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2017 June

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Cover:
 Mattina d'Estate (2015)
 by David Finkbeiner

Editorial



Dear Readers,

Finally summer has arrived, and what better place to be than Tuscany! By visiting the mountains or the sea, we can escape from the sticky heat of the pianura. Our region abounds with hiking trails, beaches, and cool retreats for those who don't have their own country house. If you do have one, then take some tips from expert Simone Lippi for keeping your garden cool and your plants and lawns alive.

City dwellers will want to stroll in the cooler hours of the day. Don't miss Camaiore's sawdust carpets (it's all over by noon)! And enjoy Dee Montalbano's look at non-fluency as she meanders through Lucca's streets. Then, bringing us a metaphor that you'll want to judiciously sprinkle into your conversations, we have an article about parsley. I used to just push this greenery to the side of my plate, but no more! Thank you Judith and Dee for opening up our senses!

This month the magazine abounds with music and art, from classical to jazz (at the Amphitheatre and at Marlia's Villa Reale) and soon, with July's famous Summer Festival, to rock as well. Don't miss David Finkbeiner's exhibit In Another Place, and please pop by the new Grapevine office (via dell'Angelo Custode 3A) to see Gesti di un Lavoro Antico by painter Emilio Cavani, a look at the traditional skills required for working in the marble quarries. We pay tribute to sculptress Laura Ziegler with an article about Ilaria del Carretto, and take a peek at an architectural feature, the occhio di buca, with the help of Francis Pettitt.

On a more practical level, Carolyn Slater looks at Brexit from this side of the "pond", and Pierpaolo Vannucci provides important information for anyone offering vacation rentals.

By popular request, Grapevine is helping to organize several events this month. Look at the fold-out section under the category "Meet-Up Groups". Please book, and bring friends of all nationalities. Above all, enjoy your summer!

Norma

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Francigena Emotion: The Journey, Faith, Beauty

If you want to do more than just stroll or cycle around the Mura, then head to *Baluardo San Salvatore*, which is between Porta Elisa and Porta San Jacopo. Walk down from the Mura along the tree-lined pathway and you will find the entry point to *Casa del Boia* (the hangman's house).

Following a much needed renovation to this multi-storied building, the public are now able to experience, among other things, the emotions of the Francigena life and faith, practised by millions of pilgrims since the year 1000, said to represent a key resource for the evolution of European culture. It's in the form of a sight-and-sound diorama, telling the story of a series of imaginary travellers over seven centuries who have travelled the Via Francigena, which begins in Canterbury (UK) and finishes in Rome. This story is depicted on the beautifully restored walls and ceilings within the former executioner's house of the San Salvatore bastion (or bulwark).

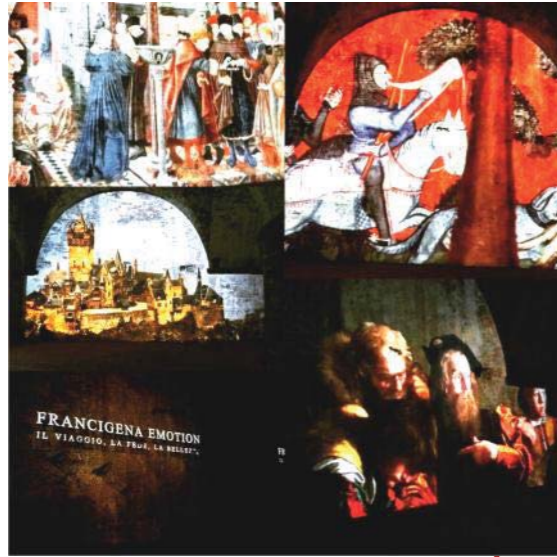
Within the Casa del Boia, this museum lets you immerse yourself in an emotional experience. The museum also offers visitors a bookshop, guided tours, reservations and tourist information. There are also special educational workshops for schools.

Today the building has been restored showing full respect to the site, so that it can have a useful future. Near it, on the Mura, is the Hospitality Centre of Casermetta San Salvatore, a place to snack, rest and relax.

So take a stroll and see for yourself this fascinating part of historical Lucca.

– by Sue Perry

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Did you know that the walls (Mura) of Lucca are formed by 11 bastions for a length of 4.2km? These bastions are of different shapes and sizes and they incorporate the turrets of the medieval Mura. They are known as Santa Croce, San Frediano, San Martino, San Pietro/Battisti, San Salvatore, La Libertà/Cairolì, San Regolo, San Colombano, Santa Maria, San Paolino/Catalani, and San Donato; and over the gates (Porte): San Donato, Santa Maria, San Jacopo, Elisa, San Pietro, and Sant'Anna.

Once the Mura lost their military importance, they became a promenade for pedestrians and the *Passeggiata delle Mura* was born.

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Fifty Years of Music

The year 2017 represents an important milestone for one of Lucca's best-loved musical institutions, the Polifonica Lucchese choir, which celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1967 by a group that included Egisto Matteucci, who remains its irreplaceable Musical Director, the Polifonica has over these years developed a distinguished concert repertoire, as well as its core function of contributing the musical accompaniment to the celebration of the Mass on Saints' days and major festivals throughout the *parrocchia* of the *Centro Storico*. Concert performances have included, amongst others, Mozart's *Waisenhaus Mass*, Brahms' *Deutsches Requiem*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, and the *Ninth Symphony* of Beethoven, while the choir's parochial duties often feature works by lesser-known *lucchese* composers, drawn from the city's rich musical archive.

For example, in accompanying the Mass at the Duomo on 7 May as part of the Lucca Classica programme, the choir sang pieces by Giacomo Puccini, Senior (1712-1781), great-great grandfather of the better-known Puccini, and Domenico Quilici (1757-1831), former Master of the Palace Chapel in Lucca. The musical archives of Lucca are full of such treasures, which Egisto Matteucci has been largely responsible for reviving as repertoire for the Polifonica.

The choir's programme for its 50th anniversary year is typically rich, including

- (as described above) participation in the Lucca Classica programme on 7 May;
- in July, the annual Choir Festival, and the Festival of San Paolino, patron saint of the city;
- the now celebrated Concert for San Michele on 24 September, which this year will feature the Mass for Four Voices by the youthful Giacomo Puccini;
- a special celebration for the feast of Santa Cecilia, the patron saint of music, on 26 November.

All this, plus a special publication and/or recording!



The Polifonica is approaching this anniversary year with renewed enthusiasm, says Egisto Matteucci. In particular, work is already under way on the Puccini Mass for our September concert. It is an extraordinary piece, conceived by Puccini in his early twenties as part of the final submissions for his graduation at the Milan Conservatoire. It is undoubtedly a young man's music, but already full of hints of the genius that was to manifest itself later in his great operatic masterpieces.

According to Maestro Matteucci, *New – or returning – singers are always very welcome. All you need is a sense of commitment and a passion for music. Talk to me, or leave a message on our Facebook page. We will be delighted to hear from you.*

Anyone who would like to talk to an English-speaking member of the Polifonica Lucchese about what is involved in being part of the choir is welcome to contact Carolyn Slater on 338 407 6568, or carolinascozzese@yahoo.it



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Virtuoso & Belcanto is coming!

Mark your calendars for 16 July through 5 August. This annual festival, celebrating classical music of all eras, had its inaugural last year here in Lucca and it was a resounding success, both in the quality of the performers and the high numbers of attendees. This year the festival has been expanded to 3 weeks and some larger venues and includes competitions for cello, piano, violin and chamber music. The festival is organized by music teachers (who are also international performers) from the Fiesole School of Music and features more than 150 musicians and students from all over the world.

In addition to the competitions, there will be over 30 concerts at various places around Lucca, including the Palazzo Pfanner, Chiesa di San Romano, Chiesa di Santa Caterina, Chiesa dei Servi, le Mura, the Orto Botanico and in the streets! Many of these events will be free, with nominal costs for others.

If you would like to offer financial support to this festival, either as a prize for one of the competitions (as this writer has done) or a donation, please contact me at mariaallwine@gmail.com or contact Grapevine at editor@luccagrapevine.com. This is a festival featuring the highest caliber of performers, from the competitors to the IB1 Orchestra from Norway, to Voces Intimae and all involved with this festival. This writer was so impressed last year that I attended every event and was already looking forward to this year's festival when it ended!



For more information and the schedule, go to Facebook, Virtuoso & Belcanto. Click on Learn More. For English, click on the flag on the right. You can then see the schedule and locations. At this time, it is still a work in progress, but is most informative.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

photos:
(1) left, Palazzo Pfanner, 2016. (2) above, Piazza San Michele, 2016. Photos by Peter Ademik.
(3) below, press conference with author (and donor), Maria Allwine, 2017.



The Sawdust Carpets of Camaiore

Corpus Domini is the name of a Catholic festivity, which was established in the thirteenth century. Its importance grew in the following centuries so that in most communities a procession took place, for which no decoration was found beautiful enough to honour the Eucharist which Catholics identify with the *Body of the Lord*. The itinerary of the procession was therefore covered with carpets, which occasionally became carpets of flowers (known as an *infiorata*).

The best-known *infiorata* is probably the one in Spello, near Perugia. Another increasingly well known *infiorata* is at Castelraimondo near Macerata. In the province of Lucca, at least two villages (Piazzano and Camigliano) celebrate Corpus Domini in the same way.

In Camaiore an unusual development took place, apparently unique in Italy, where the carpets became sawdust carpets. The sawdust, normally from poplar or fir wood, is coloured with aniline dyes, in quantities which have to be carefully computed according to the design. Designs are obviously connected with a religious subject and have to be approved in advance to avoid surprises such as a kind of *action painting* which took place in 1968, when students



tried to introduce pebbles, cardboard and even barbed wire. The carpets must be made only of sawdust to an established width, whereas the length is optional, from a few metres to an average length of between 30 and 50 metres.

Associations and groups of citizens thus compete every year in *laying out* their carpet, which means working all night with an elaborate technique so as to complete the job early next morning.

This year (1998) the preparation will take place during the night between Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th June (*ed. note: for 2017 the dates are 17-18 June*). The procession is around 10.00 a.m. on Sunday, so there isn't much time to admire the carpets. Interestingly enough, at Spello the procession is at noon and at Castelraimondo only at 6.30 p.m. so that the *infiorata* can be admired as it deserves.

Whoever can find time may find it worthwhile to stroll along Camaiore's main

street on the Saturday evening to enjoy the hustle of the *maestri tappetari*.

