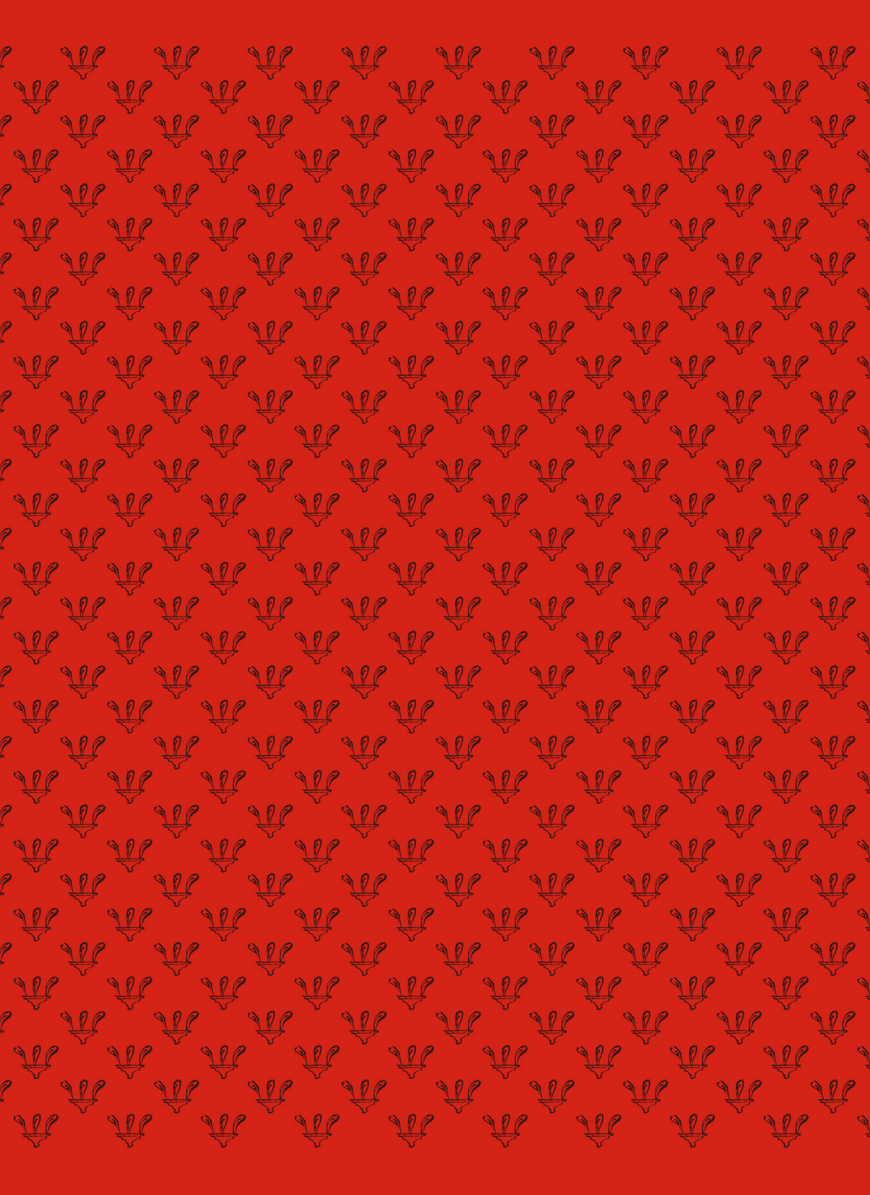


CASTELLO DI  
POTENTINO



HANDBOOK  
FOR OUR GUESTS





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## *Practical Information*

**Please ask a member of our staff for the current entrance code for the gate and remember to close the gate after you.**

**Pool** - During the warmer months you can enjoy a relaxing swim and sunbathe by the pool. Please note that the pool towels are the beige not the plain bath towels.

**The Potentino Emporio** - Potentino has a shop selling vegetables, wine, and other produce from the castle's estate as well as items from our design line, artworks from our exhibitions, CDs, books and other items, both in the castle and in Seggiano. Do ask for the opening times.

**Wifi** - Is available in some areas of the castle free of charge.

**ATM** - The nearest cash machine is located in the town of Seggiano, a five-minute drive from the Castle. You can find it next to the Spa/Grocery store off the main road.

