



Borgo Rapale

Welcome to Borgo Rapale!

In these notes you will find useful information for your stay. However, Gisella and Fortunato are always available for additional information.

Should you be interested, they are also happy to present the history of the village, of their family and of the villa. You are also welcome to visit the villa and the old wine cellar.

INDEX

I.	Apartment and Services	4
1.	<i>Satellite TV channels</i>	4
2.	<i>Wall safe</i>	5
3.	<i>Dishwasher</i>	5
4.	<i>Heating</i>	5
5.	<i>Washing Machine</i>	5
6.	<i>Parking</i>	5
7.	<i>Bikes</i>	5
8.	<i>Barbecue</i>	6
9.	<i>Garbage</i>	6
10.	<i>Farm products</i>	6
11.	<i>Internet</i>	6
12.	<i>Balance Payment</i>	6
13.	<i>Leisure books</i>	6
II.	Grocery shops.....	7
III.	Nearest suggested Restaurants and Shops for prepared food	8
IV.	Daily tours by car and train.....	10
1.	<i>Siena</i>	10
2.	<i>San Gimignano, Volterra and Monteriggioni</i>	11
3.	<i>Florence</i>	11
4.	<i>Crete senesi and Val d’Orcia:</i>	12
5.	<i>Classic Chianti</i>	12
6.	<i>Arezzo and Cortona</i>	13
7.	<i>Pisa and Lucca</i>	13
8.	<i>Umbria’s cities</i>	13
9.	<i>Rome</i>	13
10.	<i>La Verna and Camaldoli</i>	14
11.	<i>Pratomagno</i>	14
12.	<i>Valdichiana Castles</i>	14
13.	<i>Ferrari, Lamborghini and Ducati</i>	14
V.	Fashion Outlets	15

1.	<i>Prada (23 km from RAPALE).....</i>	<i>15</i>
2.	<i>Ambra Shoes (10 km from RAPALE).....</i>	<i>15</i>
3.	<i>Valdichiana Outlet Village (40 km from RAPALE)</i>	<i>15</i>
4.	<i>The Mall (55 km from RAPALE).....</i>	<i>15</i>
VI.	<i>Trips by mountain or race bike</i>	<i>16</i>
1.	<i>Crete of Siena (about 30 - 50 km)</i>	<i>16</i>
2.	<i>Val d'Orcia (about 45 km)</i>	<i>16</i>
3.	<i>Chianti Classic (about 50 km)</i>	<i>16</i>
4.	<i>Valdichiana (about 45 km)</i>	<i>16</i>
5.	<i>Chianti Mountains (about 65 km).....</i>	<i>16</i>
6.	<i>Sogna (6 km).....</i>	<i>17</i>
7.	<i>Hills around Rapale (about 25 km).....</i>	<i>17</i>
8.	<i>Gargonza and San Pancrazio (about 40 km).....</i>	<i>17</i>
VII.	<i>Miscellaneous.....</i>	<i>18</i>
1.	<i>Wine tasting.....</i>	<i>18</i>
2.	<i>Thermal bath</i>	<i>18</i>
3.	<i>Horse riding.....</i>	<i>18</i>
4.	<i>Adventure park.....</i>	<i>19</i>
5.	<i>Hikes in marked trails</i>	<i>19</i>
6.	<i>Go-karts.....</i>	<i>19</i>
7.	<i>Open air markets.....</i>	<i>20</i>
8.	<i>Naturalistic boat tour</i>	<i>21</i>
9.	<i>Hot air balloon.....</i>	<i>21</i>
10.	<i>Cooking lessons.....</i>	<i>22</i>
11.	<i>Catholic Church.....</i>	<i>22</i>

I. Apartment and Services

1. Satellite TV channels

Language	From	To	INSTRUCTIONS
English	1	17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Push the red button “Power” at the top of the controller • Wait until an image appears on the screen. • If you want to see the complete channel list, push the button “List” • Digit the desired number according to the side list <p>Sometimes (i.e. sport events, new movies) the broadcasting may be encrypted. In such case, please apply to the owners.</p> <p>Ask Gisella if you would like to have a key with movies for kids to be seen on your television.</p>
French	18	23	
German	24	29	
Dutch	30	31	
Italian	32	47	
Croatian	48	48	
Spanish	49	51	
Portuguese	52	52	
Romanian	53	53	
Polish	54	61	
Russian	62	65	
Turkish	66	66	
Music	67	82	
Children	83	91	
Sport	92	97	

2. Wall safe

It is located in the living room, behind a picture.

