

TUSCANY'S

GRAPEVINE

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MAGAZINE

*The magazine for those who live
in Tuscany – or wish they did*

Second series, Year 1 No.4 - May 2017

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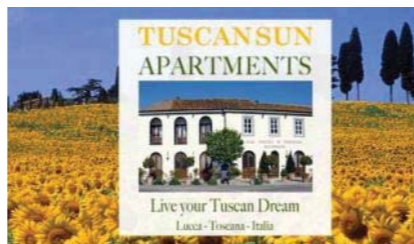
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Direttore Responsabile
Giuseppe Brandani

Editor
Norma Jean Bishop

Contributors
**Helen Askham
Norma Jean Bishop
Cristiana Blasutta
Massimo Bulckaen
Chiara Calabrese
David Collins
Judith Edwards
Simone Lippi
Jennifer Milverton
Dina Montalbano
Francis Pettitt
Donna Pilletere
Julia Rhian Saadat
Debbi Rodden
Jenny Schutz
Shimon Shemtov
Silvano Simi
Maria Tuttovino
Pierpaolo Vannucci**

Marketing & Distribution
**Claudia Casoli
Diana Gatti
Adam Walker
Valencia Wolf**

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Melodia Arte Natura
(artist Roberto Giansanti)
at the Botanical Garden,
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by Sue Crust

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Editorial



Dear Readers,

I want to begin with a disclaimer. Although our issue this month contains several articles regarding cross-cultural learning, and plenty of international energy for people of all ages, we had no formal plan to make internationalism, European spirit and education our theme. Some collective force must have been at work in the universe. We are pleased to have been contacted by local schools and public figures, and are eager to see what future developments may arise from this.

In the spirit of civic engagement and with municipal elections coming up (on 11 June), we take you on a visit to the Mayor's palazzo and inform you of a new opportunity for English speakers to participate in the local political process ("Siamo Europei").

As always, we bring you suggestions for your kitchens, gardens and homes, and hope you find these helpful. There are also several excursions, both for hikers and for the more scientific and technically minded.

And of course we can't neglect the musical and artistic events in our region: front cover artist Roberto Giansanti at Lucca's Botanical Garden, Musical Puccini Postcards in Lucca and an exhibition of two outstanding artists at Villa Argentina in Viareggio.

On our back page you will find a feature we call "Around Town". Do you recognize these images? Some are hidden (Tarocchi readings!) and some are new (Grapevine's office in Via Angelo Custode 3A); some are seasonal (flowers in the Fosse) and some are ephemeral (Roman soldiers in town, ancient walls beneath our feet). We hope you will continue to email us your favorite images as well. Eyes open and cameras ready!

Hoping that the magazine brightens up your day, and that you find it stimulating, informative and fun, we wish you happy reading!

Norma



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Fornacette di Calcinaia - Pisa
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contatti@luminarprint.it
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International School of Lucca Early Childhood to Grade 5



The parents of a school in Lucca felt so strongly about the wonderful education their children were receiving, that when their current school told them they could no longer stay open they decided they needed to act fast! This multicultural group of parents knew they wanted to continue with the same educational philosophy and values experienced by their children so far, something different to the more traditional teaching methods on offer from other schools in the area. And so, by teaming up with a team of experienced local and international teachers, the concept of the International School of Lucca (ISL) was born.

The fundamental philosophy of the ISL School is the belief that children who spend time learning in a natural environment perform better in their academic studies. As such, ISL will strive to offer a strong bilingual, academic education, whilst inspiring students through outdoor learning experiences as part of the curriculum.

Faced with the imminent closure of their current school, an international group of parents and teachers have joined together to offer an alternative type of bilingual education, for children aged 3 to 11, in Lucca.

The exposure to the natural world in a dynamic, multicultural environment will make school subjects, such as reading, mathematics, science and social studies, more relevant, will truly get children excited about learning and provide the solid foundation for a lifelong love of learning.

Children in the Early Years program at ISL, for ages 3 to 5, will benefit from a bilingual, play based program that will spark their natural curiosity and instill the joy of learning through singing, dancing, art, storytelling, cultural celebrations, mindfulness and green studies.

ISL Primary students, for ages 6 to 11, will strive to master core competencies in maths and literacy, in a highly supportive bilingual learning environment. Through hands-on projects, exposure to art, drama, music and holistic engagement, students will learn to become effective collaborators and communicators, empowered decision makers, and willing risk-takers. They will become enquirers and will express their creativity while building relationships.

— by Julia Rhian Saadat

If you would like to find out more,
please contact:
info@internationalschooloflucca.org

A European List for Lucca

For Lucca's administrative elections next June, an innovation is emerging – a pro-European list of supporters – citizens of various nationalities, notably EU countries, who are living and working in Lucca. The English language community living in Lucca, in other words those originating from Great Britain and Ireland, but also the USA and Australia and elsewhere, is being called upon to participate in this project. With what objective? To affirm the European orientation of the city of Lucca and to do this in a unique way by giving voice to the people who live, work and study in our town even though they come from other countries – citizens who, through their involvement, enrich the city of Lucca, contributing to its economic, social and cultural development.

The project is political: to build a list that is openly European in orientation. The project affirms a strategic position in this historic period, when the economic crisis, globalisation, apocalyptic immigration, and the incapacity of the EU to become an effective federation are causing a revolt of the middle class against the “elite”. A wind of neo-nationalism defined as sovereignty blows ever more strongly. The frustration and rebellion risks destroying the building of the European Union. Brexit has been the most resounding expression, but nationalist forces are rising in France, Hungary, Austria and Italy, and in the last few months in the USA, where Trump has become President with a supremacist attitude of “us first” or USA FIRST.

We would like citizens who share the English language, and other European communities, to be able to participate in the political life of Lucca. To this purpose we propose modifications to the communal statute or town code. The English language

community contrary to Brexit can affirm the necessity of a stronger Europe and contribute positively to the political life of the city. We intend to seek European financing and funds, in order to bring to life new social policies for Lucca and policies of training for employment and European citizenship through projects such as the “European Voluntary Service” (SVE), which is one of the activities of the Youth in Action program, financed by the EU to support professional education for youth. We are interested in the proposal of the candidate for Mayor Garzella for the reconsideration of the sister city policies between Lucca and important European and USA cities, with the objective of training and work opportunities for young people.

Our ambition is to defend, improve and advance this European project. We are Europe, and beginning with our city, we want to build a presence so that the next city council will reaffirm the motives, sentiments and interests that should lead us to hold on to the European Union. We need to avoid the dissolution of the EU into 28 nation states that are unable to resolve the problems of our time, above all for the young. The list will call itself SIAMO EUROPEI (WE ARE EUROPEANS). It is no accident that the UK is still present in the logo, because we consider Great Britain fundamental to the building of a European project.

— by Massimo Bulckaen, Siamo Europei Project Coordinator

Anyone interested in further information,
please contact *Tuscany's Grapevine Magazine*



Lucca Students Crossing International Barriers

We were born at the start of a new Millennium. We are the Millennials, the “Me, Me, Me Generation” as *Time Magazine* defined us in the May 2013 issue. Apparently, among other things, we are lazy, fame-obsessed, narcissistic. We have little civic engagement and low political participation. We interact all day texting. We continuously check our phones and many of us experience phantom pocket-vibration syndrome. We lack empathy, we don't feel concerned for others. We've been swallowed by technology. We admit that there is some truth in this, which means that at least we are capable of self-criticism and we understand our limits, but there is also a positive potential in us and we want to work on that. We believe that technology, like surfing the net, has allowed us to acquire a wider perspective on the world. It has stimulated our curiosity. We feel broad-minded and capable of building bridges, not walls. Our belief is supported by Joel Stein in *Time Magazine* when he says we are “more accepting of differences, not just among gays, women and minorities but in everyone” than previous generations.

We are a group of fifteen students from the Liceo Scientifico A. Vallisneri, and we are truly international. The microcosm of our class, 3LD linguistic course, is the mirror of our times, made up of continuous migrations of people. Argentina, Australia, England, Morocco and Romania are well represented in our class (until last year also Cuba and Croatia). Integration is a slow and difficult process, but we are doing our best to promote intercultural exchange. Friendship is the basis.

Joel was six when he moved to Bagni di Lucca from England and cannot forget the nightmarish experience of his first day in an Italian school. He was crying his eyes out and parents and teacher had to literally drag him into the classroom. He just could not fit in. He had serious problems in learning the language and refused to take part in school activities. His only dream was to go back to his old life in England. When he became more fluent, though, friendship came and made the difference. He now sees his experience from a totally different perspective: “a big chance like that defines you; this experience made me who I am” and when he goes to England he realizes that his horizon has widened: “I feel international” he proudly recognizes. Besides, we couldn't do without Joel's British humour.

Myra came to Lucca from Romania when she was ten. She says that Romanian students are generally more respectful than Italian ones, and teachers are stricter. This was a bit of a problem at first. She could not approve of what she considered immature behavior on the part of Italian students, and was therefore isolated. Fortunately, also in her case things slowly developed. Friends and mutual respect came and they made the difference. Now Italy is a home to her, a home where she has brought politeness and a joyful love for dancing, which is an essential part of Romanian life.

Jamila was born in Lucca but her parents are from Morocco and most of her relatives live there. Living between two worlds has always been a resource for her, never an impediment.



Morena, Jamila, Laura and Sean from class 3LD Liceo Scientifico A. Vallisneri

According to Jamila, the attitude towards food serves as a bridge between these apparently so distant worlds. For both the Moroccan family and the Italian one, food is not simply a means of survival. It requires a long preparation and is a pleasure in itself, but it mainly represents socialization, conviviality and joy. It unites the family. When she smells spices, as on her recent visit to the spice market in Marseilles during a school trip, her imagination makes her fly all the way to the land where her relatives live. Jamila, though, has two homes and in Lucca friends are fundamental to make her feel that this is home. Painting their hands with henna is certainly good fun!

Morena was born in Argentina and came to Lucca when she was just one year old. Basically, her friends have always simply considered her as a Lucchese. They have hardly been aware of her being strongly connected to her country of origin. Family bonds, in particular, make her feel the difference, because in Argentina they matter even more than in Italy. She would never miss the Sunday family gatherings around Argentinian food, and on New Year's Eve she prefers dining with family rather than with friends. Her mum is very young, much younger than her friends' mothers, and she has a wonderful relationship with her. Morena believes that the Argentinian habit of having children very early in life is great because it makes the dialogue between generations much easier. Going against the mainstream trend, she believes she will be able to achieve professional self-realization and, at the same time, have children while still young. Noisy, loud and joyful, *sangre caliente*, she makes a delightful contrast to the more reserved Lucchese attitude!

— by 3LD students, Liceo Linguistico Vallisneri
(photo by Nicolò Urbani)

This article was submitted as part of a professional experience created by Liceo Scientifico A. Vallisneri and Grapevine, for and with the English language class of Chiara Calabrese.

Palazzo Orsetti, The Municipal Palace

Italy has more wonderful buildings than any other country in the world. Indeed, so many that a large number of these architectural miracles are at risk or inaccessible to the public. So every year there's an open day in March when such buildings open their doors. This is courtesy of the country's major heritage and conservation body FAI, the Fondo Ambiente Italiano (Association for the Italian Environment).

