



Castello di Cabbiavoli

Via del Vallone 42/49
50051 Castelfiorentino (Florence)
Italy

The Puccioni family is pleased to welcome you in Cabbiavoli and wish you a pleasant stay. Please treat our home as your home

History of the Castle

Situated prominently on a Tuscan hilltop amidst the rolling, vine and olive tree strewn hills around the town of Castelfiorentino lies the astonishingly beautiful Cabbiavoli Castle. This typically grand, Florentine-style residential complex comprises of a main building with a Baroque-façade where the living quarters are located, flanked by a tall medieval brick tower on one side and a little chapel dating to the 13th century on the other.

Originally built in 1210 by a certain Count Alberti di Certaldo who was chief of the ruling Longobard family that dominated the nearby Elsa valley, the castle of Cabbiavoli was originally a fortified “borgo” of the Alberti family and in fact it still retained its farm and granary until the renovations in the late 1940s. The only parts remaining of the original fortified castle and the adjacent buildings are the surrounding defensive walls and the tower. This brick tower still stands proudly today (albeit slightly leaning) and, flanked by a huge ancient pine tree, offers dramatic views of the undulating, fertile countryside below, as far as the towered town of San Gimignano which is just visible on the horizon to the south.

The Alberti family owned and lived in the castle until the 17th century, after which it fell into the hands of the patrician Brandini family. In 1900 Alice Brandini married Cesare Puccioni, son of a local entrepreneur Luigi who by 1888 had founded a chemicals factory just north of the town of Castelfiorentino. Cesare was a bright man with great entrepreneurial flair and ran the family business very well, leaving school at the age of nine to do so. He became very wealthy – and yet this was not good enough for the Brandini family who for generations were accustomed to mixing only in aristocratic circles, and disliked the idea of this newly prosperous class – and they were not overly pleased to hear of Alice’s marriage plans with Cesare, and only grudgingly agreed to it.

Cesare and Alice would later send their son Mario to spend his childhood summer holidays at Cabbiavoli with Alice’s parents Leopoldo Brandini and Ester Gotti Pellegrini, and knew the castle very well. Cabbiavoli was sold shortly thereafter, but just after the war Mario decided to re-purchase the castle, in part due to the fond memories he had of his time there as a child, but possibly also as an act of vengeance to his maternal family who had never fully accepted him as part of the family. He had remained a hard-working town-dweller, but now dreamt of becoming the dapper country gentleman that had been refused him for so long

In 1947 he undertook an extensive restoration project of the ancient structure, including consolidating the foundations of the castle, and during this time

Cabbiavoli attained its present extravagant style and beauty, despite losing some of its ancient buildings. The villa was remodelled and the gardens extended, and many of the now vast trees were planted to form what is now the stunningly beautiful aspect of the whole complex.

Cabbiavoli remained the summer home of the Puccioni family until 1999, when Mario's son, also called Cesare like his grandfather, decided to upgrade the villa and the tower with modern bedrooms and bathrooms, a large kitchen, the installation of a heating system, a swimming pool for the hot summers, and the entire decoration and renovation of the whole. This he undertook with the help and support of his wife Cecilia, and their daughter Ginevra, in order to make Cabbiavoli comfortable for use even in the cold and damp Tuscan winters.

The extensive renovations were completed in 2003, at which time Ginevra decided to open the doors of Cabbiavoli part of the year as an exclusive "agriturismo". The buildings now also include an additional three old farmhouses that have also been renovated across the valley from the castle and the guests can enjoy walks across the beautiful private land which extends to 120 acres of vines and olive trees.

The first guest to the villa was the actress Julia Roberts and her family, and she enjoyed her stay so much that she called her favourite photographer to take a series of shots of her relaxing on holiday in this wonderful place that was her newly-discovered secret.

The house is held in great affection by the Puccioni family, and it is very firmly the centre of their family life.

Article published by the Magazine 'Italy ', June 2005
'Cabbiavoli castle - a Tuscan paradise'
by **Adam Butler**

SECURITY - SICUREZZA - SECURITE - SICHERHEIT

Dear Guests,

When going out, even for a short time, always lock the house securely. If you are going to the pool, please avoid any risk of theft by ensuring that the house is locked and the windows locked when leaving the house unattended to relax by the pool.

Never leave valuables unattended at home or in the car, even when the car is locked. Please always use the safe available in the house.

At night, please ensure the door is locked and the safety bar is in place.

