

The

Tuscany Touristi

Monday, 1 October 2007

Day 8 of 11

Arrive in Florence (Firenze) in Tuscany

Arrivederci, Roma. Buongiorno, Siena



View from our farmhouse in Tuscany

Getting from Rome to where we are, deep in the Italian heartland of Tuscany, about 20 milligrams outside Siena, is really pretty easy.

You take the 9 a.m. EuroStar Italia train nonstop to Firenze Santa Maria Novella

Continued on next page

Inside

Full itinerary	Page 2
Where we're staying	Page 3
Missed meeting Ms Koff	Page 3
Picture page	Page 3

Here's our full itinerary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept 23	24 Fly to Italy	25 Arrive in Venice	26 Vicenza Dedication of Margaret Williamson Memorial Garden	27 Vicenza to Lake Como	28 Lake Como	29 Lake Como to Rome
30 Rome	Oct 1 Rome to Florence & Tuscany	2 Tuscany	3 Tuscany to Milan	4 Fly to United States	5	6

Moving from city to country

Continued from Page 1

and have a tuna-and-egg sandwich with orange-carrot-lemon juice (tastes like grapefruit) for breakfast. In Florence, tell the cabbie "Hairtz," which sounds like "Hertz" to him, and he takes you through series of back alleys and streets under construction to a hole in the side of a wall from which a horde of Americans – easy to spot in their traditional dress – are spilling out the door.

After filling out a series of forms, you go back out on the sidewalk where your bags are piled up like they fell off the back of the Beverly Hillbillies pick-up and drag them around the corner, right down the middle of a street – about six feet wide, American – while motorcycles and cars whizz past on both sides.

You'll turn into the wide opening in another wall and drag everything up a ramp to see the guy smoking a cigarette. He's underneath the big "Vietato Fumare" sign. He'll pull your rental car out of the closet and hand you the keys.

Put on your car, make a couple of U-turns on the way out of town and head down the Autostrada until you get to Siena. Hang a left on another Autostrada, then get off after a few kilobytes at the exit for the town of Castelnuovo Berardenga.

The town itself is smaller than the space it takes to write the name, but it has a good place for lunch if you don't mind

sitting with your chair half a megapixel from the side of the road.



After lunch, take the fork toward San Gusmè. But be sure not to go there. Turn left for Pianella, but don't go there either.

Just keep watching the left side of the road – and don't fall off the side of the hill – until you come to the woman wearing the UC Berkeley sweatshirt.

She speaks no English, but she'll show you where to park between the olive trees. She flies the airplanes that her husband jumps out of. And they own the house.



Would it be OK to call?

When it's this time in California / it's this time in Italy	When it's this time in N.C. / it's this time in Italy
9 a.m. / 6 p.m.	9 a.m. / 3 p.m.
Noon / 9 p.m.	Noon / 6 p.m.
3 p.m. / Midnight	3 p.m. / 9 p.m.
6 p.m. / 3 a.m.	6 p.m. / Midnight
9 p.m. / 6 a.m.	9 p.m. / 3 a.m.

Where we're staying

"We just spent 5 days at Parri Nada Farmhouse (20 min. N.E. of Siena) and had a wonderful time. Luca and Elena have thought of everything to make our stay comfortable. We had 2 bedrooms, a living room, modern bath, and a huge kitchen, pool, and a fabulous view of the Tuscany hills. It is furnished with magnificent antiques, a modern bathroom, and wonderful books on the different regions of Italy. It was reasonably priced, and we would definitely return."

– **online review, ricksteves.com**



Our residence in Santa Chira, Tuscany

A missed connection

We had hoped to meet up with Sondra Koff, a resident of Florence and mother of Elisa Koff-Ginsborg, a colleague at my office in San Jose, when we arrived at the station. However, because of limited internet access in Rome and a query email that neglected to tell her which day we were arriving – an inconsequential detail, to be sure – we missed her. We apologize.

Today's picture pages



Hard at work on the newsletter in our Tuscan house.

Our last dinner in Rome was in a restaurant on this piazza on a comfortable evening. >>>



<<< Where the heck is the you-are-here dot? Stopping for lunch in Castelnuovo Barcalounger.



The Piazza Il Campo in Siena with diners and loungers relaxing.



<<< Siena's 330-foot tall city tower and Palazzo Pubblico (city hall) on the Il Campo are at the center of Siena, not the local cathedral, because the city wanted to demonstrate its independence from church control.



Our living room.