- Open the door
- Push the red button on the back of the door
- On the external keyboard, set your PIN (4 digits) + E (enter button)
- Close the safe
- Reopen by digiting your PIN + E
- If you have problems, please call Fortunato.

When you leave, please do not close the safe

3. Dishwasher

- Press "On"
- Keep pressed "P" (program button) until you hear a beep
- Press "P" repetitively until the light is on the button labeled by an E (ecological washing) over a pig-bank symbol
- Close the door and after few seconds the machine starts.

Dishwasher tablets are in the cupboard nearby.

4. Heating

The heating is not included in the price of the rental. Before the use, the gas meter situated outside will be read jointly with the owner. You will pay only the gas consumption without any our fee. Since the price of the liquid gas is high we recommend to economize in the use of heating.

5. Washing Machine

Washing machine, for common use, is situated in the southern arcade. Soap powder is provided.

- The "Program 4 cotton" with 40°C lasts 1 hour and 40 minutes.
- The "Program 8 synthetic" with 40°C lasts 1 hour and 10 minutes.
- **The "Program 9 synthetic" with 30°C lasts 30 minutes and it is adequate for the usual wash.**

The price for each use of the machine is € 3. **Please, mark a cross on the sheet near the machine and pay when you leave.** For drying we prefer the sun! You may use the drying rack provided near your apartment or the drying lines near the gate to the parking lot.

6. Parking

The parking inside the farmhouse area (inside the gate) is allowed only for loading and unloading. A free covered parking lot is available; it could be useful to protect your car from overheating by the sun.

7. Bikes

The use of the bikes is free. **Before using, please check the brakes and the gearshift.** If there are problems, call Fortunato.

Take note of **our mobile number +39 339 3464379**. If you have problem during your trip, we will rescue you.

8. Barbecue

The barbecues are for everybody to use. You can find the free firewood near the bike parking. You can use the barbecue whenever you want. If it is occupied, please ask the user to inform you when he will be finished.

9. Garbage

The trashcans are located outside the large iron gate of the farmhouse. Please separate the garbage and deposit into the right container as follows:

- Small brown bin: **Organic**
- Large grey container with green top: **Cans, glass and plastic**
- Smaller grey lidded container: **Non-recycle rubbish**
- Yellow container (exiting from the iron gate, at the bottom on the right): **Paper**

See **Attachment G** for the details of the garbage separation.

10. Farm products

Ask Gisella for **fresh vegetables** from our garden which are sometimes available.

We sell wine and olive oil. The prices are here below.

Wine

Chianti D.O.C.G. – 2006	10 €
Chianti Classico (Black Cock) – 2011	9 €
Chianti D.O.C.G. – 2011	7 €
Il Carpine (sparkling dry white wine)	5 €
Red Chianti 2014 75 cc (non branded)	4 €
Local white 75 cc (non branded)	4 €

Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Juice of Olives 0.75 liter (Rapale local production)	zero production
Juice of Olives 1 liter (Rapale local production)	zero production

11. Internet

Wi-Fi is available, without password, inside and outside the apartments including the swimming pool zone. **Please report to Fortunato any connection problem.**

If you do not have your notebook, a free internet point is available in the reception.

Should you need to print documents, send them to info@borgorapale.it.

12. Balance Payment

You may pay the balance, any time during your stay, by credit card or cash as you prefer. Since you are not in a hotel, please do not wait the last day for the payment.

At your departure, please remember to leave the key/s inside the apartment.

13. Leisure books

At the reception room, you may choose books, left by our previous guests, which you may read while relaxing.

II. Grocery shops

In **AMBRA** (10 km, 14 minutes from **Rapale**) you find a bakery, a small supermarket, butchery and other shops. The opening is usually from Monday to Saturday from 8 – 13 and 17 – 19.30. Weekly closure: Wednesday afternoon.