— by Ruggero di Palma Castilgione

— from the Grapevine archive, June 1998

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Sculptress Laura Ziegler

Laura Ziegler, a sculptress who lived at San Michele in Escheto with her husband Herbert Handt, died last month, on the morning of Thursday 4 May. Laura was born in Columbus, Ohio in 1925. In 1949 she came to Florence on a Fulbright scholarship, then continued her work on polychrome sculpture for another two years in Rome with the sculptor Pericle Fazzini. Several years later, she and her musician husband decided to settle in Lucca. She established her studio in Pietrasanta and two of her works can be seen at Pietrasanta's Museo dei Bozzetti: *L'Arlecchino appoggiato* and *Il Profeta*. Twice a participant in the Venice Biennale (1956, 1958), Laura has been honored in the U.S. with the title of "National Treasure". Her works are in the collections of the Rockefellers, the Whitneys and the Roosevelts, as well as in galleries in New York, Washington, Boston, Columbus, Cleveland, London, Rome and elsewhere. Laura is survived by her husband Herbert and by many nieces and nephews both in New York and California. In loving memory, we would like to reprint an article that we published in 2012, which illustrates Laura's important role in Lucca's cultural history.

The True Face of Ilaria

Our cover photograph is of the ever fascinating Ilaria del Carretto, second wife of Paolo Guinigi, as she appears today. Ilaria lived from 1379 to 1405. She died in childbirth at the age of 26, after which her aggrieved husband, a rich Luccese *Signore*, commissioned Jacopo della Quercia to sculpt her sarcophagus. Ilaria was rendered even more touching by the realistic little dog at her feet, who symbolized marital fidelity. Ilaria on her bier, with that slight smile and her lovely curls surrounded by a flowered headdress, has been enchanting visitors to Lucca's Duomo for over 600 years. But she hasn't always been so waxy and smooth.

Ilaria was "reborn" about 23 years ago (in 1989), when she underwent a controversial restoration. So surprised was the American sculptress Laura Ziegler, who has lived and worked in Lucca and Pietrasanta for the past 60 years, that she phoned up art historian James Beck, Founding Director of ArtWatch International and Professor at Columbia University. Beck was an expert on 14th and 15th century art, and especially on Jacopo della Quercia. He described the cleanup job as something between Spic and Span and Johnson's Wax, and suggested that the cleaning fluid used might have been Fomblin, an experimental synthetic oil manufactured by Solvay (near Livorno). Among the evidence he cited Ilaria's curls, which seemed thinner and flattened down after the restoration.

Beck's criticism sparked a lawsuit by the Lucca restorer. Beck was sued in Florence, Livorno, Alessandria and Turin, and he faced a possible three-year prison term for defamation. But his Florentine colleagues supported his right to criticize. Even one of Ilaria's relatives sustained Beck's critique. Ilaria was once the property of the Contessa Stefania Barsotti, a descendant of the Guinigi family. The Contessa commented: "The monument is changed. The marble was vibrant, living. And this sensation was given to me by the patina of time. Ilaria was still pulsating. Now she is so white, frozen, cold. She seems to have been sculpted yesterday." (*La Repubblica* 18 May 1991).

The case was resolved, and Beck was acquitted in 1991. All this was brought to my attention by Laura over Thanksgiving lunch, as we were discussing the meaning and value of art. Laura, who studied in Rome on a Fulbright in 1949, is an excellent sculptress in her own right. She was selected for the Venice Biennale in 1956 and 1958, and is on exhibit in many distinguished galleries, including New York's Museum of Modern Art, the Hirshhorn in Washington, D.C., and private collections including those of the Rockefellers and the Whitneys. Her opinion, then as now, holds weight.

I want to thank Laura for helping me view Ilaria with imaginary distorting glasses, to remember her as she was. Not perfect, perhaps, but perhaps more alive. With that conservative spirit, later restorations will have been more careful, as in this lovely wooden polychrome of San Martino from San Cassiano di Controne.



Ilaria before her restoration. From the book by James Beck and Aurelio Amendola (photographer), *Ilaria del Carretto di Jacopo Della Quercia*, curated by the Archdiocese of Lucca and the Cathedral of San Martino. Edizioni Amilcare Pizzi, Milan, 1988.



San Martino, attributed to Jacopo della Quercia. A wooden sculpture from the early 15th century, from San Cassiano di Controne (Bagni di Lucca), thought to have originally been in the Duomo of Lucca and contemporary with Ilaria del Carretto's effigy.

http://sacrumluce.sns.it/mv/html/OPE/OA_09005103720000/

– by Norma Jean Bishop

– from Grapevine's Archives, December 2012

Complesso Museale e Archeologico della Cattedrale di Lucca. Ilaria is in the Sacristy of the Cathedral, open to the public in winter (3 November to 14 March) from Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4.45pm, Saturday 9.30am to 6.45pm, Sunday 9.30am to 10.45am and 12 to 5pm. From mid-March to November she can be seen Monday to Friday 9.30pm to 5.45pm, Saturday 9.30am to 6.45pm, Sunday 9am to 10.45am and 11.30am to 6pm. Tel. 0583 490530, www.museocattedralelucca.it

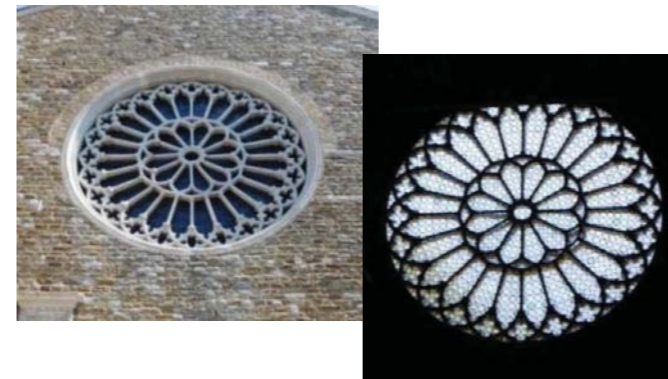
The Cat's Eye?

One of my favourite window shapes is that which in French is called *oeil-de-boeuf* but which is anglicised into *bull's eye* and Italianised in *occhio di bue*.

It's a small circular or oval-shaped window which is usually placed between the roof and the last floor of the house, generally either grated in or glassed in. Its purpose is to lighten the attic storey of a house or, if there's no glass in it, to provide added ventilation to the *soffitta*.



L'occhio di bue is a classic feature of Italian Renaissance architecture. Indeed, it's also a major feature in Gothic architecture, where the *rosone* (or rose-window) can have gorgeously elaborate traceries. We saw a beautiful example of a *rosone* at the front of San Giusto cathedral on our recent visit to Trieste.



Amazingly, one of the largest bull's eye windows is not to be found on the facade of any Gothic or Renaissance building, but in the centre of the roof of that greatest of classical Roman buildings, the Pantheon, where, termed *oculus* (the eye), it's used

without glass, to lighten the whole of this extraordinary building. I've been there when it was raining and it was a fantastic sensation to hear the drops descending from the oculus onto the marble floor of this 2000-year-old building, just as it would have done in Imperial Roman times.



There are variants of the *occhio di bue* window – so many of which may be seen in the country villas around Lucca and in Lucca's palaces. (Indeed, in Bagni di Lucca itself). These windows can also be hexagonal or cusped. The oval shape, too, can be either vertically or horizontally inclined.

In the UK this highly attractive window shape realized its most widespread use in the Georgian architecture of the eighteenth century.

We noticed on a house front in the Tuscan landscape this cat who was happily adapting the bull's eye window for its own special purpose: that of gazing on the world as it passed by. In that case should not this window also be termed *l'occhio del gatto?* – the cat's eye? What a lucky cat, I thought!



– by Francis Pettitt
Follow Francis' blog at <http://longoio2.wordpress.com>

Thanks to my wife, Sandra, without whose observant eye this article would never have been written.

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David Finkbeiner, In Another Place



David Finkbeiner's path to *In Altro Luogo*, the exhibition of his work at the Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca in the Piazza San Martino 7 (24 June to 23 July), has not been completely straightforward.

Born in Nampa, Idaho, to a fundamentalist Christian family, Finkbeiner fell in love with the theatre as a teenager and dreamed of becoming a movie actor. In secret and using a friend's address for correspondence, he applied to the University of Denver drama school. Once accepted, he accumulated his tuition by selling pots and pans to his high school class, and happy to be away from the family farm, began studying acting in earnest. His money did not last long, however, and on a teacher's advice he moved to the then-free San Francisco State in his third semester. After graduation he set out to Los Angeles to begin his acting career.

The career was short lived. There were lots of theatrical jobs, but Finkbeiner wanted to work in film and the roles weren't coming. He was supporting himself by working part time in an art supply store on La Cienega Boulevard, where he began to meet artists who frequented the LA art scene. Through the store, he also found work as a model, but this time instead of money, he was offered lessons in etching. He was hooked.

Finkbeiner moved to New York where he showed his first three successful etchings to the director of the Pratt Graphic Center – the Manhattan outpost of the Pratt Institute of Art in Brooklyn – who liked them enough to give him work around the school in exchange for free lessons in intaglio. At the Graphic Center Finkbeiner met and became friends with another teacher, Uruguayan artist Luis Camnitzer, who invited the younger printmaker to take over one of his classes. Teaching Camnitzer's class and then another for a colleague who was on sabbatical marked the beginning of Finkbeiner's 30-year career as a Pratt art professor.

Camnitzer had bought a house in Valdottavo in the early 70s. When he began a summer printmaking studio there, it seemed natural to invite Finkbeiner to help him teach. Beginning in 1982, Finkbeiner left New York for the Garfagnana each summer, entering into the enchanting world of the ancient Tuscan landscape. These were magical summers passed in the camaraderie of work and of a growing circle of local friends. Among the many outings with students was a picnic in a wood near an old church. Attracted by the sound of the organ and the pealing bells, Finkbeiner began to explore the building. He found a trap door leading to two abandoned rooms. Inhabited only by mice and birds, the rooms were bathed in the late summer light, which picked out the faded blues and yellows of the crumbling walls. Finkbeiner was smitten with the beauty of the empty rooms. He set out to translate with pastels the emotions that the sight aroused in him. This subject, the beauty of a once-inhabited space, and his attempt to articulate it in painting, has been at the centre of his work since that afternoon.

By 1983, Finkbeiner had bought his own property in Tempagnano, a village that overlooks Valdottavo. Over each summer for the next ten years, he slowly reconstructed the ancient stone buildings with his friend Ron Scott, making a main house, a free-standing apartment for guests and a studio where he made



prints and paintings. Back in America, he continued to teach and to exhibit in New York galleries. In 1986 he travelled to Montevideo on a Fulbright scholarship. In 1994 he participated in *La grande mela in Toscana*, a group show in Cortona, presenting prints of closely-observed domestic and farm animals in the Tuscan landscape. He moved permanently to Tempagnano in 2000 and began to exhibit more frequently in Italy: Lucca's Galleria Baci di Capaci in 2000, Orbicciano in 2006, Gallery 800 900 Studio Art (Lucca) 2015, and Bagni di Lucca in 2013 and 2015. In December 2005, Finkbeiner bought an abandoned ruin down the road from his house. With the help of local masons, he put on a roof, rebuilt the walls, uncovered the fireplace, fitted new windows and doors and gradually made the house habitable again. He called it la Fenice, (the Phoenix) and gave the name to a series of pastels and gouaches he made tracing its desolation and rebirth.