This year I headed for Lucca and its Palazzo Orsetti for my FAI treat. Palazzo Orsetti, in Via Santa Giustina in the north-west quarter of Lucca, was built by the Diodati family in the sixteenth century on the foundations of a medieval palace. Today the palazzo is one of Lucca's town council headquarters and houses the mayor's offices. Indeed, Mayor Alessandro Tambellini came to personally give us a tour of this wondrous palazzo, prefacing it by a fascinating account of the history of Lucca and the building. There can be few more learned mayors in Italy, and I learnt so much about the place, including this:

In 1541, Carlo Diodati was baptized in the palace by Pope Paul III with Emperor Charles V, Carlo's godfather, in attendance. In 1567 Diodati was suspected of heresy when he was found with a copy of the King James Version of the Bible. Diodati emigrated to Geneva where he married Flaminia Micheli, who was also originally from Lucca. After her death he married Maria Mei, also from Lucca. Giovanni Diodati, the great Protestant theologian and first translator of the Bible in Italian, was born from this marriage in 1576. In 1661 and 1662, since the Diodatis left no heirs, Lelio Orsetti bought the entire building with its furnishings, including paintings such as the one (below) illustrating Wallenstein's trial by Pietro Paolini, which

together with a Pontormo, is in the palace to this day. The Orsettis made loads of money through international trade. Indeed, there's an Orsetti castle in present-day Poland. However, hard times hit the Orsettis in the last century and in 1963 they sold the building to the municipality of Lucca for just 74,000 pounds sterling.

The palazzo has a charming garden now dedicated to that great Luccan composer, Geminiani, who made his fortune in the UK when free movement of labour was still encouraged. There are two monumental entrances, probably the finest in the whole of Lucca, which otherwise shows more restraint in its palace architecture. The



sandstone portals bear trophies in relief. At the top of one portal there is a triton, at the top of the other there's a siren.

Inside, there's a stately staircase, where Pontormo's *Cupid and Psyche* is situated. The interior is full of spectacular stately rooms. Among them is the Hall of Mirrors, decorated with original eighteenth-century Empire furniture. This was the palace ballroom, and it is now used for official meetings.

The music room, with gorgeous stucco ceiling decorations and an elegant *scagliola* false marble floor, contains original furniture and upholstery. It



has a beautiful eighteenth-century chandelier and sumptuous red curtains. You can test the acoustics by clapping your hands under the central chandelier. The vibrations are amazing!



The Green Room was the palace's living room and owes its name to the green curtains and upholstery brocade covering the walls. Today it is used for civil marriages – in fact, one of my friends was married here. What a place to tie the knot, with Napoleon's sister Elisa, princess of Lucca, gazing down upon you!

There are other rooms decorated in neoclassical style. At the top floor there are sixteenth-century painted wooden beams, only recently rediscovered under a false ceiling.

I want to thank Mayor Tambellini for the talk and for the tour of his offices. And thanks also to his assistants, the students from Lucca's *Scientifico* and *Classico* Licei, who walked and talked us around the palazzo in exemplary fashion.



There are so many aristocratic palaces in Lucca. Perhaps more should be added to the FAI. Certainly the Palazzo Orsetti whetted my appetite.

For more about the FAI:
<http://eng.fondoambiente.it/about-us.asp>

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

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Cartoline Pucciniane



Beginning June 1st, four appointments dedicated to *La bohème*, *Madama Butterfly*, *La rondine*, and *La fanciulla del West*

The *Puccini Postcards* are selections of arias, duets and musical pieces accompanied by the piano, promoted and presented by Teatro del Giglio and the Fondazione Giacomo Puccini. These "Postcards" draw enthusiastic responses both from tourists and from Luccesi. In fact in the past few years the number of spectators has greatly increased (440 in 2015 and 780 in 2016).

The recitals take place in Piazza Cittadella, in front of the house where the Maestro was born in 1858, which today houses the Puccini Museum and Birthplace.

The 2017 edition, with all performances at 6 pm, is scheduled to begin on Thursday 1 June with *La bohème*, followed on 6 July with *Madama Butterfly*, then on 3 August *La rondine* will be featured.

For the final appointment, a "novelty" has been added to the Puccini Postcard package. *La fanciulla del West*, on Thursday 7 September, will give voice to the American protagonists Minnie, Jack Rance and Dick Johnson, as an anteprima to the Teatro del Giglio's new lyric staging. This co-production, with Teatro Lirico of Cagliari, Carolina Opera of Charlotte, and the New York City Opera, will open the 2017-2018 Opera Season and Puccini Days.

Tickets for Cartoline Pucciniane are priced at 10 euro.
For reservations & purchase, please contact the Teatro del Giglio Box Office:
Tel. 0583 465320, email: biglietteria@teatrodeltiglio.it

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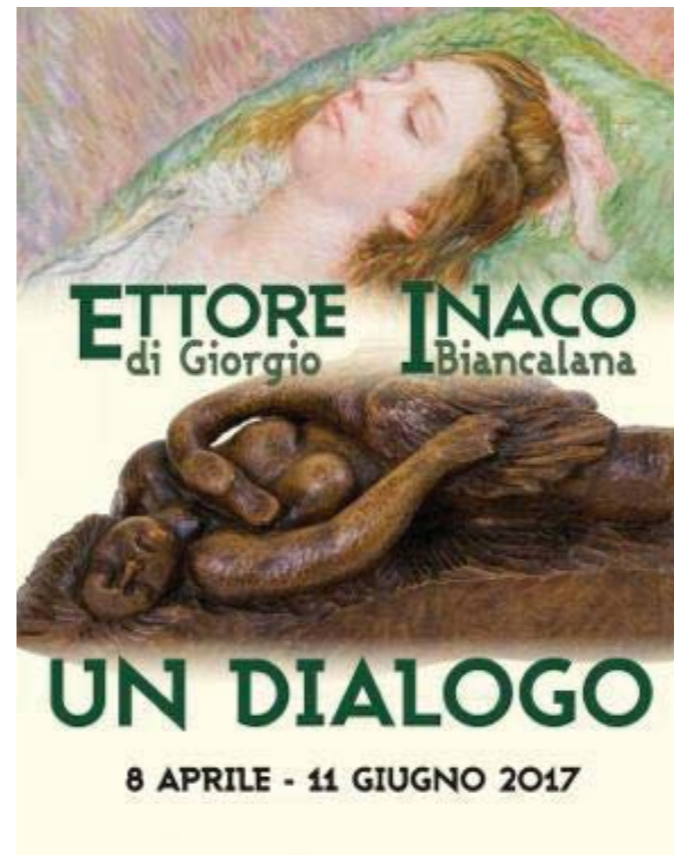
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This restaurant can accommodate individuals on gluten free diets



Villa Argentina with its beautiful mosaics by Galileo Chini is currently (8 April to 11 June) hosting an exhibition by two artists separated in time and space but united by their figurative expression.

Ettore di Giorgio was born in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1887. When he was 17 years old, he and his family moved to Italy, where he attended the Florentine *Accademia di Belle Arti*. From 1912 to 1914 he lived in Munich, working as an engraver. He was also an illustrator for *L'Eroica*, the Futurist magazine founded in La Spezia. After various successes internationally, he held his first personal exhibition in Paris in 1923, and until 1940 regularly took part in Venice's Biennale, both as engraver and as painter. In 1926 he moved to Urbino, where he taught lithography, decoration and xylography (engraving on wood). From 1934 to 1960 he taught at and directed the Art Institute of Naples.

From 1930 on, Di Giorgio focused mainly on painting portraits and still lifes. For the last two years of his life, he lived in Viareggio, where he died in 1971 at the age of 74. His works have been acquired by public galleries in Munich, Athens, Alessandria, Leningrad, New York, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Paris, Berlin, Tokyo, Buenos Aires, Rome, Florence, Milan, Turin, Lucca, Biella, Venice, and many other cities. Many private collectors have purchased his works.

Inaco Biancalana was born in Viareggio in 1912. After the war he lived near the Burlamacca Canal, at the port. A sculptor, his first exposition was held in 1940 at the *Principe di Piemonte* di Viareggio, thanks to the collaboration and co-participation of Giulia Viani, wife of artist Lorenzo Viani. Eight years later, Biancalana participated in a posthumous exhibition for Viani, who was a close personal friend. In 1945, he exhibited in Rome, where he got to know the opera singers Beniamino Gigli and Tito Gobbi, both of whom purchased his carvings (including, for Gobbi, *Rigoletto* and for Gigli, the *Flight from Egypt*).

Although he received many offers to work in America, in Helsinki, and at Montecassino (for the restoration of the Abbey, which was bombed during the war), Biancalana chose to remain in Viareggio, his home. He carved busts of famous figures: Stalin (acquired by the Soviet Embassy in Rome), Churchill and Roosevelt (purchased by private individuals). In 1967, the American director John Huston bought many of his works, which increased Biancalana's reputation overseas. In the 1980s he gained fame for his wooden statue of a typical Viareggio citizen, which was sent to Italian President Sandro Pertini by the Versilia Lions Club.

Biancalana, a sensitive interpreter of the fishermen, navigators and families of Viareggio, died in 1991, twenty years after Di Giorgio. You can see his sculpture *L'Attesa* (The Wait), re-created in bronze by Gionata Francesconi, at the *Molo* (Jetty) near his home.

Villa Argentina (Via A. Fratti & Via A. Vespucci 44, Viareggio)
The event is organized by the Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca together with the Province of Lucca.
Hours: Tuesdays to Sundays 10am to 1pm & 3pm to 6.30pm.
musei@provincia.lucca.it - www.provincia.lucca.it
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Learning Language: The Survive and Thrive Method

After thirteen years of annual stays in Italy, both as apartment dweller and house sitter, and after many wonderful private lessons and Italian language classes, the *passato remoto* remains remote, and I am without words if there is an Italian speaker on the other end of my *cellulare*. The truth is that I am of an advanced age and lazy, but I have also learned that not every language program can address the exigencies of everyday life. To that end, I am here to provide a public service by addressing two often overlooked paths to vocabulary enrichment in Italian. These paths require no studying. They just require a desire to survive and thrive. One might say they are opportunities that are thrust upon us.

The crisis path, for example, includes such things as car breakdowns, power failures, and minor physical injuries. If any one of these calamities befalls you, you need to look at the bright side and realize that Fate has sent you an opportunity to learn new words. I don't have a car in Italy, so if my friend's clutch hadn't failed as we pulled into Verona one fine day, I never would have learned the word *frizione*. *Frizione* became the centerpiece of several conversations with local mechanics, and since all agreed that it would take a while to get the right *frizione* replacement, we left Verona by train. By the way, you can see that it is important to be able to attach the descriptive *non funziona* in cases like this.

Non funziona works for cars, computers, refrigerators, and most mechanical things, but when all the lights in your apartment suddenly go out, you need a specialized vocabulary. *Guasto*, or power failure, just takes you so far. How are you going to return to the light if you don't know where the circuit breaker is? When the power failed in my apartment, I could not find the circuit breaker, so I had to call the landlord. You may remember that phones make me completely non-verbal, but I have no doubt that just knowing *disgiuntore dell'elettricità* and then understanding that it was hidden behind a picture on the far end of the hall would have brought the light into my life much sooner.