- Go down to the 540 main road and turn right; then, proceed straight for 7 km.
- Pass the sign **AMBRA**, and then pass 3 zebra crossings and find, on your right, a parking place. Here is a **bakery** where you can buy fresh bread, croissants, cakes and biscuits. *Open only in the morning until 13 including Sunday, closed on Wednesday.*
- Going ahead, on your right, you find a **pharmacy** (from Monday to Saturday from 9 to 13 and from 16 to 19:30) and, farther on, the small **supermarket** “**CONSORZIO AGRARIO**” (open from Monday to Saturday from 8 to 13 and from 16:30 to 19:30. Closed on Wednesday afternoon)
- Turn left towards the Ambra center. At the corner, on your right, there is a **butcher shop** “**Fattoria Rimaggio**” selling meat from their cattle breed and other farm products. *Open from Monday to Saturday from 7:45 to 12:45 and from 16:45 to 19:45. Closed on Monday and Wednesday afternoon.*
- Proceeding further, on your left, you find the **vegetable and fruit shop** (Open from Monday to Saturday from 8 to 13 and from 17 to 19:30. Closed on Wednesday afternoon)

In **RAPOLANO TERME** (15 km, 18 minutes from **Rapale**) you find **the nearest large supermarket “inCOOP”**, open from Monday to Saturday 8 – 13 and 16 – 20. Only in July and August “inCOOP” is open on Sunday 9-13.

- Go down to the 540 main road and turn left towards **SIENA**
- Drive 4 km until you find an intersection (on the right corner you see the Restaurant Bivacco). Go straight for about 1 km.
- Take the motorway towards **PERUGIA**
- Take the first exit **RAPOLANO TERME** and follow the indication **ASCIANO**
- Proceed for about 2 km
- Pass a railway crossing
- Go 50 m forward and at the roundabout take the first exit. On the left you will see the sign “**Coop**” and you will find the parking of the supermarket.

In the centre of **RAPOLANO TERME** you may find shops of any kind.

In **BUCINE** (18 km, 24 minutes from Rapale) there is another good **COOP Supermarket**, specially recommended for meat, open 8 –13 and 16:15 – 19:45, Saturday all day opening 8 - 19:45, Sunday 8:30 – 12:30.

- Go down to the 540 main road and turn right and proceed straight for 19 km
- Do not follow the first sign to **BUCINE** but proceed and take the second one
- About 50 meters after the turn, on your right, you see the COOP shop.

In **MONTEVARCHI** (27 km, 47 minutes from Rapale) there is a very large and convenient hypermarket **COOP**. Here you find any kind of food and non-food items. Open 9 – 21, closed on Sunday.

Go down to the 540 main road and turn right and proceed straight following the indications “**MONTEVARCHI**” and “**uniCoopFi**”.

III. Nearest suggested Restaurants and Shops for prepared food

Going down to the 540 road and turning right, you find the following restaurants (the indicated kilometers are from this junction):

- at 1,5 km, on the left, **Ristorante and Pizzeria La Leccarda**, tel. +39 055 9963309 closed on Monday and Tuesday at noon (large dining room);
- at 2 km turn left to **MONTEBENICHI** and go uphill for 4 km. At the inlet of the village **Osteria L'Orciaia**, tel. +39 055 9910067 closed at noon except Sunday, closed on Tuesday, good restaurant, booking is required (small romantic restaurant);
- at 3 km turn left and proceed for 1 km. You will find a field for Polo Game and at the end **Ristorante La Martina**, tel. +39 055 998275, closed on Monday, booking is suggested (medium dining room);
- at 7 km, in the center of **AMBRA**, **Osteria Corte di Bacco**, small romantic restaurant, tel. +39 055 9917420, open all nights from 19;
- at 7 km, arrived in Ambra, keep going on the 540 road and pass over the Ambra River. Passed the bridge, on the left, you will find **Ristorante Valdambriano**, tel. +39 055 996989 always open at noon, closed on Monday evening (large dining room);
- at 12 km turn the left and proceed up to the end, **Ristorante Antico Portale**, tel. +39 055 9955514, open from 18:30 to 23:00 everyday, closed at noon except Sunday (large dining room).

