



Chianti

Castelnuovo Berardenga

Discover quality and gourmet tastes in Castelnuovo Berardenga, a hamlet where slow living and scenery reign.

www.visitchianti.net

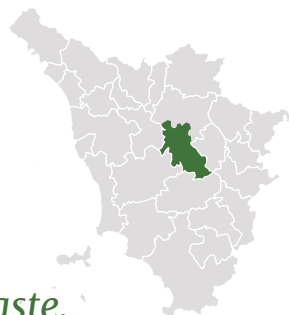
VISITTUSCANY

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Tuscany



Castelnuovo Berardenga



History, sustainability and taste.

Naturally Chianti.

Six towns dot the landscape between Florence and Siena. The geography is marked by the **Hills of Chianti**, a smaller mountainous range where the valleys and hills are constellated by villages and towns. This land has always played a key role in history, with its landscape forged by hundreds of years of synergy between humans and nature: Chianti culture has birthed a thousand traditions which are still alive and well. This fertile land boasts great biodiversity and a sustainable, innovative lifestyle.

Chianti - Regional Tourist Board

Municipalities of Barberino Tavarnelle, Castellina in Chianti, Castelnuovo Berardenga, Greve in Chianti, Radda in Chianti, San Casciano in Val di Pesa.

Share your experiences

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Barberino
Tavarnelle



Castellina
in Chianti



Castelnuovo
Berardenga



Greve
in Chianti



Radda
in Chianti



San Casciano
in Val di Pesa

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Regione Toscana





Chianti

‘Famous for its wines,
for the salubrious climate
and even more well-known
for its geographical position,
which can be said to be in
the centre of the Grand Duchy
of Tuscany’

Physical Historical and
Geographical Dictionary of Tuscany



Castelnuovo Berardenga



Overlooking Siena in the distance, Castelnuovo Berardenga is the ideal city to discover the most classical Tuscan landscapes, the most renowned wines of Chianti, the ancient art, and the richly decorated gardens scattered in the country between museums and villas. A romantic and serene walk of a few kilometres from the centre of Castelnuovo takes us among vineyards and olive trees. Castelnuovo, known as a “Slow City”, that is, as a “city of good living”, has an identity based on well-being and quality of life, with all the excellent products that this land can offer.

Tourist office

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In numbers

From historical towns to the wine country of Chianti:
a land of a thousand flavours
and traditions.

9,112
Population

351 m
Altitude

177,1 km²
Surface

51.1 p/km²
Density

**Santi Giusto
e Clemente**

Patron Saint - 5 June



Paths for exploring Castelnuovo Berardenga

The great natural beauty of Chianti can be explored on foot, deep in the landscape and its world-famous views. Castelnuovo Berardenga is the ideal place to dive into fascinating history and countryside, pervaded by Tuscan charm. In these small towns and villages, traditions are safeguarded and culinary excellence is brought to the table by numerous local restaurants, offering visitors unforgettable flavours.

6 Trails Exploring Chianti at a slow pace!

Scan the QR code to view and download the official Visit Chianti trails.



LOCAL ITINERARIES

A tightly knit network of trails characterises the land around Berardenga.

This borderland is full of trails waiting to be explored on foot, on horseback and also by bicycle along the **Sweet Roads**, a 250km network of cycling routes. There are hiking trails steeped in **history** such as the easy path named 'The Battle of Montaperti', which brings walkers to the sites of the famous battle that saw the Ghibelline Sienese side defeat the Guelph side, and 'The Etruscans in Berardenga' route. 'The Lands of the Gallo Nero (Black rooster)' and 'Chianti Vineyards and Woods' trails are more focused on **scenic** and **enogastronomic** elements. The latter passes through Quercegrossa, guiding walkers through evocative undulating landscapes, villas and historic villages, where they can discover prized Chianti Classico wine.

