

TUSCANY

VAL D'ORCIA AND AROUND

BY PLINIUS HOMES

TUSCANY

The Val d'Orcia is one of the most photographed places in Italy and for good reason as it's absolutely stunning!

At house N001, our Plinius adventure started, so to say that we know the area very well. Together with some locals, we've gathered all our favorite places in and around the Val d'Orcia — including a few really cool spots nearby, plus a little city guide for Florence.

Siena, Montalcino, Montepulciano, and Pienza also have plenty to offer, and there are so many other charming small villages that deserve a visit too. When you explore the area, make sure to discover the villages closest to you! Each one has its own unique character, and you'll quickly feel part of village life, where time moves at a gentler rhythm.

The towns may be small, but each one offers more than enough to explore: amazing wines (hello, Brunellos!), delicious food like pecorino cheeses, and unforgettable landscapes.

Although some spots can feel a little polished for tourists, there are still so many places where the genuine soul of Tuscany shines through. I'm sharing some of my favorite finds — hope you'll enjoy them as much as we do! :)

Bodo, Ellen and Shari

SIENA

La perla di Toscana – Siena is a timeless medieval beauty in the heart of Tuscany. With its beautiful squares, gothic architecture, and the legendary Palio, it's the pride of the region.

Osteria Le Logge

fantastic food and they have a huge wine list here.

Osteria Da Trombicche

A Slow food restaurant just a short walk from Piazza del Campo. historic osteria provides a genuine taste of Sienese hospitality.

Osteria La Sosta di Violante

Authentic Tuscan cuisine. Another Slow food restaurant that serves great traditional food.

Osteria Babazuf

This is a celebrated restaurant by locals, recognized for its commitment to traditional Tuscan cuisine.

Aloe&Wolf Vintage

you'll find the most beautiful vintage treasures here.

MONTALCINO

Montalcino is a hilltop haven known for its legendary Brunello, breathtaking views, and old historical center.

Caffe Fiaschetteria Italiana - 1888

Ancient bar, fantastic interior; at the back of the establishment, you can request a wine tasting. They have a unique collection of the most exclusive wines. Also a great place for coffee.

Da Rizieri

Here you can tap by the glass and taste all the 'great' Italian wines!

La Sosta

Tucked away in the historic center, this charming organic shop and wine bar is perfect for savoring Tuscany's finest wines and stocking up on regional treasures like olive oil, homemade pasta, jams, and teas.

Why not

For a gelato!

Farmacia Salvioni 1905

When you are (like me) in to beautiful old farmacia's

MONTEPULCIANO

True it is a bit touristy, but it is also beautiful and definitely worth a trip. These are the places we love to go:

Caffè Poliziano

Whether it is for a cup of coffee or an aperitivo this is the place!

The most elegant cafe of the whole area with an art nouveau design and a breathtaking views over the rolling hills of Tuscany.

La Grotta

Restaurant “La Grotta” is set in an authentic and charming sixteenth century building with a garden terrace, directly opposite the Church of San Biagio (one of the best examples of Tuscan Renaissance architecture). La Grotta strives to offer a perfect balance between traditional Tuscan cuisine and modern gastronomy.

Osteria dell’acquacheta

a small Slow Food place which is know for its steaks. Tables are all close together and it has a large clientele, which makes it necessary to book.

PIENZA

Known for its pecorino cheese, I'm a fan!

La Bandita Townhouse

Our absolute favorite place to go in Pienza for lunch or dinner is La Bandita Townhouse, a small restaurant and wine bar with an open kitchen. There is also a gorgeous covered outdoor seating area inside the walled medieval garden.

Latte di Luna

A great Italian trattoria to have lunch or dinner.

Two great delicatessen shops to buy some great pecorino cheese:

La Taverna del Pecorino

Enoteca Marusco e Maria

Idyllium

Fancy an amazing cocktail with a stunning view, this is your place!

Casagori

A really nice biodynamic farm just outside Pienza with a cute shop where you can buy their own wines and self-brewed beers (I love their labels).

Podere il Casale

Not such a hidden gem anymore thanks to Instagram, but I have to say — I completely understand why everyone wants to come here. I mean, lunch with this view? Who wouldn't want that?

PODERE IL CASALE



WINETASTIGS

Poggio Antico

For a tour and wine tasting, I can recommend Poggio Antico to you... amazing Brunellos and a beautiful vineyard!

Villa le Prata Wine Resort

A beautiful spot, where they also organise lovely lunches in the vineyard. Also a really nice place to spend the night.

The Talosa wine cellar

The hidden “secret” of Montepulciano is the Talosa wine cellar; The Talosa Cellar dates back to the 16th century and visiting is like stepping back time. The brick passageways contain a series of vaults and niches where the barrels are placed.

Boscarelli

One of our favorite wineries of the area is Boscarelli. This winefarm is located just outside Montepulciano and we always try to bring a few bottles back home.

For nice natural wines:

Pacina

iconic natural wines.

Bakkanali

located on Monte Amiata, is an elegant wine shaped by volcanic soil, wild herbs, and delicate fruit.

CASAGORI WINE



OTHER GREAT PLACES TO EAT

Casa Newton

This new hotel is totally worth checking out. Whether you're here for a dinner or just having a cocktail to take a look at the amazing interior.

Dopolavoro la Foce

Originally built in 1939 as a gathering place for the agricultural workers of the namesake estate, today it's a wonderful restaurant specializing in traditional Tuscan dishes — all served with a breathtaking view.