Finkbeiner had been working in both gouache and pastel since coming to Italy. With gouache – opaque water colour – he can work quickly, building up layers of colour for density on the transparent and slippery mylar, or just touching the sheet with the wet brush to make a translucent streak of pigment. *Mattina d'Estate* (this month's *Grapevine* cover) confounds our senses with these different textures. The pale shimmering walls surround what seems to be a window frame, a distant intense green pierced by a pergola's sharp white awning. The outside beckons; inside seems abandoned. But the space dividing the two is not demarcated. It is an imaginative threshold of colour that holds us both in and out at the same time.

The gouaches are one of five series that Finkbeiner is showing at the Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca. The other four are made up of large pastels done since 2014. In different ways, each describes the power of time to modify and obliterate spaces that human occupants have created for themselves. Crumbling walls, flaking paint and rusting wire are the protagonists of these pictures, revived and enlivened by the painter's hand.

As if using a camera, Finkbeiner focuses on a pertinent detail, chooses and frames discarded or ruined objects and then re-situates them in a space transformed by luminous colour. This subtle play of recession and projection and the invisible work of knitting together reality and abstraction is Finkbeiner's great accomplishment. It brings us as close as we ever can be to the act of painting itself.

– by Marta Braun

Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca
Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Piazza San Martino 7
24 June to 23 July 2017
Hours: 3.30pm to 7.30pm Tuesdays thru Sundays
catalog by Maria Pacini Fazzi Editore

WHAT'S ON IN & AROUND GRAPEVINE fold-out events calendar

Markets

General markets	Antiques	Plants and flowers
Lucca, Piazzale Don Baroni Lucca, Piazza S. Francesco Lucca, Piazza del Carmine B. Giannotti, Foro Boario S. Maria a Colle Ponte a Moriano S. Maria del Giudice Pietrasanta Marina di Pietrasanta Tonfano Castelnuovo Garfagnana Pescia	Lucca Altopascio Montecarlo Forte dei Marmi Pietrasanta Barga Viareggio Bientina Pescia Querceta	Lucca Piazza San Giusto Marina di Pietrasanta Castelnuovo Garfagnana Pieve Fosciana
Wed & Sat a.m. 2nd Sunday of month. Monday to Saturday Sat a.m. Thurs a.m. Tues a.m. Mon a.m. Thurs a.m. Sat a.m. Sat a.m. Thurs a.m. Sat a.m.	3rd Sat/Sunday 2nd Sunday 2nd Sunday 1st Sat/Sunday 1st Sunday 2nd Sunday 4th Sat/Sunday 4th Sat/Sunday 4th Sunday Saturday mornings	last Sat/Sunday Wednesday afternoons 1st weekend of the month last Sunday
Books and prints	Arts & Craft	Markets in Florence (the biggest)
Lucca, Corte del Biancone	Lucca, Piazza Cittadella	Piazza San Lorenzo Parco delle Cascine Piazza dei Ciompi Flea Market
Daily	2-3-4 June	7-2 daily, 7-5 Sat, closed Sundays Tuesdays 7am to 2pm 9am to 7.30pm daily

Grapevine conducted an informal survey among foreign residents and visitors regarding local bed and breakfasts and hotels. Here are some that received positive comments. The listing is not in any special order.

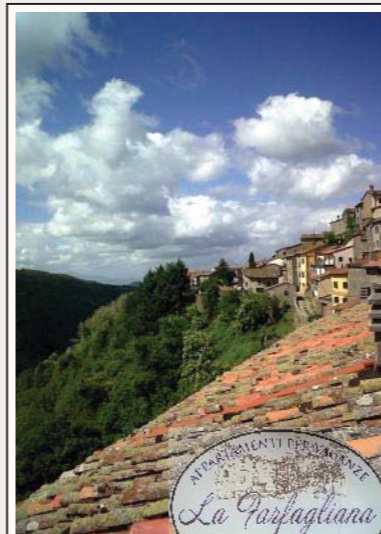
Where to Stay in Lucca

Hotel Ilaria + Residenza dell'Alba. Via del Fosso 26, 0583 47615, info@hotellilaria.com
Hotel La Luna. Via Fillungo 12, 0583 493634, info@hotellaluna.it
Hotel Noblesse. Via S. Anastasio 23, 0583 440275, info@hotelnoblesse.it
San Luca Palace Hotel. Via S. Paolino 103, 0583 317446, info@sanlucapalace.com
Hotel Palazzo Alexander. Via S. Giustina 48, 0583 583571, info@hotelpalazzoalexander.it
Anfiteatro B & B. Via del Anfiteatro 25, 338 3707483, info@anfiteatrolucca.it
Hotel Alla Corte degli Angeli. Via Angeli 23, 0583 469204, info@allacortedeigliangeli.com
B & B Corte dei Nobili. Piazza San Pietro Somaldi 4, 0583 469049, info@cortedeinobili.it
B & B Dimora dei Guelfi. Piazza San Pietro Somaldi 5, 0583 48427, info@dimoradeiguelfi.it
B & B Casa San Jacopo al Giardino. Via Michele Rosi 93, 339 6328832, info@casasanjacopo.it
B & B Caterina. Via Galli Tassi 85, 0583 53579, bbcaterina@alice.it
Piccolo Hotel Puccini. Via di Poggio 9, 0583 55421, info@hotelpuccini.com
B & B La Romea. Vicolo delle Ventaglie 2, 0583 464175, info@laromea.com
Hotel San Martino. Via della Dogana 9, 0583 469181, info@albergosanmartino.it

B & B Il Duomo. Via del Duomo 3, 0583 955813, info@bbilduomo.it
B & B La Magnolia. Via A. Mordini 63, 0583 403228, ciao@itaco-casa.com
B & B La Gemma di Elena. Via della Zecca 33, 0583 496665, lagemma@interfree.it
Relais Inn Lucca. Corso Garibaldi 19, 0583 464218, info@relaisinnlucca.it
B & B Petit Maison Sainte Justine. Via S. Giustina 30, 0583 587964, info@saintejustine.it
B & B La Colonna. Via Angelo Custode 16, 0583 440170, info@lacolonna.com
Residenza Centro Storico. Corte Portici 16, 0583 490748, centrostorico@tin.it
B & B Le Violette. Via della Polveriera 6, 338 5880982, bbviolette@gmail.com
Hotel Diana. Via Molinetto 11, 0583 467795, info@albergodiana.com

OUTSIDE THE WALLS

Hotel San Marco. Via S. Marco 368, 0583 495010, info@hotelsanmarcolucca.com
Grand Hotel Guinigi (Best Western). Via Romana 1247, 0583 4991, guinigi.lu@bestwestern.it
Affittacamere Stella. Via Pisana Trav. II 74, Santa Anna, 0583 311022, info@affittacamerebella.it



Farfaglia is a guesthouse in Tuscany's Valdinievole mountains, 20 km from Montecatini (between Florence & Lucca), at the main square of Serra, an ancient village surrounded by beautiful mountains (alt. 800m).

The 9 apartments, some with terraces, each accommodate 2 to 6 persons (total 40 beds) – ideal for stargazing, yoga, music & language retreats, Tuscan cooking classes... Montecatini is famous for its pool and spa facilities.

Rates for one-bedroom apartments start at €55 per day (2 night minimum) or €320 per week. This may increase in the summer months. Special group rates.

Please contact farfaglia@outlook.it

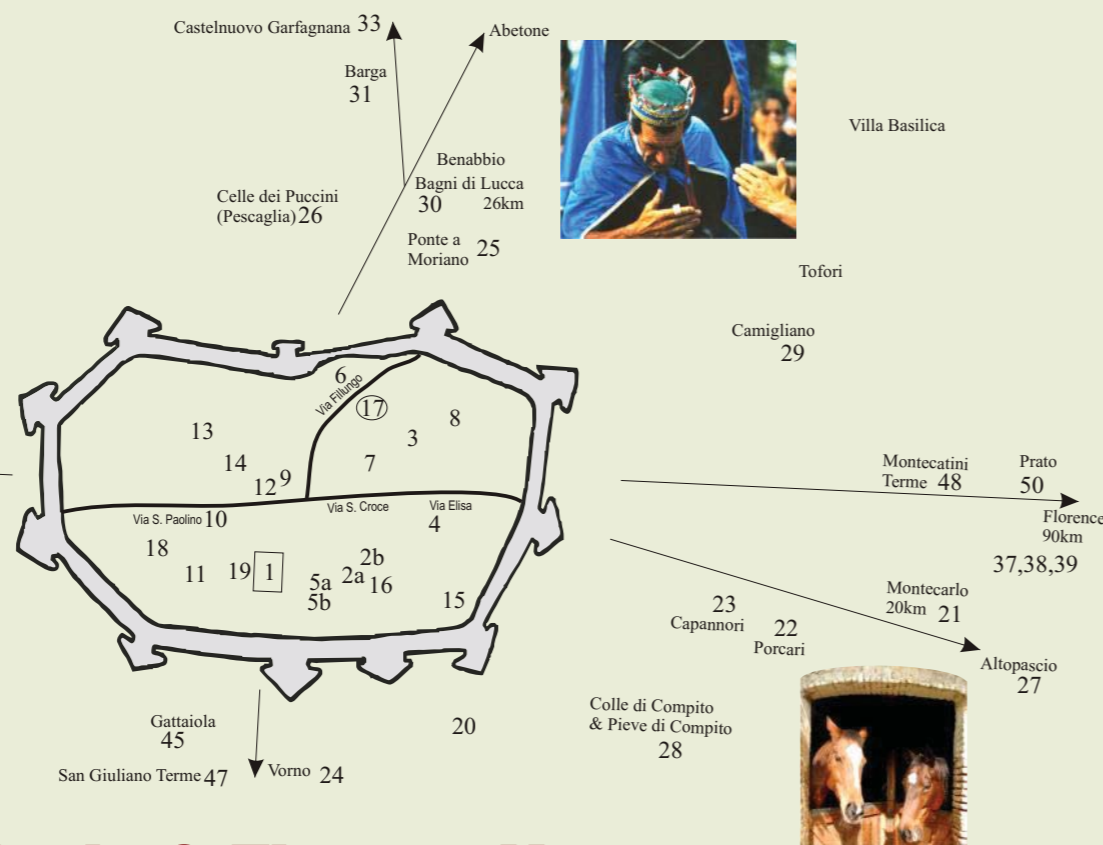
On a clear day you can see ... Gorgona.