The territory is also crossed by the **Via Romea Sanese**, a historic route that was fundamental throughout the Middle Ages as it was the fastest connection between Florence and Siena, where it then joins the Francigena route.

Castelnuovo Berardenga Hiking Network

Use the QR code to discover the entire network of local itineraries.



Walking around villas and through farms

This route includes four wonders of the surrounding area: the Catignano farm mentioned in documents dating back to the 13th century; the Geggiano villa which dates back to 1768; the Monacino villa, with its adjoining farm and the splendid gardens and, lastly, the stunning and famous Certosa di Pontignano, a place where St Catherine of Siena, patron saint of Europe, used to pray. It was built as a monastery in the 14th century and today is a place full of artistic and architectural wonders.

Duration: 3.3 h
Length: 12.7 km
Ascent: 430 m

The battle of Montaperti

Along this itinerary it is possible to explore the battlefields where the Ghibelline troops from Siena heavily defeated the Florentine Guelph troops in 1260. The route winds along the Malena torrent and in his *Divina Commedia*, Dante recalls how this torrent was filled with the blood of the soldiers which then flowed into the nearby Arbia stream. Along the route, walkers will encounter the Cippo di Montaperti, a stone pyramid that stands on the top of the hill surrounded by cypress trees.

Duration: 3 h
Length: 10 km
Ascent: 275 m

Chianti Vineyards and Woods

A route which immerses walkers in the most characteristic Chianti Classico scenery; the route joins two beautiful hamlets of the Berardenga territory: Quercegrossa and Vagliagli. Either one can be the starting point of the walk. After having passed by farms and ancient mills, crossed beautiful vineyards and enchanted woods where cool streams flow, as walkers get closer to the highest point of the hike, they will find themselves in front of one of the most breathtakingly beautiful views of the entire Chianti region.

Duration: 3.15 h
Length: 9.4 km
Ascent: 147 m

Berardenga Farms

This route starts from Castelnuovo Berardenga and guides visitors through beautiful and historical farms located in the area. From Pacina, which dates back to the Etruscan era, with its well-preserved villa, to Felsina, a farmstead which also dates back to Etruscan times and where the presence of a hospital was documented in the 12th century. The ring road includes two forts dating back to the 11th: the castles of Valcortese and Orgiale.

Duration: 3.30 h
Length: 11.8 km
Ascent: 445 m

Etruscans in Berardenga land

This route links the mediaeval centres of San Guscumè and Villa a Sesta to places rich in Etruscan history, as well as to the Campi hill. From here, at the beginning of the Chianti mountains, walkers find themselves in front of absolutely stunning views. Along the path, there are many Etruscan settlements and locations such as the necropolis of Poggione and Bosco alle Pici and the Pian Tondo hill.

Duration: 3.30 h
Length: 11.8 km
Ascent: 545 m

Exploring castles and abbeys

This ring road unites three meaningful places: Badia a Monastero, a women's monastery founded in 867 by a Berardenghi progenitor where the original tower and crypt can still be admired. Not far from there, visitors come across the second place, Monastero d'Ombrone, which retains the charm of a mediaeval fortress. Lastly, in the northern part of the route, walkers reach the castle of Montalto, already mentioned in documents dating back to the 11th century. Many battles between Siena and Florence took place here and it is still possible to see the effects of the assaults and reconstructions.

Duration: 3 h
Length: 9.6 km
Ascent: 360 m





Castelnuovo, an ancient hamlet where life is sustainable

The municipality located furthest south in the Chianti region is a treasure chest filled with history and ‘Tuscan lifestyle’, a slow town that has preserved a precious and unique mediaeval atmosphere to this day.

THE TOWN

‘Excellent food and wine, and landscapes filled with nature and art: the quintessence of Tuscany’.