Gentili Clienti,

Anche per brevi istanti non lasciate mai la porta di casa e le finestre aperte. Se vi state rilassando in piscina chiudete sempre tutto.

Non lasciate niente di valore in casa e neppure in macchina, tutte le case sono provviste di cassaforte, per cortesia fatene uso.

Per favore la notte chiudete sempre la porta a chiave e con la sbarra.

Chers hôtes,

quand vous quittez la maison, même pour une période très courte ou quand vous allez vous détendre à la piscine, évitez tout risque de vol en fermant votre porte à clé et en vérifiant si les fenêtres sont fermées.

Ne laissez jamais des objets de valeur sans surveillance dans la maison ou la voiture. Chaque maison dispose d'un coffre-fort.

La nuit, contrôlez si la porte est bien fermée à clé et la barre de sécurité mise.

Liebe Gäste,

auch wenn Sie Ihre Wohnung nur fuer kurze Zeit verlassen oder Sie sich zum Schwimmbad begeben, bitten wir Sie, Tueren und Fenster zu schliessen.

Lassen Sie niemals Wertsachen unbeaufsichtigt in Ihrer Wohnung oder im Auto. Bitte benutzen Sie den Safe, der in jeder Wohnung zur Verfuegung steht.

Wir bitten Sie, nachts die Eingangstuer abzuschliessen und die Sicherheitsstange zusaetzlich anzubringen.

USEFUL NUMBERS

Cabbiavoli telephone number tel.+39 335 380926

Keyholder tel.+39 335 1833115

Guardia tel. +39 335 5691469 or +39 0571 61459

Ginevra Puccioni tel.+39 335 380926 or +44 7771 658855

Police 113

Local police 112 or +39 0571 6861

Carabinieri di Montespertoli tel. +39 0571 609657

Carabinieri di Castelfiorentino tel. +39 0571 64077

Local Authority tel. +39 0571 6861

Fire dept 115 or tel. +39 0571 64744

First Aid 118

Hospital of Castelfiorentino tel. +39 0571 9411 tel. +39 0571 6831

Hospital of Empoli tel. +39 0571 7021 or +39 0571 702212

Pharmacies:

Farmacia Dott. Matteucci-Goldoni - tel. +39 0571 608014

Farmacia Dott. Barsacchi - Località S. Quirico - tel. +39 0571 670856

Airports:

Florence Airport

tel. +39 055 3061700 or +39 055 3061300

Flight information tel. + 39 055 373498

Lost luggage tel. +39 055 308023 or 055 3061606

Bologna Airport

tel. +39 051 6479615

Lost luggage tel. +39 051 6479647

Rome Airport

tel. +39 06 6595

Flight information tel. +39 06 65953640

Lost luggage tel. +39 06 65953343

Pisa Airport

tel. +39 050 500707

Flight information tel. +39 050 849300

Lost luggage tel. + 39 050 849400

Airlines:

Meridiana

Call center 199 111 333,

From foreign countries +39 0789 52682

British Airways

Reservation 199 712 266

Lost luggage 199 125 128

Ryanair

Pisa 050 503770

Alitalia

Claims and suggestions

Tel.:+39-06-65621 Fax: +39-06-6562485

Tourist Information:**Consorzio Turistico Montespertoli**

Via Sidney Sonnino 19 - Tel. 0571 657579

From October to March: Monday - Friday 9.30-12.30/15.30-18.30;

Saturday 9.30-12.30

From April to September: 9.30-12.30/16.00-19.00;

Saturday 9.30-12.30

Ufficio Informazioni Turistiche in Castelfiorentino

Via Cosimo Ridolfi (Train Station) tel. 0571 629049

Pre-book tickets

Tickets for Uffizi Accademia, Bargello, San Marco, Palazzo Pitti (Galleria Palatina) and Cappelle Medicee: Tel. + 39 055 294883

Taxi:

Taxi Castelfiorentino tel. +39 0571 684568, **Biagio** tel. +39.347.4009831

Taxi Florence tel. +39 055 4390/4242

Taxi Florence tel. +39 055.3283717

Train:

Train Station Castelfiorentino tel.+39 0571 64172 , call center 892021

Treni Italia call centre 892021 or 199 166 177

Internet Point in Castelfiorentino:

Biblioteca Comunale Vallesiana Via Tilli 4, tel 0571 64019

Computerland Via della Costituente 6°, tel. 0571 684678

Tabaccheria 2000 Via Masini 29, tel. 0571 61360

Circolo I Praticelli Via Bustichini 9, tel. 0571 632113

Post Office tel.0571 635014

WHERE TO SHOP & WHAT TO BUY

Groceries open on Sunday

In Castelfiorentino:

Next to the hospital S.Verdiana in Via dei Mille 1, there is a small food shop called "Paolo & Lia" which is open daily as well as on Sunday morning from 8am-1pm (they sell also fresh bread)

In Montaione (22 km – about 32 min) :

The Supermarket Pam (Via Comiti 12, Localita' Comiti) is open:

Monday 16.00-20.00

Tuesday to Saturday 8.30-20.00

Sunday from 9.00-13.00 and 16.00-20.00

Tel. +39 0571 696684

In Barberino Val d'Elsa (24.3 km – about 33 mins) :

The Supermarket Pam (Localita' Ponte Spada 27, Barberino Val d'Elsa) is open:

Monday 8.30-20.30

Tuesday to Saturday 8.30-20.30

Sunday from April 8.30-13.00 and from June also 15.30-19.30

Tel.+ 39 055 8078522

Very good bakery not far from Cabbiavoli:

The bakery is in the village Ortimino and is called "Forno". Open every day from 7am-1pm (included Sundays!!!!). From Cabbiavoli take the direction Montespertoli, pass our Castle down the hill. Once you are in the valley you will come to fork, take the left road where the sign shows Ortimino and follow the unpaved road which is a little bit steep. You will then come to an asphalted road which will lead you to the village of Ortimino. Go ahead for some hundred meters and you will find the bakery "Forno" at the left side, just before the corner which is touching the main road which leads from Castelfiorentino to Montespertoli. This "Forno" sells besides the delicious bread & other specialties fresh from the oven also milk, cream, butter and some few other products. If you go ahead from the "Forno" and turn left at the corner where the road leads to Castelfiorentino you find a small food shop "Alimentari" open from 8am-1pm and 5pm -8pm (Sundays closed).

General Shopping:

For more general (and cheaper) food shopping there is a COOP supermarket in Castelfiorentino open on:Monday to Friday to 08.00 to 21.00, Saturday to 07.30 to 20.30 No credit cards accepted but cash point facilities at the supermarket for Visa and MC.

Just in the opposite road of the COOP there is a good take-away pizza "Special Pizza" located in Via L.da Vinci 92. Open: 15.30-21.30 , close on Monday.

Castelfiorentino is the nearest big town to you where you find a wide variety of shops. For parking, follow signs to the railway station "stazione" and try to park in the square Piazza Gramsci. Make sure you check the signs and lines on the ground (white are free or parking disks, blue is a pay parking).

Local Markets:

There are open markets in the mornings (approx. from 8.00 to 13.00) in the following towns:

Monday - San Casciano

Tuesday - Montespertoli, San Miniato, Poggibonsi

Wednesday - Siena, Pisa, Certaldo

Thursday - San Gimignano, Cerbaia, Empoli, Tavarnelle

Friday - Montaione

Saturday - Castelfiorentino, Montelupo, Greve in Chianti

Sunday Mass Times

Santa Verdiana on Sunday at 8.00am- 10.30am- 18.00pm

San Lorenzo at 11.30am

Distance from Cabbiavoli, Il Pero:

Certaldo 12 Km

Montaione 19 Km

Gambassi Terme 12 Km

Montespertoli 8 Km

Empoli 17 Km

Poggibonsi 25 Km

San Gimignano 23 Km

Vinci 27 Km

Colle Val d'Elsa 35 Km

Volterra 44 Km

Firenze 35 Km

Siena 55 Km

Pisa 60 Km

Lucca 60 Km

Livorno 70 Km

ACTIVITIES

Golf Club Castelfalfi 18 holes courses

Località Castelfalfi

50050 Montaione (FI) - Italy

Tel. 0039 571 698093/94 - 0039 571 698307/08

Fax 0039 571 698098

Characteristics of the course: Our Golf course has 18 holes and the length is 6.645 m. The par is 73. It includes the driving range, pitching green, putting green and bunkers. The main characteristic of the course is that you can often play down hill and not on plane or slope, even if the undulations are several. You can find many water obstacles, frontally and laterally. The bunkers are not several; they are only alternative elements to the natural lines of the course. The putting greens are different from other Italian Golf courses for their technical characteristic (booking).