**Chemist** - The nearest chemist is in Seggiano- It is usually closed between 1pm and 5pm before reopening in the evening. It is closed on Wednesday in the afternoon and on Sunday

**Post Office** - Located in Castel del Piano, only open in the mornings from 9am – 1pm

Laundry & Dry Cleaning can be arranged upon request.

### **Arrival & Departure**

Check-in: 16:00 - 22:00 hours

Check-out: Until 11:00 hours

**Robes** - The Potentino Robe and Sarong are for use whilst staying. If you wish to take them with you we will add these items to your bill.

**Water** - The tap water is drinkable and comes from the mountain. The castle tries to be plastic bottle free. Water is a precious resource and we sometimes experience shortages. Please be conscious of your water habits and use sparingly.

**Windows** - You are advised to leave the window shutters closed during the hottest hours of the day to keep the rooms cool.

Please close your WINDOWS when you leave. Wind and storm damage can be devastating and you will be charged for damages.



## *About Us*

Castello di Potentino is a medieval castle set in one of the most unspoilt, pristine areas of Tuscany. The Castle is located under Monte Amiata, in a valley made up of a magnificent patchwork of farmland where wine and olive oil has been produced for centuries. Winemaker Charlotte Horton has been producing wine in the area for over twenty years, and through the help of the distinct microclimate and biodiversity of the Amiata Valley she has been able to grow three of the most sensitive varieties – Sangiovese, Pinot Noir, and Alicante.

Bought and restored in 2000, Castello di Potentino today is a dynamic cultural centre. Ideal as an off-season travel venue, it hosts guests, events, weddings and courses all year round. The Potentino ethos is concerned with the sustainability of how we inhabit a place and relate to it physically and mentally. As a 21st Century Castle, Potentino is helping to preserve the land and continue traditional agricultural practices. Guests are encouraged to enjoy the wide variety of activities in and around the Castle. Whether it's one of our summer concerts in the courtyard, observing a Tuscan butchery demonstration, foraging for wild asparagus, or simply a swim in the pool under the shade of the ancient olive trees – we hope that those staying with us will engage with this miraculous place.

## *About The Castle*

The first document to mention the Castello di Potentino is dated 1042. It then belonged to a certain Count Pietrone or Pepone. However, the original foundations are probably Etruscan. Over the centuries, the property passed through the hands of many well-known Tuscan families of noble descent - the Tolomei, the Bonsignori, and the Salimbeni, whom in the company of Contessa Bianchina, received Saint Catherine of Siena as a guest at the castle. At the end of the 16th Century it became a centre for the charitable works of the hospital order of Santa Maria della Scala.

After this period of religious activity, the Medici Duke Ferdinando I conceded the estate to Marchese Giovan Battista Bourbon del Monte, famous commander-in-chief of the infantry of the Venetian Republic. His descendants finally sold the castle to a gentleman from Switzerland, Antonio Hemmeler, in 1906. Recently it was purchased and restored by the Greene family, who have given new life to the ancient traditions of the building.

The Greenes have owned properties in the Tuscan Maremma for over 30 years. Starting with a farmhouse near the coast, they gradually moved inland. Castello di Potentino is their second major project in the Grosseto area.

In 1989 the family purchased their first ruined castle – the Castello di Montepo, Scansano. Restoration was completed, vineyards planted and a winery established. After 10 years, it was sold to a well-known wine producer from the Biondi Santi family. The next castle, Potentino, was discovered in an old guide book. Abandoned, dilapidated, overgrown, the potential was still apparent. It was for sale but had to be bought from 22 different people. Negotiations took a year and agreement finally reached with all the owners. In 2000, work commenced.





## *The Restoration*

Recycling and using natural materials that are local and tradition - terracotta, peperino (a local volcanic stone), chestnut wood, earth pigments and oxides for colour and whitewash for its irregular deep textures.

Old beams were cut and used to face newly constructed doors. Coach bolts instead of modern screws. Rusty hinges, not shiny brass or chrome. Cobwebs and crumbly paint untouched so age-old patinas retained. And above all, the dirty rag to rub away any hint of the new.

### *A Tuscan Adventure, Castello di Potentino, The Restoration of a Castle*

A book published by Rizzoli written by Charlotte with photos by Michael Woolley about the family history and the Restoration is available from all good bookstores and to be found in the Potentino Shop.







