



Chianti

San Casciano in Val di Pesa

A fortified hamlet,
the beating heart of Chianti

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Tuscany



San Casciano in Val di Pesa



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.

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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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Piano Sviluppo e Coesione della Regione Toscana:



Regione Toscana



‘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



Chianti



San Casciano in Val di Pesa



Tourist office

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Immersed in greenery,
at the top of a hill of
olive trees and vineyards,
is San Casciano in Val di
Pesa: its bell tower stands
out above the town,
surrounded by lightly
coloured houses, and
the ancient walls hold
the town in a protective
and ancient embrace. It
is the first municipality
in Chianti you see
when you arrive from
the north, combining
beautiful landscapes and
admirable architectural
sights; with four
small churches, all in
Romanesque style, five
castles and numerous
historical villas, it is not
difficult to be charmed by
the striking atmosphere
that recalls ancient eras,
among artistic harmonies
and breath-taking views.

In numbers

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

16,456

Population

310 m

Altitude

107.8 km²

Surface

159.1 p/km²

Density

San Cassiano

Patron Saint - 13 August



Paths for exploring San Casciano in Val di Pesa

The great natural beauty of Chianti can be explored on foot, deep in the landscape and its world-famous views. San Casciano in Val di Pesa 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.



VIA ROMEA SANESE

From the Renaissance in Florence to the Middle Ages in Siena, discover and explore villages, vineyards and landscapes of Chianti.

The **Via Sanese**, one of the ten *strate et vie maestre* of the Florentine countryside, was the fastest way to go from Florence to Siena in the Middle Ages. It was a fundamental pilgrimage route because it joined the **Francigena** thus allowing pilgrims to continue towards **Rome**. In the initial section, the route coincided with that of the Regia Romana road to then separate at the bottom of the Pesa valley where, after crossing the **Sambuca Bridge**, it went up the hills and finally descended towards Siena. Today, the **Via Romea Sanese** follows the traces of that ancient road, uniting the **historic centres** of the two cities with an **80 km** route which unwinds along roads and dirt tracks that slowly immerse travellers into the **vineyards** and **olive groves** of the Chianti Classico. Four legs within everyone's reach that cross the **Florentine and Siennese countryside** and allow travellers to discover parish churches, abbeys and mediaeval villages and castles. To hike along the Via Romea Sanese is the ideal way to delve into the municipalities and small towns of the Chianti region in an authentic and sustainable manner.

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

The Prince's Ring Road

From San Casciano, this route leads along paths immersed in beautiful countryside landscapes that pass through some of the most significant places of Niccolò Machiavelli's life. At Sant'Andrea in Percussina, among olive groves, oak trees and large vineyards, walkers can admire Villa Mangiacane, where Machiavelli took refuge during his exile while working on his masterpiece. The itinerary crosses farms and fields, encounters the Borro La Suganella stream and then reaches the monumental Villa Antinori.

Duration: 3 h
Length: 9.6 km
Ascent: 93 m

Calzaiolo Ring Road

The route begins in the hamlet of Ponte Rotto, and then goes along the Pesa river until the path reaches Calzaiolo. The itinerary alternates between dirt tracks, farm roads and other minor roads that go through the hamlets of Pitto and Casanova and cross cultivated fields and woods to then bring walkers back to the starting point. In the last part of the route, it is worth stopping to observe the beautiful little church of San Vito.

Duration: 2 h
Length: 9 km
Ascent: 340 m

Along the Pesa River

This is a lengthy walk that winds along the banks of the Pesa river and through the small hamlets located next to the water way, like Cerbaia, the town where the walk starts, to Sambuca, the point of arrival. The dirt road is wide and well-marked, and includes a few small fords and crossovers to the opposite side of the river. The route reaches the Ponte Rotto locality and the La Botte park (3 km from San Casciano) until it leads to Sambuca, just after passing through the Borro del Lavatoio.

Duration: 4 h
Length: 15 km
Ascent: 100 m

Calcinaia Ring Road

From the village of Calcinaia, a pleasant dirt road winds downhill to the former Castelbonsi Castle and church. A little further on, walkers will reach a panoramic viewpoint which looks over the Greve stream and the Florence plain. The path continues along the Mulino di Battaglio, formerly Casa Doccia, to then continue and lead travellers into a dense wood and reach the Fonte dei Pollai. Along the way, the path comes across a small altar: this is the spot where a shelter for civilians stood during World War II.