Available structures: 18 holes and 73 par - driving range - putting green - pitching green - trolleys and Golf carts to hire - Bar - Restaurant Guest-room - Dressing rooms.

Facilitations: We can offer very interesting conditions for the green fees (with booking).

How to reach the Castelfalfi Estate

Follow directions to Castelfiorentino, Montaione; once in Montaione you will find instructions for Castelfalfi on your left (23 km).

Golf Club Ugolino 18 holes courses

Strada Chiantigiana, 3 50015 Grassina Firenze

Tel +39 055 2301009

Fax +39 055 2301141

Condition of play

Handicap: The Ugolino Golf Club requires that all players (gentlemen and ladies) have a certified maximum handicap of 36. Visiting players will be required to display membership cards or a declaration letter from their own golf club.

Tee times: All players are requested to arrive punctually and check in at the reception well before their reserved teeing off time. Teeing off times is based on standard ten-minute intervals with no less than 3 or 4 players. Players will only be allowed to play singly with authorisation from the Secretary's Office; otherwise they will be grouped together with other players. Teeing off times reserved for Club Members are from 11.30 to 2.30 pm. For tee time reservation: info@golfugolino.it or fax +39 (0)55 2301141

Green fee: The green fee allows access to the course, driving range, swimming pool and tennis court. All players are required to keep their green fee receipt clearly in view on their bags. The hiring of golf cars, trolleys and clubs is not included and must be paid separately.

Dress: All players must dress suitably and in accordance with the acceptable golfing attire. Collarless T-shirts and singlet are not permitted.

Shoes: Only soft spikes are allowed on the first floor of the Club house.

Golf car: The Secretary's Office will be responsible for allowing the use of golf cars depending on the conditions of the golf course and in compliance with the rules adopted from time to time. It is forbidden to transport more than two people at a time, and players under the age of 18 are prohibited from driving golf cars.

Speed of play: A round of golf with 3 or 4 players should not exceed more than four and a half hours.

10th hole: When the burette is open, players are requested not to waste time and to play off as soon as the 10th green is clear. It is strictly forbidden for players of 18 holes to stop off at the Club House after the first 9 holes.

Marshal: The Club Marshal, identified by the RULES OFFICIAL sign on the golf car, has full authority on the golf course.

How to reach the Ugolino Estate

Autostrada del Sole A1, Firenze Sud exit, then 8 kms on route 222 (Chiantigiana) towards Siena. From Florence downtown, follow signals Firenze Sud Autostrada del Sole A1 (43 Km).

Mugnano Riding Club

Via Casale 96, Certaldo

Tel. +39 380 3174055 ask for Paris.

Reservation 24 hours before.

Horse riding information: 1 hour riding lesson (western riding with school horses) or trekking 25.00 euro per person. Ride in the beautiful Tuscan countryside with 6 western horses.

How to reach Mugnano

From the Villa turn left, at the end of the descent street turn right. Keep straight on and at the end of the street turn right. Go straight and follow the directions on the left hand side for Certaldo until you will see a sign for Mugnano.

Tennis Castelfiorentino

Tennis court- Il Giglio - Viale Roosevelt - Tel. 0571 631966

Tennis court - Via della Cinquantina (zona Coop) - Tel. 0571 672131

Trekking

Associazione Anthos, Viale Matteotti 38, Certaldo - Tel. 0571 668534

Bicycle rental

Ancilotti Bike

Via San Antonio 57, Castelfiorentino

Tel. 0571 631007

Opening hours: 9am - 1pm and from 4pm – 8pm

Bruno Baldini-Guida MTB

via Brogi 34, Sesto Fiorentino

Tel. +39 339 7682984

Individuals, small-party cooking classes, wine tours, cuisine tours, cultural tours in Tuscany