## *Eating at Potentino*

Covid restrictions permitting, you can eat with us at the Castle.

### **Breakfast**

We offer a self-service breakfast in the old castle canteen. When we travel, we like to wake up very slowly on our own terms and at Potentino, you can do this too. There is fresh fruit, a selection of cereals, local Tuscan bread and pastries, yogurt, and homemade preserves.

The breakfast room is open from 7:00 – 12:00. We would prefer that food provided for breakfast is not consumed at other times of the day.

### **Lunch & Dinner**

If you would like to join the family at Potentino for meals, please let us know a day beforehand. At some busy times of the year this may not be possible particularly during the wine harvest. We are also happy to organise more elaborate meals on request with local chefs, or to arrange visits with other local estates.

**Be sure to let us know if you have any special dietary requirements.**

## *Recommended Activities*

Staying at Potentino is like being invited into a private home. Our guests can participate in daily activities, whether it is stomping the grapes in the Etruscan wine making stone, picking olives during the harvest or joining us for dinner under the Loggia. There are often volunteers from all over the world working with us to learn about farming and Tuscan cuisine. You are welcome to join in and experience the variety of projects and events during your stay.

### **Wine Tasting and Castle Tours**

Experience an in-depth wine tasting of wines made at Potentino. House guests are given a discounted rate of €25 per person for the tasting. It lasts about an hour and a half, and all tastings are led by winemaker Charlotte, her brother Alexander, or someone else who has hands-on experience with the winemaking and the techniques used at Potentino. A brief history and tour of the castle and winery is included.

Our Wines, Olive Oil and Grappa are available to buy or enjoy during your stay. Ask for details. You can have a bottle of Potentino wine by the pool or in your room.

## **Courses**

There is a diverse range of courses from cheese making, pasta and risotto classes, Tuscan butchery, winemaking, perfumery, chocolate workshops, wood-fired baking, and more. Please inquire about any courses that might be of interest and check out our website for an extensive list of courses and events.

## **Concerts and music**

During the summer, there are often concerts here at Potentino that you are welcome to join. Do ask Charlotte or Alexander if anything is coming up during your stay.

## **Health & Wellness**

Yoga classes and professional massages can be arranged upon request.

## **Walking & Hiking**

Guided walks for all levels can be arranged both around the Castle and the Amiata Valley. Please enquire about local guides and maps of the best trails to use.

## **Other Activities**

Horseback riding, quad bike tours and bicycle rentals can all be arranged.





# POTENTINO



## **21st Century Castle Designs**

Castello di Potentino offers 21st Century Castle design line – including a range of products developed for Castello di Potentino such as furniture, textiles, ceramics and more, all of which can be viewed upon request.

## **Potentino Shop**

We have a small shop set up to display both our wines, grappa and oil, as well as the range of items in our 21st Century Castle Design Line. Please stop in and take a look at some of our exciting new designs and the variety of products being made and designed at Potentino.

## *The Wine Club*

The Potentino Wine Club is for all Potentino fans who would like to get wines delivered to their homes all over the world on a regular basis. We can deliver wines to you as often as you would like before we release them to the general public. Subscribe for mixed cases, or just your favourite wine and we will make sure to deliver them on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually as you prefer.

Members of the Potentino Wine Club will also receive special offers, gems from the castle's cellars and discounts on orders too.

Do ask Alexander or Charlotte how to join or go to our website to set up your subscription.



CASTELLO DI  
POTENTINO



2011

*Sacromonte*

TOSCANA  
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## *Nearby Towns & Sites*

### *Around Monte Amiata*

#### **Seggiano**

(5 min drive / 2.8 km)

The closest village to Potentino, Seggiano is a 5-minute drive away. One can easily walk there too, either along the main road or by crossing the river. It takes about half an hour. Alexander or Charlotte can explain the route. Seggiano, famous for its olive oil, is also a genuinely non-touristy Italian town. It has two restaurant/bars, one at the top of the town (L'Antico Borgo) and one at the bottom (Caffè '60). As with a lot of Italian villages there are a number of pretty churches and chapels as well as the Olive Oil Museum, for all of which we can arrange tours for upon request (alas the churches are often closed except as part of the tour.)

There is also a supermarket, post office (although it is only open Monday, Wednesday and Friday – mornings only), a cheesemaker Caseificio Seggiano, a shop selling honey and jams and a chemist there (closed Wednesday afternoon).