Surrounded by the typical panorama of southern Chianti, this town has an atmosphere that reminds one of ancient times. It is named after **Berardo**, a nobleman of Frankish origin, descendant of one of the Counts of Siena. The history of this town began in 1366, when the ‘new castle’, ordered by the Republic of Siena to guard the territories on the borders with Florence and Arezzo, was built. The construction of the fortress went on for many years, presumably until 1379, when it was finally handed over to the local population, and the hamlet prospered for about two centuries. The everyday life of the village developed around the castle and, despite the numerous assaults and destructions it was subject to over the centuries, it is still possible to appreciate historic elements from that time. For example, two of the six ancient towers are still standing in their original position: Santa Maria tower and the Capannaccia tower, which surround the central Piazza Marconi. Visitors can also enjoy the many villas and Romanesque churches located in the area around Castelnuovo, such as the church of San Pietro a Cerreto, the

Certosa di Pontignano, the Monastery of San Salvatore a Fontebona, which bear witness to the economic and demographic development of the town from 1300/1400. These buildings are symbols of a rapid growth that nowadays has been replaced by slower rhythms that represent the ideas of sustainability and authenticity. Castelnuovo Berardenga was designated a **Slow City**, a town devoted to well-being and an authentic lifestyle where quality and well-being are the two founding principles of the local community. The town is also known as City of Wine, like the majority of towns in the Chianti area that offer precious collections of Chianti Classico wine. Strolling through the streets of the town, you come across the unusual **Museo del Paesaggio** (Landscape Museum), dedicated to representative landscapes of the area around Siena and the rest of Italy; an exhibition that, through films, images, documents and graphic reconstructions, offers a picture of the beauty of the territory and landscape that has inspired art, cinema, and literature. A few steps away, you can find the **Municipal Theatre Vittorio Alfieri**, an elegant restored theatre that is larger than the old one, with modern shapes and neo-classical references. In the central **Piazza del Castellare** you can feel a village atmosphere and see the high tower and the characteristic **‘vicolo dell’Arco’** (alleyway of the Arch) which can be recognised by its steep stone staircase topped by an arch. Finally, do not miss **Villa Chigi Saracini**, a 19th century building constructed on the ruins of what was once the ‘castello nuovo’ (new castle), next to a large English park

EVENTS

Events not to be missed

JULY

Chianti Festival

The festival is the most important music, theatre and dance event in the Chianti region. Organised in charming locations throughout the municipalities of Castelnuovo Berardenga, Castellina in Chianti and Gaiole in Chianti, it offers a summer cultural programme for people of all ages which includes evenings of music, theatre and plays and shows for children.

OCTOBER

Dit’unto (Finger Food Festival)

This festival is also known as the ‘Festival where one eats with their Hands’ and is set in the delightful setting of the village of Villa a Sesta. Street food is the main attraction offered by the numerous stalls erected in the streets of the town. The festival programme celebrates the many traditional Italian snacks, with a special focus on Tuscan products. All duly accompanied by good local wine.

OCTOBER

Ecomarathon of Chianti Classico

The ‘white roads’, the cellars of wineries, the clouds, the sun and hills well-known all over the world, the cypresses, the footpaths, the hard climbs and the sweet descents... This and very much more is what the Ecomarathon of Chianti Classico is about. Trail running enthusiasts can choose trails for all levels, all share the objective of socialising and discovering the area.



The manors and monasteries of Berardenga

Berardenga is a border land defined by the classic Chianti landscape and its gentle hills, vineyards and cypresses, a true treasure chest of historical, religious and artistic gems.

THE TERRITORY

‘Towns out of time, an art that enhances the landscape’.

