



Chianti

Radda in Chianti

Where every stone promises civilization
and the landscape gives space to the soul.

www.visitchianti.net

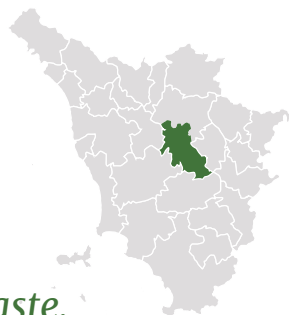
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Tuscany



Radda in Chianti



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
#visitchianti #visittuscany



visitchianti.net



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



Radda in Chianti



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The first certain information on Radda dates back to 1002, when the emperor Ottone III confirmed his ownership of some of his assets, among which the curtis, or castle, of Radda, at the Badia Fiorentina. During the 11th and 12th centuries, Radda's castle acquired status and became the curia, that is the headquarters of a civic constituency. It has always been within the orbit of Florence, and thus became the main city of the League of Chianti, with the new administrative system that Florence imposed on its local people at the onset of the 14th century, and so it remained until the reform of the Lorenas in 1774. Walking around the ancient walls the view stretches out over the wonderful landscape of Chianti.

In numbers

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

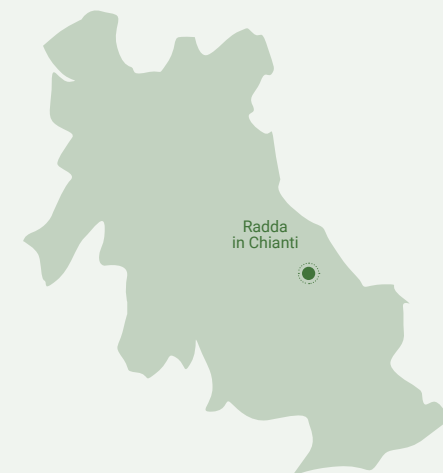
1,557
Population

532 m
Altitude

80.4 km²
Surface

19.6 p/km²
Density

San Nicolò
Patron Saint - 6 December



Paths for exploring Radda in Chianti

The great natural beauty of Chianti can be explored on foot, deep in the landscape and its world-famous views. Radda in Chianti 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.



Discovering the slopes of Monte San Michele

The path begins in the beautiful town of Volpaia and proceeds with ups and downs along dirt paths until it enters the forest. The trail then goes through a vast area of woodland full of streams and clearings; it continues uphill with hairpin bends until it reaches the houses located in Badia a Montemuro, the highest hamlet in Chianti located on the slopes of Monte San Michele.

Duration: 2.15 h
Length: 5.7 km
Ascent: 312 m

Pietrafitta and the Chianti hills

This trail twists and turns its way through the vast pine forests of the Chianti mountain ridge. After passing through various hills along paths and cart tracks, it reaches the mediaeval village of Pietrafitta, which has become a remarkable hotel. The path continues leading walkers past historic farms such as Querceto and into woods and plantations, then descends towards the valley of the Pesa river, which must be crossed before reaching Lucarelli.

Duration: 2.30 h
Length: 8.1 km
Ascent: 169 m

Following the footsteps of Leo Lionni

This is an invigorating walk that starts in Pescinale. During the first part of the route, oak and chestnut woods are alternated with splendid views of the hill ridges. As the path reaches Porcignano, walkers encounter unusual sculptures: these are the works of art by US artist Leo Lionni, created about 30 years ago in the land he had decided to call home. Not far from there, it is possible to visit the archaeological site of Cetamura, an ancient Etruscan-Roman settlement.

Duration: 1.20 h
Length: 3.5 km
Ascent: 236 m

Canvalle Connection

This short walk starts near the tavern in la Villa. The route passes in front of the houses of the hamlet and reaches the first cultivated fields of the nearby farms, going downhill. Then it climbs towards Canvalle where the mediaeval tower can be seen from some distance. The route passes the farm, and then dives into the forest. In a short time, walkers reach the ridge road where the path ends joining up with route No. 306.