### **The Daniel Spoerri sculpture garden**

(10 min drive / 4km)

The well known Swiss artist, Daniel Spoerri's work along with many other famous contemporary artists are displayed in an idyllic rural setting. You can walk through the park and have a delicious al fresco meal at their restaurant.

*[www.danielspoerri.org/giardino/daniel-spoerri-sculpture-garden-tuscany-italy/](http://www.danielspoerri.org/giardino/daniel-spoerri-sculpture-garden-tuscany-italy/)*









## **Castel del Piano**

(15 min drive / 9 km)

Again, Castel del Piano is quite untouristy and charming. We recommend wandering into the old part of town (to the left as you walk down Corso Nasini) and up to Piazza Bellavista. The churches have 17th Century frescos by the Nasini brothers – local fresco painters who also painted the frescos in the Potentino Chapel. In early September, each year there is the local Palio, where horses are raced bareback around the town square. In recent years, it has become very competitive owing to the fact that the jockeys and horses are often tested here before being put forward for the Sienese Palio the following summer.

It is the largest town in the immediate area and one can find most things here, including a larger chemist, post office (open Monday - Saturday each morning), restaurants and bars. There are two markets each month, the first Wednesday is a general market with some second-hand clothes, but mainly general household items (although not much food) and the fourth Sunday of the month there is a small Antiquarian Market in the summer.

Castel del Piano is also home to the Corsini bakery which now sells its very delicious Panettone all over the world. The bakery is just off the main square and has a fine selection of pastries and cakes as well as bread.

They still specialise in local recipes and have wonderful castagnaccio in the winter (made with local chestnut flour) as well as delicious home-made maron-glacés. Mrs. Corsini can often be seen still working behind the bread counter on a Sunday morning.

Our great friend and wonderful butcher Fabio Borgoni at Macelleria Rosi in the high street makes the best sausages and cured meats. Highly recommended are his wild boar and venison mini salamis.

*Macelleria Rosi*

*Corso Nasini, 30, 58033 Castel del Piano GR*



## **Arcidosso**

(20 min drive / 15 km)

Arcidosso is dominated by the Aldobrandeschi fortress in the centre of the town. It remains a very good example of a medieval castle. It feels very dominating and was in fact used during World War II as a prison.

One of the great oddities in Arcidosso is a new Buddhist museum (at the foot of the castle). Arcidosso became the home to a Buddhist centre at Merigar (half way between Arcidosso and Santa Fiora) in the 1980s when Chögyal Namkhai Norbu opened a Dzogchen temple and began teaching there. The museum houses a small part of his personal collection. On Tuesday mornings you can find the local market in Arcidosso.

## **Monticello Farmers' Market**

Every 4th Sunday of the month at the picturesque village Monticello there is a local farmer's market.

## **Castell Azzara**

Our shepherd and cheese maker friends at Caseificio Murceti in Castell Azzara organize a tasting and tour of their farm with a simple lunch of traditional local products.

*[www.caseificiomurceti.it](http://www.caseificiomurceti.it)*

*tel: 338 943 7145*

## **Santa Fiora**

(30 min drive / 19 Km)

An old medieval mining town which was part of the Aldobrandeschi territories in the late middle ages and then became part of the Sienese Republic. With beautiful views down towards the coast, one can often see the sea glinting in the distance. Most of the water for the province of Grosseto comes from the springs of Santa Fiora. It is worth walking through the town to the Peschiera and the church next to it where one can see the water running through it. One of the highlights of the village is the wonderful della Robbia ceramics in the Pieve di Santa Fiora e Lucilla. There is also a museum of mining.

## **Monte Labbro**

(40 min drive / 22 km)

A beautiful place to go for a walk – with panoramic views towards the sea and towards Monte Amiata – Monte Labbro was used for divination by the Etruscans and was an important religious site. It was repurposed in the 19th Century by local popular revolutionary Davide Lazzaretti.

## *To The North*

### **Castiglione d'Orcia**

(25 min drive / 15 km)

Castiglione d'Orcia is the gateway between the Val d'Orcia and Monte Amiata – it is dominated by the Rocca d'Orcia with its massive keep overlooking the valley. The village below Rocca d'Orcia is very quaint and has one of Charlotte and Alexander's favourite restaurants in it – Osteria Perilla.