Holiday flat in Coreglia Antelminelli, one of the most beautiful villages in the hills of Tuscany.

One double & one twin-bedded room; one large dining/living room & separate kitchen. Beautiful view of the Apennines and the village of Coreglia. June/July/September € 450, August € 550 per week per flat. For further information contact: p.katy@tiscali.it (Ref. 1170)





Music & Theatre Venues

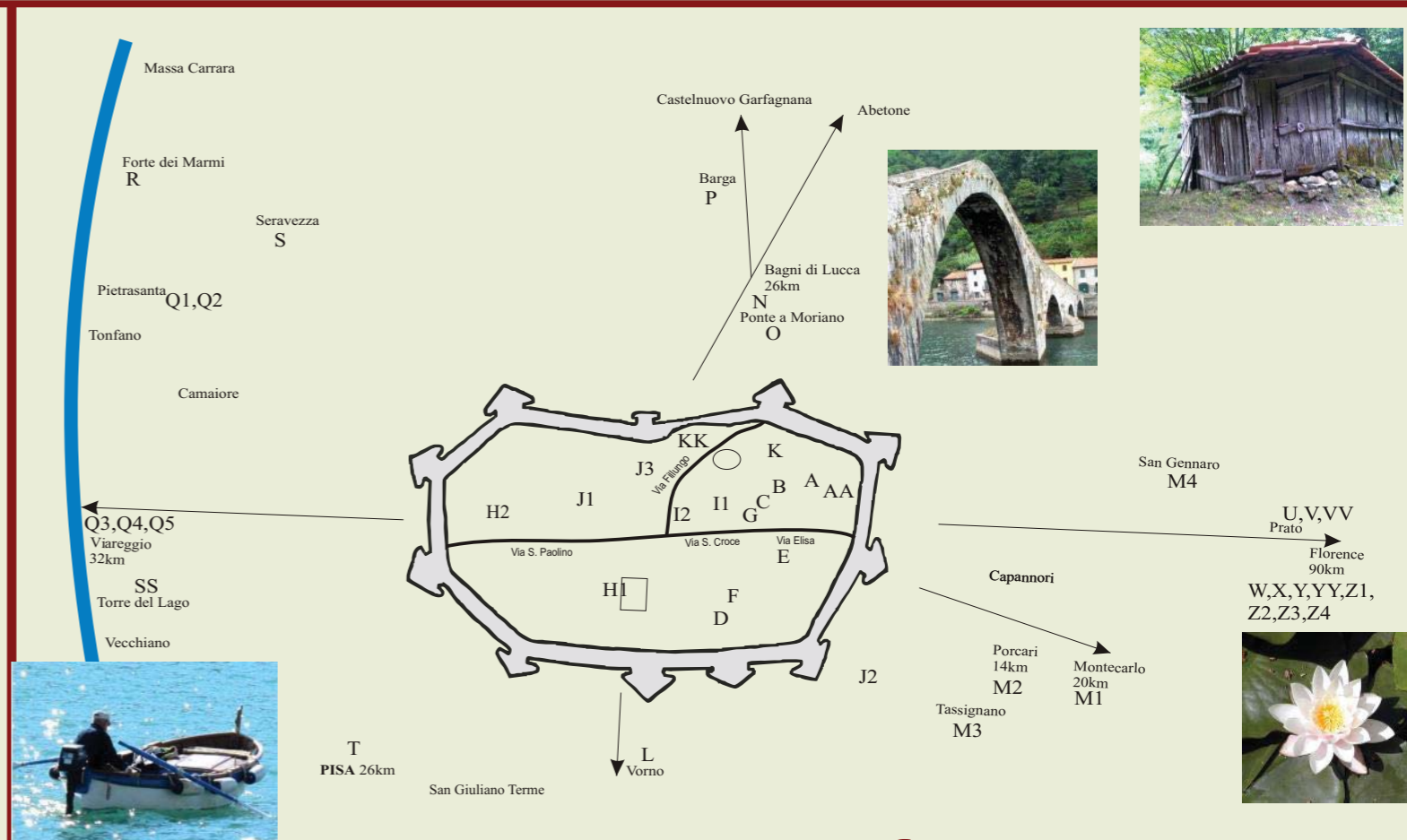
Lucca:

1. Lucca Summer Festival, Pza Napoleone. 0584 46477 www.ticketone.it
- 2a/b. San Giovanni and Dei Servi Churches. www.puccinielasualucca.com www.sagramusicalelucchese.com
3. Lucca Opera Festival, Oratorio Angelo Custode, Via degli Angeli Custodi. www.iconcertidegliangelicustode.com
4. Fond. Raghianti, San Michele, AML, Lucca In Musica. 0583 469960, www.associazionemusicaelucchese.it
- 5a. Teatro del Giglio, Pza Giglio. 0583 465320, closed Mondays and Sundays, www.teatrodelgiglio.com
- 5b. Teatro San Girolamo, www.teatrodelgiglio.com
6. Real Collegio, Piazza del Collegio
7. Boccherini Institute Auditorium, Pza Del Suffragio, www.boccherini.it
8. San Francesco Church, Pza San Francesco
9. San Michele Church, Pza San Michele
10. San Paolino Church, Via San Paolino
11. San Romano Auditorium
12. Palazzo Pretorio Loggia, Pza San Michele
13. Santa Maria Corteorlandini Church
14. Piazza Cittadella, Puccini's birthplace, museum.
15. Botanical Garden concerts, www.ortobotanicodilucca.it, 0583 442160.
16. San Martino (Duomo)
17. Amphitheatre Jazz, www.comune.lucca.it/anfiteatrojazz. See article in June Grapevine.
18. Santa Caterina Church, Via Vittorio Veneto
19. Palazzo Ducale, Sala Tobino

Outside Lucca:

20. Sinfonia Music Association, Via N. Sauro, 527
21. Montecatini Terme, Teatro dei Rassicurati
22. Porcari: Auditorium Vincenzo Da Massa Carrara & Piazza Felice Orsi
23. Capannori, Artè, Via Carlo Piaggia.
24. Tenuta dello Scompiglio, Via di Vorno 67, Vorno. 0583 971125, www.delloscompiglio.org
25. Ponte a Moriano
 - a. Teatro I. Nieri, Piazza Cesare Battisti, 0583 465320.
 - b. Accademia Montegril, Convento dell'Angelo, 0583 406300.
26. Celle dei Puccini, Pescaglia. Puccini Museum.
27. Altopascio. Via Francigena Festival, Gemignani Music School.
28. Colle di Compito and Pieve di Compito, Compitese Culture Centre.
29. Camigliano (Capannori)
30. Bagni di Lucca, Teatro Accademico, Via Roma. www.prolocobagnidilucca.it/fitalucca@gmail.com (320 6320032)
- 31a. Barga, Villa Libano. Nuovo Circolo dei Differenti.
- 31b. Opera Barga. 0583 711068, operabarga@gmail.com, www.operabarga.it
- 31c. Barga Jazz. 0583 724418, info@bargajazz.it, www.bargajazz.it
- 31d. Belcanto in Barga. 340 5831419, belcantoinbarga@gmail.com, www.belcantoinbarga.com
- 31e. Il Ciocco, Castelvecchio Pascoli. 0583 7691.
- 33a. Castelnuovo Garfagnana, IAM Music Festival, www.iamitalia.com
- 33b. Teatro Alfieri, Castelnuovo G., 0583 644185.

34. Pisa, Teatro Verdi, Via Palestro 40. 050 94111, www.teatrodipisa.pi.it
35. Pisa, Scuola Normale Concerts. www.sns.it, 050 941111 or 050 94118836.
36. Pisa, Music under the Tower (OPA). www.opapisa.it See page 17.
37. Florence, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. www.operadifirenze.it
38. Florence, Teatro Verdi, Via Ghibellina 99. www.teatroverdionline.it
39. Florence, Santo Spirito, Piazza Santo Spirito www.accademiadelispiritali.org
40. S. Anna di Stazzema Peace Organ Festival, 0584 772025, www.santannadistazzema.org
41. Tonfano, Marina di Pietrasanta, Teatro Sant'Antonio, Via Verdi, 335543579, 3471305764.
42. Torre del Lago Puccini, Festival Pucciniano. 0584 359322, www.puccinifestival.it
43. Pieve a Elici (Massarosa), AML 0583469960, www.associazionemusicaelucchese.it
44. Corsanico (Massarosa) Organ Festival. www.corsanicomusica.it
45. Gattaiola, Villa Rossi
46. Pietrasanta, Teatro la Versiliana. Viale Morin 16, Marina di Pietrasanta. 0584 265757, Complete program www.laversilianafestival.it
47. San Giuliano Terme. Villa Roncioni (loc. Pugnano). Costumes & hats. Tuesdays to Sundays 4pm to 8pm. 050 817900, www.fondazioneceratelli.it
48. Montecatini Terme, Estate Regina Music Festival, at the Terme & Teatro Verdi. Until 4 Oct. 0527 78903, www.estatergina.it
49. Forte dei Marmi, Villa Bertelli, Viale Mazzini 200. 0584 787251 www.villabertelli.it
50. Prato, Teatro Metastasio, Via B. Cairoli 59.
51. Badia di Camaione Organ Festival, www.camaioneorganfestival.it



Art Exhibition Venues from A to Z

Lucca:

- A. San Francesco Church Complex.
- AA. ex Casa del Boia.
- B. Lu.C.C.A. Museum of Contemporary Art, Via della Fratta 36. www.luccamuseum.com
- C. MUST, Urban Museum of Lucca, Palazzo Guinigi, Via Guinigi 29. History, archaeology, photography.
- D1. Fondazione Banca del Monte, Pza San Martino 12. www.fondazionebancadelmonte.it
- D2. Banca del Monte, Piazza San Martino. 0583 450278.
- E. Fondazione Raghianti, San. Michele. 0583 467205.
- F. Cathedral Museum, Pza Antelminelli. 0583 490530, didattica@museocattedralelucca.it, www.museocattedrale.lucca.it
- G. Villa Bottini, Via Elisa 9.
- H1. Palazzo Ducale, Pza. Napoleone.
- H2. Palazzo Mansi, Via Galli Tassi 43. tel. 0583 55570 www.luccamuseinazionali.it
- I1. Santa Giulia Church, Pza del Suffragio.
- I2. San Cristoforo Church, Via Fillungo.
- J1. State Archives, Piazza Guidiccioni.
- J2. State Archives, Piazza Macelli.
- J3. Domus Romana archaeological site. Via C. Battisti 15. 0583 050060. Tues & Thurs 10am to 5pm www.domusromana.it
- K. Uscher Gallery, Via della Zecca 15.
- KK. Real Collegio, Pza del Collegio 13.

