

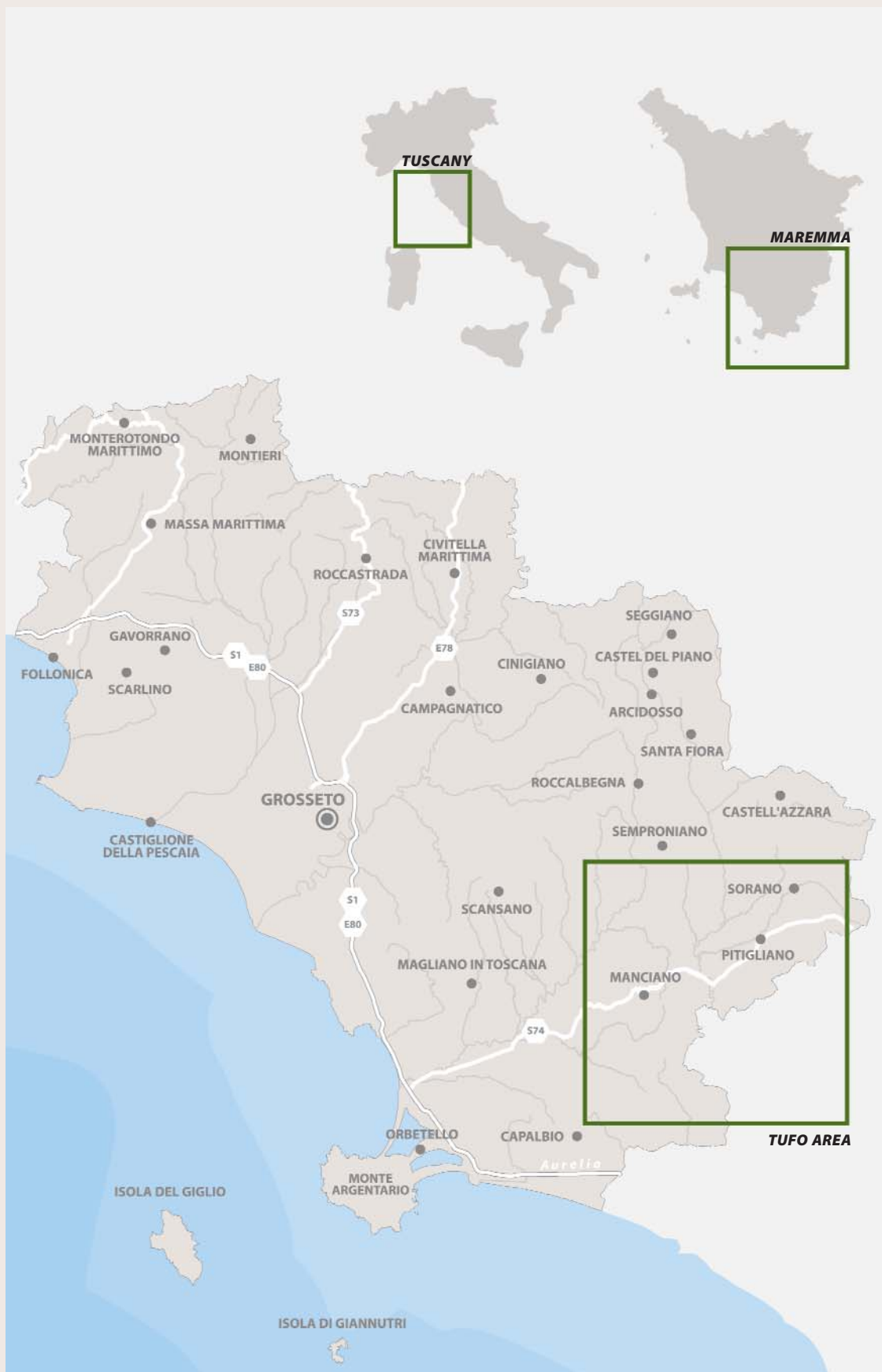


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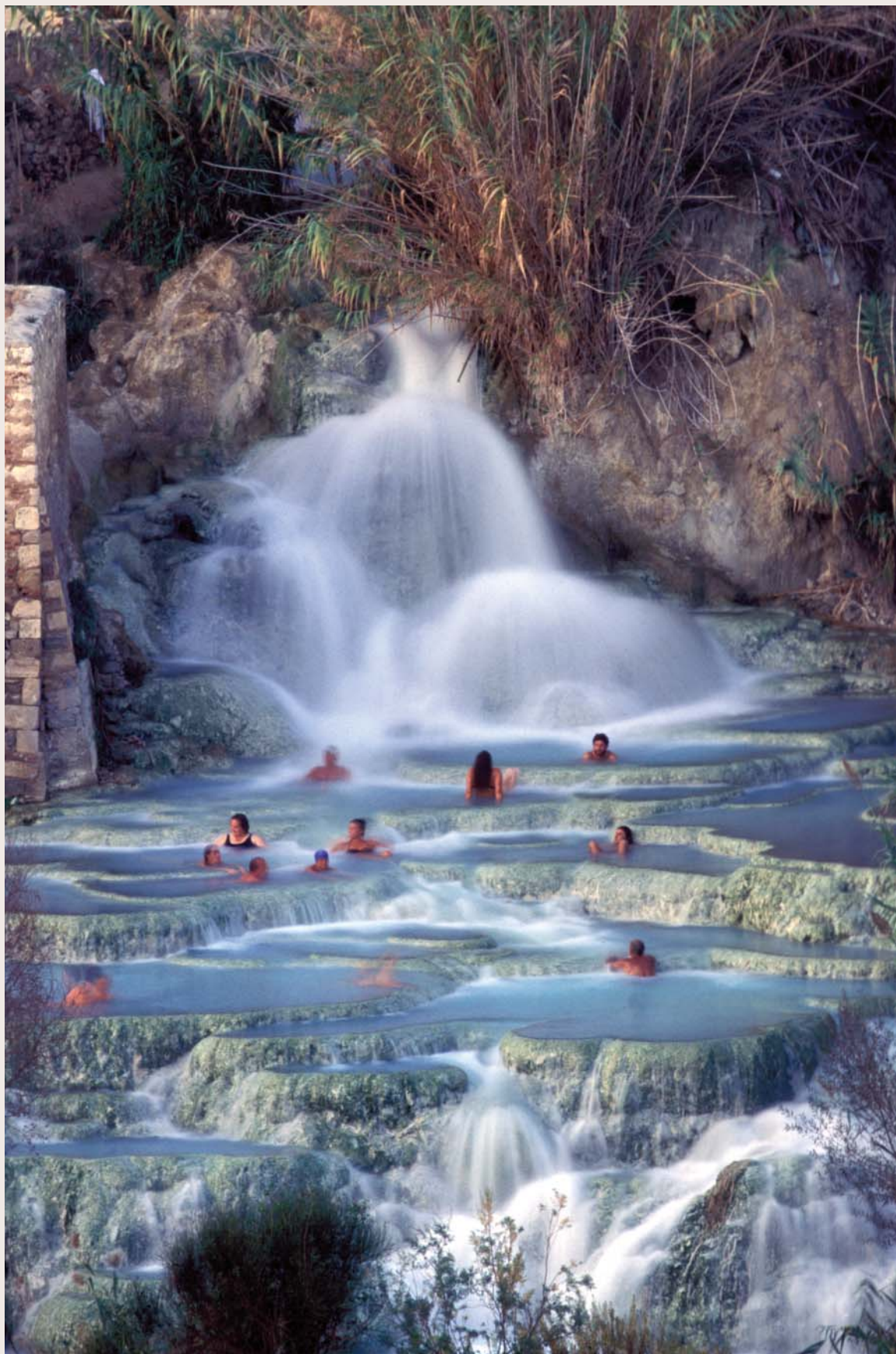
THE *THOUSAND FACETS* OF THE **MAREMMA**

TUFO AREA





TUFO AREA



I N T R O D U C T I O N



You can understand at a glance how the Tufo Area got its name. Everything here revolves around this porous rock: whether it be the Etruscan necropoleis, the Roman cave tombs, the Medieval cliff settlements, houses, roads, stalls or the present cellars, the tufa has always been modelled according to need, like a giant natural laboratory. The towns themselves are built perched on tufa cliffs, with houses that seem to grow from the rock itself, blending into their surroundings.