### **Montalcino**

(35 min drive / 23 km)

Famous for its Brunello wine, Montalcino is a medieval town with wonderful views overlooking the Ombrone and Asso Valleys. You can enjoy a visit to the Diocesan Museum (Museo Civico and Diocesano d'Arte Sacra) or check out the Fortress of Montalcino, with its distinctive five polygonal tower design. On Friday mornings, there is also a lovely market in the Piazza della Liberta.

### **Sant'Antimo**

(25 min drive / 15.5 km)

Close by to Montalcino you can pay a visit to the onyx Romanesque abbey of Sant Antimo, one of the most important Tuscan Romanesque buildings. Today the abbey is home to a group of San Benedictine monks, who work and live at Sant'Antimo, and if you stop in at the right time you can enjoy their beautiful Gregorian chant.

### **Abbazia di Monte Oliveto**

(1 hour drive / 45 km)

A well preserved monastic complex from the Benedictine congregation, which included a church, two cloisters, classroom, library and refectory. The monastery also has magnificent frescoes by il Sodoma, depicting the stories of St Benedict.

### **Pienza**

(45 min drive / 33 km)

Known at the 'ideal city of the Renaissance' and one of the jewels of the Val d'Orcia, Pienza is well worth a visit. Be sure to tour the town square, with the Cathedral, Piccolomini Palace (with a wonderful loggia and hanging garden) and Town Hall surrounding it. Pienza is recognized as a world heritage site for its cultural and artistic importance, and also has the famous gardens of La Foce created by Iris Origo.

## *To The South*

### **Pitigliano/Sorano/Sovana**

(1.5 hour drive / 58 km)

All originally Etruscan sites and within 10 km of each other, these three towns have a range of historical sites such as Pitigliano's Etruscan tombs and one of the best-preserved Etruscan necropolis in Tuscany, just outside Sovana. Pitigliano was home to a large Jewish population until the 20th Century, and also has a synagogue.





## *Thermal Springs*

### **Bagno Vignoni**

(35 min drive / 20 km)

This small town boasts a Roman thermal bath in the main square, which is not for public use but if you would like to swim in hot, spring fed, pool you can pay a fee and use Piscina Val di Sole at the Hotel Posta Marucucci or wander down to the spring at the Parco dei Mulini.

### **Bagni San Filippo**

(38 min drive / 24 km)

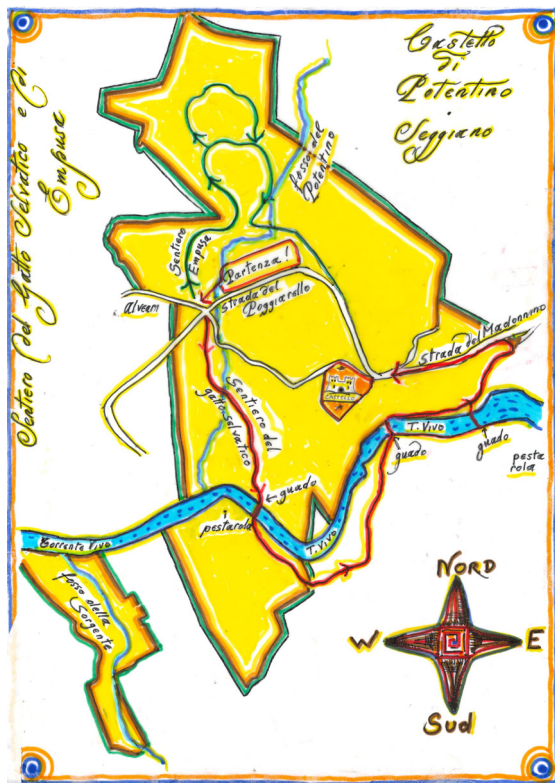
The outdoor thermal hot spring near the small town of Bagni San Filippo are a treat. There is a variety of small pools surrounded by towering calcium formations and a tranquil forest. You can explore the forest and try and find the best hot springs, each of which has a base of thermal mud for your own beauty treatments.

### **Saturnia**

(1 hour drive / 45 km)

The village of Saturnia sits on top of the hill with Roman remains as well as Etruscan. Below Saturnia stands the hotel Terme di Saturnia. Here you can spend all day relaxing in the sulphur pool as well as receive mud and beauty treatments. There is also an open hot river with pools and waterfalls- Le Cascate del Mulino.