Going down to the 540 road and turning left you find the following restaurants (the indicated kilometers are from this junction):

- at 2 km take right and proceed for about 500 meters. You will find a 5 stars resort having a luxury restaurant **Borgo Monastero** tel. +39 0577 355762;
- at 4 km on the right at the junction there is **Ristorante Bivacco** tel. +39 0577 352009, closed on Wednesday (large dining room);
- at 5 km on your right, you find **Trattoria La Taverna della Berardenga** tel. +39 0577 355547, closed on Monday (small typical restaurant);
- in the centre of **CASTELNUOVO BERARDENGA** you will find **Enoteca e Cucina Bengodi**, a popular winery with food, tel. +39 0577 355116, closed on Monday.

Exit from **RAPALE** by asphalt road and at 50 m from the village take the gravel road on your left. Drive 4 km on this road, until an asphalt road. Take left and find the following restaurants (the indicated kilometers are from this junction):

- at 4 km, at **PALAZZUOLO**, on your right, **Ristorante La Scuderia** tel. +39 0575 847014, closed on Monday (medium dining room);
- at 7 km, turn left, and drive 1 km, **Ristorante La Torre di Gargonza** tel. +39 0575 847065, closed on Tuesday (medium dining room). Available gluten-free menu ;
- at 8 km, on your left, **Osteria del Cacciatore**, recommended for boar and venison, tel. +39 0575 847020, closed on Wednesday (medium restaurant);
- at 9 km, on your right, **Ristorante Belvedere**, tel. +39 0575 844262, closed on Monday and Tuesday (large dining room);

- **at 14 km**, there is the town **MONTE SAN SAVINO** with many restaurants and other small popular eating places. **La Terrasse**, tel. +39 0575 84411, closed on Wednesday (medium restaurant).

In **RAPOLANO TERME** (15 km, 18 minutes from **RAPALE**) you may find a **very cheap restaurant** serving very good local food in a popular atmosphere **Trattoria La Patria** tel. +39 0577 724464 closed on Saturday. Booking is required.

You can take away pizza from **Cuor di Pizza** located at the end of **AMBRA** going towards **BUCINE**, tel. +39 055 9917074, closed on Monday, open at noon except on Saturday and Sunday.

Please note:

You can have good local food delivered to your apartment at 1:30 p.m. and at 8:30 p.m. by **Gastronomia Sara**, tel. +39 055 996827, closed on Monday.

IV. Daily tours by car and train

A selection of suggested daily trips from our place is presented. Here, we give only few tips for your trip. If you don't have the navigator, you can use the maps provided in the Attachments to these Notes.

Every **first Sunday of the month** all State-run museums in **Italy** are **free!** For everyone!! All over **Italy**, not just Tuscany. It also means that the more popular museums, such as the **Uffizi** and **Accademia** in Florence, get even more crowded than usual.

1. Siena

The center of Siena, Piazza del Campo, can be reached from your apartment by 25 – 30 minute drive plus 5 minute walk. If you are interested in the medieval monuments and in the museums of Siena, you can spend a full day there. If you don't have this time, after visiting Siena, you may continue to visit **SAN GIMIGNANO**. Coming back, it is worthwhile a short detour to visit **MONTERIGGIONI**.

In order to reach a convenient car parking in SIENA:

- just before the arrival at Siena by the motorway Perugia-Siena, do not follow the sign indicating the city center, but keep right and follow the direction towards **FIRENZE**.
- at the first exit, follow again the sign to **FIRENZE**.
- exit at **SIENA** south and follow the parking sign "IL CAMPO".
- drive up to the gate of the town and look for available parking at the sides of the road. If you do not see available space, enter through the gate and proceed to the parking "IL CAMPO" (€ 1.60 per hour).
- do not enter in the town since you will be fined by tele-control

As an alternative, we suggest to catch the bus going down the winding road up to the intersection of 540 road and then park in there your car. Cross the 540 road and wait for the next bus at the bus stop according to the following time schedule.