The Tufo Area is in the southern part of the Maremma, in the heart of the *Colline del Fiora*. This extraordinary natural heritage is adorned with historic palaces, fortifications, castles, Medieval and Renaissance towns. In spite of the innumerable possible itineraries, it is even more fun to wander without a precise destination, following the emotional call of the landscape. Suddenly, you come upon a town like Pitigliano or Sorano or stumble across a mysterious necropolis at Poggio al Buco or Sovana. You could be taken by surprise by cliff tombs or the *Vie Cave* or Medieval towns like Manciano and Montemerano (both considered among the best preserved in the Maremma) or you might find yourself at the site of a thermal spring like Saturnia, an example of the combination of environment and culture so typical of the whole Tufo area. Reminders of past history are everywhere, from the Villanovian civilization to the Etruscans (the "first Italians") who built necropoleis as actual cities, following a strict urban plan with streets, squares and grandiose monuments. The Roman Empire built roads and bridges as a means of communication, started agricultural enterprises intended to promote prosperity and trade. The Middle Ages and Renaissance also left their mark. The Aldobrandeschi, Orsini and Medici laid the foundations of their power here, leaving a heritage of inestimable value. It was during the Middle Ages that the natural and architectural landscape underwent its urban, religious and military development, making this area fascinating and unique. Manciano is one of the towns where this heritage is richest. The *Cassero Senese* (Sienese Keep) stands out in the historic centre composed of narrow, picturesque streets and houses that still retain sections of the original Medieval construction. Two outstanding examples of fortification architecture are the Orsini Fortresses in Sorano and Pitigliano. Equally important are the remains of the Aldobrandeschi citadel in Sovana. This was the best fortified of the noble family's citadels and the one on which their defensive system hinged. The historic-religious heritage also has much to offer. The importance of Christianization in this area can be seen in the Cathedrals in Pitigliano and Sovana. A native son, Ildebrando from Sovana was named Pope Gregory VII in 1073. The Jewish community can boast of equally representative constructions. The Synagogue, built in 1598 and now completely restored, is a prime example, as are the spaces dedicated to daily life: the cellar for the production of Kosher wine, the oven for baking unleavened bread, the Kosher butcher shop, the cleaners and the *mikvè* baths.





M A N C I A N O

There are so many ways to see Manciano: by mountain bike, horseback or by foot along country paths or paved roads. Manciano is perhaps the most evocative territory the Maremma. The town rises from the top of a hill with a view in all directions: from Monte Amiata to the Fiora valley, from Talamone to the beaches of Montalto di Castro, from the Argentario to the Islands of Giglio and Montecristo. Mystery and magic have always hung in the air in these parts. There is even an often remembered rhyme that says, "Manciano delle streghe, dove si va si vede" (Manciano town, where witches abound). The archaeological excavations near Saturnia, Marsiliana and Poggio Murella have shown that Manciano was settled as far back as Prehistoric times. In the 12th century it came under the rule of the Aldobrandeschi family and later the Orsini from Rome. Its solid walls and geographic position were not sufficient to prevent the Republic of Siena from conquering it in 1461 and then building the fortress that still stands today and offers such a splendid view. The entire area has retained its medieval character almost intact. The town of Montemerano is a must. It is an authentic jewel set on the top a hill planted in ancient olive trees. Its historic centre is considered one of the Maremma's most interesting. There are also important archaeological sites in the area, reaching from Marsiliana's vast Paleoetruscan necropolis, to the Apennine and lower Apennine settlements at



M O N T E M E R A N O **"FEAST OF SAINT GEORGE"**

In the month of April dances, games and songs fill the streets of the town. The "Dragon's Joust" is held during the festivities. This game recalls the legend of St. George and the participating knights vie to overcome various obstacles and free the princess from the clutches of the dragon.

Scarceta, to the Stone Age *necropolis delle Calle*, to as far as Saturnia. This last, famous for its hot springs, has produced so many archaeological finds that it has been possible to reconstruct development all the way from the Italic civilization through the Etruscan to the Roman, to the beautiful constructions of the Middle Ages.

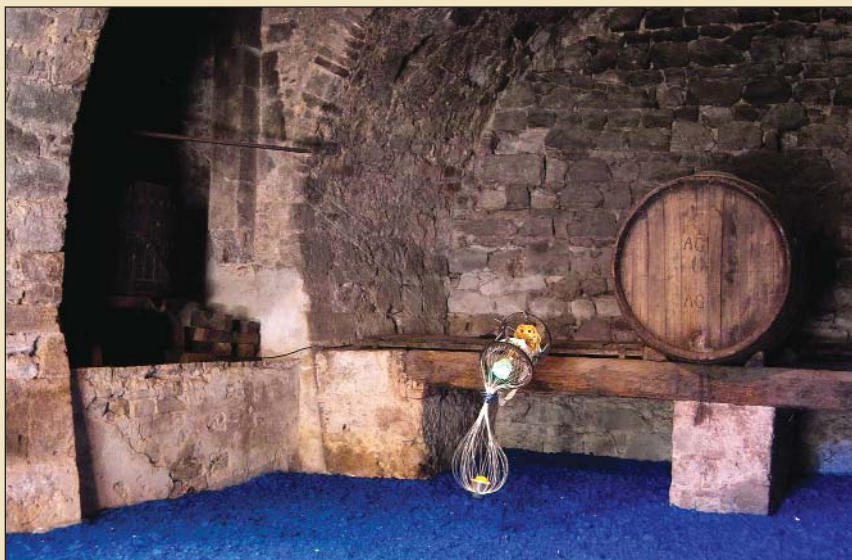
" Q U A T T R O V E N T I "