Duration: 20 mins
Length: 709 m
Ascent: 70 m

The Valimaggio Path

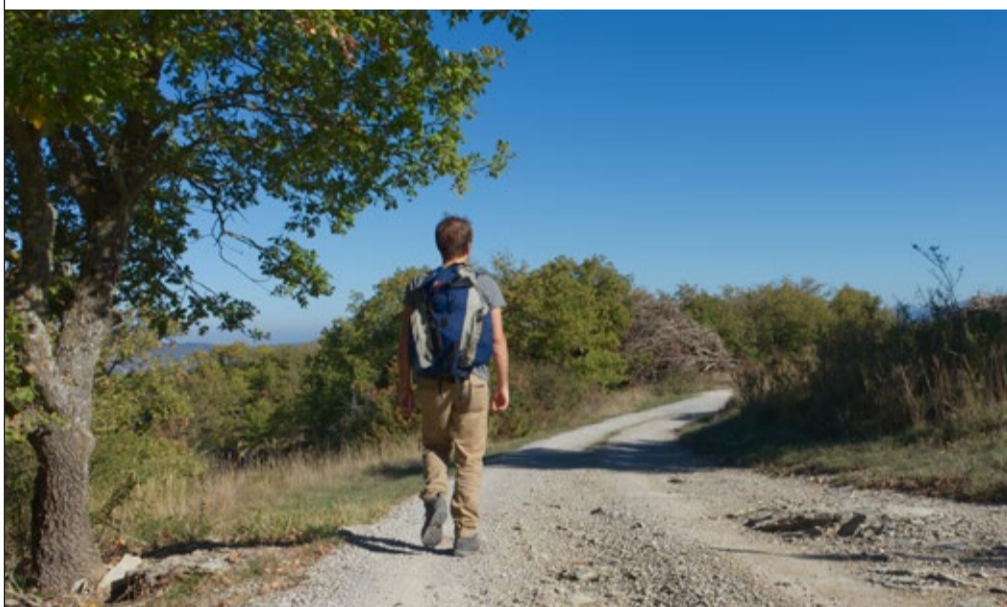
The route begins at an interesting historical site, the Convent of Santa Maria al Prato, home of the Casa del Chianti Classico. The dirt road goes down in the valley twisting and turning through a forest of poplars, alders, and willows. The path then continues uphill towards Vallimaggio, the farmhouse located halfway up the hillside and overlooking the valley. From here it is possible to admire a view of the church of San Giusto in Salcio and of Radda in Chianti.

Duration: 2.20 h
Length: 6.4 km
Ascent: 229 m

From Castellina to Radda

This ancient road connects Radda in Chianti to Castellina, two of the 'terzieri' (local subdivision of the land) of the Lega del Chianti, the military organisation that had the task of administering Chianti and defending its southern borders from the 14th century onwards. From Radda in Chianti the route winds through mainly wooded areas with breathtaking views. Tasty options and refreshments await walkers in the two historic centres.

Duration: 3.45 h
Length: 10.3 km
Ascent: 373 m



HIKING NETWORK

Walking over the hills and along the ridges of the Chianti Mountains

Around the delightful hamlet of Radda, a network of trails winds through rolling hills and along mountain-like slopes, such as **Monte San Michele**: at 892 metres, it is the Chianti region's highest peak. These paths offer splendid excursions on foot, by bicycle and on horseback through lush oak and coniferous forests. Visitors can start off from the **Volpaia** castle and head towards the highest Chianti hamlet, **Badia a Montemuro**, or else go from Radda to Castellina in Chianti exploring classic Chianti landscapes characterised by gently sloping hills and lookout villages perched on hilltops. And there's more: along the sinuous trails that connect Pescinale and podere le Campora, walkers can observe unusual sculptures, works of art created about three decades ago by the well-known US multifaceted artist Leo Lionni; an open-air exhibition where the landscape and contemporary art merge into one. Another feature of the territory of Radda is the historic **Via Romea Sanese**, an ancient route used by pilgrims and merchants in the Middle Ages, which connected Florence to Siena. Visitors can still access it today and discover and explore the territory and its natural, religious and historical treasures in an unforgettable way.

 The Via Romea Sanese is part of the Atlas of Tuscan Walks: cammini.visittuscany.com



The Lega del Chianti's ancient stronghold

A strategic bulwark of the Florentine republic, Radda is a historical gem that preserves its mediaeval charm. A place where visitors can let themselves be carried away by the atmosphere they find guarded by the ancient city walls.