Rapale road intersection Departure	Colonna del Grillo Connection Line 138	Siena rail station Arrival	Arrival place in Siena	Notes
07:15	07:20 -> 7:25	07:55	Viale Tozzi	No Sunday and Festivity
07:45		08:17	Railway station	
08:20		08:55	Viale Tozzi	No Sunday and Festivity
15:20		15:52	Railway station	No on Saturday - No from 27/7 to 29/8
Siena Departure	Colonna del Grillo Connection Line 138	Rapale road intersection Arrival	Departure place in Siena	Notes
12:30		13:10	Viale Tozzi	No Sunday and Festivity
13:49		14:15	Railway station	
17:30	17:55 -> 18:00	18:05	Viale Tozzi	No Sunday and Festivity
18:29		18:55	Railway station	No on Saturday - No from 27/7 to 29/8

On the bus you can buy the ticket. Viale Tozzi is located in the heart of Siena downtown, whilst from Railway station you should take "Risalita", an escalator system that will take you uphill to reach town centre.

To visit the two main museums in Siena, “Museo Civico” and “Santa Maria della Scala”, you can book your ticket at <http://www.b-ticket.com/b-ticket/sienateatri/> . The site is not translated in English. In any case, reduced ticket price is applied to 11-19 years old guys, over 65, university students, whilst family ticket are applied for family compound of two adults and kids 11-18 years old (under 11 years old the ticket is free). Ask Gisella and Fortunato if you find any trouble. Booking prices are € 1,00 less than ticket office bought tickets and you can avoid long queues. Unfortunately, if you would like to buy a cumulative ticket for museums and Mania Tower, you can buy it only at ticket office.

In Museo Civico is Siena's most famous museum where you can feel Middle Ages atmosphere in richly frescoed rooms by artists of the Siamese school, commissioned by the medieval governing body of the city. In Santa Maria della Scala it's possible to visit the Archaeological Museum, the Art Museum for Children, the Center of Contemporary Art and temporary displays for any taste. In Siena, we suggest Ristorante Papei, Piazza del Mercato (very near to Piazza del Campo). We also recommend a return to Siena after 18 pm, when the city is not crowded by tourists. Then, during the night, you can enjoy the fascinating street lights of Piazza del Campo and of other monuments

For guided tours of Siena, please visit <http://www.guidesiena.it/en/rates.html> or call +39 0577 43273

2. San Gimignano, Volterra and Monteriggioni

- Reach **SIENA SOUTH** exit (see the previous point)
- Proceed towards **FIRENZE**. Exit at **POGGIBONSI NORD** (not before!)
- After visiting **SAN GIMIGNANO** (74 km, 1 hour and 9 minutes from Rapale) take the very winding road to **VOLTERRA** (30 km, 41 minutes from San Gimignano).
- Return through **COLLE VALDELSA**

From **COLLE VALDELSA**, if you have spare time, go directly to **MONTERIGGIONI** and visit the nice castle where you may dine.

3. Florence

The outskirts of **FLORENCE** can be reached in about 1 hour by car, but then you will have the problem of parking your car and reaching the centre by public transport.

As alternative you may reach Florence downtown by train. There are two alternatives:

- from the rail-station of **MONTEVARCHI** (25 km, 35 minutes from Rapale), which presents faster and more frequent rides;
- from the rail-station of **BUCINE** which is nearer to Rapale (20 km, 25 minutes from Rapale).

The indications to arrive to this station and the time table of the trains are shown in the **Attachment D**. To visit the most famous museum of Florence the “Uffizi Gallery”, you should book and buy tickets from the web site www.firenzemusei.it. Please note that the booking through the other agencies is more expensive and has less availabilities. Remind that the first Sunday of every months the entry is free, but it is not possible to book in advance.

We are available to print for you the requested hard copy of the ticket, since electronic copy is not accepted.

4. Crete senesi and Val d'Orcia:

- From Rapale drive down to the 540 main road and turn left.
- Arrive to the motorway Perugia-Siena and proceed towards **PERUGIA**.
- Exit at **RAPOLANO TERME** and follow the indications **ASCIANO** and then **MONTE ULIVETO** (34 km, 42 minutes from Rapale).
- Visit in **MONTE ULIVETO** the wonderful paintings in the cloister of the Abbey

Continue the visit of Val d'Orcia going through the following towns:

- **MONTALCINO**, the heart of the *Brunello Wine* (29 km, 35 minutes from **MONTE ULIVETO**). At 10 km south of Montalcino, there is Sant'Antimo, one of the most fascinating Romanic churches of the Tuscany.
- **SAN QUIRICO D'ORCIA**, where you can find a renowned *Romanic church*,
- **PIENZA**, very nice *renaissance town* (24 km, 29 minutes from **MONTALCINO**)

You may continue to:

- **MONTICHELLO**, very pretty old village (10 km, 14 minutes from **PIENZA**) and **MONTEPULCIANO**, where the wine "**Rosso di Montepulciano**" grows, (12 km, 18 minutes from **MONTICHELLO**).