ITINERARY OF CONTEMPORARY ART, FOOD AND WINE TASTING AND PERFORMANCES IN THE MAREMMA

This interesting experiment to promote tourism is sponsored by the town of Manciano and includes an exhibition of contemporary art, a full agenda of theatrical and musical performances as well as opportunities to sample the typical food and wine of the area.

Every spring the town of Manciano invites a number of young artists from the European Union to create art installations in private homes, shops, streets and squares in the historic centre of Manciano, Montemerano and Saturnia, using the territory as inspiration and point of departure.

More than 150 local businesses actively participate in the local food and wine tasting events and offer their facilities for the numerous theatrical and musical programs.



P I T I G L I A N O

When you see Pitigliano, it's like turning the pages of a book of fairy tales set in the Middle Ages. But the colours, flavours and smells immediately bring you back to today's untamed, but gentle surroundings. The town is built on a promontory surrounded by bright green valleys, grooved by the Lente and Meleta rivers. The high tufa cliffs are chiselled with a thousand caves and tower-houses. The houses are built on a tufaceous drum in the same jutting vertical as the sheer cliffs which make the city wall almost superfluous. This, however, in no way detracts from the splendid military structures such as the 13th Orsini palace. The town takes pride in its heritage: the Prehistoric period, with its tombs discovered along the city wall and in the surrounding area; the Roman period that left behind the town's name, *Gens Petilia*; the Medieval period of the Aldobrandeschi, lords of the Maremma for almost five hundred years; the Renaissance grandeur brought by the noble Roman family, the Orsini; and, after a brief Sienese interlude, the Medici and their heirs, the Lorraine who stimulated a phase of modernization. Another key to the appreciation of Pitigliano is the famous Jewish ghetto. This extraordinary town has been called "Little Jerusalem" because of its large and active Jewish population which settled there beginning in the 15th century. Today the Sinagogue is once again open to the public, both for worship and a visit, after extensive restoration. The interesting Jewish Cemetery, the unleavened bread oven, the cellar carved





into the rock where Kosher wine is produced, the Kosher butcher, the cleansing baths for women and the cleaners are all open to the public. The town is surrounded by important archaeological sites, from the ancient *vie cave* to the various necropoleis and primitive villages. Without doubt, the most important necropolis is Poggio Buco, the largest Etruscan centre on the Fiora. In addition to the remains of the original city, numerous varieties of tombs have been discovered, among which the monumental cliff tombs such as the *Tomba della Regina* (the Queen's Tomb). The wine production is another good reason to visit this land. The vineyards, fertilized by volcanic tufa and thousand year old humus, produce prestigious white DOC wines. The caves and tombs cut into the tufa rock are used as cellars for the wines' preservation and aging. The olive oil as well, produced by cold pressing, has few rivals on the national and international scene.

J E W I S H C U L T U R E

To see the Jewish Synagogue and the Unleavened Bread Oven and the Permanent Exhibit of Jewish Culture:

**tel. 0564.616006,
Vicolo Manin**

R E L I G I O U S F E S T I V I T I E S " T O R C I A T A D I S A N G I U S E P P E "

Every year on March 19th, a torchlight procession is held in honour of Saint Joseph. The participants carry sheaves of flaming reeds along the *Vie Cave* which are brilliantly illuminated by the torches. The traditional festivities are concluded in the main town square with the "Rite of Fire". A dummy representing "cruel winter" is burned in a huge bonfire. Winter has officially ended and the new season is greeted with hope for well being and plentiful crops.



S O R A N O



The first tourists who saw this beautiful rock with its sheer cliff, decided it was a good idea to stick around for a bit.

Those tourists were the ancient Etruscans and they built the town of Sorano during the period of their greatest splendour. The continuity from ancient past to present is literally visible and the principal activities have been maintained to this day. All around the town, vineyards alternate with scrub, olive groves, fields of wheat and sheep farms displaying the area's strong agricultural vocation. A further confirmation of this vocation lies in the present high regard held for the excellence of the local production, especially the dairy products.