Around Lucca:

- L. Vorno: Tenuta dello Scompiglio. Via di Vorno 67. www.delloscompiglio.org
- M1. Montecatini, Via Carmignani 20. R. Pasquinelli
- M2. Porcari, Fondazione Lazzareschi.
- M3. Tassignano, Artemisia Cultural Center & Library, via dell'Aeroporto 10. 0583 936427.
- M4. San Gennaro, Palazzo Bocella, Via Celli 52.
- N. Ponte a Serraglio, Artisti e Artisti Association.
- O. Ponte a Moriano
- Barga:**
- P1. Town Hall Gallery, Via di Borgo 18.
- P2. Mount Tabor Ecumenical Center, Via delle Mura 12. www.mounttabor.it.
- P3. Villa Libano, Via del Sasso, 7. Nuovo Circolo dei Differenti. Art exhibitions with live music. www.facebook.com/circolodifferenti.
- P4. Fondazione Ricci, Via Roma 20.
- Versilia:**
- Q1. Pietrasanta. Sant'Agostino Museum, Pza Duomo. 0584 795268.
- Q2. La Meridiana Gallery, Via Barsanti 29.
- Q3. Viareggio. Mercurio Arte Contemporanea 43. Corso Garibaldi 116.
- Q4. Viareggio. L. Viani Gallery of Modern & Contemporary Art. 0584 976510, www.gamc.it
- Q5. Viareggio. Villa Paolina, Via Machiavelli.
- Forte dei Marmi:**
- R1. Villa Bertelli, Viale G. Mazzini 200, 0584 280292, www.villabertelli.it
- R2. Satire Museum, Pza Garibaldi 1. Daily 5pm to midnight.

- S. Seravezza, Palazzo Mediceo, Viale L.

- Amadei 230. Every day 5pm to midnight, also Sat-Sun 10.30am to 12.30pm (noon). 0584 757443.
- SS. Torre del Lago. Art for the Puccini Festival (www.puccinifestival.it). Puccini Theatre Foyer.

Pisa:

- T1. Palazzo Blu, www.palazzoblu.it
- T2. Piazza dei Miracoli. www.opapisa.it
- T3. SMS Centro Espositivo Museale. Via S. Michele degli Scalzi 176. 050 544767.
- T4. Graphics Museum, Palazzo Lanfranchi Lugarno G. Galileo. 050 2216060.
- T5. San Giuliano Terme, Roncioni Villa.

Prato:

- U. Palazzo Pretorio. www.palazzopretorio.prato.it
- V. Textile Museum. Via S. Chiara. www.museodeltessuto.it
- V V. Teatro Metastasio. Via B. Cairoli 59.

Florence:

- W. Palazzo Strozzi. www.palazzostrozzi.org
- X. Accademia Gallery. Via Ricasoli 58/60. www.unannodarte.it
- Y. Palatina Gallery. www.unannodarte.it
- YY. Villa Bardini, Costa San Giorgio 2.
- Z1. Argenti Museum. www.unannodarte.it
- Z2. Palazzo Medici Riccardi.
- Z3. Uffizi. www.unannodarte.it
- Z4. Gucci Museum. Piazza della Signoria 10. www.guccimuseo.com

Music & Theatre

June 2017

To locate the venues, see the map and the list above.

The listings published by Grapevine are taken from reliable sources and reproduced in good faith. However, to avoid disappointment, readers are advised to check information before setting off.

Puccinielasualucca
for its spring/summer season (1 April to 31 October)
offers daily concerts at the Church of San Giovanni at 7pm.
Tickets are sold at the door.
www.puccinielasualucca.com
info@puccinielasualucca.com
or call 340 8106042

Sunday

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thu

Friday

Saturday



Taken for Granted



photo by Filippo Brancoli Pantera

4 9pm, Lucca, dei Servi Auditorium. Boccherini Guitar Festival.
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.
7.30pm, Vorno, Tenuta dello Scompiglio, Via di Vorno 67. SPE Performance Space. **Taken for Granted** premiere. Tel. 0583 971125 (Thursday to Sunday 3pm to 7pm). www.delloscompiglio.org

11
7pm & 9.30pm, Lucca, Anfiteatro Jazz Festival, with local & international musicians. See article on page 19.
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.
6pm, Lucca, San Michele Auditorium. Voice & instrumental concert by Arduino Gottardo. Assoc. Laboratorio Brunier/Cluster.
9pm, Lucca, dei Servi Church. **Schubert's Magnificat & Stabat Mater** by the Pisa University Chorus & Tuscany Chamber Orchestra. Sagra Musicale Lucchese. Tickets €10 from www.sagramusicalelucchese.com
8pm, Barga. Centro Storico, Piazza Salvo Salvi, Osteria Da Aristo, Aristo's Festival Corner. Gathering of Local Musical Talents, **The Biroldo Tapes**. Tel. 0583 723062.
7.30pm, Vorno, Tenuta dello Scompiglio, Via di Vorno 67. SPE Performance Space. **round midnight** by Cecilia Bertoni & Carl G. Beukman. Tel. 0583 971125 (Thursday to Sunday 3pm to 7pm). www.delloscompiglio.org

18
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.
Bagni di Lucca, Teatro Accademico. Dance recital. Sponsored by Associazione Spazio Danza di Valdottavo.

25
Firenze Rocks. Visarno Arena, Parco delle Cascine. **System of a Down + Prophets of Rage**. Info: firenzerocks.it
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. Continuing on 2, 11, 30 July. See page 28 for details.

5
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.
6pm & 9pm, Lucca, dei Servi Auditorium. Boccherini Guitar Festival.

12

19

26

6
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.
6pm & 9pm, Lucca, dei Servi Auditorium. Boccherini Guitar Festival.

13

20

27

7
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.
6pm & 9pm, Lucca, dei Servi Auditorium. Boccherini Guitar Festival.

14
9pm, Lucca Summer Festival, 20th Anniversary: (from Berkeley, CA) Green Day & Rancid.

21

28
9pm, Pistoia, Piazza Duomo. Pistoia Blues. **Franco Battiato** & the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra. Info: PistoiaBlues.com

8
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.

15

22

29
9pm, Pistoia, Piazza Duomo. Pistoia Blues. **Two Cellos**. Info: PistoiaBlues.com
The Festival continues until 14 July.

9
7pm & 9.30pm, Lucca, Anfiteatro Jazz Festival, with local & international musicians. See article on page 19.
9pm, Lucca. Boccherini concert, Romanticism to Modernism (oboe, bassoon, piano).
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.
9pm, Barga. Centro Storico, Piazza Salvo Salvi, Osteria Da Aristo, Aristo's Festival Corner. **Luca Bacconi**. Tel. 0583 723062.

16
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.
9pm, Barga. Centro Storico, Piazza Salvo Salvi, Osteria Da Aristo, Aristo's Festival Corner. Gathering of Local Musical Talents, **Indra Bocchi Trio**. Tel. 0583 723062.

23
Firenze Rocks. Visarno Arena, Parco delle Cascine. **Aerosmith + Placebo + Deaf Havana**. Info: firenzerocks.it
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.
9pm, Barga. Centro Storico, Piazza Salvo Salvi, Osteria Da Aristo, Aristo's Festival Corner. Gathering of Local Musical Talents, **Ricky Avataneo-Igor Vazzaz**. Tel. 0583 723062.

30
9pm, Barga. Centro Storico, Piazza Salvo Salvi, Osteria Da Aristo, Aristo's Festival Corner. Gathering of Local Musical Talents, **Giuseppe Quaranta**. Tel. 0583 723062.

1
6pm, Lucca. **Cartoline Pucciniane** in Piazza Cittadella.
La bohème. See article in last month's **Grapevine**. Tel. 0583 465320, email biglietteria@teatrodelgiglio.it

2
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. Discounted with **Grapevine** coupon, page 28. See "Meet-up groups" for activities with Grapevine's collaboration.
9.15pm, Lucca, dei Servi Church. Concert for Italian Republic Day. www.puccinielasualucca.it
9pm, Barga. Centro Storico, Piazza Salvo Salvi, Osteria Da Aristo, Aristo's Festival Corner. Gathering of Local Musical Talents, **Andrea Vincenti Trio**. Tel. 5083 723062.

3
10.30am to 8pm, Lajatico (Pisa), Teatro del Silenzio. Andrea **Bocelli** with special guest **Goran Bregovic** at 6pm. The day begins with a visit to the village, followed by the Asti Orchestra at 11am, equestrian shows at noon & 3, picnic at 1, falconers & shepherds with trained dogs at 2. Info 334 7957670, teatrodelsilenzio.it
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.
9pm, Vorno, Tenuta dello Scompiglio, Via di Vorno 67. SPE Performance Space. **Taken for Granted** premiere. Tel. 0583 971125 (Thursday to Sunday 3pm to 7pm). www.delloscompiglio.org

10
7pm & 9.30pm, Lucca, Anfiteatro Jazz Festival, with local & international musicians. See article on page 19.
5.30pm, Lucca, Liceo Artistico Musicale A. Passaglia. For Francy Jazz Quintet.
6pm, Lucca, della Rosa Church. Händel & the Tuscan Castrati. (re-scheduled from 27 May).
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.
9pm, Lucca, dei Servi Church. Il Settecento Musicale a Lucca: Schubert's **Stabat Mater & Magnificat**.
9pm, Lucca, dei Servi Church. **Les Choristes pour les Enfants**. Sponsored by Il Villaggio del Fanciullo.
9pm, Vorno, Tenuta dello Scompiglio, Via di Vorno 67. SPE Performance Space. **round midnight** by Cecilia Bertoni & Carl G. Beukman. Tel. 0583 971125 (Thursday to Sunday 3pm to 7pm). www.delloscompiglio.org

17
9pm, Lucca, Dei Servi Church III **Il Settecento Musicale a Lucca**: music by **Baldassare Galuppi** (first modern performance). Performed by the Santa Cecilia Music Chapel of the Lucca Cathedral with the L. Boccherini Chamber Orchestra. Luca Bacci, director. Sagra Musicale Lucchese.
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.
Bagni di Lucca, Teatro Accademico. Dance recital. Sponsored by Associazione Spazio Danza di Valdottavo.
9pm, Ghivizzano (Coreglia Antelminelli), Sala Croce Verde. Gran Finale Ballo con Musiche Anni 60. Tel. 338 6626887.
9pm, Vorno, Tenuta dello Scompiglio, Via di Vorno 67. SPE Performance Space. **Concert, Il combattimento di Tancredi e Clorinda** Music by Joni Mitchell & C. Monteverdi. Tel. 0583 971125 (Thursday to Sunday 3pm to 7pm). www.delloscompiglio.org

24
Firenze Rocks. Visarno Arena, Parco delle Cascine. **Eddie Vedder + The Cranberries**. Info: firenzerocks.it
6pm, Marlia, Villa Reale. Jazz with aperitif in the Villa gardens. See page 28 for details.