Duration: 4 h
Length: 10.4 km
Ascent: 219 m

Montepaldi Ring Road

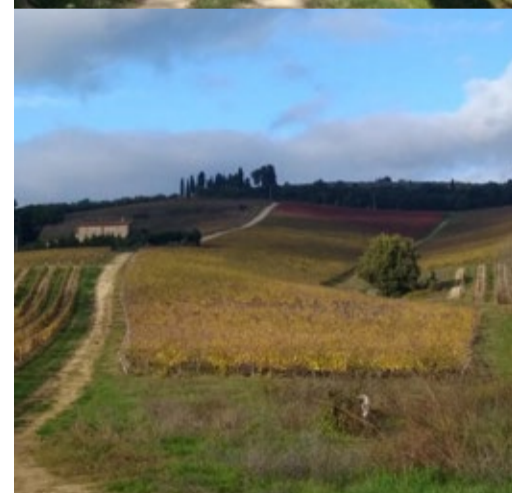
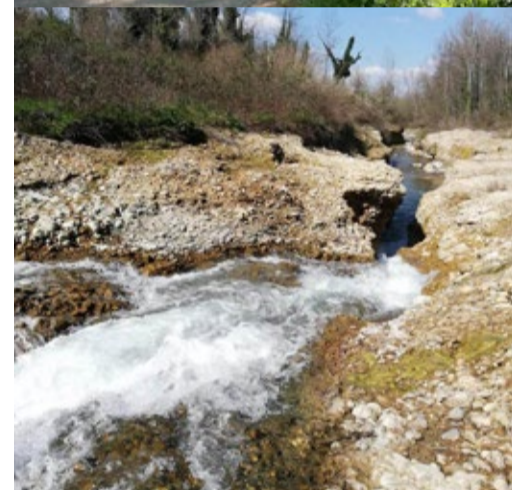
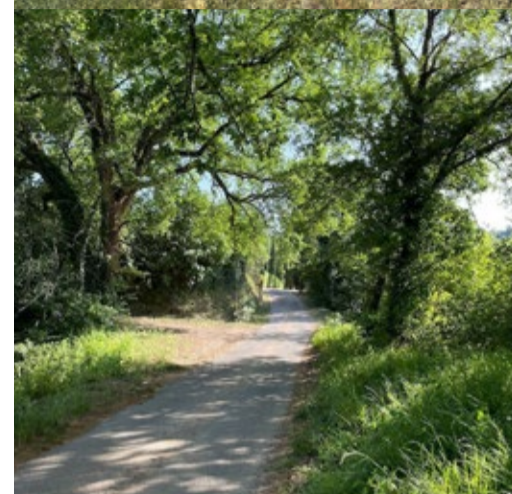
The point of reference of this trail is the villa of Montepaldi, an estate and research centre of the University of Florence. It was already well-known in mediaeval times and it was then enlarged by the Medici. It is set on a panoramic hill overlooking the valleys of the Pesa and Sugana streams. The route starts near the villa and the itinerary brings walkers across a beautiful area of countryside dotted with several farms and typical farmhouses and winds along the course of the Pesa river.

Duration: 2.30 h
Length: 6.5 km
Ascent: 190 m

Terzona Ring Road

This itinerary is characterised by pleasant white roads that run alongside the Terzona stream. After a lovely bending route along the river, the road goes uphill until it opens up to stunning views that look over the Apennines. Along the way, walkers can admire the imposing Palagio castle and the solitary Pieve di Santo Stefano at Campoli, which still shows its original Romanesque layout. The passage through the beautiful village of Montefiridolfi is strikingly beautiful; the road then becomes scenic as it runs along a ridge.

Duration: 6 h
Length: 13.4 km
Ascent: 196 m





A journey along the city walls

Protected by ancient walls, San Casciano in Val di Pesa preserves its history and traditions while keeping up with the contemporary world at the same time. Lose yourself in art and architecture as you discover its delightful historic centre and the hamlets that dot its surroundings which represent the quintessence of Tuscany.

THE TOWN

'The Paris of Chianti', where tradition and the avantgarde marry the landscape.



EVENTS

Events not to be missed

MARCH

Mediaeval Carnival

Every year, on the last Sunday of the month of March, it is possible to dive into the Middle Ages and relive history through the events and shows located all over the town of San Casciano. The traditional Corteo delle Cinque Contrade, in which parades of floats and colourful costumes take place, competing for the Key to the Village is a must! Markets, performances, dances, and processions of the Medieval Carnival create a magical atmosphere throughout the entire town.

