

Nature excursions

THE TYPICAL TUSCAN LANDSCAPE IS THE HARMONY OF NATURE AND CULTURE, THE ENVIRONMENT IS MODELLED BY THE SECULAR LABOUR OF MAN. EVERY SEASON ONE CAN WALK IN THE WOODS OF THE VALDAMBRA AND THE PRATOMAGNO MOUNTAIN, VISIT GARDENS AND NATURE RESERVES, DISCOVER THE EROSIONS OF THE BALZE, PAINTED BY LEONARDO DA VINCI.



The Balze. It is a protected area of 2000 ha with fascinating erosions of sand and clay. There are many trails for excursions. www.areeprotette.provincia.aretzo.it



Valle dell'Inferno. It is a nature reserve of 500 ha on the river Arno, with flora and fauna typical of damp areas. *Visitor's Centre 393 8353089*



The Valdambra is between Bucine and Pergine, near Siena, a countryside amongst woods, olive groves and historical centres. www.collidambra.it



Pratomagno. It is a mountain between Arezzo and Firenze; there are woods and villages, chestnuts and beeches and, on the ridge, large pastures. *Comunità Montana 055 9172277*



Parco di Cavriglia. In the 600 ha of oak and chestnut forest, there are many wild animals. One of the most beautiful panoramic views. www.parcocavriglia.com



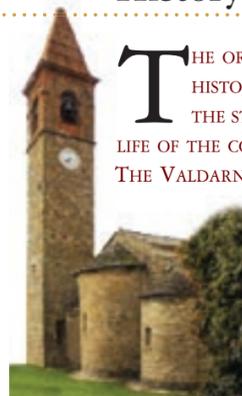
Pinetum. It is a botanical garden in Moncioni (Montevarchi), with giant conifer and exotic trees. *Comune Montevarchi 055 9108247*



From the Balze to the Pratomagno and the Valdambra there are many trails for people who are fond of walking and hiking.

History and art excursions

THE ORIGINS OF THE VALDARNO ARE LINKED TO ETRUSCAN AND ROMAN HISTORY, LATER WITH THE MIDDLE AGES AND THE RENAISSANCE, WITH THE STRUGGLES FOR POWER BETWEEN AREZZO AND FLORENCE, WITH THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITIES AND WITH THE FEUDAL SYSTEM OF THE COUNTRYSIDE. THE VALDARNO IS A REGION WITH A GREAT HERITAGE OF ART, FROM MASACCIO TO VENTURINO VENTURI, FROM THE ANONYMOUS FRESCOS TO THE ANNUNCIATION BY BEATO ANGELICO.



Churches and Abbeys built in the 11th century were religious and administrative centres. Rectilinear architecture in sandstone blends in with the natural surroundings.



Annunciation by Beato Angelico is a Renaissance masterpiece in the Museum of the Basilica. *Pro Loco 055 943748*



Museum of Paleontology of Montevarchi. A tour in the past, when the Valdarno was a lake: fossils and exhibits of sequoias, elephants and hippopotamus... *055 981227*



Rural architecture. "Casa colonica" (a typical farm house) is a testimony of the feudal system, at the centre of the farm with its hay loft, arches, dove-cot and loggias



Cennina. is a small village, a masterpiece of medieval urban planning with a harmonious combination of brick and stone in its 15th century square. *Information point 055 992796*



Venturino Venturi. In Loro Ciuffenna is the museum and the atelier of the famous 20th century painter and sculptor. *Pro Loco 055 9170146*



Industrial monuments. Glass manufacturing factory, now a university (San Giovanni Valdarno), furthermore factories for hat making, spinning, brick and tobacco production...



The masterpieces by Della Robbia. The splendour of the sculptures and glazed earthenware: the lunette in San Giovanni, the monumental temple in Montevarchi, the baptismal fountain in the church of Galtrona.

Tasting experiences



VALDARNO HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE LAND OF WINE, ITS CHIANTI, AND LIKEWISE ITS EXCEPTIONAL EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL. THESE PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE ON FARMS AND IN WINE CELLARS AND YOU CAN ALSO FIND THE HIGHLY RENOWNED ZOLFINO BEANS, VALDARNO CHICKEN, PRATOMAGNO CHESTNUTS, SHEEP'S MILK CHEESE AND HIGH QUALITY LOCAL SALAMIS AND CURED MEATS.



Wine. The terroir of Valdarno is characterised by Sangiovese. In this area the Chianti wine is fresh and fruity, sapid and ruby red. www.stradadelvino.aretzo.it



Extra virgin olive oil. It is one of the finest olive oil in the world, with a very low level of acidity and full fruitiness. www.provincia.aretzo.it/agricoltura



The chestnuts of Pratomagno and of the mountains of the Chianti are used to produce a sweet and fragrant flour. *Consorzio: 335 373280*



Pecorino cheese, sheep's cheese, is fresh or seasoned, tasty, with delicate flavour. www.provincia.aretzo.it/agricoltura



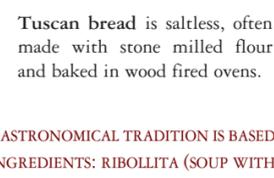
Valdarno chicken. is a real free range chicken; its claws are yellow and the meat is firm and very tasty. *Consorzio 320 6758632*



Pratomagno Zolfino Beans are round with thin skins, tasty and creamy. www.ilfagiolozolfino.it



The Presidi Slow Food includes: Tarese Valdarno, Pratomagno Zolfino Beans, Chianina, Valdarno Chicken. *Info: 335 373280*



Tuscan bread is saltless, often made with stone milled flour and baked in wood fired ovens.