The surrounding area is dotted with medieval fortifications such as the Montorio Castle, the citadel of Castell'Ottieri and Montebuono Castle. This historical wealth is a part of the extraordinary archaeological heritage of the whole territory. The archaeological park of the "Città del Tufo" is unique of its kind. Here you find the most interesting Etruscan sites, the church of San Sebastiano, Rocca Aldobrandesca and innumerable necropoleis carved in the rock and now immersed in nature. The most important cliff settlements in Italy can be found in the neighbourhood of the *Rocca di Vitozza*. These





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have caves used for housing and others called "*colombari*" or coops, most probably intended for raising pigeons. These caves are fascinating, but almost bare compared to those discovered near Sovana. Here the caves, the *vie cave*, wells, tunnels and hydraulic systems are all joined within a single landscape. The necropoleis, all cut in the tufa, are wrapped in thick, protective vegetation, making them all the more fascinating and mysterious. The most important tombs are the *Tomba del Sileno*, the *Tomba della Sirena* and the monumental *Tomba Ildebranda*, considered the masterpiece of all sepulchre. Sorano is notable for its elegant Renaissance architecture and massive enclosing walls that made it one of the safest defensive offshoots in the county of Pitigliano. It first fell under the Aldobrandeschi family who developed its defensive fortifications by building the enclosing wall which still surrounds the town. Later the Orsini family built the splendid fortress, considered the town's most interesting monument. In the middle of the 15th century, it became the theatre of the conflict with the Sienese Republic without ever being taken. This prompted Cosimo dei Medici's nickname for it as the "tinderbox of Italian wars". In 1608, it fell definitively under the domain of the Grand duchy of Tuscany.



NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT



When you discover the tufo area, you can't help falling in love. The stony cliffs rising from valleys traced by rivers provide a natural habitat where Turkey oaks, Poplars or Chestnuts thrive and a lush undergrowth sprouts mushrooms, plants and flowers. Over time, the particular environmental and climatic conditions found in the shaded and damp channels of the *vie cave* have determined a special microclimate and an ecosystem that has remained constant for thousands of years. Because of these absolutely unique conditions, even rare types of fern, moss and lichen are able to flower. A wooded landscape of river valleys surrounds these roads cut in the tufo rock and the rock itself, with its myriad shades of red-ochre, is dressed in Dog rose, Cornflower, Wild mint, and Mallow. These porous yet solid rocks with their historical-archaeological past, are of equal interest for the naturalist. The Nature Reserve of Montauto, opened in 1966, is situated within the area belonging to the town of Manciano. The area contains a hydraulic basin and an abandoned quarry. The vegetation is especially abundant in Alophestes and Idrophystes, as well as Turkey oak and Downey oak woods. Otters, wolves, wild cats, stone martens, weasels and polecats thrive in this environment, not to mention wild boar, deer and fox. There are many species of avifauna, some of considerable importance. There are both nocturnal birds of prey, such as the Short-toed eagle or Montagu's Harrier, and water birds, such as the Grey Heron, Squacco Heron or Night Heron. Another aspect of the





landscape are the hot springs. They are part of a volcanic area with the ground composed largely of tufaceous rock. This has favoured the re-emergence of rain water in the form of springs. An example is the famous natural falls on the Gorello, a few minutes from the town of Saturnia. Flowing freely in a stream through the middle of the country, over the centuries the hot springs have formed small falls, leaving brilliant white limestone deposits that lend the landscape an unusual and evocative quality.

B A T H S O F S A T U R N I A

Thanks to the therapeutic properties of its sulfurous water, the Baths of Saturnia combine health with relaxation and pleasure. The steaming, boiling water gushes all around and runs from the valley as far as the original mill-house on the Gorello river (*Mulino del Gorello*) where you can bathe in the large natural pools under the falls. There are modern and inviting spas, including a wellness center with its own facilities and thermal areas. It is more than a vacation spot, it is a haven for health and beauty, relaxation and fun. Another spa near the locality of Orientina, 4 km from Pitigliano, has a covered pool, taking full advantage of the therapeutic properties of water that spouts forth at 37,5°C. The "Bagnetti degli ebrei" (Jewish baths) are nearby. These ancient baths, with travertine tubs, were built and used by the Jewish community in Pitigliano.