Some of the walking paths  
of the Conca d'Oro





## *Restaurants*

Below is a list of local restaurants. If you would like any advice for places further afield please do not hesitate to ask. We are always happy to make bookings on your behalf. We can also recommend other wine estates for tastings and/or meals.

### **Seggiano**

Antico Borgo €€€

Piazza Umberto 1, 8, 58038 Seggiano, Italy

Tel: 0564 950 000.

Run by a young couple who make excellent local food with a little modern twist. The piazza is a perfect setting for their excellent cocktails including the Potentino Aviator cocktail made with our gin.

Caffe' 60 €€

Via Grossetana, 6, 58038 Seggiano, Italy

Tel: 0564 950903

The local trattoria on the main road to Castel del Piano, the restaurant is just as you enter the village. They often have fish on Friday and also serve pizza.



## Pescina

Il Silene

€€€€

Localita Pescina, 58038 Seggiano, Italy

Tel: 0564950805

If you head through Seggiano towards Castel del Piano, and turn left up the mountain to Pescina, you will find Il Silene at the T-junction in the centre of Pescina (a very small village). Roberto Rossi is a Michelin starred chef and has an extensive winelist. Truffles and mushrooms are his speciality.

Ristorante La Scottiglia

€€€

Localita Pescina 29, 58038 Seggiano, Italy

Tel: 0564 950993

Also in Pescina, this restaurant is a delightful family-run mountain restaurant. You will meet many a local eating there.

## **Poggio al Leccio**

Il Cacciatore €€€

Localita Poggio Al Leccio 18, Seggiano, Italy

Tel: 0564 950913

On the road to Montalcino, this restaurant is part of the Hotel Terre d'Orcia (bright red building) in Poggio al Leccio just 5 minutes from the top of the drive.

It serves traditional Amiata fare, plenty of tortelli, wild boar and mushroom soup.

## **Rocca D'Orcia**

Osteria Perillà €€€€

Borgo Maestro, 74, 53023 Castiglione d'Orcia SI

Tel: 0577 887263

Stunning position with good outside seating in the summer. Food is new Tuscan but delicious and exciting.

## **La Foce**

Dopo Lavoro €€€

Strada della Vittoria, 90, Pienza SI

Tel: 0578 754025

Perfect location for eating after a visit to the ORIGO gardens at La Foce. Pleasantly designed with good traditional food. You can have a panino with prosciutto or a more elaborate feast.

## **Siena**

Osteria Le Logge €€€€

Via del Porrione 33, Siena

Tel: 0577 48013

Wonderful food, wonderful position. The fashionable place to go in Siena. It has a bar – night club in the old cellars underneath it.

Tre Cristi €€€€

Vicolo Provenzano 1-7

Tel: 0577 280608

One of the oldest and most renowned restaurants in Siena. Food and interiors are definitely worth the visit.

## **Buonconvento**

La Porta di Sotto €€€

Via Soccini, 76, 53022, Buonconvento SI

Tel: 0577 808386

Excellent traditional food with a new twist. Young, friendly management.

## **Pienza**

Bandita Townhouse €€€

Corso Il Rossellino, 111, Pienza (SI), 53026 Toscana, Italia

Tel: +39 0578 749 005

Wine bar and restaurant in a walled medieval garden. Food includes Tuscan classics with new interpretations, and modern interior design.

## **Pitigliano**

Il Tufo Allegro €€€

Vicolo della Costituzione, 5, 58017 Pitigliano GR

Tel: 0564 616192

Delightful trattoria in the most beautiful unspoilt medieval town. Really delicious and unusual local cooking. Wonderful head chef Domenico is a treat in himself.

## **Montalcino**

Enoteca Osticcio €€€-€€€€

Via Giacomo Matteotti, 23, 53024 Montalcino SI

Tel: 0577 848271

Excellent wine list. Good clean flavours and fresh food, with some of the best views over the Brunello countryside.



## **Montichiello**

La Porta €€€

Via del Piano, 1, Monticchiello SI

Tel: 0578 755163

Beautiful walled village with spectacular views and serious high quality Tuscan cooking.