Aolmaia Tuscany Service

Via Cafaggio 12, San Miniato

Tel +39 347 8224381

www.aolmaia.com

info@aolmaia.net

ANTIQUES MARKETS

<p>Arezzo P.zza S. Francesco P.zza Grande</p>	<p>1st Sunday of the month and Saturday before</p>	<p>Antique trade</p>
<p>Florence P.zza Dei Ciompi P.zza Santo Spirito</p>	<p>Last Sunday of the month 2nd Sunday of the month</p>	<p>Antique trade Hobby of collecting things</p>
<p>Agliana (Pistoia) Via Roma</p>	<p>1st Sunday of the month</p>	<p>Antique trade</p>
<p>Pistoia Area ex Breda Via Pacinotti</p>	<p>2nd weekend of the month, except August</p>	<p>Antique trade</p>
<p>Pisa Loggia dei Banchi</p>	<p>2nd Sat. And Sun. of the month, except August</p>	<p>Antique trade</p>
<p>Lucca Via del Battistero</p>	<p>3rd Sun of the month and Sat. before</p>	<p>Fournitures, sculptures, marbles</p>
<p>Siena P.zza del Mercato</p>	<p>3rd Sunday of the month</p>	<p>Hobby, coins, stamps</p>
<p>Viareggio Piazza Manzoni</p>	<p>4th Saturday and Sunday of the month</p>	<p>Antique trade</p>
<p>Cortona</p>	<p>3rd Saturday and Sunday of the month</p>	<p>Antique trade</p>

OUTLETS

Bellini Più ceramic (14 km – about 21 mins)

Via del Virginio 150, Montespertoli
Tel. +39 0571 671145

Richard Ginori Outlet porcelain and ceramic (45 km – about 48 mins)

Tel. +39 055-4210472
Viale Giulio Cesare 19 , Sesto Fiorentino

Fashion:

Bruno Manetti Outlet cashmere (15 km – about 21 mins)

Via Bonsarto, 18 - 50020 Montespertoli
Tel. +39 0571 671144

Prada Outlet (80 km – about 1 hour and 15 mins)

Località Levanella S.S.69, Montevarchi - Arezzo
Telefono 055 91901

From Florence by Train

Nearest train station: Montevarchi
Taxi service +39 338 3723504 or +39 339 7206702

Celine Outlet (60 km – about 1 hour)

Via Pian dell'Isola 66, Rignano sull'Arno
Tel. +39 055 8347155

From Florence by Train

From Florence Santa Maria Novella station takes the train to Rignano Sull'Arno and then a taxi to Pian Dell'Isola (it takes about 5/7 minutes)

Taxi service from Rignano sull'Arno, train station +39 055 8657163
+39 347 8862731 +39 338 7768550

From Florence by Road

Take the A1 motorway direction Rome as far as Incisa exit. Turn right direction Pontassieve and then follow "Celine Loewe Outlet" road signs.

Dolce & Gabbana Outlet (60 km – about 1 hour)

Località S. Maria Maddalena, 49
Pian dell'Isola Rignano Sull'Arno
Tel. +39 055 8331300

From Florence by Train

From the Florence Santa Maria Novella station take the train to Rignano Sull'Arno, take a taxi from the station, it's about 5 minutes.

Taxi service from Rignano sull'Arno, train station +39 055 8657163
+39 347 8862731 +39 338 7768550

Malo Outlet cashmere (45.1 km – about 50 mins)

Gattinella 35 -50013 Campi Bisenzio
Tel.+ 39 055 873171

Roberto Cavalli Outlet (42.4 km – about 46 mins)

Via Volturmo 3/3 Osmannoro Sesto Fiorentino
Tel.+ 39 055 317754

Cuoiera Fiorentina Outlet leather goods (56.4 km – about 55 mins)

Via dei Ciliegi 25 – 50064- Reggello (Fi)

Tel. + 39 055 8662191

THE MALL (60 km – about 1 hour)

Via Europa 8, Leccio, Reggello

Tel. +39 055 8657775

Opening hours: Monday-Sunday 10.00-19.00

The Mall is a gallery of select, top luxury brands and quality merchandise including:

- Alexander Mc Queen
- Balenciaga
- Bottega Veneta
- Burberry
- Emanuel Ungaro
- Ermenegildo Zegna
- Fendi
- Giorgi Armani
- Gucci
- Hogan
- I Pinco Pallino
- La Perla
- Loro Piana
- Marni
- Pucci
- Salvatore Ferragamo
- Sergio Rossi
- Stella McCartney
- Tod's
- Valentino
- Yohji Yamamoto
- Yves Saint Laurent

RESTAURANTS AROUND CABBIAVOLI:

The closest restaurant to Cabbiavoli is **Le Boscherecce**, a country house restaurant, 3 mins by car from the Agriturismo. The restaurant is excellent and the setting is outstanding. During the summer it is possible to dine outside in the veranda. The restaurant operates a fixed menu, based on 2 main courses. The restaurant is only open for dinner and closed on Tuesday. Reservations are required. Please call the restaurant in the morning at the following number: 0571 61280.

In and around Montespertoli:

Ristorante Torricella, near Montespertoli, sign-posted as Podere Torricella. Tel 0571-659227 Stylish rustic restaurant. We recommend you to reserve.