JUNE

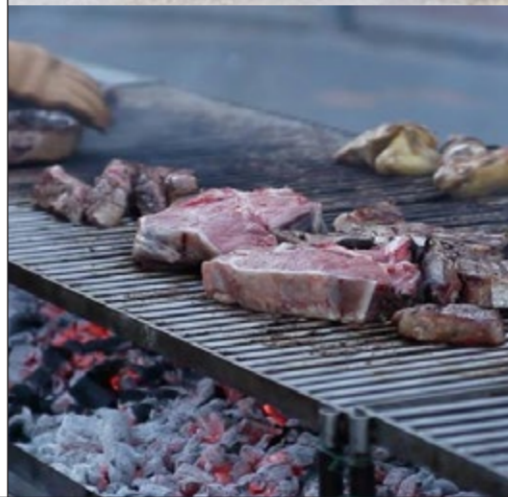
Chianti Classico Marathon

For sport lovers, this is a unique opportunity to run through the extraordinary landscapes where the Chianti Classico tradition lives on. The marathon includes various types of races and, at the same time, is an appointment that allows not only to practise sport but also to discover the territory and its delicacies. It is possible to explore buildings and monuments with guided tours and the most important wine cellars in town offer tastings.

JUNE

Steak Championship

Under the sky of Mercatale, a hamlet located in the municipality of San Casciano, for two entire evenings it is possible to enjoy what is considered the legendary dish in all of Chianti: la bistecca (steak). While the best 'mastri braciatori' (masters of the braziers) of town are occupied with the cooking, visitors can enjoy a glass of Chianti Classico wine and enjoy the late spring evening.



walls are still almost entirely visible and enclose all the beauty and history of the city within them. As visitors stroll through the streets of the town, they will come across the **Giuliano Ghelli Museum**, located inside the church of Santa Maria del Gesù or del Suffragio. Here it is possible to admire multiple collections of works of sacred art, from the archaeological section to contemporary art. A full immersion in history and an ideal voyage to discover the Etruscan and Roman peoples, the masterpieces of the Middle Ages and Renaissance through the works of great masters such as Coppo di Marcovaldo, Ambrogio Lorenzetti, Lippo di Benivieni and Neri di Bicci, who lived between the 13th and 16th centuries. Continuing the walk along the ancient city walls of San Casciano, visitors will reach the **church of Santa Maria del Prato**, built by the Dominican Fathers of Santa Maria Novella in the 14th century. The church, also known as 'della Misericordia', is rich in valuable works, both artistic and architectural, by famous artists such as Ugolino di Nerio and Giovanni di Balduccio. **The Crucifix by Simone Martini**, which has been recently restored, is the most prestigious work in the church. Taking a leap into contemporary times, from the top of the walls, it is possible to see the **Cervo (Deer)** by artist **Mario Merz** dominating the town, coupled with neon numbers representing a Fibonacci numerical progression; it is also possible to appreciate the works of **Mauro Staccioli**, where the relationship between sculpture and environment is paramount.

The Torre del Chianti, originally called Torre dell'Acqua (Water Tower), towers over the centre of San Casciano in Val di Pesa. From the top of this tower, it is possible to contemplate the beautiful views of the surrounding area; moving on, the **La Botte Park** is the perfect place for picnics and relaxing moments along the Pesa River and the starting point for those who want to take a bicycle ride through the greenery or trek to the nearby archaeological sites. These include Mercatale in Val di Pesa, a town characterised by its ancient market and numerous churches and chapels and Cerbaia in Val di Pesa, historically linked to Florence. Here, a bridge that the Signoria of Florence had built to cross the river Pesa in 1200 AD still stands, as well as the majestic Villa Castellare. For history and open-air activities lovers, Bargino is home to the archaeological-nature trail that starts from the centuries-old cypress tree in the centre of the village and crosses a naturalistic area that leads to the well-known Tomba dell'Arciere, an Etruscan treasure at La Collina. The hamlet of Montefiridolfi offers the possibility to combine the love of history and good wine. This small village is immersed in vineyards linked to the centuries-old history of ancient families and noble estates. To savour a typical and delicious speciality, a stop in the hamlet of Chiesanuova not to be missed. Here, it is possible to taste the exquisite 'schiacciata', something the locals never miss out when they leave for their out-of-town trips.