THE TOWN

'Along the rocky crest, on the pathway of history'

Radda, risen from the depths of the Middle Ages, sits on the rocky ridge of the **Chianti Mountains**, which divide the watersheds of the Arno and Ombrone Rivers. The oldest historical records date back to 1002 and attest Florence's influence over Radda. In the 14th century, Radda became the **capital of the Lega del Chianti** and maintained this status until the 1774 reform, promoted by the Lorraine dynasty, which followed the decline of the most powerful family of all time, the Medici. Due

to its strategic position, Radda was destroyed many times during the conflicts between Florence and Siena which is the reason it became a fortified village. Still today, it is possible to enter the town from two entryways, **Porta Valdarnese** on the east and **Porta Fiorentina** on the west, where you can spot the remains of the mediaeval walls built to protect the hamlet, whilst the longer wall circle dating back to the 18th century surrounds the inhabited centre creating avenues that offer views over the surrounding landscape. The original urban layout has not changed and the houses and buildings of Radda have retained their mediaeval features. These elements emerged during the restoration work carried out at the end of the 20th century. Its oldest square, called **Del Castello**, located in the highest part of the town and surrounded by its streets, lost its importance over the years. It was replaced by the one dedicated to the most illustrious podestà that Radda has ever had, Francesco Ferrucci, and is overlooked by the beautiful **Palazzo del**

EVENTS

Events not to be missed

JUNE

Radda nel bicchiere

Radda in a Glass is an initiative of the Proloco of Radda in Chianti through which the entire town offers its visitors and wine tourists the opportunity to discover and celebrate the wines of this splendid Chianti town. Events include tastings, meetings and seminars. There is also 'Radda Vintage', a space dedicated to old vintages of wines.

JULY

Radda 1527

For a weekend you can experience the exciting atmosphere of the early 16th century. In the castle you will find peasants, members of the bourgeoisie, ancient crafts, music, Renaissance dance, and various performances. A historical commemoration in remembrance of the time of the *Signorie*, when Francesco Ferrucci, a *condottiere* in the service of the Republic of Florence, arrived in the Chianti village as *podestà*.

SEPTEMBER

The 'Gallo Nero' by bike

A cycling event whose route goes through many municipalities of the Chianti area and gives visitors the chance to admire the territory in one of the most beautiful times of the year, that of the grape harvest and the beginning of autumn with its charming and stunning colours. Departure and arrival are in Radda in Chianti. The event is organised by the Chianti Classico Consortium, and includes tastings in local wine cellars.



Potestà, studded with the coats of arms of the families of the previous rulers. Its architectural structure was defined after the Aragonese wars (1478) which saw Siena and Florence once again on opposing fronts. On the higher part of the square is the church of San Niccolò, which hosts the 15th century **Crocifisso Ligneo** (wooden Crucifix). The facade, designed by Carlo Coppedè in 1926, features a large arch with two pairs of lions at its base and is a clear example of eclectic architecture. Besides planning the semicircular fountain, Coppedè's work extended to the redesign of the **Gardens of Piazza IV Novembre** and the **War Memorial to the soldiers of the Great War**. From the central square you can walk along some stunning streets from where you can have a look at memorable sights of vineyards and enclosed orchards. At the edge of town is the Romanesque church of **Santa Maria al Prato**, inside which is preserved an altarpiece by the Florentine painter Neri Di Bicci (15th century) depict-

ing the Virgin and Child among the Saints Niccolò, John the Baptist, Mary Magdalene and Antonio Abate, set in a beautiful Renaissance altar. Next to the church, the former convent from the 18th century houses the headquarters of the **Foundation for the Protection of the Chianti Classico Territory**. A precious treasure chest of sacred art and mediaeval history and very much more: the entire Chianti region is enriched with creations of internationally renowned artists who have adorned the panorama with **contemporary works of art**. However, Radda is particularly linked to the name of the very talented Leo Lionni, a US painter, sculptor and writer who found inspiration here. He left a rich artistic legacy in and around the hamlet including, in particular, a series of sculptures representing the evocative, dreamlike plants described in his book 'Botanica Parallela', in which he imagines a plant ecosystem parallel to the real world. His bronze sculpture 'Giraluna' can be admired in the loggia of Radda's Town Hall.



Exploring the green heart of Radda

Vineyards and woods adorn the most famous hilly landscapes in the world, marvellous panoramas that guard castles, parish churches and archaeological sites. A priceless heritage waiting to be discovered.