Ristorante Belle Epoque in Via San Piero in Mercato, Gigliola, sign-posted in Montespertoli Tel. 0571-609063 Closed on Monday. Characteristic tavern created in early nineteenth century farmhouse. The veranda on the back has a splendid view. Pizza is available only in summer. Medium priced.

Ristorante La Fonte (vegetarian) Via Lucignano 15, Montespertoli. Tel.0571-609514 Open evenings and for lunch only on Sunday. Closed Monday and Tuesday. From Montespertoli drive towards Firenze. On the downhill road turn right at sign post towards San Casciano/Certaldo. After approx. 2 kms turn right. This restaurant was recommended by many of our guests.

Ristorante Il Focolare in Montagnana, on the main road after Montespertoli towards Firenze. Tel.0571-671132 Popular restaurant among locals, it is best to reserve a table especially at weekends. Closed on Monday evening & Tuesday and most of August. Medium priced.

In Castelfiorentino:

Pizzeria Il Vesuvio in Via XX Settembre Tel.0571-629344 Closed on Wednesday.

Pizzeria Il Veliero in Via Masini Tel.0571-629777 Closed on Wednesday.

In Certaldo:

La Saletta, Via Roma 3, Certaldo Tel.0571 668188 closed on Tuesday. Small restaurant in Certaldo Basso, good selection of wine and delicious food. Price medium high. Next to the restaurant there is a very good Pasticceria.

Ristorante Latini Tel.0577-945019

Ristorante Osteria del Vicario tel.0571 668228 in Via Rivellino 3, Certaldo Alto. Closed on Wednesday. In the picturesque old town of Certaldo, this restaurant offers a sophisticated cuisine. Beautiful setting, it is possible to dine outside in the veranda. Reservations required for weekends.

Ristorante Il Castello located in the heart of the medieval old town of Certaldo in Via G. della Rena 6. Sign-posted for Certaldo Alto. Tel.0571-668250 Closed Thursday. Outdoor tables during summer.

.....less than 1 hour drive you may try the following restaurants:

Osteria la Montagnola in Viale Gramsci 127, Gambassi Terme Tel.0571 638284
closed on Monday

Ristorante Arnolfo in Colle Val d'Elsa tel.0577-920549

Ristorante L'antica Trattoria in Colle Val d'Elsa tel.0577-923747

Ristorante **Il Paese dei Campanelli** tel.055-8075280. Petrognano. Road between Barberino and Certaldo. Open evenings only and closed on Sunday. Booking recommended. Set in a small village which provides a lovely pre/post dinner walk. Nearby the church of San Michele (a 1:8 reproduction of Brunelleschi's dome in Florence) was recently restored (closed to the public).

Ristorante C'era un volta is located on the main road, Via Certaldese 9-11, in the pretty village of Lucardo. Tel. 0571-669162 Closed Tuesday, reasonably priced. It offers a wonderful view.

Ristorante La Bettola del Grillo in San Gimignano tel.0577-941844

Ristorante Carpe Diem in Montaione, Viale Filicaia 65/67. Tel.0571-697888
Open for dinner only. Closed on Tuesday. Try to book a table outdoor in the veranda.

Ristorante Casa Masi in Montaione tel.0571-677170

Ristorante Simon in Castellina in Chianti tel.0577-741084

RESTAURANTS IN FLORENCE:

The selected restaurants have been divided into five categories: Gastronomic, Business, Trendy, Budget and Personal Recommendations. The restaurants are listed alphabetically within these different categories, which serve as guidelines rather than absolute definitions of the establishments.

The restaurants below have been grouped into four different pricing categories:

\$\$\$\$ (over €65)

\$\$\$ (€45 to €65)

\$\$ (€25 to €45)

\$ (under €25)

The prices quoted here are for an average three-course meal for one person and for a bottle of house wine or the cheapest equivalent.

Gastronomic

Da Stefano

Via Senese 271, Galluzzo

Tel: 055 204 9105.

Price: \$\$\$

For the best seafood, many recommend Da Stefano, located to the south of the city, in Galluzzo, close to the classic Tuscan countryside of cypress-dotted hills. The restaurant is open in the evenings only and is especially popular in summer for alfresco dining on the terrace. The atmosphere is pleasantly casual and friendly - Stefano personally advises diners on the catch of the day. In fact, his motto 'solo pesce, solo fresco, solo la sera' ('only fish, only fresh, only evenings'), says it all. Dishes include spaghetti all'aragosta (spaghetti with lobster) and il gran tegame, a huge saucepan of hot seafood.