Elegant villas, noble families and great wines

Discover the Florentine aristocratic families' legacy, taste excellent food and wine, immerse yourself in history and enjoy exquisite cuisine: this and very many more unforgettable experiences in and around San Casciano in Val di Pesa.

THE TERRITORY

'Families and wine cellars in the green hills of Chianti'.

San Casciano in Val di Pesa is a land where nature, history and a passion for wine come together to offer unparalleled landscapes and experiences. In these hilly areas, one can perceive the legacy of the noble families that lived in majestic villas, places where time seems to have stopped. The evocative Villa Montepaldi, currently owned by the University of Florence, witnessed the succession of the most famous Florentine families, including the Acciaiuoli, Medici and Corsini families. It is surrounded by extensive vineyards, olive groves, cultivated fields and oak woods and enriched by a magnificent mediaeval garden. Furthermore, the Villa is not only a place to admire the beauty of the past, it also offers - through the Florentine Faculty of Agriculture - excellent opportunities to attend courses and educational activities and learn more about the world of viticulture and olive growing. It is not possible to list the historical residences located in the area, without mentioning **Casa Machiavelli**, also named **l'Albergaccio**. This property belonged to the family of the Renaissance writer Niccolò Machiavelli, who found refuge here after being exiled from Florence in 1512. This property is described in one of his most famous letters in which he recounts the days he spent between the Casa and the tavern. But the villa is most famous for being at the heart of the creation of his best-known work, *The Prince*, and is currently accessible to curious visitors who wish to discover the rooms of the villa, the cellars and the tavern described by Machiavelli. The **Castello di Bibbione** is another property owned by the Machiavelli family, purchased in the 16th century, and surrounded by the most stunning and evocative Tuscan countryside. The next property belonging to famous families in the area is **Villa le Corti**, the enchanting and imposing estate owned by one of Italy's oldest aristocratic families, the Corsini family. The Renaissance villa, and its wine cellars, were built in the 17th century by the architect Santi di Tito and stand in the middle endless vineyards. Recognized as a national monument, Villa le Corti is an unmissable stop for those who wish to immerse themselves in the splendour of the Florentine aristocracy of the time. These historic residences and the numerous agritourisms dotting the surrounding Chianti hills offer hospitality amidst nature, history and tradition, as well as the opportunity to taste the authentic products of the territory and to discover the renowned flavours of Chianti Classico. Here every glass of wine narrates a unique story, every vineyard, every grape emanates something unequalled. To savour the roundness of these wines, means to learn the secrets of the land they are a product of, especially when paired with local products such as wild boar and the typical pappa al pomodoro; a journey which enriches visitors with endless tales and, at the same time, leaves them speechless.



Tips for exploring and experiencing the land

Discover San Casciano in Val di Pesa amid archaeological treasures, river parks, historic palaces and literary stay.

In the Prince's Residence

In the countryside surrounding San Casciano in Val di Pesa, and precisely in Sant'Andrea in Percussina, stands the Albergaccio, the home of the Machiavelli family where the famous historian, politician, philosopher and 'universal man' of the Renaissance lived during his exile from Florence in 1512, when the Medici returned to the capital. It was within the walls of the Albergaccio that Niccolò Machiavelli wrote *De Principatibus*, i.e. *The Prince*, one of the world's best-known texts on the art of government.



The park on the Pesa River

The Parco la Botte is just a few minutes from the centre of San Casciano. It's a green area overlooking the Pesa river and surrounded by the Chianti hills. A special spot appreciated by locals and visitors alike, the park is a pleasant picnic area suitable for everyone, both for those who want to relax with the sound of the flowing stream and for those who prefer to take a bicycle ride or a long walk in the open air.



The Tomb of the Archer

At La Collina, it's possible to travel back in time while exploring the excavations of the Tomb of the Archer. This small Etruscan burial ground dating back to the 7th century B.C. is a must-see for archaeology lovers and is surrounded by a breathtaking view of olive groves and vineyards. It is named after the depiction of the Archer's Stele, found inside the tomb and currently on display at the Ghelli Museum in San Casciano Val di Pesa.



Parish Church of Santo Stefano at Campoli

Set on a hill overlooking the valleys of the Greve and Pesa rivers, the pieve takes its name from the 'campo' (field) on which it was built, a place still called Campoli. Although modified throughout the centuries, the parish church still shows its original Romanesque layout. The upper part of the façade is still the original mediaeval one. Inside, the pieve houses a large panel painting, a masterpiece by Michelangelo's pupil Bugiardini, depicting the Virgin, St. John and other saints.