## **Pisa**

La Sosta del Cavelliere €€€

Via S. Frediano, 3, 56126 Pisa PI

Tel: 050 991 2410

In Pisa's often missed very attractive old town, this restaurant has superb fresh fish. Crayfish, cicale, and the traditional fish soup, cacciucco are recommended.

## **Rome**

Ditirambo €€€

Piazza della Cancelleria, 74-75, 00186 Roma RM

Tel: 06 687 1626

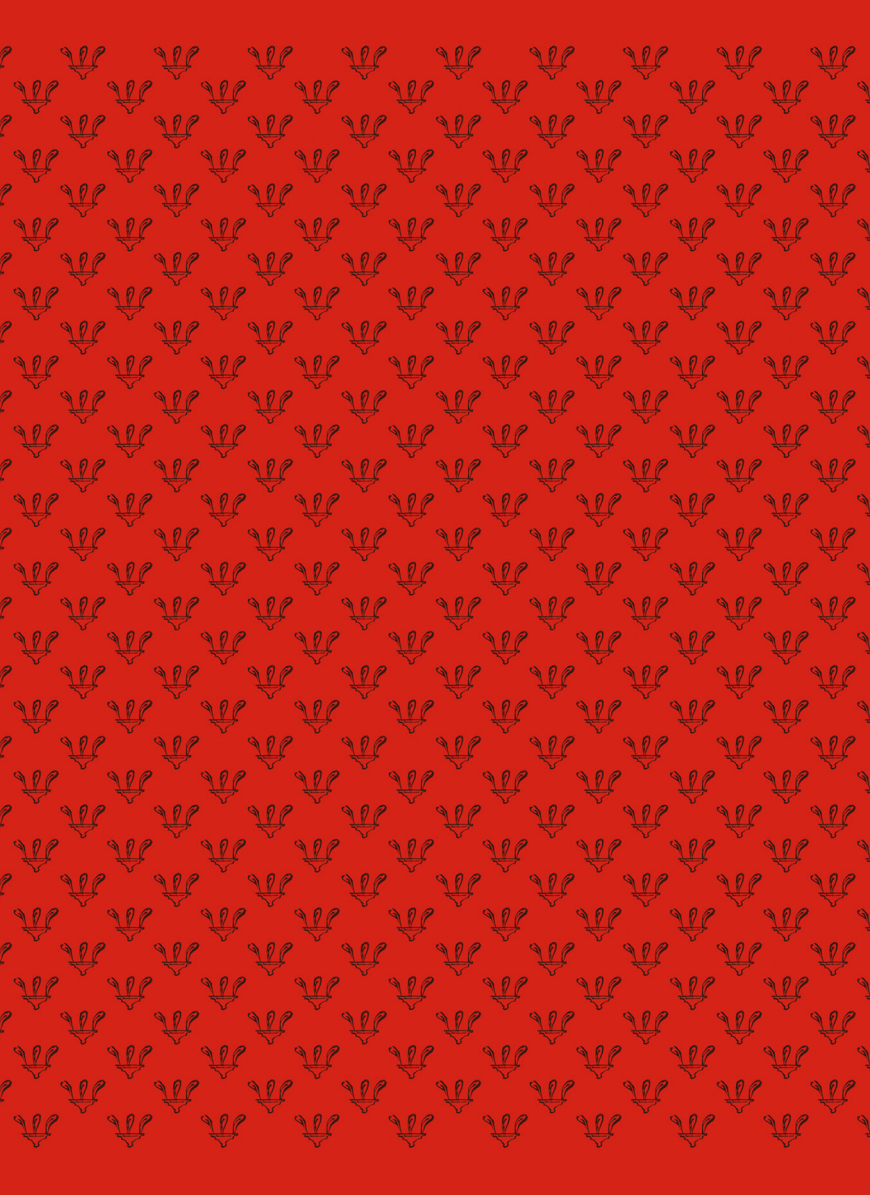
Near the crowded market square Campo dei Fiori this small trattoria has good well executed Roman fare with some influences from the surrounding regions. Wine list is well chosen.











## **Contacts**

If you need any help do not hesitate to contact either  
Alexander or Charlotte:

Alexander +393482881637

Charlotte +393482881638

Reception +390564950643

Office +390564950014

(transfers to Alexander's mobile when unattended)

[vino@potentino.com](mailto:vino@potentino.com)

Potentino Società Agricola SRL

Loc. Potentino

58038 Seggiano (GR)

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