THE TERRITORY

'An inner journey in search of the genius loci'

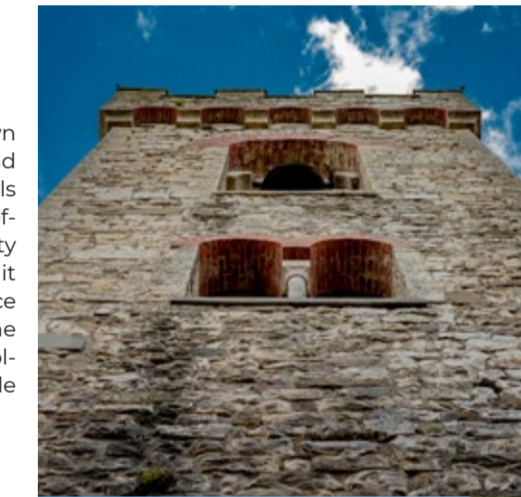
Over the years, the traditional mixed crops have given way to extensive vineyards and olive groves, and the landscape has kept the centuries-old structure based on the farmhouse system. Today, all the area is still dotted with rural houses and isolated villa-farms showing evidence of architectural features dating back to the 15-16th century and sometimes even earlier. The fortification of the 11th and 12th centuries led to the building of other castles around Radda. There are only a few ruins left of some of them, but there is evidence of the ancient structures of other castles. Among these traces of the past, **Volpaia** is today a lovely town built on an elliptical urban plan and retaining many of its defensive walls, along which rise towers for defence, the largest of which served as a keep. On the opposite hill, on the other hand, we find what remains of **Monterinaldi Castle**, from 1010 A.D., which played a major role in the history of this territory. Towards the north is the **Castello di Albola**, dating from the 11th century, whose ruins can still be seen today, towering above the woods surrounding the mighty keep. **Badia Montemuro** was not a castle, but was surrounded by defensive walls, so much so that it looked like a small fortress. It is a monastic settlement of the Camaldolite order, placed in the higher area of the whole municipality of Radda, halfway between the valleys of the Pesa and Greve Rivers. In the Early Middle Ages, communities, i popoli (the common people), were organised not only around castles but also according to where the churches and abbeys were built. Not far from the main city you can find the **Pieve di Santa Maria Novella**, also called Pieve di Chianti (Parish church of Chianti) for its importance. It was built in 900 A.D., and with its three-nave layout is one of the greatest examples of Romanesque architecture in Chianti. An almost unique example in Chianti architecture, its pillars end with sculpted capitals in which you can perceive a Longobard influence. The church holds an altarpiece from the **Della Robbia** workshop, as well as a hexagonal baptismal font embellished with Della Robbia tiles. The splendid surroundings of Radda not only guard mediaeval castles and Romanesque parish churches, they also preserve ancient treasures deeply rooted in history. In the area of **Poggio la Croce**, located near the road connecting Radda to Castellina in Chianti, an archaeological area of great importance is located. The sites and artefacts which have been unearthed here reveal the earliest human presence in the Chianti region, which seems to date back to the Chalcolithic period. Evidence has also emerged of a shepherds' village dating back to the end of the Bronze Age. In addition to this, traces of proto-Villanovan settlements dating back to the 11th century B.C. have been found including the remains of two buildings, a gateway to the village, a fortified structure and some remains of a wine press.



Tips for exploring and experiencing the land
Castles and fortifications, exclusive wine cellars and inventions dating back to the Grand Duchy of Tuscany: Radda in Chianti and its surroundings are filled with many hidden jewels waiting to be discovered.

Radda's walls

The castle and fortifications of the town have been partly destroyed by battles and invasions, but a large portion of the walls and sighting towers still stand today, offering a striking atmosphere. The first city walls date back to the 14th century, but it was after the destruction which took place in 1478 that the fortification to defend the hamlet was reinforced; the works that followed to make the place unconquerable continued until the late 16th century.



The house of Chianti Classico

The Franciscan convent of Santa Maria al Prato, that encloses the church of the same name, was built in 1710 based on the design of Brother Salvatore Siracusa and Brother Camillo di Corsignano. The imposing structure develops around the large cloister connecting with all the rooms. It houses the headquarters of the Foundation for the Protection of the Chianti Classico Territory and an interesting museum itinerary on the Chianti Classico wine.



The town of Volpaia

The ancient castle, located in the heart of the Senese Chianti and built around the 10th century, often suffered the consequences of the century-old struggle between Siena and Florence. Today, strolling through the streets of the town, you can see the massive tower that served as a Mastio, the **Commenda di Sant'Eufrosino**, in the splendid square with a central well and the church of San Lorenzo dating back to the 15th century. You cannot miss a stop to taste the traditional dishes and wonderful wines.



The Grand Ducal Icehouse

During the Grand Ducal period, innovative ice storage facilities spread throughout Tuscany. In particular, the Radda icehouse, located just outside the hamlet near the public gardens, was built partially underground with a structure which recalls truncated cones. During the winter, snow was collected here and compressed into blocks of ice, which could be then used during the summer months.