Coming Up/Ongoing

Lucca Summer Festival, 20th Anniversary: 4 July Imagine Dragons, 8 July Ms Lauryn Hill & Kamasi Washington, 9 July Ennio Morricone, 11 July LP & Rag 'n' Bone Man, 12 July Erykah Badu & Mary J. Blige, 13 July J-Ax & Fedez, 15 July Robbie Williams Erasare, 21 July Il Volo, 22 July Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, 23 July Kasabian, 29 July Panariello, Conti & Pieraccini. Tickets: 0584 30335 or TicketOne online. luccasummerfestival.it, dalessandroegalli.com
Cartoline Pucciniane in Piazza Cittadella. 6 July **Madama Butterfly**, 3 August **La rondine**, 7 Sept. **La fanciulla del West**. Tickets available at Teatro del Giglio box office, or you can choose to enjoy a snack at a bar in the piazza (if space is available). See article in last month's **Grapevine**.
Lucca Festival of Virtuoso & Belcanto, 16 July to 5 August. See article on page 6.
Lucca's Festival of San Paolino in July is the occasion for the annual **Choir Festival with the Polifonica Lucchese**. See article on page 5.
Lucca, Histronika, 31 July 4pm to midnight. Performances on/inside the Walls.
Pietrasanta, Versiliana Festival, July & August. Pietrasanta in Concert 21 to 30 July.

Exhibitions, June 2017

Exhibitions,
June 2017

To locate the venues, see the map & list on the back of this calendar

ONGOING EXHIBITIONS:

Lucca, Botanical Garden. **M.A.N., Melodia Arte Natura** by Roman sculptor **Roberto Giansanti**. 5 monumental sculptures in wood, bronze & ceramic raku & 15 other smaller sculptures. Sales of the works will benefit the Italian earthquake victims. Info: 333 7355237, 329 7478694. Until 20 August 2017.



Porcari, Centro Culturale Cavanis, Via Roma 121. **Gusmano Cesaretti**, originally from Porcari, moved to LA in 1969, where he began his photography career. This exhibition includes images of Mexican shamans, Thai children, Los Angeles street people & the women of East LA. Until 21 July. Monday to Friday 8.30am to 7.30pm, Saturday 8.30am to 1.30pm. Curator Riccarda Bernacchi.



Vorno, Tenuta dello Scompiglio, Via di Vorno 67. **Sobre la sangre**, exhibition by Teresa Margolles. Video Installation **round midnight / ritratti** by Cecilia Bertoni. **Camera #4 - Il Naufragio**, Installation by Cecilia Bertoni & Claire Guerrier with Carl G. Beukman. Until 16 September 2017. www.delloscompiglio.org.

Viareggio, GAMC Galleria d'Art Moderna e Contemporanea L. Viani. **Segno, Gesto, Materia**. Postwar art from the Pieraccini donation. Info: 0584 581118, gamc.it

Pietrasanta, Galleria Susanna Orlando. **L'Artista e Altri Animali** by Girolamo Ciulla. 11am to 2pm, 5pm to midnight. Until 5 July. galleriasusannaorlando.it

Marina di Pietrasanta, LABottega, **Family Tree** by Milanese artist Donatella Izzo, curated by Francesco Mutti. Until 9 July. 0584 22502, 349 063597, labottegalab.com

Prato, (Carmignano, loc. Bacchereto). Complesso di Santa Maria Assunta, Via Santa Maria 6. **Antiche Maioliche di Bacchereto, 1300s to 1500s**. Saturdays/Sundays 11am to 1pm & 4pm to 7pm. Until 8 October 2017.

Pisa, Museum of the Opera della Primaziale Pisana and Camposanto Monumentale, Piazza del Duomo di Pisa. **Nel solco di Pietro (Following Peter's footsteps)**, Pisa Cathedral & the Vatican Basilica. Until 23 July 2017, 8am to 8pm. www.opapisa.it - 050 835 011 - nelsolcodipietro@opapisa.it



WORTH THE TRIP ...

Vicenza, Contrà Porti 11, Palladio Museum, **Andrea Palladio Centro Internazionale Studi Architettura. Palladio, Il mistero del volto**. Antonio Canova's marble bust of Palladio (a new acquisition of the museum). 3 Dec. 2016 to 4 June 2017.

Cremona, Museo del Violino. **Life & Magnum. The photojournalism that made history**. 4 March to 11 June.

Genoa, Palazzo della Meridiana, Salita San Francesco 4. **Sinibaldo Scorza (1589-1631), Fables & Nature at the Dawn of the Baroque**. 10 Feb. to 4 June 2017. Tel. 010 2541996, www.palazzodellameridiana.it

Genoa, Palazzo Ducale. 30 paintings by Livornese artist **Amadeo Modigliani**. Until 16 July. **Venice**, Accademia Gallery. **Philip Guston & the Poets**. 50 years (1930-1980) of this American artist's work, dedicated to D. H. Lawrence, Yeats, Wallace Stevens, Montale & T. S. Eliot. 10 May to 3 September.

Udine, Castello di Udine. **L'offensiva di carta. La Grande Guerra (1914-1918) illustrata**, from Luxardo collection to contemporary cartoons. Until 7 January 2018.

Vicenza, Basilica Palladiana. **Van Gogh, Tra il grano e il cielo** (between grain & sky). 120 works selected by curator Marco Goldin. 7 October 2017 to 8 April 2018. Reserve at www.lineadombra.it

Sunday

Mon

Tues

Wed

Thu

Friday

Saturday

4 **OPENING: Barga**, Villa Via Sacra, Via delle Mura 12. **Through Light** by Susan Kanaga & Filippo Rossi. Inauguration 3.30pm. info@mounttabor.it
LAST DAY: Lucca, Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca, Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Piazza San Martino & Palazzo San Michele. **Sculptures by Arturo Carmassi**. Tuesdays to Saturdays 3.30pm to 7.30pm.
LAST DAY: Lido di Camaiore, Hotel Club I Pini, Residenza d'Epoca. **10X10 Optical Art**. by **Andrea Bartolucci**. Info: 0584 66103.

11 **OPENING: Carignano** (Lucca), Villa Al Console, Via per Carignano 186. Noon to 6pm. Silvia Camporesi & Ketty Tagliatti, **Custodi del Tempo**, curator Maria Livia Brunelli. Until 30 Sept. www.uscitalucca.it
LAST DAY: Pietrasanta, At Piazza Duomo a peperoncino 16 meters high is part of a collection of 100 sculptures & paintings by Giuseppe Carta, **Orti in Germinazione**, extending to the Forte dei Marmi pier. Info: 0584 795500.
LAST DAY: Viareggio, Villa Argentina (Via A. Fratti & Via A. Vespucci 44). **Ettore di Giorgio & Inaco Biancalana, Un Dialogo**. See article in May Grapevine.

18 **LAST DAY: Lucca**, Lu.C.C.A. Museum, Via della Fratta 36. **Warhol vs. Gartel. Hyp Pop**. Giancarlo Baglini, **All'Origine** (In the Beginning). Elvira Colognori, **Sky of Others** (to support Save the Children). See article in March Grapevine.
LAST DAY: Forte dei Marmi, Museum of Satire. **Condoniamo il futuro** (Let's forgive the future). **The bittersweet truth of Fabio Magnasciutti**. 130 satirical & ironic drawings. 4pm to 8pm. Closed Mondays to Thursdays. Tel. 0584 280262.
LAST DAY: Viareggio, The Club, Via Coppino 409. **Everyday Europe**, photo exhibition by Giovanni Nardini. Hours noon to midnight.
LAST DAY: Lucca, Ragghianti Foundation, Via S. Michele 1. **Sculpture, painting & graphics**, as a life. Dedicated to Luciano Pera.

25 **LAST DAY: Vorno**, Tenuta dello Scompiglio SPE. **Camera #4 - Il Naufragio** by Cecilia Bertoni & Claire Guerrier with Carl G. Beukman (advance reservation required). **Sobra la sangre** by Teresa Margolles. **Video Installation round midnight/ritratti** by Cecilia Bertoni. Tel. 0583 971125.
LAST DAY: La Spezia, Amadeo Lia Museum, Via del Prione. **L'Elogia della Bellezza**. museolia.spezianet.it
LAST DAY: Viareggio, GAMC Museum of Contemporary Art. **Six Songs**, graphic art by Sandro Chia. www.sandrochia.com On the 3rd Sunday of each month, free guided visit to GAMC.

5



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6



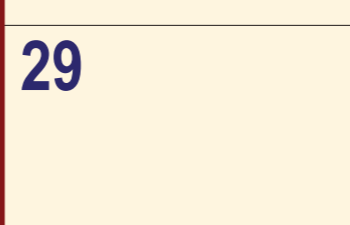
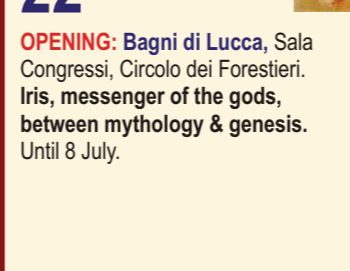
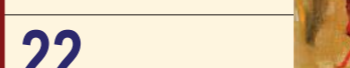
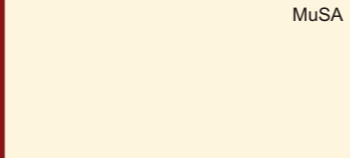
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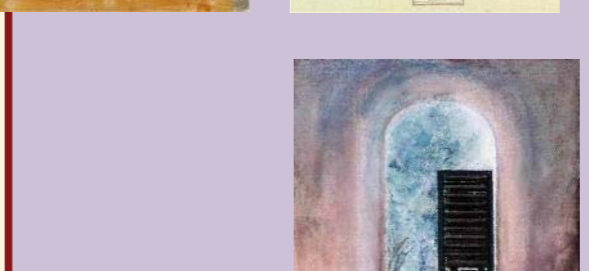
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2

THIS DAY ONLY: Pietrasanta: MuSA (Virtual Museum of Sculpture & Architecture) will be open for free visits 3pm to 7pm.
OPENING: Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, Sala Suffredini. **Lights & Shadows** photography exhibit. Inauguration 5.30pm. Hours: 10am to 12.30pm, 3.30pm to 7pm. Until 15 June.