Enoteca Pinchiorri

Via Ghibellina 87

Tel: 055 242 777.

Price: \$\$\$\$

Immaculate linen and crystal glassware top the tables at Florence's most famous restaurant, which boasts three Michelin stars. At the heart of the historic city, near Santa Croce, finely dressed diners expect to be impressed by French chef Annie Feolde's haute cuisine matched with owner Giorgio Pinchiorri's collection of magnificent wines. The uninitiated can select a menu degustazione to enjoy the sophisticated harmony of flavour, born of matchless French technique and Italian economy of ingredients, such as winter red cabbage ravioli served with pumpkin sauce. Portions are dainty, in true nouvelle cuisine fashion. Closed Sun and Monday and lunchtime Tuesday and Wednesday. Also closed in August.

Il Cibreo

Via de' Macci 118r

Tel: 055 234 1100.

Price: \$\$\$\$

In the buzzing markets of Sant'Ambrogio, Fabio Picchi's renowned restaurant and trattoria, Il Cibreo, has made an art form of jazzing up rustic Florentine ingredients and has a legendary reputation. Especially recommended are the passato di peperoni gialli (a yellow pepper soup), and spiced candied fruit mostarda (a type of condiment) eaten with local cheeses. There is always a dish suitable for vegetarians. It is advisable for guests to reserve for premium service in the restaurant or take a chance at the Cibreino trattoria next door, where diners jostle for the marble-top tables and pay half the price. Closed 29 July-1 September and from 31 December-9 January, also closed Sunday and Monday.

Harry's Bar

Lungarno Vespucci 22/r

Tel.055 2396700,

Price: \$\$\$\$

Since 1953, Harry's Bar has been one of the most famous restaurants in the world. The impeccable service, the newly interpreted dishes of the excellent cuisine, a wine cellar offering the best selections and the American Bar make the story of Harry's Bar legendary. Closed on Sunday

Ristorante La Loggia

Piazzale Michelangelo 3

Tel: 055 234 2832.

Price: \$\$\$\$

Diners can overlook the skyline and feast on homemade pasta in this historic loggia, built as a museum to house Michelangelo's Roman sculptures, when Florence was briefly the capital of Italy between 1865-1871. It was never used as such and became a restaurant instead. Ristorante La Loggia is perfect for a business lunch and has a menu that changes regularly, featuring fresh Tuscan produce. It is best enjoyed in summer, sitting outside under the elegant portico with a plate of tortellini stuffed with pumpkin.

Ristorante Sabatini

Via de'Panzani 9a

Tel: 055 282 802.

Price: \$\$\$

Angelo Schiavi's historic restaurant was once poet Ugo Montale's favourite Florentine eating place. Daylight pours in from the large garden window, revealing an elegant spacious interior with wooden-beamed ceilings. Guests can nibble fresh homemade crisps and enjoy a drink at the bar before dining. This is a venue popular for business lunches, and the crowd is international and includes many Japanese enjoying specialities like the bistecca alla fiorentina, Chianina beefsteak cooked on the grill or risotto with scampi. Ristorante Sabatini is closed on Monday.

Trendy

Acqua al 2

Via Vigna Vecchia 40r

Tel: (055) 284 170.

Price: \$\$

This modern and cheery bistro fizzes with atmosphere. Diners encounter an intimate locale, where art, fashion and food draw a mixed late-night crowd of journalists, American students, actors and cognoscenti. The menu offers dishes such as cannelloni with marscapone and mushrooms, and taster platters, such as strips of beef served with a choice of dipping sauces, and selections of salads, pasta, cheeses and excellent wines. Open daily 1930-0100.

Ristorante Beccofino

Piazza Scarlatti 1r

Tel: 055 290 076.

Price: \$\$

This fashionable wine bar attracts young Florentines, who like its sleek, contemporary surroundings and the chef's modern take on Tuscan food. There's an outdoor terrace where drinks and meals can be taken on warm summer nights. Dishes change regularly but might include risotto with pear and pecorino cheese, or guinea fowl with cabbage. Open for lunch and dinner Tuesday-Sunday.