Taverna di Mozart

At this restaurant dishes are made with local ingredients, the menu celebrates the rich flavors of Tuscany in the purest way. Don't miss the homemade pici

Fonte alla Vena

In San Quirico d'Orcia serves traditional, seasonal dishes that honor the flavors of the region and celebrate cucina povera. The simple kitchen!

CASTELLO DI AMA

This is such a special and cool place full of amazing art, history and award winning wines. Castello di Ama is a historic winery in the heart of Chianti, renowned for its exceptional wines, stunning vineyards, and contemporary art installations.



FLORENCE

It's small, manageable, and breathtakingly beautiful. It's like a Renaissance painting where everything seems to be in the right place. It's an incredibly pleasant city to visit, as the size is so manageable. Ok I would suggest to visit it outside high season, because it is so breathtakingly beautiful, it attracts a lot of people..

RESTAURANTS

TRATTORIA SOSTANZA

A trip to Florence is not complete without a visit to Trattoria Sostanza: a Florentine favourite for more than 150 years. The favorites from Mimi (who I always trust): Bistecca Fiorentina, The tortino di carciofi the meringue cake and the butter chicken

Il Santino

A really good wine bar with the best quality of cured hams, cheese and antipasti. They have organic wines which they source locally. Next to the wine bar they also have a beautiful restaurant (il santo bevitore) a panificio.

C-ucina

This is not a classic place, but this is a cool place. You can feel the creative vibe from the team behind it. It has an innovative menu from which you would love to order everything.

c-ucina.it

Enoteca Spontanea

If you are looking for a cosy natural winebar, this is your place. A changing menu with good food. This is just one of those spots where you can always go to.

Trattoria Cammillo

This is classic one again for a real authentic Florentine restaurant experience. An old school restaurant, with classic dishes and a classic interior. Just as we like it!

Cibrèò caffè

A Florentine institution

FLORENCE

COFFEE

DITTA ARTIGIANALE

Really good Italian specialty coffee! They have a few locations throughout the city They have.

dittaartigianale.com

CAFE GILLI

A classic Florentin cafe in the heart of the city with the city in its heart. Yes, it is a bit touristy, but it is the oldest cafe in Florence. You could compare it with a Cafe de Flore in Paris. Some define Cafe Gilli as the “living room” of the city.

We like to think we are the reference point for those who love high-quality pastry, chocolate, and beauty

VIVOLI

Another Florentine classic. Many proud Florentines would say you haven’t tried Florentine gelato until you’ve had Vivoli; this is the oldest gelateria in the city. We recommend their affogato, which you probably know from Instagram, as it was a big hit!

vivoli.it

WILD BUNS BAKERY

The place to go for specialty coffee and Scandinavian pastries

wildbunsbakery.com

TODO MODO

I always love bookstore cafes, a place that invites you to read while drinking a cup of coffee. This bookstore is a warm invitation to that, as it has a really

nice cafe! todomodo.org

FLORENCE

SHOPS

LA VIE DEL TE

Although Italy is not known for its tea. This shop is a true tea heaven. La Via del Tè is the story of a family starting in September 1961. carried out a balance between innovation and the love for details of the Florentine artisan tradition.

The teapots look beautiful and look so nice on your kitchen counter

laviadelte.com

SANTA MARIA NOVELLA

though last time I did not go in, because the line was just too long. This is a beautiful old Pharmacia, which looks more like a museum because the Pharmacia sets its roots back to 1221. it's a bit commercialized nowadays, but I think still worth a visit if the line is not too long and their rose water spray is so nice!

eu.smnovella.com

LA MENAGERE

a cafe and a nicely curated shop in one with beautiful flowers

lamenagere.it

ALBERTO COZZI

If you're looking for a nice personalized leather notebook.

CELESTE VINTAGE

At Celeste's Vintage they've selected high-end pieces for you.

SANTO SPIRITO

On the second Sunday of every month, artisans gather at Santo Spirito to showcase their creations. This market stands out as one of the finest in the city, offering not only unique goods but also fascinating people-watching opportunities. Browse through art, jewelry, vintage fashion, and antique treasures while soaking in the vibrant atmosphere.

FARM-TO-TABLE COOKING CLASS AT PODERE SALA

JUST OUTSIDE OF FLORENCE

Every sunday they offer a: Pranzo della Domenica
On fridays they do communal cooking and eating
And private cooking classes are also available

Podere Sala

DINNER IN THE VINEYARD:

JUNE 14TH -

JULY 12TH

AUGUST 2ND

SEPTEMBER 6TH



For bookings and more info go to:
[Querceto di Castellina](#)

FLEAMARKETS

1st Sunday (and Saturday before)

Arezzo — 400 stands

The biggest and most famous flea market in Tuscany. Best for antiques, silver, and unique finds.

2nd Sunday

Florence (Piazza Santo Spirito) — 100 stands

Charming neighborhood market with antiques and vintage finds.

3rd Sunday (and Saturday before)

Florence (Piazza dell'Indipendenza) — 100 stands

Large market in a park near the train station.

3rd Sunday

Siena (Piazza del Mercato) — 90 stands

Market with a focus on vintage books and records.

4th Sunday

Florence (Sant'Ambrogio) — 70 stands

Regular food market that expands into antiques and vintage; great Sunday lunch spot nearby.

Biannual (next: March 9–10, 2024)

- Arezzo (Mercato delle Pulci) — 200 open-air and 600 indoor vendors
- Massive market perfect for treasure hunters, entry €3.

BUON VIAGGIO