TUFO AREA



F O O D A N D W I N E



The local products are the undisputed stars of the tufo area. They shine for their high quality and genuineness. A leading role is clearly reserved for wine making, with centuries of strong traditions and prestigious DOC wines known throughout the world. Every year the *Strada del Vino* (wine itineray) "Colli di



Maremma" attracts wine making experts and lovers of good wine. It offers the chance to visit the cellars and production areas of historic wines such as the Morellino di Scansano and the Bianco di Pitigliano in as well as the recently recognized new DOC productions like the Rosso di Sovana. The cultivation of olive groves also goes back to ancient times and takes a back seat to none, producing some of Tuscany's best known oil. Both meat (recipes for lamb and wild boar are at the heart of traditional cooking) and cured pork meats (*Spalla* and *Prosciutto* from Sorano) are much appreciated. Cheese also plays an important role in the local economy. It too belongs to an antique tradition and offers a wide range of daily made products. The *pecorini* (cheeses made from sheep's milk) and *caciotte* (cheeses made from a mixture of cow's and sheep's milk) are increasingly popular. An investigation of the area's field to table production leads to the discovery of special traditions and flavors such as the "*Cucina dei goym nelle città del tufo*". This is a project intended to protect those products belonging to the Hebrew tradition which have become part of this geographical area's historic and cultural



culinary heritage. Among the famous sweets is the *Bollo*, prepared with aniseed and introduced by the Spanish Jews. Another is the *Sfratto*, symbolizing the memory of the Jewish community's most difficult period during the Orsini rule. Among the savoury dishes the *buglione di agnello* (a dish of lamb seasoned with garlic herbs, white wine and tomato sauce), stuffed artichokes and pasta and chick pea soup are especially noteworthy.

W I N E S

B I A N C O D I P I T I G L I A N O D O C

The development of local wine making has improved the quality of the *Bianco di Pitigliano*. This is also due to the selection of noble strains that have "refined" the grapes of the traditional vineyards in the area of Pitigliano and Sorano and, in part, those of Manciano. Pitigliano White is a fresh and lively wine with a delicate bouquet that lends itself to the typical dishes of the Maremma.

S O V A N A N A D O C

The new "Sovana" DOC makes the most of the black-grape strains, established in the area from the time of the Etruscans. They are used in the area belonging to the towns of Sorano, Pitigliano as well and, to some extent, Manciano. *Sovana Rosso*, *Sovana Rosso Superiore* and *Sovana Rosato* have a delicate and fruity bouquet with flavour in perfect harmony with the area's cuisine.



A C T I V I T I E S



There are innumerable trekking, archaeo-trekking and naturalistic itineraries along a network of country roads and paths throughout the tufo area that may be followed on foot, mountain-bike or horseback. The ancient Etruscan roads are certainly among the most fascinating in all of the Maremma. They are deeply embedded in the rock and their outlines are a maze of paths covered by thick undergrowth.

Around Manciano, from the chalky, grooved hills to the Fiora and Albegna rivers, the roads wind through dense oak and holm oak, through ancient olive groves to join the Etruscan *vie cave*, chiselled in the rock, near Pitigliano, Sorano and Sovana.

FROM PITIGLIANO TO MANCIANO 18 KM ITINERARY

This long itinerary begins at the via cava Poggio Cani at Pitigliano and continues along the *strada doganale* (custom's road) to the left of the Lente river. After passing through woods, across grassy hills and crossing the Fiora river, it comes to the Poggio Buco necropolis.

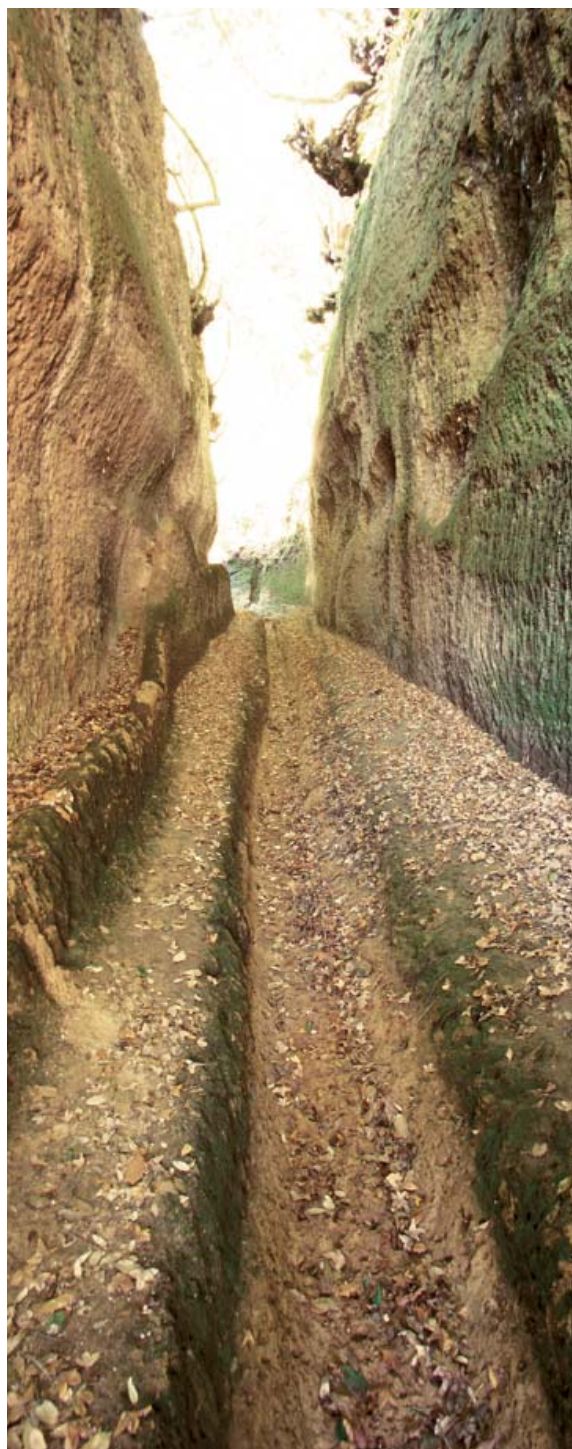
FROM PITIGLIANO TO SOVANA 4,5 KM ITINERARY