If the water in your shower suddenly turns cold, and there is no hope of changing it to warm again, Fate has, once again, offered you another step on the road to fluency. Obviously, you will need to call the *idraulico* and have him come and fix the *caldaia*. Plumber and hot water heater. If you are living in an apartment, put these at the top of your vocabulary list. And if you happen to have a swollen ankle from tripping in the dark during a power failure, you might learn *caviglia gonfia*, a term my Italian acupuncturist, who is a former monk, taught me. How else would I have increased my vocabulary so serendipitously?

Less dramatic, but equally important, is the unusual purchase path to greater fluency. Sometimes we may require an item that is a bit out of the ordinary, such as a three way plug, something I needed in order to use my computer and two lamps at the same time. The *ferramenta* down the street kept shaking his head while I waved my hands around, pointed at lights, and poked my finger into the air three times. Finally, when I drew a sketch, he smiled and said, *Certo, una spina tripla*. It may not come up at dinner parties, but you never know when you might have the chance to mention *spina tripla* in casual conversation in a bar. I don't have to tell you that it will impress your friends.



A word of caution, though, about the unusual purchase path. You cannot always depend on translation sites. When I needed a compression bandage for my *caviglia gonfia*, Google told me to ask for *una fasciatura di compressione*, and that's exactly what I did. My neighborhood pharmacy is a family business, and when I recited the Google phrase to the father, he gave me that eerily familiar look of non-comprehension, coupled with the *ferramenta* headshake, before sending me to his son at another counter. After a pause, while I pointed to my *caviglia gonfia* (I am sure you have been paying attention!), the son said, *una benda elastica*. Does Google resist the obvious?

Such experiences have inspired me to simply create the required message from words that I know in Italian. In the case of bubble wrap, for example, it was *Do you have the material for protecting fragile things in boxes?* Impressed by my own brilliance, I muttered this sentence in Italian all the way to the shop known as *Tutto Per La Casa*. I recited it proudly and clearly to the clerk, at which point she looked at me and said, *Bubble wrap*. Ah, I adore simplicity, especially when it is unexpected!

If you decide to embrace any of these complementary approaches to vocabulary building, you must begin by understanding the meaning of *Non ti preoccupare. Don't worry*. In the States, that phrase subtly infers that the person who utters it has some sort of a solution in mind to your problem. In Italy, in my experience, *Non ti preoccupare* means just that. *Stop worrying*. What sage advice! *Frizione, guasto, caviglia gonfia*. Whatever the situation might be, worrying is not going to solve it so you might just as well direct your energy elsewhere. Now that I think about it, that understanding is probably the best vocabulary lesson ever!

— by Dee Montalbano

A long-term annual visitor to Lucca since 2004, Dee teaches her MoonWriting workshops in Lucca and in Boulder, Colorado. Her book, Crossing Seventy: Moments of Outrageous Ageing, is featured on Amazon, and she can be reached at montdee2@gmail.com

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

Markets

General markets	Pescia	Sat a.m.	Arts & Craft
Lucca, special market for Esaltazione della Santa Croce: Piazzas S. Giusto, S. Giovanni, S. Martino & Antelminelli & at Foro Boario (animal fair) Wed. May 3 only	Books and prints Lucca, Corte del Biancone	Daily	Lucca, Piazza San Giusto last Sat/Sunday Marina di Pietrasanta Wednesday afternoons Castelnuovo Garfagnana 1st weekend of the month Pieve Fosciana last Sunday
Lucca, Piazzale Don Baroni Wed & Sat a.m. Lucca, Piazza S. Francesco 2nd Sunday of month. Lucca, Piazza del Carmine Monday to Saturday B. Giannotti, Foro Boario Sat a.m. S. Maria a Colle Thurs a.m. Ponte a Moriano Tues a.m. S. Maria del Giudice Mon a.m. Pietrasanta Thurs a.m. Marina di Pietrasanta Sat a.m. Tonfano Sat a.m. Castelnuovo Garfagnana Thurs a.m.	Antiques Lucca 3rd Sat/Sunday Altopascio 2nd Sunday Montecarlo 2nd Sunday Forte dei Marmi 1st Sat/Sunday Pietrasanta 1st Sunday Barga 2nd Sunday Viareggio 4th Sat/Sunday Bientina 4th Sat/Sunday Pescia 4th Sunday Querceta Saturday mornings		Plants and flowers Lucca, Corso Garibaldi Friday mornings Pietrasanta 3rd Sunday
			Markets in Florence (the biggest) Piazza San Lorenzo 7-2 daily, 7-5 Sat, closed Sundays Parco delle Cascine Tuesdays 7am to 2pm Piazza dei Ciompi Flea Market 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@sanluccapalace.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@jitaco-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



LUCCA
800 meters
from the
Centro Storico

Splendid vacation home (120 sqm) in villa with large garden & pool (8m x 4m). Furnished, 2 bedrooms (4 beds). Tavern with fireplace. Air conditioning, internet, tv, parking space for 2 cars, 4 bicycles. Prices for short rentals: € 140 per day (1 May to 14 June), € 160 per day (15 June to 15 September). Minimum 3 day stay. (Ref. 1169)

Tel. +39 347 5376113
www.villacamilla.it

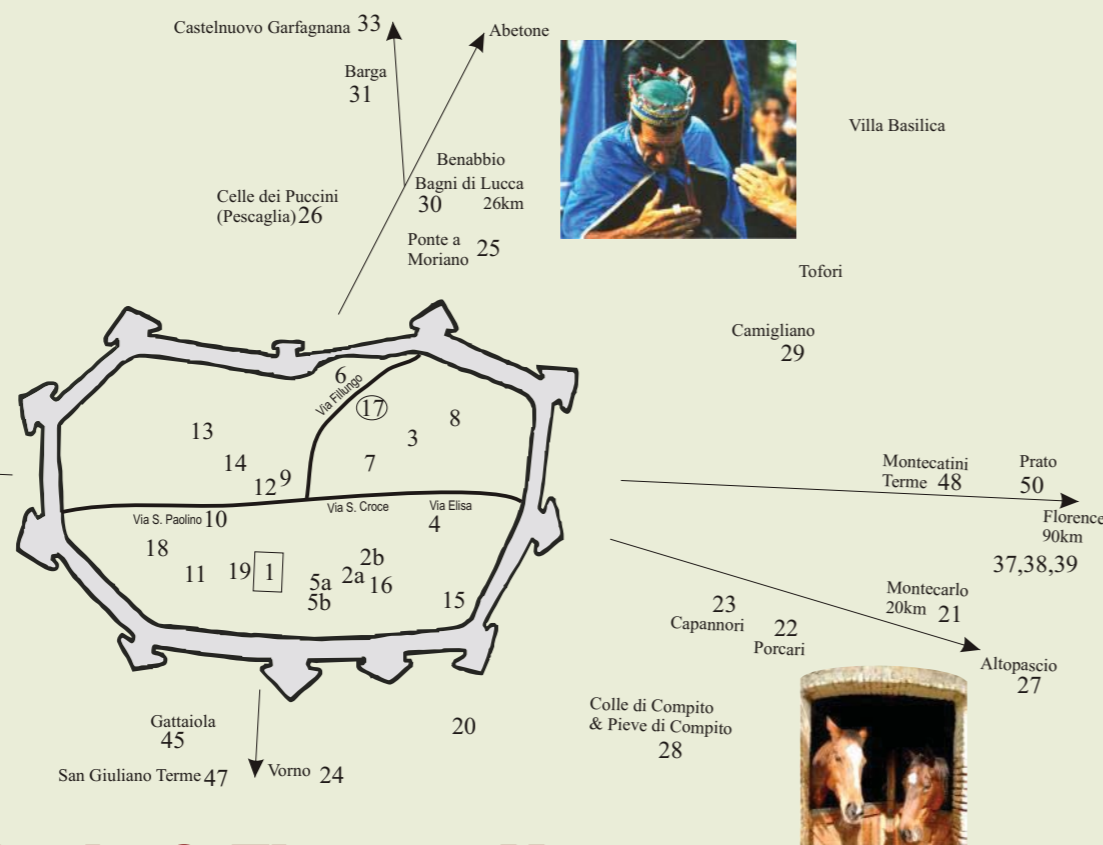


Holiday flat in Coreglia Antelminelli, one of the most beautiful villages in the hills of Tuscany.



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

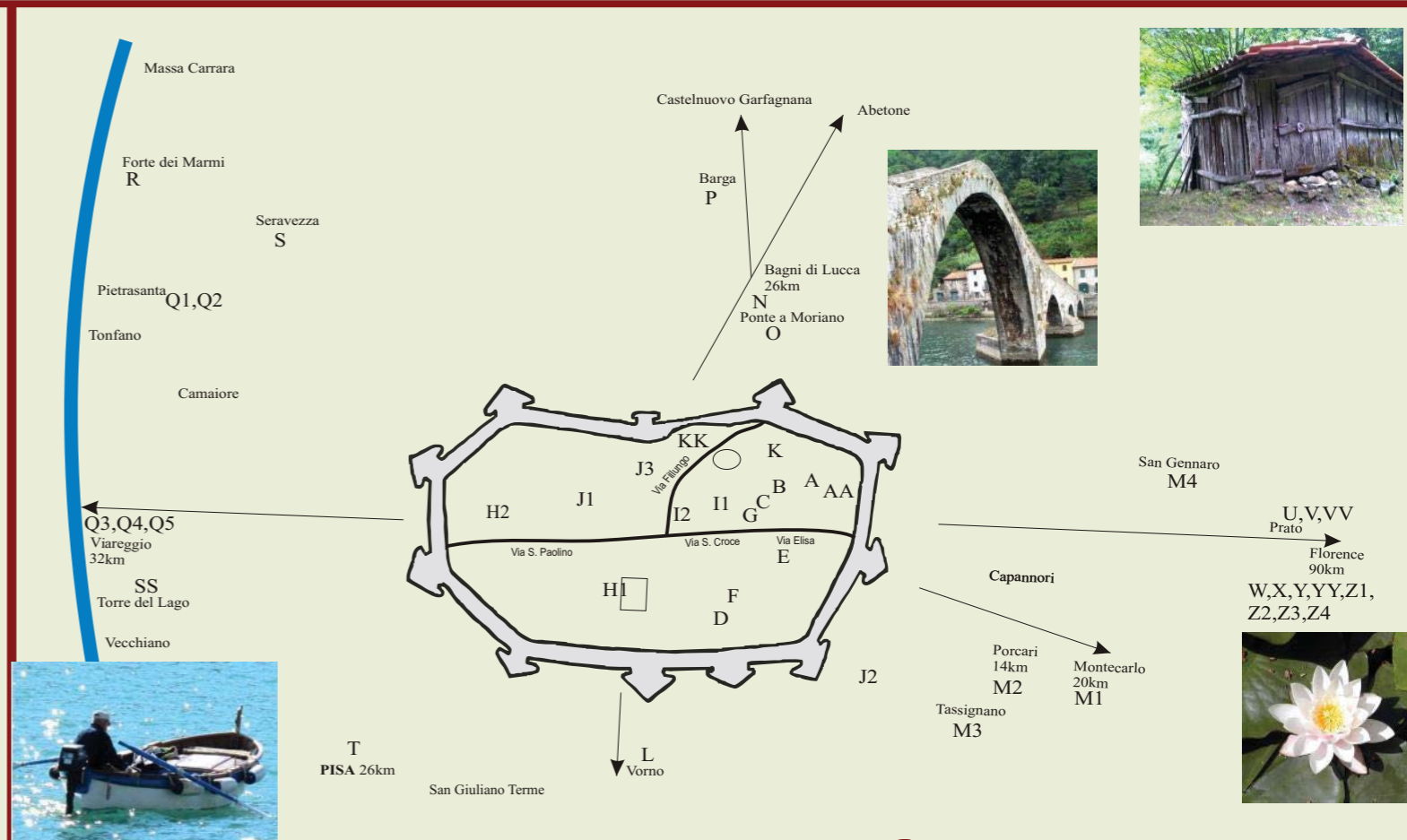
Lucca:

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

Outside Lucca:

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

- Pisa, Teatro Verdi, Via Palestro 40. 050 94111, www.teatrodipisa.pi.it
- Pisa, Scuola Normale Concerts. www.sns.it, 050 941111 or 050 94118836.
- Pisa, Music under the Tower (OPA). www.opapisa.it See page 17.
- Florence, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. www.operadifirenze.it
- Florence, Teatro Verdi, Via Ghibellina 99. www.teatroverdionline.it
- Florence, Santo Spirito, Piazza Santo Spirito www.accademiadelispiritali.org
- S. Anna di Stazzema Peace Organ Festival, 0584 772025, www.santannadistazzema.org
- Tonfano, Marina di Pietrasanta, Teatro Sant'Antonio, Via Verdi, 335543579, 3471305764.
- Torre del Lago Puccini, Festival Pucciniano. 0584 359322. www.puccinifestival.it
- Pieve a Elci (Massarosa), AML 0583469960, www.associazionemusicaelucchese.it
- Corsanico (Massarosa) Organ Festival. www.corsanicomusica.it
- Gattaiola, Villa Rossi
- Pietrasanta, Teatro la Versiliana. Viale Morin 16, Marina di Pietrasanta. 0584 265757, Complete program www.laversilianafestival.it
- San Giuliano Terme. Villa Roncioni (loc. Pugnano). Costumes & hats. Tuesdays to Sundays 4pm to 8pm. 050 817900, www.fondazioneceratelli.it
- Montecatini Terme, Estate Regina Music Festival, at the Terme & Teatro Verdi. Until 4 Oct. 0527 78903, www.estatergina.it
- Forte dei Marmi, Villa Bertelli, Viale Mazzini 200. 0584 787251 www.villabertelli.it
- Prato, Teatro Metastasio, Via B. Cairoli 59.
- 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 Ragghianti, 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. New exhibition space.
- 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: Pasquinelli Gallery, Via Roma.
- 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: Grapevine Cultural Assoc. La Rondine Gallery, Via V. Emanuele.
- 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

May 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
<p>Lucca Classica Festival 4/5/6/7 May. Hundreds of musicians will perform throughout Lucca. Only a few events can be included in this calendar. See the article in the April Grapevine or www.luccaclassica.it for the complete program. Tickets (even for some free events) are available from the Teatro del Giglio box office.</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>  <p>John Williams</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9pm, Lucca, Church of San Francesco. Music from cinema (John Williams - Star Wars, Harry Potter, The Phantom Menace, etc.) by the Orchestra & Chorus of the Istituto Musicale L. Boccherini.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9pm, Lucca, Church of San Pietro Somaldi, Lucca Classica Festival. Dutch organist/harpsichordist Liuwe Tamminga performs 21 pieces composed by Puccini, rediscovered by the Centro Studi G. Puccini.</p> <p>Firenze, Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. Verdi's Don Carlo. Director Zubin Mehta, tenor Roberto Aronica as Don Carlo, mezzosoprano Ekaterina Gubanova as the Principessa Eboli, & Lucca's Massimo Cavalletti as Rodrigo Marchese di Posa. (Replicas 8, 11, 14 May)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>4pm, Lucca, Chiesa di Santa Giulia, Piazza del Suffragio. Note di Primavera. Concert for National Art Day.</p> <p>4pm, Lucca, Baluardo San Colombano. Musica Ragazzi & Centro studi L. Boccherini present Io e Luigi Veri Amici. Closing concert by the Assoc. Musicale Fiorentina & students from Lucca schools. Dir. Marco Mangani</p> <p>4.30pm, Lucca, Palazzo Ducale, Ademello Hall. Open rehearsal. Giovanni Sollima (violin) & Simone Soldati (piano), Beethoven's Sonata in la maggiore for piano & cello, op. 69.</p> <p>5.30pm, Lucca, Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca Auditorium, Piazza San Martino, 2. Cluster presents Etymos Ensemble.</p> <p>9.15pm, Lucca, Teatro del Giglio. Mario Brunello (cello) & Andrea Lucchesini (piano).</p>
<p>7</p> <p>10.30am, Lucca, Cathedral of San Martino. Polifonica Lucchese in its 50th anniversary concert, directed by Egisto Matteucci. www.associazionemusicaelucchese.it</p> <p>3pm, Lucca, Real Collegio. Lucca Classica & Anteprema Vini. Alberto Bogni (violin) performing selections by Paganini.</p> <p>3.30, Lucca, Cloister of San Michele. Ragghianti Foundation.</p> <p>100Cellos, with the possibility of visiting Pier Carlo Santini's sculpture garden. Lucca Classica Festival.</p> <p>11am & 4pm, Lucca Centro Storico, Lucca Classica Street Band, with musical surprises for children.</p> <p>5pm, Lucca, Museum of Contemporary Art, Via della Fratta 46. Jazz improvisation by Michela Lombardi (voice) & Piero Frassi (piano).</p> <p>6pm, Lucca, Della Rosa Church. Sagra Musicale Lucchese, Music by Telemann, Ditters von Dittersdorf, Gianella, Mozart. Quartetto Venere flute ensemble. Director Luca Bacci. www.sagramusicaelucchese.com - www.700musicalelucca.com</p> <p>9.15pm, Lucca, Teatro del Giglio. Lucca Classica final concert. 100Cellos, with music by Geminiani, Boccherini, Puccini, Sollima & Pink Floyd.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9pm, Lucca, Auditorium Istituto Musicale Boccherini. Open Festival concert of music by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco (1895-1968) & Giuseppe Verdi. Arody Garcia (guitar) & Il Quartetto Domino from Florence's Cherubini Conservatory.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9pm, Pisa, Teatro Verdi. Scuola Normale concert. Giuseppe Bruno & Vincenzo Maxia perform Wagner & Liszt. concerti@sns.it</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9pm, Lucca, Auditorium Istituto Musicale Boccherini. Open Festival concert of music by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco by students of the Boccherini guitar Masterclass.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9pm, Lucca, Auditorium Istituto Musicale Boccherini. Open Festival concert of music by Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco by students of the Boccherini guitar Masterclasses & Trio Ecloghe (flute, horn & guitar).</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5pm, Pietrasanta, Sant'Agostino Cloister, Salone Dell'Annunziata. In Viaggio con Berta di Toscana. Music, prose, dance. Conceived by Mauro Barabani. Book presentation by Vincenzo Moneta of Berta di Toscana. This event is part of the DAP, Dance Festival of Pietrasanta. Dinner follows at the Casa Diocesana "La Rocca". Reservations: 347 6554551.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5pm, Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca Auditorium, Cluster presents Sinfonia Student Orchestra concert. Director Stefano Giannotti.</p> <p>9pm, Lucca, Teatro del Giglio. Cenerentola (Cinderella), Pop opera by Lucca Junior Opera. Musical freely inspired by the folktale. Music by Gianpaolo Mazzoli, Mario Menicagli, Oliviero Lacagnina. Recommended for 6 years of age & up. www.teatrodelgiglio.it Tel. 0583 465320.</p> <p>9pm, Lucca, Foro Boario. PROM Spring dance organized by Comitato Paesano di Aquilea & Lucca neighborhoods, emerging bands & dj set. Benefit for Meyer Hospital.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9pm, Lucca, Teatro del Giglio. Cenerentola (Cinderella), Pop opera by Lucca Jr. Opera. Musical freely inspired by the folktale. Music by G. Mazzoli, M. Menicagli, O. Lacagnina. For 6 years of age & up. Tel. 0583465320. www.teatrodelgiglio.it</p> <p>9pm, Pisa, Teatro Verdi. Scuola Normale concert. Les Arts Flourissant perform Monteverdi. concerti@sns.it</p>	<p>17</p>		<p>19</p> <p>9pm, Lucca, Auditorium Istituto Musicale L. Boccherini. Animando Musica Ritrovata concert. Music from the 1700s in Lucca. Curated by Valentina Scheldhofen Ciardelli, winner of the Animando scholarship. www.animandolucca.it</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5.30pm, Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca Auditorium, Performance by Cluster's Young Composers, organized by Stefano Teani.</p> <p>9pm, Lucca, Sant'Angelo in Campo Church. Organ concert, music inspired by Bach. Claudiano Pallottini, organ. Sagra Musicale Lucchese.</p> <p>9pm, Vorno, Tenuta dello Scompiglio (SPE), Via di Vorno 67. Alessandro Carbonare clarinet trio. Music by Mozart, Poulenc, Corea, Ernesto Nazareth, Egberto Gismonti, Hermeto Pascoal. www.delloscompiglio.org info.ac@delloscompiglio.org</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>		<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>5.30pm, Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lucca Auditorium. JAM students & instructors in concert.</p> <p>6pm, Lucca, Della Rosa Church. Handel & the Tuscan Castrati. Il Rossignolo Ensemble (Antonio Giovannini, Marica Testi, Martino Noferi, Ottaviano Tenerani). Sagra Musicale Lucchese.</p> <p>OPEN DAY at Istituto Musicale L. Boccherini. Concerts, meetings, open lessons, guided visits.</p>
<p>28</p> <p>5pm, Lucca, Church of San Francesco. Boccherini Concert with the Orchestra Sinfonica Fiorentina. Violin, viola, cello, guitar & ballet. Centro studi Luigi Boccherini in collaboration with the Associazione Napoleone & Elisa: from Paris to Tuscany.</p> <p>9pm, Lucca, Auditorium Istituto Musicale L. Boccherini. Boccherini & Mendelssohn Concert with the Soloists of the Santa Cecilia National Music Academy (Matteo Bovo violin, Francesco Marini cello, Stefano Ruiz De Ballesteros piano). Boccherini Music Institute with Centro studi L. Boccherini & Santa Cecilia National Music Academy.</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Coming Up/Ongoing</p> <p>Cartoline Pucciniane in Piazza Cittadella. 1 June La bohème, 6 July Madama Butterfly, 3 August La rondine, 7 Sept. La fanciulla del West. Tickets for seating are available from the Teatro del Giglio box office, or you can simply choose to enjoy a snack at a bar in the same piazza (if space is available). See article on page 8.</p> <p>Il Settecento Musicale a Lucca: Schubert's Stabat Mater & Magnificat 10 June 9pm at Dei Servi Church. 17 June 9pm at Dei Servi Church, music by Baldassare Galuppi (first modern performance). Sagra Musicale Lucchese.</p>	<p>Istituto Musicale Boccherini Guitar Festival continues.</p> <p>Lucca Summer Festival, 20th Anniversary: 14 June (from Berkeley, CA) Green Day & Rancid, 4 July rock band 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 Erasure, 21 July Il Volo, 22 July Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, 23 July Kasabian, 29 July Panariello, Conti & Pieraccini. Tickets: 0584 30335 or TicketOne online. lucsummerfestival.it, dalessandroegalli.com</p> <p>Pietrasanta, Versiliana Festival, July & August. Pietrasanta in Concert 21 to 30 July.</p>	



Exhibitions, May 2017

Exhibitions, May 2017

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

ONGOING EXHIBITIONS:



Lucca, Lu.C.C.A. Museum, Via della Fratta 36. **Warhol vs. Garte. Hyp Pop.** Tuesdays to Sundays 10am to 7pm. Until 18 June 2017. 9 See article in March *Grapevine*.