By a drive of 58 km, 59 minutes, come back to **RAPALE** through **TORRITA** and **SINALUNGA**. Take the motorway Perugia-Siena direction **SIENA**. Exit at **COLONNA DEL GRILLO**.

5. Classic Chianti

- From Rapale drive down to the 540 main road and turn left.
- At the intersection **COLONNA DEL GRILLO** turn right towards **CASTELNUOVO BERARDENGA** (13 km, 17 minutes from Rapale).
- From **CASTELNUOVO** drive about 0,5 km, turn left and visit the vinery **FELSINA** (see the Chapter "Wine Tasting")
- Then drive 5 km and visit **SAN GUSMÉ** (interesting typical medieval hamlet)
- Return to the main road and continue for about 4 km.
- Turn left and visit **SAN FELICE** (typical Tuscan farm, now a 5 star hotel)
- Return again to the previous road and arrive to **BROLIO** (25 km, 30 minutes from **RAPALE**), where you may visit the garden of the castle and the vinery (see the Chapter "Wine Tasting"). The castle was the residence of Barone Ricasoli who invented the Chianti.
- From **BROLIO** follow the sign **GAIOLE**. 3 km past Brolio, pay attention to turn right towards **CASTAGNOLI**. Near Castagnoli, you'll find the vinery **CANTALICI**. Then proceed to **GAIOLE**.
- Proceed and arrive to **RADDA** (40 km, 50 minutes from Rapale), magnificent town surrounded by the Chianti panorama)
- From **RADDA**, you may return to **CASTELNUOVO** through **PIANELLA** or return to **RAPALE** through **BADIA A COLTIBUONO** (old Abbey on the top of the hill) and **MONTEVARCHI**.

6. Arezzo and Cortona

Two interesting towns of Etruscan and Medieval ages. **AREZZO** is at 35 km, 45 minutes from Rapale and **CORTONA** at 30 km, 40 minutes from Arezzo.

- Go down to the 540 main road and turn right. Pass **AMBRA** and turn right at **CAPANNOLE**
- Pass **BADIA AGNANO**, cross a bridge and find a fork where the two road signs both indicate for Arezzo: choose to take right
- At the top of the hill visit **CIVITELLA DELLA CHIANA**, then proceed to **AREZZO**
- After visiting **AREZZO**, proceed to **CORTONA** (very interesting town dating back to Etruscan and Medieval Ages)
- Return to **RAPALE** heading to **LAGO TRASIMENO** and then take the motorway Perugia-Siena direction **SIENA** and exit at **COLONNA DEL GRILLO**. If you have spare time, you may have a small boat tour to Isola Maggiore, the major island in the Trasimeno Lake.

7. Pisa and Lucca

It is possible to visit **PISA** (180 km, 2 hours and 20 minutes from Rapale) and **LUCCA** (35 km, 40 minutes from Lucca) in one full day trip.

- Take the motorway Perugia-Siena-Firenze, direction **SIENA** and exit at **POGGIBONSI NORD**.
- Then follow the indication **EMPOLI**.
- Just before arriving to **EMPOLI** take the motorway FI-PI-LI and exit at **PISA**.
- In **PISA**, visit "Piazza dei Miracoli" (cathedral, leaning tower and other monuments).
- Then go to **LUCCA** by road 12 (not by toll motor way!).
- To return to **RAPALE** take the toll motorway direction **FIRENZE**.
- At **FLORENCE** enter directly the toll motorway A1 direction **ROMA** and exit at **VALDARNO**.

8. Umbria's cities

PERUGIA is at 106 km, 1 hour and 45 minutes from Rapale. **ASSISI** is at 25 km, 30 minutes from Perugia.