Budget

Antico Ristoro di Cambi

Via San Onofrio 1r
Tel: 055 217 134.
Price: \$

This family-run restaurant overlooking the Arno has 60 places outside and about the same amount inside. It is a very traditional Tuscan trattoria, with bare brick walls and a warm welcome from owner Fabio Cambi. The antipasti and the bistecca alla fiorentina (a T-bone steak dabbed with virgin olive oil and cooked over glowing charcoal) are both excellent. There are also dishes such as penne with pumpkin flowers for vegetarians. Desserts include traditional favourites such as tiramisù and chocolate tart. This venue is always deservedly popular, particularly on a hot summer's day. Closed Sunday.

Trattoria Borgo Antico

Piazza Santo Spirito 6r
Tel: 055 210 437.
Price: \$

The location of this pizzeria, on the small square below Brunelleschi's clean-lined church of Santo Spirito, draws a young and trendy crowd, especially during the summer, when tables are laid outside. The service can be slapdash and the music loud but the buzz and the great pizzas (covered with everything from gorgonzola and ham to four cheeses) served on brightly coloured plates, more than compensate. Diners should reserve a spot in advance, as the restaurant tends to get busy. Open daily.

Trattoria Ruggero

Via Senese 89r
Tel: 055 220 542.
Price: \$

Located just outside the southern city walls, at the Porta Romana, Ruggero's is a popular lunchtime hangout, crowded with Italian clerks and sales reps during the week and families at the weekend. The menu features Tuscan specialities. Hearty soups such as ribollita and main courses of roast and boiled meats favour winter dining, as does the snug and sociable atmosphere. Reservations advised as it does get busy.

Personal Recommendations

Enoteca Pane e Vino

Piazza di Cestello 3r
Tel: 055 247 6956.
Price: \$\$

Set one block back from the Arno, Pane e Vino is known as the poor man's Enoteca Pinchiorri (see above). The surroundings are rustic and atmosphere relaxed. The creative set menu has tempting offerings, such as fried courgette flowers, pecorino cheese flan and herb stuffed chicken, on a menu that changes daily. Otherwise diners can tuck into plates of cold meats, sausages and cheese with wine, served by the glass or bottle, from the excellent list. Open evening only, and closed Sunday, and 7-21 August.

Cammillo

Borgo S. Jacopo 57/r
Tel. 055 21 24 27
Price: \$\$

This popular restaurant is renowned for its high standard of cuisine. The finest, freshest produce is used to prepare a delicious menu that wows from starters through to dessert, accompanied by an impressive selection of regional wines. Closed on Wednesday and Thursday

Garga

Via del Moro 48/r

Tel. 055 23 98 898,

Price: \$\$\$

This restaurant's attractive menu and unusual decor of frescoes and bare brick walls are all part of its popular appeal. Food is so wonderfully presented that it seems almost a shame to touch it, but worse still would be not to taste it at all. Try the cheese cake! Closed on Monday.

Omero

Via del Pian dei Giullari 11/r

Tel. 055 22 00 53

Price: \$\$

Trattoria Omero is not just an excellent eating place, it is also a grocery shop where typical products can be bought. It boasts two spacious dining rooms and a summer terrace affording unforgettable views of the Tuscan hills. Closed on Tuesday.

Sostanza detto il Troia

Via del Porcellana 25/r

Tel. 055 21 26 91

Price: \$\$

Sostanza is popularly called Il Troia (the trough) because people have been lining up at the long communal tables since 1869 to enjoy huge amounts of some of the best traditional food in the city. The primi are very simple: pasta in sauce, tortellini in brodo (meat-stuffed pasta in chicken broth), and zuppa alla paesana (peasant soup ribollita). The secondi don't steer far from Florentine traditions either, with trippa alla fiorentina or their mighty specialty petti di pollo al burro (thick chicken breasts fried in butter). It's an extremely unassuming place, so laid-back you may not realize you're meant to be ordering when the waiter wanders over to chat. They also frown on anybody trying to cheat his or her own taste buds out of a full Tuscan meal. Closed on Saturday and Sunday

Trattoria dei Quattro Leoni

Via dei Vellutini, 1r

Tel. 055 21 8562

Price: \$\$

Tucked away in a corner of the old Santo Spirito district, this restaurant offers wholesome, traditional cuisine in homely surroundings. An attractive variety of cheese and vegetable-based starters is featured on the menu, complemented by fish dishes on Fridays and a good selection of wines. Photos of famous personalities who have eaten here adorn the walls: see how many you can spot! The restaurant offers seating in a non-smoking dining room; a rarity in European public places.