THE GREAT TUSCAN GASTRONOMICAL TRADITION IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING INGREDIENTS: RIBOLLITA (SOUP WITH BLACK CABBAGE, BEANS AND BREAD), PAPPARDELLE (WIDE FRESH PASTA STRIPS) WITH RABBIT OR DUCK SAUCE, PAPPAL POMODORO (SIMPLE AND SIMMERED TASTY FRESH TOMATOES WITH BREAD), PORCHETTA (SPIT ROAST WHOLE PORK WITH STUFFING OF HERBS, FENNEL AND GARLIC), SPIT ROASTED MEAT (ONE OF THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF OUR CUISINE) THE STEWS, PANZANELLA AND CASSEROLES...

Fairs, from tradition to modern times

Folk culture and tradition are the origin of the many fairs held in every town whether small or large in the Valdarno: the revival of the costume festivals and of old, typical handicrafts, village festivals based on the gastronomic produce of the area. There is the Festa del Perdono - the fair of forgiveness (the largest is in Terranuova Bracciolini at the end of September) where religious aspects, food, goods and livestock are interwoven. In each season of the year Valdarno offers a rich calendar of events for tourists and visitors in the squares, in the old town centres and in the countryside.

- **Europlà.** San Giovanni, at the end of August. International comical theatre. Notte Bianca - shops open until late at night.
- **August beneath the stars.** Throughout the month, wine tasting sessions are held in the villages of the Valdarno to sample the best local wines: Campogialli, Moncioni, Rapale, Cennina, Laterina...
- **Village festivals.** There are numerous gastronomical festivals: Festival of the crostino, S. Leolino; the frog festival, Pietraviva; the steak festival, Mercatale; the snail festival, Ambra e Cavriglia; the chestnut festival, Mercatale; the trout festival, Loro Ciuffenna; the pulenda festival, Poggio di Loro; the ribollita soup festival, San Clemente; the homemade bastoncello festival, Casanova di Laterina; the panello con l'uva festival, Neri di Cavriglia...

- **The Antique fair.** Every second Sunday of the month in Terranuova over a hundred stalls with furniture, ceramics, wrought iron and odds and ends.
- **Il Mercatale.** Every second Saturday of the month a market of local produce takes place in the main square in Montevarchi.
- **Orientoccidente.** Music festival - sounds from all over the world.
- **Utopia del buongusto.** Theatre dinners held in the village squares of the Valdarno.



- **Valdarno Jazz.** Jazz music festival.
- **Cinema e socialità.** Film showings and meetings with producers and actors in the main square of Pergine Valdarno.
- **Discovering nature.** Throughout the Summer guided tours to the nature reserves (Balze, Pinetum, Valle dell'Inferno, Ponte Buriano).
- **Theater seasons** in San Giovanni Valdarno, Bucine, Castelfranco, Terranuova, Cavriglia



SAN GIOVANNI: The Uffizi lunch with «stufato» - braised spiced beef; Valdarno Cinema Fedic, short film festival; the Rificolona festival (7th Sept) theatre season. • **BUCINE:** flower festival, a festival of the Italian regions (May and August); medieval banquet at Ambra (August); concerts at Cennina and in the Valdambra castles, (Summer) • **LORO CIUFFENNA:** little marathon of the parish churches, (1st May), Loro Summer exhibition; midsummer festival (15th August); quartetto d'archi festival, Gropina (July and August) • **CASTELFRANCO:** Castelfranco vivi-amò summer festival - theatre and prose; collector's market and exhibition (25th April); Corpus Domini procession and flower covering in the town centre: the live nativity. • **LATERINA:** the frog race, Ponticino in June; Medieval festival (July), Nativity crib competition in Laterina in December; • **PERGINE:** cinema and sociality festival (August); grape harvest blessing, Pieve a Presciano (August); festival of the new oil, (November); • **PIAN DI SCÒ:** Art and Music (June); archaeological nights, Poggio alla Regina (July); Faella Summer, shows and gastronomy; the Valdarno horse race (July); festival of decoy birds, (October); the new oil festival (November) • **TERRANUOVA:** Zolfino bean festival, (May); «In Strada», street festival, art and food (September): national bird fair (September); summer together; improvviso poems; theatre and music season, Auditorium. • **MONTEVARCHI:** Carnival, classical music concerts, opera in the town square; market on the road of the museums... • **CAVRIGLIA:** the Arezzo countryside and from villa to villa, classical music (Summer); the fair of forgiveness in the villages; the fair of the new oil (December).

...in Valdarno!



BETWEEN AREZZO AND FLORENCE, THE CHIANTI AND THE PRATOMAGNO

a completely different holiday...

A publication by Municipalities of Valdarno and the Comunità Montana Pratomagno