9



3

OPENING: Castelvechio Pascoli, Barga. Casa Museo Giovanni Pascoli. **Art, Photography & Posters - Pascoli & D'Annunzio**. Tel. 0583 766503, www.fondazionepascoli.it

10

OPENING: 6pm, Bagni di Lucca, Shelley House. **Mare (Sea)**. Painting exhibition by Michelangelo Cupisti. Shelley Festival. Associazione Cinquemarzo.

OPENING: 6.30pm, Lido di Camaiore, Hotel Club I Pini, Via Roma Capitale 265. Paintings by **Gianluca Motto**. Open daily 6.30pm to 12.30pm. www.clubipini.com/artinclub5

LAST DAY: Lucca, Agorà Library, Via delle Trombe 6. **Dieci, Come...** Children's illustrations, Lucca Comics & Games competition.

17

OPENING: Pietrasanta, Centro Storico. Jorge Haugen Sorensen (until 6 Aug.), followed by Park Eun Sun (12 Aug. to 29 Oct.).

OPENING: Lucca, Torre Guinigi. Paintings by Pier Luigi Puccini. Organized by Squaglia Gallery. Until 8 July.

OPENING: Lucca, Via dell'Angelo Custode 3A (Grapevine office), **Emilio Cavani, Gesti di un lavoro antico sulle Alpi Apuane**. Vernissage 4pm to 7pm. Until 28 July. See article on page 21.

24

OPENING: Lucca, Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca, Piazza San Martino, 7. **David Finkbeiner, In Altro Luogo**. 3.30pm to 7.30pm Tuesdays thru Sundays. Until 23 July 2017. See article on page 10.

1 July

Bagni di Lucca, deadline for entering the **Extemporaneous painting competition at Ponte a Serraglio** (Parco di Villa Fiori), held on 9 July from 8am to 4pm. Colori e Sapori. €15 inscription includes picnic lunch. Download the application at www.borgodegiartisti.com

New Tax Regulations for Short Rentals

In recent years increasing numbers of visitors have requested rentals of short duration in Lucca, often resorting to online platforms for property and tourist mediation. These platforms have made it easy for owners to let out their properties without tax or legal complications, but hotel managers and others working in the sector have obviously not been very happy about the situation.

A new Law (50/2017), and specifically Article 4 of this law, has now introduced tax regulations for short rentals. In the past owners were not obliged to register short rental contracts, so it was difficult for the Tax Office (Agenzia delle Entrate) to control such earnings. As a result, this created a “shadow zone” with some rentals escaping taxation.

According to Article 4 of Law 50/2017, **short rentals are property rental contracts for residential use of not more than 30 days, including those calling for linen and cleaning services, stipulated by individuals acting personally, not as a business, either directly or through property mediators, including managers of online portals.**

Compared to the past, this confirms that short rentals are no more than 30 days in duration (referring to rentals contracted within a calendar year to a single party), and for these rentals there is no obligation to register the contract. The concept of rental is amplified now to include accessory services such as cleaning and providing linens. These accessory services will no longer be considered business income.

Tax Regulations

The novelty of the new tax law lies in the regime of *cedolare secca* (a flat rate income tax on letting out a house or flat), which allows for a rate of 21% for short contracts stipulated after 1 June 2017, and in specific conditions introduced for intermediaries, either online or through traditional channels.

The *cedolare secca* is an optional property tax system consisting in a tax that substitutes for the IRPEF (tax on earnings of physical persons) and other charges. Registrations and stamp fees (ordinarily required for rental contract registrations, terminations and renewals) are not charged.

The *cedolare secca* is generally selected at the time of registering the contract. Where there is no obligation to register the contract, as in the case of short rentals, owners may apply the *cedolare secca* on their tax declaration, for the tax period in which these earnings were produced.

Requirements for Intermediaries

Property mediators and managers of online portals that match up potential renters with owners need to transmit information about contracts concluded by them. This new feature, introduced with the aim of reducing tax evasion, is applicable for contracts stipulated on or after 1 June 2017.

If the intermediaries earn rents or percentages on contracts, they should pay a substitute withholding tax of 21% of the rents and percentages, at the time these are received. This withholding is considered a substitute tax if the owner has chosen the *cedolare secca* option, or an IRPEF deposit if the owner has not chosen the *cedolare secca*.

So a private individual letting out a property for a short period, either directly or through intermediaries, and possibly with the provision of accessory services, will pay 21% on earnings perceived (if opting for the *cedolare secca*). This tax payment occurs when the annual tax declaration is made, or if intermediaries are involved, the tax is withheld and made directly by the intermediary.

In the Tuscan Region, regional law n. 86 of 20 December 2016 (in force since 12 January 2017) introduced new features regulating tourism structures, also of interest to the so-called short rental for tourist use. In particular, this new regulation, which will be implemented through an activating rule, calls for “brief” and “non-entrepreneurial” rentals and activities that consist in no more than two properties per year, or (in the case of more than two properties) no more than 80 tourist rentals per year.

– by Pierpaolo Vannucci



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The Incredible Lightness of Non-Fluency

I am back in the United States where I am a native speaker, and it is very disturbing to hear and read some of what goes on in the news. I find myself missing the incredible lightness of non-fluency.

In Italy I am a hedonist. I live in my senses. At breakfast I focus completely on the frothy cappuccino and the flaky *cornetto*. No sense reading the morning paper. I can't.

For the last eight years, my efforts to learn Italian have included classes both here and abroad, tutorials, Rosetta Stone, and just about everything else. Although I manage pretty well in my daily life in Italy, higher level fluency escapes me, and I am



less than brilliant in sophisticated social situations. I blame it on my Italian grandmother. When I was little, I begged her to teach me Italian, but the only thing she offered was a poem: *Son picina; Son carina; Son la gioia di mama. Se mi sporca mi vestita, Mi papa mi batata*. Just last year I realized I was saying: “I am little; I am dear; I am my mother's joy. If I dirty my dress, my father will spank me.” That hasn't turned out to be too practical, although it might give you an idea of what my grandmother was like.

Sure, it's not easy to learn a new language at seventy, but the truth is that I really haven't tried too hard. After many years of living in the world of the intellect, I now prefer the world of the senses, and being non-verbal helps. In Italy I become a street person. I am alive to the staccato symphony of footsteps clicking past me, the swishing of the water fountain, the wail of the street musician's accordion. Colors swirl around me; couples stroll hand



in hand; the executive's briefcase brushes past me as she walks to work in the morning. The shopkeeper's bearded collie looks soulfully at me as he waits patiently at the curb outside the store; the smell of freshly made *focaccia* drifts past my nostrils; bicycles miraculously skim past me to weave skillfully through the crowd; and ancient cobblestones feed my soles with the promise of endurance, of survival, of intimations of immortality.

Fluency feels incredibly heavy after that.



Reprinted with permission from **Crossing Seventy: Moments of Outrageous Aging** by Dee Montalbano, available on Amazon.

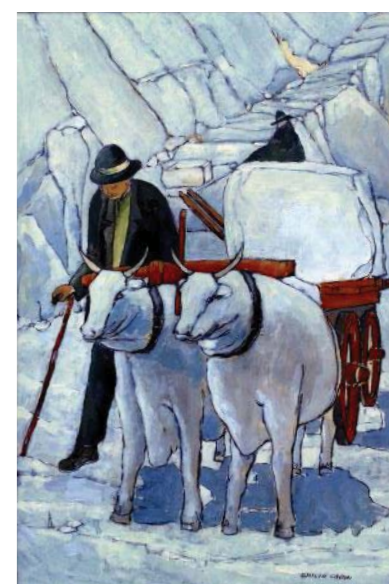
A long-term annual visitor to Lucca since 2004, Dee writes and teaches writing workshops in Italy and the United States. She can be reached at montdee2@gmail.com

Marble Working Skills in the Apuan Alps



Artist and mountaineer Emilio Cavani lives in San Romano di Garfagnana, where from his garden he can look onto his beloved Apuane Alps every day. He has hiked these mountains and painted them for his entire life. His favorite subject is the natural environment in its pure form, uncontaminated by the human touch. As a preserver of tradition, he also has an eye for the human figure at work. His series of paintings entitled *Gesti di un lavoro antico sulle Alpi Apuane* (Gestures of an ancient trade in the Apuane Alps) brings to life the gestures that have been essential for the extraction of marble. Each of his temperas, luminous with blue sky and grey-white marble, presents a skill practiced by the marble workers at least since the era of Michelangelo. These skills are: *La Tecchiatura, Il Lungino, La Lizzatura, Il Martino, La Puncettatura, La Riquadratura, La Posa dei Cavi d'Acciaio, and La Strozzatura*.

Join us for an aperitif and see the drama of this traditional mode of working as expressed in painting. Vernissage at the Grapevine office, Via dell'Angelo Custode 3A, Lucca (Centro Storico), Saturday 17 June 4pm to 7pm. Finissage, Friday 28 July 3pm to 5pm.



Sono dappertutto come il prezzemolo!

When I saw Anoushka for the third time in three different markets, selling her wonderful array of flowers from under an awning at the back of her van, I saluted her and said *Lei è dappertutto* – and the title of this piece is what she replied, *I am everywhere like parsley*. I asked if she was Russian, as this was a name I had not heard before in the Garfagnana, and she said that she wasn't but her mother had been reading lots of Russian novels at the time she was in the womb. Since then I've become a sort of Anoushka groupie, tracking her round different markets, getting her always sound plant advice. And it got me thinking about parsley, which is indeed *dappertutto*. Our great grocer Michele always slips some into the bag for free, along with some celery and a small carrot – for the pot.



Michele



Anoushka

PARSLEY'S POWERFUL PROPERTIES

The vitamin K in parsley helps bone health, while its high vitamin C content makes it a great immune booster.

Parsley is an excellent source of beta carotene, an antioxidant that can help protect the body against free-radical damage and fight the effects of ageing. (OK, you know you're interested now!)

There is some evidence that parsley can support healthy kidney functioning. However, the herb contains oxalates, which can cause problems for those with existing kidney and gall bladder problems.

Use parsley daily, and you'll feel relief from joint pain. That's because the herb has anti-inflammatory properties.

Parsley tea (wow, there's a new idea) relaxes stiff muscles and encourages digestion. It has been used traditionally for an array of other health issues, as well.

Because it's high in iron, parsley is recommended for people with anaemia. Two tablespoons of parsley provides two percent of your daily iron, so a sprinkling of parsley gives any food a little iron boost. And it's great in your green juice if you're a cansurvivor (see below)....

Parsley is rich in cancer-fighting compounds. Early studies suggest that compounds in parsley may even inhibit tumour growth.... Bring it on!