This itinerary starts at Porta di Sovana in Pitigliano and continues, following a section of road that winds below the town walls, going toward Via Cava di Poggio Cani.

After a stretch of paved road, it follows the old Sovana road, continuing along the *vie cave*, closely following the path used by the Etruscans, until it reaches Pian de' Conati and then Sovana and its necropolis.

FROM SOVANA TO SORANO 13 KM ITINERARY

Since it is necessary to cross some sections of private property, a local guide is required. Leaving from the seat of the Archaeological Park "Città del Tufo" at Sovana, the itinerary follows the signs for the Ildebranda Tomb until it comes to the area of Pian della Madonna. Then, continuing by way of the town of San Valentino, a path leads to the San Rocco



necropolis. Crossing the deep *via cava* of the same name, it goes over the Lente river to Porta dei Merli, the ancient entrance to Sorano.

FROM SORANO TO VITTOZZA - 7 KM ITINERARY

It starts from the museum inside the Orsini Fortress in Sorano and goes down the ancient stairway toward the town. After passing through the gate that once protected Count Orsini from the people's revolt, it comes to the road to Castell'Azzara. After 500 metres, just before a small bridge crossing the Lente river, it turns onto a path through a thick green forest leading to the remains of the castle of Vitozza and the nearby cliff site. This itinerary also makes it possible to go to the source of the Lente river.



C U L T U R E



The historical-archaeological examples that surround all of the towns cover a wide span of time, from Prehistory through the Etruscan, Roman and Medieval periods. Necropoleis, *vie cave* (Etruscan roads carved in the rock), palaces, fortifications and parks are all itineraries of great culture interest from which the visitor may choose in addition to exhibits within the museums of the various towns.

M A N C I A N O

Prehistory and Protohistory Museum of the Fiora Valley

The museum contains an important collection of archaeological finds documenting the history of this community, a cradle of Etruscan civilization. There are six rooms organized in sections and colour-coded for clear identification by historical period and respective culture. Each room contains display windows, explanatory panels and an audiovisual system to introduce the collected material. The first room describes the characteristics of the area and provides data concerning archaeological research and excavation activity. The following rooms cover the evolution of man beginning from the Palaeolithic Age with important examples of stone tools found at Montauto. The third room illustrates living conditions during the Neolithic Age, showing weaving techniques and pottery making. The fourth exhibits funeral appointments from the Copper Age found in the many necropoleis at Manciano and Pitigliano. The last two rooms are dedicated to the Bronze Age with finds from the 16th century B.C. found in the excavation of the village of Scarcera and examples that mark the beginning of Etruscan civilization.

Saturnia Archaeological Museum-Archaeological Collection of the Ciacci family

The museum offers a cross-section from prehistory through the Romans as seen in the Fiora and Albenga valleys. The examples exhibited come from the Etruscan necropoleis at Sovana, Pitigliano, Poggio Buco and Saturnia itself. In addition, there is the material found in votive cabinets dating from the classic age and various objects in bronze and iron.