- On the motorway Siena-Perugia take the direction **PERUGIA**
- Continue to the E45 junction towards Cesena and follow the sign **ASSISI**. **ASSISI** is the city of Saint Francis of Assisi and it has wonderful churches: in the "Basilica di San Francesco" there are the famous frescos by Giotto.
- Coming back, visit **PERUGIA** and then, by the same way, return to **RAPALE**.

9. Rome

You can reach downtown **ROME** either from the **RAPOLANO TERME** rail station (15 km, 18 minutes from Rapale) or from the **CHIUSI** station (67 km, 51 minutes from Rapale). You can stay in **ROME** up to 10 - 12 hours and then come back to **RAPALE on the same day**.

The indications to reach the **RAPOLANO** or the **CHIUSI** station and the time table of the trains to and from **ROME** are shown in the [Attachment E](#).

10. La Verna and Camaldoli

Two beautiful destinations in the wooded mountains of Tuscany.

LA VERNA (80 km, 2 hours from Rapale) is a sanctuary at an altitude of 1283 m. This place is associated with Saint Francis of Assisi. (he is said to have received the stigmata here). From Arezzo drive up to **RASSINA** and then go directly to **CHIUSI - LA VERNA**.

After visiting La Verna you may proceed to **CAMALDOLI**. This wonderful place is mostly known as the ancestral seat of the Camaldolese monastic order.

11. Pratomagno

For those who like climbing in the wooded mountains of Tuscany, we suggest going to **LA TRAPPOLA** (45 km, 1 hour from Rapale). Then, you may walk up to the "Iron Cross" on the top of the mountain visible from the below Arno valley. To reach **LA TRAPPOLA**

Drive to **TERRANUOVA BRACCIOLINI** and then to **LORO CIUFFENNA**.

Near **LORO CIUFFENNA** you visit the enchanting Romanic churches in **GROPINA**.

12. Valdichiana Castles

- Exit from **RAPALE** by asphalt road and at 50 m from the village take the gravel road on your left. Drive 5 km on this road, you find an asphalt road.
- Take left and proceed for 7 km towards **AREZZO**. Visit the **GARGONZA** Castle.
- Return to the road to **AREZZO** and visit **MONTE SAN SAVINO**.
- Then go to the village of **ULIVETO AND** proceed to **CIVITELLA DELLA CHIANA**.
- Return to **RAPALE** through **AMBRA**.

13. Ferrari, Lamborghini and Ducati

At **MARANELLO** (211 km, 2 hours and 33 minutes from Rapale) visit the **Ferrari Gallery** and you may also have 10 minutes semi-professional simulator with a Ferrari car driven by yourself assisted by an engineer (€ 25.00) and have a video showing you while driving. You can book tickets at <http://museomaranello.ferrari.com/prices-and-tickets/#>

Then, you may reach the Lamborghini plant at **SANT'AGATA BOLOGNESE** in 45 minutes (34 km). You can visit not only the museum, with the wonderful Lamborghini cars, but also the inside plant while the cars are assembled.

For information and reservation form: <http://www.lamborghini.com/en/museum/information/>

Usually to find availability you should book a few weeks in advance.

Coming back from the Lamborghini plant, at the outskirt of **BOLOGNA**, there is the plant of the sport motorcycle Ducati where you can have tours of both Ducati Museum and factory. For information and reservation form:

http://www.ducati.com/company/visit_us/index.do?tab=museum

V. Fashion Outlets

1. Prada (23 km from RAPALE)

The outlet, close to the Prada headquarter, is one of the biggest factory outlets, sure to be full of Japanese tourists who arrive by the bus load! At busier periods you have to take a numbered ticket and wait your turn just to get in. Pass the time in the stylish bar next to the shop. Men and women wear from Prada, Mui Mui and Helmut Lang. As well as clothes you can also find shoes, bags and other leather goods. Discounts up to 50% of the items of previous year.

In order to reach Prada:

- Go down to the 540 main road and turn right
- Proceed straight until you find a traffic light at **LEVANE**
- Turn left and proceed for about 3 km until the next traffic light
- Turn right and follow indication SPACE (it is the name of Prada outlet)

2. Ambra Shoes (10 km from RAPALE)

You may buy shoes and leather hand-bags of good quality for a reasonable price.