The origins of Castelnuovo Berardenga are linked to the foundation of the Monastery of San Salvatore a Fontebona in the 9th century, today known as **Badia a Monastero**. The Monastery was commissioned by Wiginisio, a member of the noble family known as Berardenga or Berardenghi, ancient lords of these lands. The structure was transformed into a villa in the 19th century and stands out in an impressive way in the surrounding countryside of the valley of the Sienese Ombrone; it still retains Romanesque features and a crypt that has origins older than the church itself. The area is also home to **Montalto Castle** and the **Monastero d’Ombrone** hamlet, which date back to before the 11th century and were of great strategic importance in the mediaeval ages; the latter was originally founded as a female monastery, and then later fortified at the behest of Siena. A few kilometres from the centre of Castelnuovo Berardenga lies another Chianti jewel: **San Gusmè**; this hamlet was not initially fortified, and the walls that can still be seen today, were built by order of Siena at the end of the 14th century. Extensive parts of the original walls are preserved, making it one of the rare Italian examples of a fortified village. The two entrance gates to the castle are still clearly visible, while the walls have been integrated or laid on the surrounding buildings in the village. Amidst the quiet and the song of crickets stands the **Certosa di Pontignano**, an ancient monastery in which the heart of Chianti beats strongly, offering refreshment, art, and history in the midst of nature. Not far are the villas of Geggiano and Monaciano, with their pretty gardens and elegant buildings that tell about the past. A custom of these enchanted places is to match history with the pleasures of the palate: among the streets and villages kissed by the sun, you can taste the traditional red wines, which are still produced with the ancient wine-making techniques of Chianti Classico. Along the road of the castles you will find **Villa a Sesta**, a small and quaint town, famous for its Michelin-starred restaurants and fine wine cellars. At the far northwest you will see **Vagliagli**, a characteristic village of the 13th century, surrounded by splendid and precious vineyards. The territory of Castelnuovo is famous also for the Battle of Montaperti, mentioned by Dante Alighieri in the Divine Comedy, fought on the 4th of September 1260 between the forces of Siena and Florence; near the inscribed pillar (Cippo) in memory of the battle, there are the **free spas** of Acqua Borra. A few kilometres from Castelnuovo Berardenga there is **Pievasciata**, a small Contemporary Art Town: in the town and its immediate surroundings there are art installations between cypress branches and picturesque views. Nearby you can visit the **Sculpture Park of Chianti**, a permanent exhibition of contemporary sculptures made by 27 artists from all over the world, wonderfully integrated with the environment



Tips for exploring and experiencing the land
Historic centres protected by extensive ancient walls, a hamlet devoted to contemporary art and an elegant Carthusian monastery: discovering Castelnuovo Berardenga.

The New Castle

After a recent study of archives and historical drawings and, in particular, of the plan that was drawn by the Renaissance architects of Cosimo I, the location of the ancient Castel Nuovo in relation to the present-day hamlet is now known. The reconstruction revealed that the main entrance gate was where the imposing Clock Tower stands today. This tower was built between the 18th and 19th centuries, and overlooks Piazza del Castellare, the beating heart of Castelnuovo Berardenga.



Certosa di Pontignano

The Charterhouse is a rare example of Carthusian monastic architecture. Founded around the middle of the 14th century, it was rebuilt in the 16th century after a fire completely destroyed it. Visitors can admire the precious Chapel of St Agnes, the spacious cloisters, where a marvellous 14th century well still stands, the elegant Italian garden and the lemon house. Today it has become a conference centre and tourist facility where it is possible to dine and stay in exclusive spaces.



Pievasciata

A charming hamlet filled with contemporary art. Here, every corner is enriched by modern pieces of art that blend harmoniously with the surrounding landscape. In addition to admiring the suggestive installations scattered throughout the town, it is possible to continue discovering works of art inside the suggestive Chianti Sculpture Park, where the pieces blend perfectly with nature, creating a unique and engaging sensory experience.



San Gusmè

This is a picturesque hamlet, protected by ancient walls which create an atmosphere of timeless charm. The well-preserved city walls conserve centuries-old stories and blend harmoniously with the beauty of the surrounding nature. Restaurants and places. The alleyways of the town are studded with restaurants and places where visitors can savour local food and wine. Two traditional events are not to be missed: the Festa del Luca and the historical Bruscello.