Also at Lu.C.C.A. **Giancarlo Baglini, All'Origine** (In the Beginning). Until 18 June 2017.

Lucca, Casermetta San Martino. **Le stanze del sogno**, videos & costumes from Teatro del Carretto. Tuesday to Sundays 10am to 6pm. Until 5 November 2017.

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. Until 4 June 2017. See article in April *Grapevine*.

Lucca, Botanical Garden. **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.



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. Until 25 June 2017. Tel. 0583 971125.

Viareggio, Villa Argentina (Via A. Fratti & Via A. Vespucci 44). **Ettore di Giorgio & Inaco Biancalana, Un Dialogo.** Until 11 June 2017. See article on page 9.

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. Until 11 June 2017.



Forte dei Marmi, Museum of Satire. **Condoniamo il futuro (Let's forgive the future).** The bittersweet truths of **Fabio Magnasciutti.** 130 satirical & ironic drawings. Hours: 4pm to 8pm. Closed Mondays to Thursdays. Tel. 0584 280262. Until 18 June 2017.

La Spezia, Amadeo Lia Museum, Via del Prione. **L'Elogio della Bellezza.** museoliaspezianet.it Until 25 June 2017.

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. **Sul solco di Pietro (Following Peter's footsteps),** Pisa Cathedral & the Vatican Basilica. 22 April to 23 July 2017, 8am to 8pm. www.opapisa.it - 050 835 011 - nelsolcodipietro@opapisa.it

WORTH THE TRIP ...

Nuoro (Sardinia), MAN Museum, Via Satta 27. **Topographies** (1917-1991). Photographer **Berenice Abbott** was born in Ohio in 1898 & moved to New York in 1918. In contact with Sylvia Beach, Duchamp & Man Ray, she photographed people such as Jean Cocteau, James Joyce, Max Ernst & André Gide. Until 21 May.

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. 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.

Sunday



7
MUSIC & ART: 3.30, Lucca, Cloister of San Michele. Ragghianti Foundation. **100 Cellos**, with the possibility of visiting **Pier Carlo Santini's sculpture garden.** Lucca Classica Festival.
MUSIC & ART: 5pm, Lucca, Museum of Contemporary Art, Via della Fratta 46. For **Warhol vs. Garte Hyp Pop.** Jazz improvisation by Michela Lombardi (voice) & Piero Frassi (piano).
LAST DAY: Lucca Contemporary Art Fair. Sorbano del Giudice, Polo Fiere. 11am to 8pm. www.luccaartfair.it



14
LAST DAY: Pistoia, Fondazione Marino Marini, Corso Silvano Fedi 30. **I Measure Time by How a Body Sways** by painter **John Vander.**
LAST DAY: Seravezza, Palazzo Mediceo. **Spacearth Satellite Photography.**

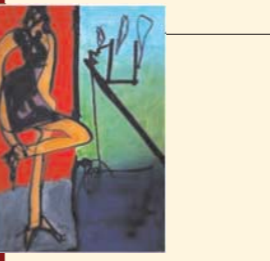
21
LAST DAY: Lucca, LuCCA Museum Underground, Via della Fratta 36. **David Martinazzo, Panta Rei.** 10am to 7pm, closed Mondays.
LAST DAY: Vorno, Tenuta dello Scompiglio (SPE), Via di Vorno 67. **Ma il cielo è sempre più blu**, video installation by **Alessandra Ghimenti.** www.delloscompiglio.org, tel. 0583 971125.

28

Monday

1

8
LAST DAY: Lucca Contemporary Art Fair. Sorbano del Giudice, Polo Fiere. 10am to 1pm. www.luccaartfair.it



Tuesday

2
Chiesa di Santa Giulia
Piazza del Suffragio, 1 Lucca
Maggio in Arte 2017
"NOTE di PRIMAVERA"
Inaugurazione mostra: giovedì 4 maggio, ore 17.00
Orario apertura: fino al 15 maggio, ore 16.00 - 19.00
Sabato 6 maggio: Giornata Nazionale dell'Arte
Eventi musicali ore 16.00 - 19.00
Spettacolo:
Francesco ANDREZZI
Luis BALLO
Fabrizio BASSOTTI
Alessandro BIGNARDI
Gianluigi BINGSTALLER
Sergio CARMARIELLA
Alessandro CAPICCI
Maurizio CARDONI
Fabio COCCANTINO
Luigi FABBRO
Carolina FRANCONI
Emanuele GIUGLI
Alessandro GIBLINI
Jared Kay SELBY
Tom MATHIS
Angelo PALISE
Tullio PETER
Matteo BOCCHI
Alessandro SAVONITTO
Matteo TOTTI
Lino VALENTINI
R. Modugno VERTICOLO

16

24
31
SEE ADJACENT BOX (next page if viewing these pages separately)

Wednesday

11
OPENING: Lucca, Saletta Corte dell'Angelo. **Back to Nature**, exhibit of 4 artists organized by Mercurio Gallery. 4pm to 7.30pm daily. Until 28 May. Tel. 333 2318925.

17

25

Thursday

4
OPENING: Lucca, Chiesa di Santa Giulia, Piazza del Suffragio. **Note di Primavera**, collective by 23 local artists. Until 15 May.

18
LAST DAY: Lucca, Church of the Whites' Crucifix, Via del Crocifisso. **On Demand** by Matteo Nuti, 15 paintings reflecting on the synthetic intensity of recent history.

25
LAST DAY: Forte dei Marmi, town center & onto the pier. **Made in Forte 1.0, Percorsi d'Arte & di Luce.** Artists: Gustavo Aceves, Thomas Lange, Matteo Nasini, Antonio Barbieri, Valentina Palazzari, Caterina Tosoni, Oliviero Rainaldi, Helidon Xhixha, Gregorio Botta. Information (tourist office): 0584 280292, 0584 280253.

Friday

5
OPENING: Lucca Contemporary Art Fair. Sorbano del Giudice, Polo Fiere. 5.30pm to 8pm. www.luccaartfair.it Info: 0586 881165
LAST DAY: Lucca, Maria Pacini Fazzi Editore, Via Sant'Andrea. **Pagallo**, an Italian artist who for many years resided in Paris, presents his **Cahiers de voyage**, for World Book & Authors' Rights Day.

12

19

UPCOMING:
Pietrasanta: MuSA (Virtual Museum of Sculpture & Architecture) will be open for free visits 3pm to 7pm on 2 June. Exhibits in the Centro Storico by Jorge Haugen Sorensen (17 June to 6 August) & Park Eun Sun (12 August to 29 October).

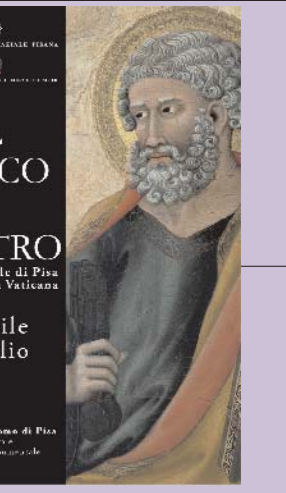
Saturday

6
CONTINUING: Lucca Contemporary Art Fair. Sorbano del Giudice, Polo Fiere. 11am to 11pm. www.luccaartfair.it
CONCERT: Lucca, Chiesa di Santa Giulia, Piazza del Suffragio. **Note di Primavera**, collective by 23 local artists. Concert 4pm to 7pm for National Art Day.
VIDEO INSTALLATION: 4pm, Vorno, Tenuta dello Scompiglio (SPE), Via di Vorno 67. **Ma il cielo è sempre più blu** by **Alessandra Ghimenti.** www.delloscompiglio.org, tel. 0583 971125.

12

19

27
LAST DAY: Lucca, Fondazione Antica Zecca, Casermetta San Donato. **Printing from its origins to the dawn of the Renaissance, incunaboli & early writings** from the Diocesan Library plus Gerardo Mercatore's globes (terrestrial 1531, celestial 1551). Eighty 15th-16th century volumes rich in engravings & miniatures.



FAIRS - SPORTS - TRADITIONS - CINEMA - CHILDREN - CONFERENCES - COMING UP



HOLIDAYS, TRADITIONS, SPORTS, OUTDOORS

THROUGHOUT ITALY

- 1 May, Labor Day
- 9 May, Europe Day
- 14 May, Mother's Day

LUCCA AND SURROUNDING TOWNS

Lucca, Esaltazione della Santa Croce. 3 May 8am to 5pm. To celebrate the finding of the true cross, on this day the medieval wooden crucifix called the Volto Santo is displayed in the Cathedral adorned with precious vestments. A traditional market is held in Piazzas S. Giusto, S. Giovanni, S. Martino & Antelminelli, with an animal fair at Foro Boario.

Lucca, **Casa del Boia** (Francigena Museum), Via dei Bacchettoni 8. Guided visit sponsored by the Cathedral Museum. Other tours are on 15 June (Duomo), 21 September & 28 September (Badia di Cantignano). Tel. 0583 490530 See program at www.museocattedralelucca.it

Lucca half-marathon, 7 May, leaves at 9am from Porta Elisa on the Walls. info@luccamarathon.it

Lucca, Via San Paolino, Piazza Cittadella, Via di Poggio & Piazza dei Cocomeri. **Arte & Ingegno handicrafts fair.** 6-7 May. <http://arteingegnoinspaolino.jimdo.com>

Lucca, Real Collegio. **Anteprima Vini, Wines of the Tuscan Coast.** 6-7 May. Wine-tastings & other events. Noon to 9pm. Tickets €25-€20 (with free categories as indicated in www.anteprimavini.com). Booking: info@anteprimavini.com, tel. 329 6740444, 0583 491880.

In collaboration with **Anteprima Vini**, at the Real Collegio, free concerts of **Lucca Classica Festival** are featured:
6 May: 12.30pm, Giovanni Bietti (piano).
7 May: 3pm, Alberto Bogni (violin) performing Paganini. 5pm, Jeff Bradetich & Thierry Barbè (bass) performing Anderson, Egilsson, Dubugnon, Bocini, Piazzolla.
See www.luccaclassicafestival.it for the complete program, throughout Lucca on 4/5/6/7. Most of the concerts are FREE.

San Concordio Fair, Sunday 4 May in Viale San Concordio. Street fair with 85 stands & shops open along the Viale.

Le Fiorite del Corpus Domini. Flower-paved streets for the religious processions, May to June in Camaiore, Colle di Compito, Camigliano, and other towns.

Capannori, Summer in Villa from May to September. A series of events to promote historic homes in the area, with visits, sports, foods, music, etc. Ufficio Marketing Territoriale, tel. 0583 428588.

