provided by previous visitors was very helpful. Taking the train from Sieti into Florence was easy and definitely the best way to go. No attendant at the Sieti station, however there is an automated ticket machine which will take a visa card. Alberto & Martha were very informative and helpful.

One of the highlights for us was the cooking class. We all took turns making the pasta and one of the sauces - and then were able to enjoy a fabulous lunch (with wine!) here at the chalet - This was a definite hit with the teenagers.

Enjoy your stay! It will be amazing!!

16-23 July 2016.

• What a wonderful week! This chalet is a little jewel and the location is ideal for tranquil rest.

We took the opportunity to dine at the Castello restaurant - great dinner and wine and enjoying it all under a setting Tuscan sun ☺

The Castello tour was interesting & provided the history and courage of the current owner ... taking on the vineyard at such a young age then developing the business into a multi-million dollar enterprise in only 25 years is pure brilliance!

Alberto is certainly an attentive "host" ensuring all was in order for our stay.

The day trip into Florence was super slick and easy thanks to the train from Sieci!

The supermarket "Coop" in Pontassieve was fantastic - great prices on Italian staples ...

things that are great to take home such as: antipasta in jars, dried porcini mushrooms,

olive oils, spices, etc.

Enjoy your stay ... we did!

13-20 JULY 2016

DESPIE THE FACTS STILL CO RENTING THE APARTMENT, THE WEEK
IS WONDERFUL! -THE CASTELLO DEL TRUSSIO IS AN AMAZING
LOCATION FROM WHICH TO LAUNCH OUT AND EXPLORE TUSCANY!
SOME FAVORITE LOCATIONS WERE SAN GIMIGNANO AND
SIENA. WE'LL SPEND TWO ADDITIONAL DAYS EXPLORING
FURTHER AFTER WE CHECK OUT OF THE APARTMENT.

NO ISSUES DRIVING IN TUSCANY.

MONTASSIENE OFFERED COOP SHOPPING AND BREAKING
ENJOY YOUR MORNING COFFEE GAZING DOWN ACROSS
THE VINEYARDS AND OLIVE GROVES! ALBERTO AND
HIS STAFF ARE GREAT & THEY WILL HELP YOU IN ANY
WAY THEY CAN!

ENJOY YOUR STAY!

October 1st-8th,
2016

Another wonderful week spent at Castello del Trebbio!
This time, last year, we also stayed in this beautiful location. An excellent launching point from which to enjoy Tuscany ♥

Tips: • we parked our car in the underground P. by the Archives in Florence.

- head out early in the morning to see/climb the Duomo (beat the lines)
- Iuzzo is open until 7pm - No lines if you decide to go late in the afternoon! (check opening hours for days you visit).
- the cooking class and tour in the Castello del Trebbio was great! Martha was our guide. The chef could translate quite well; it was fun cooking with him!
- the pool was freezing this time of year - expected
- Nice walking trails around the area -
- Today we are going to visit Lucca - highly recommended to us.

We upgraded to the larger apartment because we are 6 adults & a baby.

Recommendation: In spite of this lovely place being self-catering, it would be so much nicer if there were some things for us to use ~~when~~ on arrival.

- for 6 people & a baby => enough dish washing liquid & T.P!
- olive oil & vinegar (thank you for the bottle of Red Wine for us - very kind!)
- some spices - oregano, salt & pepper! Basil
- some coffee / tea - (start fridge & freezer before we arrive + some bread in freezer).

In most chalet / B&B experiences, so far - we've been able to enjoy what others have left behind or what the owners have placed for us to use - this is a nice show of hospitality and so appreciated.

Anyway, in spite of this - we loved our stay here and hope you

October 8-15, 20

Just like all the visitors prior to us, we really had an amazing time. Alberto and his team are great and very helpful. As someone mentioned prior, travelling to Florence (Firenze) by train is the best way. 2.60 Euro per one way but no hassle or traffic.

Our tips:

- cooking class
- use train to Florence
- use Reservations for major sights in Florence (Alberto can arrange that) Otherwise you will stay in line for quite a while.

We left some coffee behind for the next family. Hope you have a great stay as well!

Oct 15-21, 2016

Beautiful views, amazing food, and good weather, not to mention great company, made for one of the top vacations of our lives. Castello tour, cooking class, Fiesole (do not be afraid of the mountain drive, it was easy), dinner at the restaurant here were among our favorites, but everything was great. Really enjoyed the Roman ruins in Fiesole and loved the panoramic view of Florence from the Michelangelo Piazza. Recommend taking the train to Firenze and picking up the Hop on, Hop off bus tour as an easy way to navigate the city. Tickets can be purchased at the train station in Firenze and you get off the train. Fromsted off we had a night at Tuscany da Sempran Postasieve with a traditional Tuscan meal. The duomo in Siena was amazing. Wish we could stay in another week. There is so much to see and do.

14-21 Oct 17

We enjoyed a wonderful sunny week in Tuscany! This villa and Castello del Trebbio are very well set up, and Alberto, Marta, and the whole gang are super friendly. Here a few of our observations for your consideration

- Take the train to Florence! The Hagars in the previous post describe the how and where to park. Very easy! Florence itself is fabulous and you could easily spend two full days there. The duomo is a must-see.
- Take the train to Arezzo! Arezzo is another great medieval town to explore with numerous churches and historic sites
- Visit San Gimignano, ^(by car) and ignore what is written in the binder. This medieval town is superb. There are many great sites & museums. The duomo is also a must-see, and the audio guide walks you through the numerous frescos inside. This town is over 600 years old!
- We spent a fun day exploring the monastery @ Montesenario and visiting the archeology site there. At the monastery, they sell a special liquor / digestive that is unique, local, and delicious. The chapel / worship halls are incredible. The hike up the hill is peaceful and helps you burn off calories.
- We also took the 4-course cooking class at the Castello. I highly recommend it. The food we produced was delicious and fed us for 2+ meals for 4 people.
- Everywhere we went, the food was excellent!

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- We sampled ~~a~~ many wines, pizzas, pastas, ~~meats~~, cheeses, and coffees. Gioppa is good. So is lemoncello.
- You must visit the pizzeria @ Santa Brigida called Nappino Pizzeria. Prices are reasonable, food is plentiful and tasty.
- Don't forget to say Hi to the very friendly grey tabby. He came by our place 3 times, and we gave him milk and prosciutto.

Chius!

Oct 22-28, 2017

Our first trip in Tuscany with a young family (3, 5 + 8 yo children). We had a great time. All the family enjoyed the cooking class and the tour of the castle. They even thought about the children by having juice in the wine tasting.

Our day in Siena & San Gimignano was one of the highlights of our week. Those are two beautiful medieval towns worth the detour.

Another great day was the one spent in Lucca and Pisa. We rented bikes to tour around Lucca, which the kids really enjoyed. The town is charming. From there, it is a really short ride to Pisa, we just stopped there for 1 1/2 h, we managed to park really close to the tower, which made the stop really worth it.

The day spent in Florence was too short. All the tips regarding getting there by train are really valuable. If you don't have three young children to take along with you, enjoy that beautiful city, a lot of charm and gastronomy to discover.

Thank you to Noemi who helped us during our week in Tuscany!