– by Judith Edwards
judith@judithedwards.co.uk
www.cansurviving.com

Well, we all know what parsley is: it's a herb that lends a sprinkling of colour to any plate. Often people just leave it on the side of their plate. But please, let's not think of it as just a garnish. After all, parsley has been around for more than 2000 years, and boasts some time-tested benefits. A surprisingly small amount of parsley (botanical name *petroselinum sativum*) is packed with vitamins. Just two tablespoons provides two percent of your daily calcium, iron, and folate; 12 percent of your vitamin A; over 150 percent of your vitamin K; and 16 percent of your vitamin C (see the sidebar). Not bad at all for a humble herb!

Parsley with garlic & green beans (a Tuscan favourite with a new twist)

Bring a large pot of salted water to boil. Add green beans and cook until tender but still crisp, about 4 minutes. Drain and set aside. In the same pot, heat 1 tablespoon of oil over medium low heat. Add garlic (to taste: I think the more the better, my husband is more conservative on this one) and cook until it begins to soften, about 2 minutes. Return the beans to the pot. Add some lemon zest, another tablespoon of oil, and season with salt and pepper.

Remove from heat and stir in the lemon juice and parsley. Lots of parsley. Toss to coat and serve. You might want to sprinkle with one-quarter cup almonds, toasted and chopped, and/or sprinkle with raw cheese of choice (unless you're a vegan).

Parsley & potato soup (an all-time Irish favourite)

The Irish have a lot in common with people from the Garfagnana, I think ... great fans of simple food.

Saute half a cup of chopped onions and a crushed garlic clove in 1 tbsp olive oil until the onions are translucent. Add 1 cup of chopped peeled potatoes (actually I leave the skins on – matter of taste and goodness too, I reckon) and boil gently in 2 cups of water for 10 minutes. Then add 1 cup of chopped parsley, cook gently for 2 minutes more, and blend the lot into a puree, adding more water if needed. A stick blender is invaluable here. Add water to taste, salt, add freshly ground black pepper, and serve immediately. It is warming for the body and the soul. Feel your body taking it all in.



Keeping our Gardens Cool

Dear friends, summer is near, and we have already felt its flavor in some beautiful days of April and May when the temperatures reached 25° and more. Updated predictions from our regional weather center call for a June with temperatures and rainy days still within the average for this period. In July temperatures and rainy days should be above the usual averages. So in theory it would seem to be a “normal” summer, but as often happens with long-range predictions, anything can occur. Let's wait and see.

For now, let's get busy, to organize our dear gardens and precious terraces so that they are ready to face the generally hot summer, which certainly puts our plants to the test. At the beginning of the month, it is still early enough to fill our pots and flowerbeds with various types of seasonal plants available at the garden center (and not only there – in recent years we can also find good deals at the supermarket!). Let's take advantage of these. We are already late and our choices will probably be limited to plants that no one has chosen yet, that still wish to find a home in which to live.

Our roses, after their initial flowering (which for some species will be the only one of the year), now need our care. We can lightly prune them, limiting ourselves to removing the flowers that are past their prime, along with a small bit of branch, in order to help the plant achieve its next flowering. On the other hand, don't cut the flowers that are withering on the rugosa roses; otherwise you won't be able to enjoy the splendid buds in various shades of red and orange that these plants give us in the autumn and winter. Give the roses some mineral fertilizer, especially designed for roses, to give them nourishment so that they can start up more strongly after the first “gestation and birth”.

Check on the development of your plants, above all herbaceous perennials. They may need support to help them stand up under the weight of their flowering branches. Sometimes their stalks aren't robust enough to support the height that these may reach. The same is true for some varieties of hydrangea, which have branches that are not very thick. These may be too weak to bear the weight of their flowers, above all after a classic summer rain shower. Using pieces of cane and elastic tubing, you can create little structures or small stakes to support the plants.

We continue to cut our lawns, raising the blade a few centimeters so that the grassy surface can be shaded by the length of the grass, so that it remain moist and protects the grass from the stress of the summer heat. We continue this strategy throughout the summer, until temperatures start to cool off. We also need to keep an eye out for insects and fungal diseases, which can damage our plants, especially between spring and autumn. In this case we need to react quickly, before the disease takes over.

The most demanding summer chore is watering. Remember, the best times for this task are in early morning and in the evening after sundown. In emergency situations, watering can also be done at a hotter time of day, but try not to bathe the plants. This may burn the leaves, because of the magnification effect that the water can provoke, if it remains on the leaves that are hit by the sun's rays.

To help with the watering, for many years now semi-professional watering systems have existed. The companies producing these have made many improvements over time, above all because of competition, which has lowered costs so that almost everyone can have these systems installed. They are furnished with many functions. The main function remains automation. We can be away from home for a period of time without having to hire anyone to do the watering in our place.

Underground watering systems can be made for gardens, using tubes installed at a depth of 30 to 40 cm. The sprinklers remain at ground level, rising up when the system is activated, thanks to the water pressure, then returning under ground when the watering cycle is finished. Generally our lawns and gardens are divided into several sectors. Watering times can be differentiated based on the area's exposure, slope, size, and amount of water available.

For hedges and bushes, on the other hand, a dripping tube stretched along the base of the plants to be watered is often used. For terraces, micro-sprinklers are used. There are many types available, but among the best are self-regulating ones than can distribute two to ten or more liters of water for each hour they are in use. These are connected via micro-tubes to a main tube, which is often installed along the perimeter of the terrace where the plants are located. The tubes are then connected to electric valves, which in turn are connected to a timer, allowing us to choose the days, hours and watering times for each sector.

In recent years, technology has made giant strides, even in the management of green spaces. We can find systems and accessories for watering that connect to Wi-Fi, allowing us to monitor, control and program our watering systems even when we are far from home. Certainly this is a great help for everyone, above all those who don't have much time available for this chore.

Happy gardening to all of you!

– by Simone Lippi
Il Cerchio Verde
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www.ilcerchioverde.it

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Post-Brexit: The View from Lucca

Introduction. The following is an extract from a submission made to Jill Morris, HM Ambassador to Italy following the helpful meeting that several British residents of Lucca had with her on 10 April. This is in response to the Ambassador's invitation to share with her our concerns about the practical issues likely to affect British residents in Italy following the UK's decision to leave the EU.

The submission referred to papers produced by the group *British in Italy*, and by *UK Citizens in Europe*, affirming that Brexit should have no retrospective effect on individuals. This extract concentrates on the practical issues faced by British residents in Italy caught up in Brexit. It concludes by stressing that these matters should all be covered in the eventual Withdrawal Agreement binding on all EU countries.

The primary focus in the submission was on the rights and obligations already acquired by UK residents in Italy, and the continuation of these throughout their lifetimes. But reference was also made to the need for sensible – and sensitive – transitional arrangements to be put in place, bearing in mind that for many people moving from one country to another is not a snap decision, but something considered and prepared for over a number of years.

ISSUES

Right to Remain / Residence – Current arrangements allow maximum flexibility. British citizens may be full or part-time residents in Italy, able to move freely between both countries. They may live most of the year in the UK but own property in Italy, but contemplate reversing that situation, for example on retirement. Or vice versa. Any restrictions on their frequency of travel or length of stay must be avoided. It would seem that the Comune di Lucca has made no changes to restrict the grounds on which permanent residence is granted.

Dual nationality – This is a valued benefit between the UK and Italy. For those who hold such dual nationality, the loss of one or other status could severely affect pension rights and other benefits. For any UK citizen who feels the need now to apply for Italian citizenship (or renew their UK passport if they have let it lapse) can there be a mutual understanding between the UK and Italian governments to make the process more straightforward, faster and cheaper, recognising residency rights already established?

Property Ownership – Many UK citizens have invested in property in Italy and should retain the rights they currently enjoy.

Inheritance – At present, UK citizens living in Italy have the option to make a Will requiring at least part of their estate to be disposed of under UK law. This right should continue.

Partners' rights – The treatment of UK citizens should extend equally to their Italian (or other nationality) spouses or civil partners. An Italian husband or wife, for example, should not lose the right to live freely in the UK in the future, on the same terms as their partner, and without losing any accumulated pension or other benefits, whether earned in Italy or the UK. Nor should there be any restriction on their applying either now or in the future for British citizenship.

Right to work – Leaving aside the self-employed (see below), British residents in Italy work in businesses that may be UK-owned, Italian-owned or owned elsewhere. In practice, this presents few problems and this should continue, without additional requirements for visas or work permits.

Right of establishment – The right of the self-employed to provide services in one EU country on the same terms as nationals of that country should be maintained. For some people, it will be crucial to their ability to provide services that the rules on the EU-wide mutual recognition of qualifications are maintained, without requiring them to re-qualify, which would have obviously damaging effects.

Right to study – Many families, in particular where children have grown up bi-lingual, have always anticipated that access to higher education throughout the EU will be available on the same terms as at present. If the UK is serious about wanting to remain part of Europe, if not the EU, this must continue.

Right to healthcare – UK nationals resident in Italy have access to healthcare either as a result of having paid into the Italian national health insurance scheme if working in Italy, or on the basis of the S1 document issued in the UK to citizens, including those receiving the State Pension. This is a valuable right that must continue, and is at the top of many residents' concerns. Some residents of course additionally contribute to their treatment costs in Italy under the Italian "means-testing" scheme. It is important this continuing right is not limited simply to being able to access the health service, but that all other acquired rights will be maintained, such as, for example, exemptions from specific charges for treatment or prescriptions, or access to specific (expensive) medicines free of charge, bearing in mind that these concessions are not granted lightly.

Pensions – UK citizens in Italy who receive the UK State Pension are entitled to the same annual up-rating as if they remained in the UK. Whether or not this "triple-lock" arrangement survives into the next Parliament, the principle must be that UK pensioners living in Italy should continue to receive their pensions, and any other related allowances, on exactly the same basis as if they had remained in the UK, bearing in mind their history of contributions over their working lives. Generally, pensions should continue to be paid to those who have contributed into State or combined State/private schemes over their working lifetimes irrespective of in which EU country they choose to live in the future.

Mobility – Driving Licences – We have already spoken in general terms about the importance of freedom of movement throughout the EU. There is, however, one very specific area – driving licences – which is extremely important. At present if your driving licence is issued in one EU country, it is recognised throughout the EU. So a "British" licence is recognised in Italy, and vice versa. It would make absolutely no sense to require UK licence holders to re-qualify in Italy (and possibly every other EU country they choose to drive through) or for Italians to have to pass a driving test in Britain.

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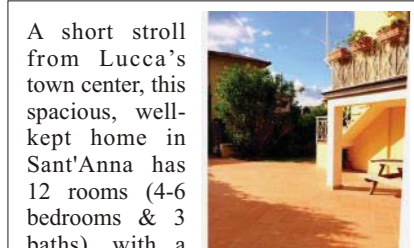
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