Montecarlo, Via Vinaria/Wine Road, From 19 May 7pm to 21 May at 11pm. Montecarlo farms & wineries are open to the public with tours hosted by sommeliers & winemakers. A free wine bus takes you directly to the cellars. The historic Fortress of Cerruglio & Rassicurati Theatre are also open for visits.

Altopascio Bread Festival 10-11 May in Piazzas Ricasoli, Ospitalieri & Garibaldi. The town has been known for its bread since the time of the Knights of Tau and the pilgrims of the Francigena Road. Tastings & other initiatives. Ufficio Turismo di Altopascio, 0583 216280.

Borgo a Mozzano, **Azalea Festival**, 20-21 May. From Via Italia to the ex-convento delle Oblate, the town becomes a garden, with many other activities as well.

Pietrasanta, Versiliana Park, **The Art of the Horse.** 13-14 May.

Barga, Calendimaggio, 8 May. In the historic center of town. Procession & crossbow competition. 0583 724711, www.comune.barga.lu.it

Buggiano Castello (Pistoia). La Campagna dentro le Mura. Citrus orchards & secret gardens. 30 April & 7 May. 9am to 1pm, 2pm to 7pm. www.buggianocastello.it

CHILDREN

Lucca, Real College 13-14 May 10am to 8pm. For Mother's Day, **Lucca Bimbi**. Special guest Tata Adriana. Activities and products for parents & children. www.luccabimbi.com

Lucca, Puccini Bookshop & Museum. On 7 May at noon, Cristiana Traversa talks about the Bohème life of Paris, for young & old. This is followed by a visit to Puccini's house. 90 minutes total, €5 adults, €3 children. Reservations advised: 0583 584028, info@puccinimuseum.it

13 May 9pm & 16 May 9.45am, Lucca, Teatro del Giglio. **Cenerentola, Pop opera.** Musical freely inspired by the folktale. Music by Gianpaolo Mazzoli, Mario Menicagli, Oliviero Lacagnina. Production of Lucca Junior Opera. Recommended for 6 years of age & up. www.teatrodelgiglio.it Tel. 0583 465320.



Lucca, Salone dell'Arcivescovato. 7 May 11am. **Pinocchio**, by the Fra Arturo Paoli Lucca Orchestral Laboratory (LOL). The event will be preceded on 3 May at 6.30pm by the presentation of 50 photographs of LOL's activities made by Nico Ceri, at Lucca Libri Literary Caffè (Viale Regina Margherita).

Lucca Centro Storico, Lucca Classica **Street Band**, with musical surprises for children. 7 May 11am (with a visit inside Lucca's underground walls) & 4pm. www.luccaclassical.it

Valdottavo (Borgo a Mozzano), Teatro Colombo weekly labs for discovering the theatre, creativity, physical expression. 3 Oct. 2016 until 30 June 2017. Children 3 to 6, 7 to 11, 12 to 16. Also adult group. Call 368 453795. laboratori@teatrocolombo.it www.teatrocolombo.it

CONFERENCES

Lucca, Biblioteca Statale, Via S. Maria Corteorlandini 12, Saloni Monumentali. Reflections on the value of the **Latin language today**, in collaboration with Amici del Machiavelli & the Lucca Committee of the Dante Alighieri Society. 11 May 5pm: Lucia Galli, *Cicerone e i peccati di gioventù: il discorso in difesa di Marco Celio*.

Lucca, Centro Culturale Agorà, Piazza dei Servi. **L'Agorà della Scienza**: Calendar for 2017 (lectures in Italian, 5.30pm): 20 May, **Nanotecnologie** by Alessandro Tredicucci. 10 June, **Lo spreco alimentare** by Maria Rosaria Vergara. Tel. 0583 445716. www.agoradellascienza.it

Pisa, Palazzo Blu Auditorium, conferences. (all at 5pm). 11 May by Daniele Menozzi speaking on *L'inutile strage*. Upcoming: 26 Oct., Ettore Cinnella on *Guerra, rivoluzione, sogni di*

pace. 16 Nov., Arturo Marzano, **La Dichiarazione Balfour**. 130 seats are available. Please arrive 30 minutes before the lecture. Tel. 050 2204650. info@2204650.it, info@palazzo.it

MEET-UP GROUPS

Book Club meetings at Da Francesco Restaurant (near the train station), last Wednesday of each month at 8pm.

Grapevine conversation group at Cantine Bernardini (Piazza del Suffragio) Thursdays at 8.15pm. Come for a drink or dinner, board games, English & Italian conversation. Call 333 8617962.

Italian language social group "**4 chiacchiere**" at LuccaLibri in Viale R. Margherita 137, with Marina, Thursdays at 4.30pm. €5 plus drink.

Mondays 4pm international conversation group at Osteria dello Stellario in Piazza San Francesco, Lucca.

CINEMA

CineClub at Bagni di Lucca. All films 9.15pm at the Biblioteca Comunale. Tel. 0583 87619, 335 5821084.

Firenze, Cinema Odeon at Palazzo Strozzi. Original language films with Italian subtitles. www.odeonfirenze.com

COMING UP

Festa della Repubblica 2 June. National holiday.
Pentecost 4 June.

Luminara di Pisa 15 June. 70,000 candles lighting up the night.
Gioco del Ponte, Pisa 24 June, a Battle for Bridges dating from medieval times.

Pietrasanta, International Dance & Art Festival. 18 June to 1 July

Pietrasanta, Carducci Poetry Prize, 27 July.

Comunicare Digitale, 14th European Digital Forum, Lucca, Real Collegio. 15-16 June. www.comunicaredigitale.it

Tenuta dello Scompiglio (Vorno) **June summer camp**. Play, theatre, art, bio-dynamic gardening, pizza & bread-making, swimming pool once a week, biological meals. Ages 6 to 10 & 11 to 13. Tel. 0583 971475 or salvina@delloscompiglio.org

Cascina (Pisa), at **Virgo**, the Gravitational wave detector. **Einstein in Tuscany**, presentation in English by scientist Daniel Hoak, with catered vegetarian lunch. Transportation arranged. 10 June, 10am to 1pm. See article on page 19.



Cruciword by Helen Askham

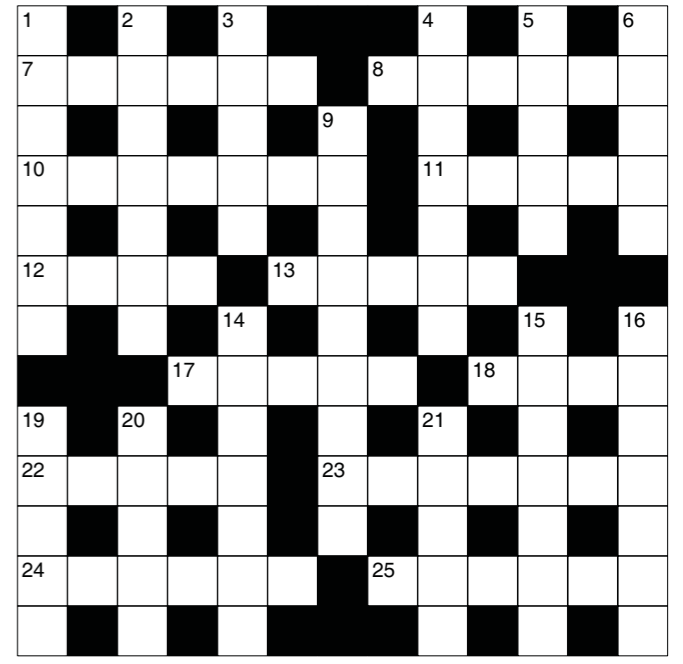
Life's little uncertainties

ACROSS

- 7 Davvero (6)
- 8 May (6)
- 10 Sigh (7)
- 11 Unità (5)
- 12,18 In bocca al lupo (4,4)
- 13 Exile (5)
- 17 Forse (5)
- 18 See 12
- 22 In cima (2,3)
- 23 Più fortunato (7)
- 24 Zenit (6)
- 25 Marcio (6)

DOWN

- 1 Omens (7)
- 2 Passione (7)
- 3 E' stato Primo Ministro britannico (5)
- 4 Fortuitous, chance (7)
- 5 Garlic (5)
- 6 Perhaps (5)
- 9 Possible (9)
- 14 Good heavens, you don't say (7)
- 15 Chauffeur (7)
- 16 Piste invernali (3-4)
- 19 Might (5)
- 20 Puntura di un'ape (5)
- 21 Sogno del cronista, reporter's dream (5)



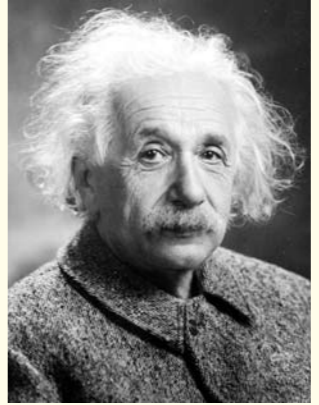
Clues in English have Italian answers and clues in Italian have English answers

April solution



Einstein in Tuscany

The first-ever gravitational wave detection was made in 2016, exactly 100 years after Einstein's prediction! A special English presentation, and tour of **Virgo** – the world-famous gravitational wave detector right here in Tuscany – will take place on 10 June. The presentation will be given by American physicist **Dr. Daniel Hoak**, a gifted young communicator who has worked on both the LIGO (U.S.) and VIRGO (IT) experiments. Site tours will be given by Dr. Hoak and his illustrious English-speaking colleagues at Virgo.



SPECIAL CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES including telescopes for observing the daytime sun, courtesy of **Associazione Cascinese Astrofili**.

Spaces are very limited, so please reserve soon!

Date: June 10, 2017 from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Location: **European Gravitational Observatory**
Via E. Amaldi 56021 S. Stefano a Macerata - Cascina (PI)
Price: 35 euro, 20 euro for children.
Transportation between the Pisa Central Station and EGO is available for 10 euro.
For information and reservations, please contact New York English Academy:
Tel. 346 212 8055
info@newyorkenglishacademy.com
www.newyorkenglishacademy.com

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Garlic



*Garlic and sapphires in the mud,
Clot the bedded axle tree....
T. S. Eliot*



Growing garlic:

If you fancy growing some (and even a pot on a windowsill will do), use single cloves. Garlic needs a cold period to trigger growth, so plant cloves in the late autumn – that's the gold standard, but any time of the year will do to have a go. Garlic prefers loose, rich, well-drained soil. Plant the cloves with the pointed side up and don't separate them from the bulb until just before you're ready to plant them, or they may dry out.

The young plants look like newly sprouted grass and have a great garlic smell. These shoots are terrific on potatoes and in salads. Harvest your bounty by pulling up bulbs in late June or July, or when the lower third of the leaves start to yellow and the bulbs have segmented. Stop watering about two weeks before harvesting. Lay the bulbs out in a well-ventilated, warm, dry area for two days, then braid the tops together and hang for at least two weeks (if you've got a big enough crop...). Got a glut? Garlic can be pureed or minced in olive oil and stored in the freezer for later use. Store your bulbs in a cool, dark and dry place.