P I T I G L I A N O

Municipal and Archeological Museum Adele and Fernando Vaselli

The museum is located within the Medieval Orsini fortress and exhibits (thanks to the donation made by Adele Vaselli) a collection of more than 1,000 finds and Etruscan vases. The material comes from the necropolis at Poggio Buco, from recent archaeological investigations in the historical centre of Pitigliano and from the site in the Fontanelle valley along the Meleta river. The collection is accompanied by panels explaining the historical and cultural characteristics of the Prehistoric, Primitive and Etruscan settlements. The material ranges from archaic and undecorated pottery to large vases and various objects of everyday use. The *bucchero* (a specific style of black pottery developed by the Etruscans) vases with raised decorations and the pottery painted with animal designs in the Corinthian-Etruscan style are of particular importance. A visit to the store-room-laboratory where the pottery is restored is included in the museum visit.

Collection from the Giubbonaia Culture

The exhibit is housed in an underground section of the Orsini Fortress and contains an unusually large assortment of varying local objects. In addition to fossils and petrified trees, there are antique agricultural, domestic and work tools that provide a picture of daily life in the town and the Maremma in general.

Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art - Palazzo Orsini

Goldsmiths' art, silverware, coins, wood sculpture, sacred objects and important paintings are exhibited in the museum. The *predella* by the Siennese artist Guidoccio di Giovanni (1494) is considered one of the most outstanding examples of Siennese art. A visit to the museum also offers an opportunity to admire the architectural and artistic features of the palazzo, from the 15th century coffered ceilings to the 18th century multicoloured tempera paintings and frescos depicting views of the Orsini family's estates.

S O R A N O

Museum of the Middle Ages and Renaissance

The museum was inaugurated in 1996 for the opening of the wall-walks and bastions of the Orsini Fortress. It contains a collection of antique codices, frescos and Medieval pottery discovered near the Rocca of Castell'Ottieri or in the "butti" (shafts) throughout the area of Sorano.

Centre for Documentation on the Territory of Sovana

The centre was set up inside the Palazzo Pretorio of Sovana and contains the original model of the *Tomba Ildebranda* (Ildebranda's Tomb), a representation of the entire Etruscan Necropolis in Sovana and shards of Medieval pottery. A small Etruscan museum has been set up on the second floor, as well as a permanent exhibit of various finds from all of the excavations in the area under the town's jurisdiction.

Museum dedicated to land molluscs

This is the first museum of its kind in Italy. It collects land shells from around the world with the purpose of increasing the understanding and protection of ecosystems and present environments in direct contact with man.

Archaeological Park "Città' del Tufo"

The park is open to the public. It begins at the *Centro Visite di Sovana* and extends for about 60 hectares. The territory's principal historic, archaeological and cultural treasures are found within this area. The visitor has the chance to see and interact with an unspoiled landscape, punctuated by abundant examples from the past: Sovana's Etruscan Necropoleis, the church of San Sebastiano, the Aldobrandeschi Citadel, the Ildebranda and Siren's tombs, the cliff settlement of Vitozza and the Etruscan settlement at Poggio di San Rocco.





MUSEUM ADDRESSES

MANCIANO

Prehistory and Protohistory Museum of the Fiora Valley

Via Corsini, 5 - Telephone 0564.625327

Saturnia Archaeological Museum

Telephone 0564.614074

PITIGLIANO

Municipal and Archaeological Museum Adele and Fernando Vaselli

Palazzo Orsini - Piazza della Repubblica

Telephone 0564.614067

Diocesan Museum of Sacred Art

Piazza Fortezza Orsini

Telephone 0564.616074

Museum of Giubbonaia Culture

Piazza Garibaldi

Telephone 0564.615243

SORANO

Museum of the Middle Ages and Renaissance

Fortezza Orsini, Piazza Cairoli, 1

Telephone 0564.633767

Centre for Documentation on the Territory of Sovana

Palazzo Pretorio

Piazza del Pretorio, 12/a - SOVANA

Telephone 0564.614074 - Fax 0564.617924

Museum dedicated to land molluscs

Via del Duomo, 47 - SOVANA

Telephone 0564.616582 - Fax 0564.616582

Archaeological Park "Citta' di Tufo"

Piazza Pretorio, 15

Telephone 0564.614074

ADDRESSES OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

MANCIANO

Archaeological Site Pian di Palma Puntone and Etruscan Necropolis (VI century)

Telephone 0564.62531

PITIGLIANO

Poggio Buco

Telephone 0564.617081

SOVANA (SORANO)

Archaeological Site and Necropolis:

-Vie Cave (locality "il Cavone")

-Etruscan/Roman Necropolis (locality "San Rocco")

-Vitozza cliff settlement (locality San Quirico)

-Ildebranda Tomb

Telephone 0564.614074



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