Recipe: Garlic Confit

Take 3 whole bulbs and separate them into cloves, skins left on. Put them in a small pan with 750 ml olive oil, on as low a heat as possible for an hour. Gently is the watchword here. Turn the heat off every now and again if you need to. Then allow the oil and cloves to cool completely and pour the lot into a clean jar. Bingo, and wonderful with so many dishes, I promise you. You can peel the cloves from their skins, and serve for instance with spinach (or wild garlic leaves if you are lucky enough to have any) and roast potatoes. Let your creativity be your guide here. You'll doubtless find your own favourite ways to use this versatile, delicious and healing little clove.



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

T. S. Eliot wrote poems and essays dedicated to Italy and Dante. He travelled extensively through Italy, and his poem *La Figlia Che Piange* was inspired by a picture of a weeping girl he never managed to track down in Northern Italy. Here endeth the lesson!

We may surmise that at least in the poem garlic is prized as much as sapphires, even in the mud. And for modern cooks and those wishing to be well, that is true. Garlic has been part of horticulture for at least 5000 years and was grown by the ancient Egyptians, Indians, Chinese and Babylonians. Its image has been found in Egyptian tombs depicted as an offering to the Gods. The pyramid builders of ancient Egypt were paid partially in garlic and Egyptians swore oaths on cloves of garlic. Roman soldiers ate garlic before battle for strength and bravery. An Islamic legend claims that when Satan left the Garden of Eden, garlic and onions grew from his footprints. It was first brought to the Americas on Columbus's second voyage. Hey, who knew!

Garlic was used to maintain health during the plague, as well as to ward off evil spirits, vampires, the evil eye and various spells. Many ancient healing remedies contained garlic, and garlands of garlic worn around the neck or hung inside a house were used to repel evil entities. Garlic, when eaten, is also said to have aphrodisiac powers. Pretty useful, then.

Some garlic tips:

- Garlic flowers dry well, look really good and last a long time in flower arrangements. Growing garlic near other plants will help protect them from pests (they say).
- Garlic has antibiotic properties. Regular consumption helps lower 'bad' cholesterol and raise 'good' cholesterol. It has also been flagged up in cancer studies as being useful. I eat raw garlic chopped up in salads on a daily basis, and my husband swears my breath DOES NOT SMELL!
- To enhance garlic's natural healing properties, let it sit for twenty minutes or so after preparation (chopping, crushing, etc.) and before cooking. This allows certain chemical reactions to take place that activate its active constituents.



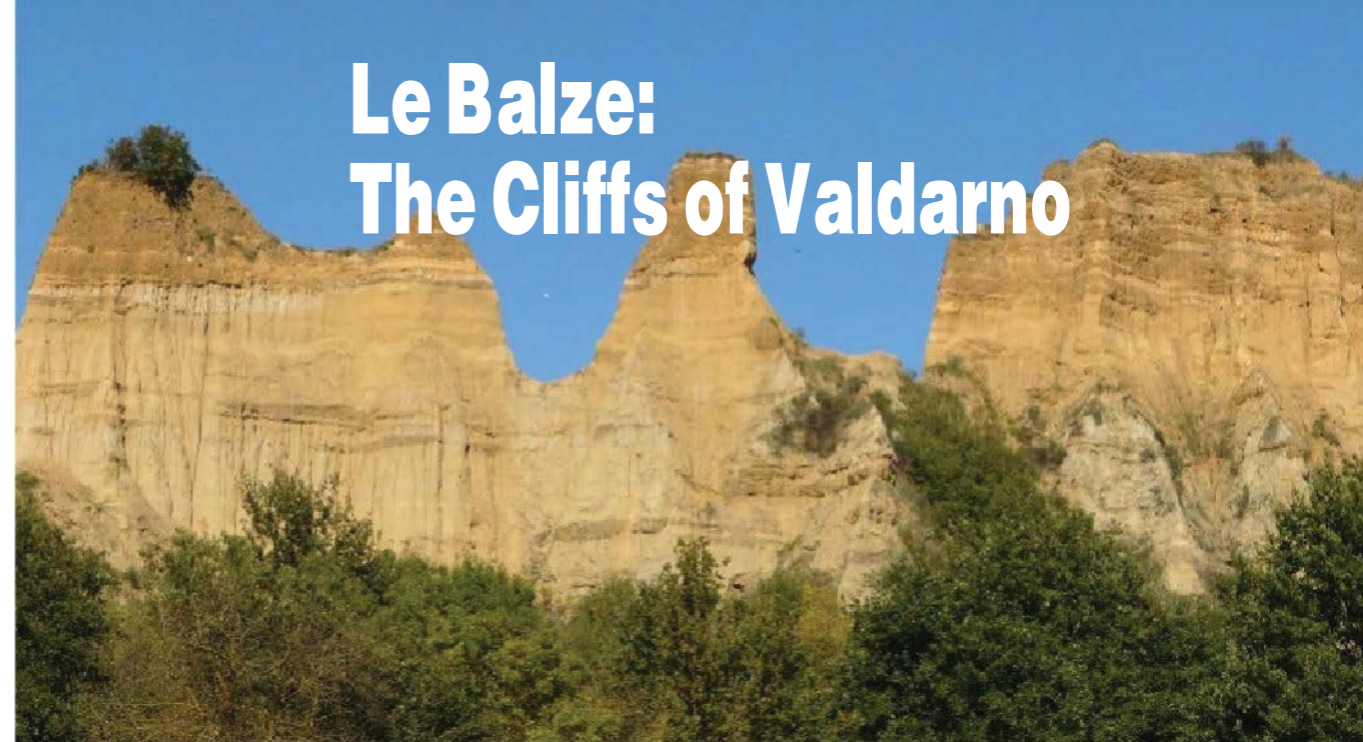
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Le Balze: The Cliffs of Valdarno



Over two million years ago the Valley of the Arno between the Monti Chianti and Prato Magno and above Girone was a vast lake approximately 40 miles long. Into this ran the rivers, streams, rain and snows of the Prato Magno, to its east, forming sediment of sand, clay, gravel and rocks. Over millennia the lake drained away and in time the sediment was eroded by wind, rain and the outpourings of rivers from Prato Magno. However, in places the compressed conglomerate resisted erosion and so, today, the remains of this ancient sediment loom over the landscape like lunar pinnacles, cliffs and peaks topped and protected by trees and undergrowth. This area, known as Le Balze, comprises 3000 hectares and is a Protected Natural Area of Local Interest.

When travelling from Florence to Arezzo, Le Balze is clearly if fleetingly seen and must surely whet the appetite of the curious traveller. Equidistant between the two, Le Balze is easy to reach by car and a good starting point for further investigation. Ample parking can be found at Castel Franco di Sopra. At a crossroads on the Roman via Cassia, the present walled town was built in 1299 as a military outpost to protect the Republic of Florence, with tax incentives given to those prepared to uproot themselves from the city. One name associated with this period in history at Castel Franco is Arnolfo di Cambio, architect and sculptor. The town remains very much as it was originally, on a grid system with a large central square and three city gates intact. Exiting the town through the east gate, almost immediately we see a large map indicating footpaths and routes into this unique countryside.

On a recent trip we walked down an unpaved road between gardens in a seemingly standard semi-urban setting until, turning a corner, the bizarre landscape opened up below us. Great ravines with chimneys of many-coloured soils and stones stretched before us, with birds of prey circling above their impregnable lookout posts. The path then followed a stream, winding down through mixed woodland but with occasional glimpses of the Balze through the trees. We then came out onto an open plain of what is clearly very productive alluvial soil and, again, the contrast between the mundane agricultural landscape and its backdrop was breathtaking. It felt like a world apart and the occasional empty property had our companions speculating on how they could give up the day job and live in this idyllic setting.

It is known that Leonardo spent time in this area and experts think he was inspired by the unique landscape to create the background in his painting, *The Virgin of the Rocks*.

A path climbs up the side of the valley, leading us to the village of Piantravigne, a charming, well-maintained place that provides a popular viewing point, taking in quite large areas of Le Balze and the Chianti hills beyond.

Another name for Le Balze is *Balze dell'Acqua Zolfina* and, returning to the valley bottom we were invited to taste – and smell – the sulphurous waters of a small spring flowing into one of the many streams. Up through orchards and gardens, we left the unique landscape behind us, returning via the Abbey of San Salvatore a Soffena.

On this day we came with a packed lunch but, looking on the internet, it seems that a very attractive property we passed, Le Balze Agriturismo, specialises in local dishes and fresh produce. Perhaps it's worth a closer look next time. Castel Franco itself has several bars and restaurants and the nearby town of Loro Ciuffenna caters very well to the tourists who come to see its waterfalls.

Our day ended with a visit to San Pietro a Gropina, a stunning, simple place of worship built one thousand years ago on earlier Roman and Longobard remains, visible in the crypt beneath. Once again we were grateful to our friends at Internations Florence for revealing another aspect of Tuscany to us.

– by Jennifer Milverton
(photos by Alan Milverton)

www.parks.it/anp.le.balze
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New Advantages for Foreign Investors

With the 2017 Budget Law, the Italian tax authorities have introduced advantages in order to provide incentives for foreign investment in Italy.

As of today, those who have been foreign residents for years may decide to transfer their residency to our country in order to benefit from the "Flat Tax on Scrooges". Super-rich foreigners can meet the Italian tax system's legal requirements by paying a flat tax of 100,000 euro per year, and rich foreigners willing to invest in Italy can easily obtain long-stay visas.

- These new policies are aimed at making Italy more attractive to foreign investors, and more competitive with other nations such as Spain and Great Britain, which over the years have been able to attract emirates, stars, football players and singers. The most important news, however, regards wealthy people from all around the world who may want to transfer their fiscal residence to Italy thanks to the "Flat Tax". This is a favorable tax system for earnings generated abroad or for investment in Italy, which will allow the concession of the so-called "Investors" Visa.
- Let's look at the most important aspects regarding the application of the new "Flat Tax". This regulation, introduced by the 2017 Budget Law, became operational on 8 March 2017. The instructions and checklist were prepared by the *Agenzia delle Entrate* (Italian Revenue Agency). It calls for an optional tax system that will substitute for the IRPEF (Tax on Earnings of Physical Persons), fixed at 100,000 euro. Physical persons (not companies) who transfer their fiscal residency (regarding earnings produced abroad) to Italy can opt for this system.
- The policy covers persons who, beginning with 1 January 2017, transfer their residency to Italy, and have not been fiscally resident in Italy for at least nine of the ten tax periods preceding the period of validity of the option. This is possible even for those who are residents of countries on the so-called "blacklist".

Let's look at a foreign investor who transfers residency to Italy and has an income produced abroad of one million. This person would pay only ten percent in taxes. If their foreign earnings are even higher, the percentage of taxation will be progressively reduced. Just imagine foreign earnings of two, five or eight million: these would in each case face a fixed tax of 100,000 euro annually – in other words, respectively, 5%, 2% and a little more than 1% of what they earned abroad.

TABLE 1

Earnings produced abroad	1,000,000	2,000,000	5,000,000	8,000,000
Flat Tax	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Percentage Impact	10%	5%	2%	1.25%

The advantages for those adhering to this policy are as follows:

- **Substitute tax equal to 100,000 euro** per year for earnings produced abroad, in place of the normal IRPEF rates and additional regional/local costs, to be paid in a single solution, without installments, for each tax period in which the option is taken. The system can, upon request, even be extended to family members. The maximum substitute tax for these is 25,000 euros.

TABLE 2

Earnings produced abroad by the "head of household"	2,000,000
Earnings produced abroad by 2 children of the "head of household"	1,500,000
Total earnings produced abroad	3,500,000
Flat tax on the "head of household"	100,000
Flat tax on 2 children of the "head of household" (25,000 x 2)	50,000
Total taxation in Italy	150,000
Percentage impact on total earnings produced abroad	4.29%

- Exoneration from the obligation of declaring foreign investments or financial activities producing earnings in Italy;
- Exemption from obligatory payment of taxes on foreign properties (IVIE) and taxes on foreign financial investments (IVAFE);
- Exemption from donation and succession taxes on goods and properties held abroad.

Accessing this system is simple: one simply needs to choose the appropriate box on the tax declaration, referring to the tax period in which the tax residency was transferred to Italy, or to the subsequent tax period. Those who moved to Italy in 2016 can therefore exercise the option in the 2017 declaration regarding the 2016 tax period. The option can be extended to family members possessing the requirements. All they need to do is check the specific box on their own tax declaration.

Foreign investors uncertain of whether they meet the criteria established by the *Agenzia delle Entrate* have the option of presenting a request for the financial administration's approval.

Let's see how this appeals process works:

- The presentation may occur even before fulfilment of residency requirements;
- It should focus on showing that the subject did not have their vital interests centered in Italy during previous tax periods;
- There is no need to provide a detailed report of the earnings situation and foreign patrimony prior to moving;
- It becomes very important for those coming from countries included in the so-called "blacklist".

Once the option has been exercised, it will be tacitly renewed each year, for up to 15 years. The taxpayer can freely select to opt out of the system simply by communicating this on their tax declaration.

Another attractive aspect for foreign investors is the "Investors' Visa". This is an ad hoc rule, introduced by the Single Text on Immigration, regulating the requirements and procedures for concession of visas. This rule allows entrance and stay in our country beyond the quotas called for by article 3 comma IV of the T.U. (*testo unico*), for periods superior to three months, for those foreigners who want to invest at least two million euro in State bonds, to be held for at least two years; to invest at least one million euro in instruments representing capital, through a company set up and operating in Italy, which also should be maintained for at least two years; or to make a philanthropic donation of at least one million euro, to support a project of public interest in the sectors of culture, instruction, immigration management, scientific research, or restoration of cultural and scenic properties.

Foreigners need to show that they are the owners and beneficiaries of the amounts invested or donated. They must make a written declaration promising to carry out the investment or donation within three months of entering Italy, and must show that they have sufficient resources for their maintenance and that of their family for the duration of their stay in Italy.

The visa will be valid for two years and renewable upon further positive evaluation by the financial administration, which will ascertain the full use of the sum within three months of entrance into Italy, and its present investment in the financial instruments. Furthermore, the visa will allow the investor's family members to enter the country. They will be given a permit to stay for family reasons.

The new policies introduced by the 2017 Budget Law are aimed at making Italy more attractive to foreign investors. Investors can count on a more favorable tax system compared to the past, thanks to the "Flat Tax" and to bureaucratic flexibility regarding the granting of the so-called "Investors' Visa".

– by Pierpaolo Vannucci

(see information on the bottom of the facing page)

Colorful May

with roses & herbs
perfuming
our gardens & terraces

Dear friends, after a strange April, with temperatures much lower than those of March, which confused and disturbed our dear plants, we are ready to face May, a month that is usually very colorful. This is above all thanks to the queen of flowers, the rose. In May, and already in late April, it begins its beautiful blooming, bringing intense and emotional perfumes wafting through our gardens and sometimes even into our houses.

The regional meteorological center predicts that temperatures and rainy days for May and June will be within the seasonal average. If so, we can't help but be pleased. Still, considering the summer ahead, a little rain wouldn't hurt, especially since in the autumn and winter periods, and even in early spring, we didn't have much rain. This situation will probably put our watering system to the test, not only for gardeners, but also for those who cultivate fruits and vegetables. We will be watching attentively, and will try to make the best use of the water available.

Now let's get down to work. As always, there are many things to do. We need to continue to trim the grass regularly and keep the flowerbeds free of weeds, which grow quickly in this period. If we ignore this task, our ornamental plants risk being suffocated. We should check for parasites on our plants (above all on the roses and fruit trees), and seek remedies when necessary. Among the first insects to show up are little green and yellow aphids. We can combat these by dissolving Marseille soap flakes in water (about 10 spoonfuls per 10 liters of water) and spraying this onto the plants. We should aim the spray, especially, where we see the insects. They generally stay on the tips, where they find juicy buds that they love to eat. Another way to keep aphids away from our roses is by planting marigolds and nasturtiums nearby. These serve as repellents, and they don't take any nourishment away from the roses. To get rid of the fruit borer, on the other hand, we need to add a pyrethrum-based product to the soap solution above. For parasites that resist these approaches, we may decide to use (with care) chemical products from the Garden Center.

We then need to prune the plants that have finished flowering, such as certain varieties of viburnum (guelder rose), Japanese quince tree and camellias. For camellias, especially, we should prune with a light hand, simply trimming branches that grow outside the plant's natural profile. Towards the end of the month we can also prune the lilacs (if they have finished flowering), paying particular attention to the moon. It seems that this sensitive plant prefers to grow new flower buds only on branches that have been pruned under the waning moon. After pruning and removing dead flowers, we may apply a uric acid fertilizer, distributing the product around the base of the plants and hoeing the area so as to cover the product. We then water the plants abundantly so that the fertilizer can dissolve. In this way the plants can develop new vegetation.

This is not only a season for maintenance work. It is also a time for creating new gardens and furnishing new terraces. Terraces are sometimes underestimated. They are places where we can do whatever we like, cultivating not only flowers and small plants, but also aromatic plants and vegetables.

So, whoever has a terrace or a small balcony may busy themselves with discovering lots of new ideas for cultivation. Those who like to cook may, even with just a small balcony, decide to grow aromatic plants such as thyme, marjoram, oregano and chives (*erba cipollina*), etc., and also rosemary and sage, if the dimensions of the containers are large enough. If you have a medium to large terrace, you can even think about creating a small orchard, in order to taste and enjoy your own products.

After ensuring that the terrace can support the containers' weight, we go to the garden center for boxes that are large enough (for example 1 meter square), with

a height of about 25 to 30 cm. We proceed as usual, putting pieces of terra cotta over the drainage holes, then a layer of about 5 cm of expanding clay, to allow for good drainage. We fill the containers with healthy, well-fertilized soil, to about 3 to 4 cm from the top edge, to leave space for watering. Then we can go ahead with planting various types of lettuces, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers (these should be furnished with stakes, cane for example, to support them when the fruit is growing), also zucchini, spinach, basil, parsley and whatever else you desire.

Even children will have fun participating in the creation of this little orchard, and you will surely be rewarded with the fruits of your labor.

Happy gardening to all of you!

– by Simone Lippi

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Sharing your Place with Bugs, Birds & Funny Creatures



How many times have you returned to a holiday home only to find annoying mounds of dust here and there on the floors, beds and furniture? Yes, those little critters have been at it again, happily drilling through your precious beams and joists. Owning a house in the Tuscan countryside is like invading the natural habitat of many creatures, so somehow we have to learn to cope with mutual co-existence. Here is my top ten list of friends and annoyances with whom you may have to share your place in Tuscany:

1. Woodworm or Tarli – Show me an old Tuscan farmhouse without some traces of woodworm! The beetle in question is commonly known as the death-watch beetle (*Xestobium rufovillosum*), which makes a characteristic ticking noise in July or August. The boring activity is limited to the outer layer of chestnut wood and is very common in old properties. The boring activity in the pine beams can be more concerning. This should be treated and monitored on a regular basis.

2. Dormouse or Ghiri – Many customers have sent me photos of these little animals, wondering what on earth they are! They have squirrel-like bodies with small ears and short legs and a long bushy tail, and they are quite common in Southern Europe. They are nocturnal animals that like to cuddle up in an insulated attic, but can sometimes become a pest when they start gnawing into beams or wiring!

3. Wild Boar or Cinghiali – The other evening I was hitting the bed when I heard some strange noises outside my window. A follow-up investigation armed with a torch revealed a family of wild boars happily ploughing up my lawn as they snorted around the place.... They observed me for about three seconds and eventually ran off into the darkness with a stampede-like sound. Wild boars are becoming a tremendous nuisance, with a recent proliferation that has seen their numbers skyrocketing. This is why you see fencing everywhere, with builder's steel mesh at the base, to prevent them from entering into a property.

4. Porcupines or Istrici – These nocturnal animals are normally passive solitary creatures generally minding their own business. They love ripe fruit that falls to the ground, and roots, which makes vineyards and fruit trees a prime target. Owners of

vegetable plots will certainly notice their presence and should defend the area with perimeter fencing buried to about 30 cm deep as a remedy to keep them out.

5. Snakes or Serpenti – Tuscany hosts about eight different species of snakes, with the infamous viper taking centre stage due to its poisonous venom. This anxiety is amplified by urban myths and the inability to distinguish one snake from another. In reality, there are statistically more chances of a fatality from bees and wasps than from a viper. The other seven snake species are totally harmless.

6. Scorpions or Scorpioni – Without a doubt scorpions can have an enormous psychological impact when we spot their distinguished bodies, curled-up stinger tails and claws, with resulting melodramatic movie images of instant paralysis followed by slow death. When they make it inside the Tuscan dream home, I hear of people contemplating putting the house back on the market! In reality, these small black arachnids are harmless and if they do manage to attack you (or defend themselves), the effects are no worse than a bee's sting.

7. Hornets or Calabroni / Bofonchi – These are my number one concern as I stick my head through an attic hatch to inspect the underside of roof structures. Their magnificent nests can be amazing works of art, but if disturbed they will get aggressive and you could be up for some nasty stings.

8. Bats or Pippistrelli – A harmless creature that resides in old barns, attics or outhouses, the bat happily feeds on mosquitoes, which may contribute to limiting the annoyance.

9. Swallows or Rondini – Swallows return to the same old villages, barns and outhouses year after year and busily catch thousands of insects in the air during their magnificent acrobatic sweeps and dives. In addition to this spectacle, they do us a great service by eliminating flies and mosquitoes.

10. Mosquitoes or Zanzare – The world malaria comes from the Italian expression "bad air". Yes, this strange illness was associated with the unhealthy air found on the plains and marshes. When I got to Tuscany over twenty years ago, we only had to contend with the night-time mosquitoes. About fifteen years ago, the daytime cousin made its debut and has practically changed the whole concept of outdoor activities, from the playground to *al fresco* dining. Besides spraying yourself with a mix of poisons, the best remedy is eliminate any source of stagnating water where they will thrive.

There are certainly many other creatures that can be added to the list ... some good and some bad, but mainly pretty harmless! In one sense, I'm kind of glad that animals can't write, as I don't think that they'd have many nice things to say about us humans!

David Collins, an engineer by profession, has lived and worked in Tuscany for over 20 years. He manages Our Toscana, providing house surveys, plans & permits, and undertakes all kinds of restoration projects throughout Tuscany. David is the author of Buying & Restoring in Tuscany – A Practical Guide and lives near Lucca with his Italian wife and two children.

For information:

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