In order to reach Ambra shoes:

- Go down to the 540 main road and turn right and proceed straight for 7 km
- The outlet is on the right of the main road

Parking is available for the customers.

3. Valdichiana Outlet Village (40 km from RAPALE)

An outlet village with dozens of shops selling products at discounted prices. Shops include: Guess, Calzedonia (tights, socks and swimwear), Mila Schon, Calvin Klein, Swatch, Nike, Benneton, and many many more. There are also plenty of bars to catch a quick snack to keep you going while bargain hunting!

- Take the 4 lane motorway Siena-Perugia direction **ROMA**
- Exit at the intersection with the toll motorway A1 Milano-Roma
- Follow the indication VALDICHIANA OUTLET

4. The Mall (55 km from RAPALE)

A large discount shopping mall near **FLORENCE**. Labels include Yves St. Laurent, Bottega Veneta, Giorgio Armani, Loro Piana, Sergio Rossi and Gucci. If you are not shopped out, Fendi and D&G are close by. In order to reach the Mall:

- Enter the toll motorway A1 at the inlet **VALDARNO** and proceed towards **FIRENZE**
- Exit at **INCISA**
- Follow the indication **MALL**.

VI. Trips by mountain or race bike

If you have problems during the trip, call tel. +39 055 998252 or mobile +39 339 3464379 and we will rescue you.

1. Crete of Siena (about 30 - 50 km)

- Go down to 540 road and turn left.
- Head towards Siena at the intersection **COLONNA DEL GRILLO**.
- Go up hill following PISTA GO-KARTS.
- You may arrive up to **SIENA**.
- Come back following direction **CASTELNUOVO BERARDENGA**.
- Before arriving to **CASTELNUOVO**, turn right towards **COLONNA DEL GRILLO**

2. Val d'Orcia (about 45 km)

- Go down to 540 road and turn left.
- Arrived at **COLONNA DEL GRILLO**
- Take left towards **MONTE SAN SAVINO**.
- Pass the OMBRONE RIVER and turn right towards **RAPOLANO TERME**.
- Follow direction **ASCIANO** and then **MONTE ULIVETO** (very interesting abbey).
- From **MONTE ULIVETO** you may come back to **ASCIANO** by a different road.

3. Chianti Classic (about 50 km)

- Go down to 540 road and turn left.
- Arrived at **COLONNA DEL GRILLO**
- Take right towards **CASTELNUOVO BERARDENGA**
- **SAN GUSMÈ** (pay a short visit to the medieval village) - **CASTELLO DI BROLIO** (do not go up to the castle) - **SAN REGOLO – PIANELLA – PACINA - CASTELNUOVO BERARDENGA**
- Go back to **RAPALE**.

4. Valdichiana (about 45 km)

- Go down to 540 road and turn left.
- Arrived at **COLONNA DEL GRILLO**
- Take left towards **MONTE SAN SAVINO**.
- At **MONTE SAN SAVINO** at the bottom of the hill, take left towards **SAN PANCRAZIO**.
- Then go down to 540 road towards **AMBRA** and finally **RAPALE**.

5. Chianti Mountains (about 65 km)

- **CASTELNUOVO - SAN GUSME – CAMPI – MONTELUCO – NUSENNA – MERCATALE - BUCINE**
- 3 km before **BUCINE** take right towards **AMBRA** and **SIENA**.

Only mountain bike trips:

6. Sogna (6 km)

If you want a short mountain bike trip, you may go to **SOGNA** (about 3 km).

This trip is achievable by everybody because you remain at the same altitude. If you proceed beyond **SOGNA** there is a very steep slope and it is very tough to come back.

7. Hills around Rapale (about 25 km)

A longer trip is the following:

- Exit from **RAPALE** by asphalt road and at 50 m from the village take the gravel road on your left.
- After 5 km of this easy road, you find an asphalt road which is not a busy road.
- Take left and advance as much as you wish.

Since when you will come back there is no indication for **RAPALE**, make sure you remember the way.

If you like a loop in order to come back to **RAPALE**:

- When you arrive at **PALAZZUOLO**, take left and go towards **AMBRA**.
- Arrive to Ambra and, by the 540 main road return to Rapale or, if you wish a shorter and quieter way, you may turn towards **BADIA A RUOTI** and then reach the 540 main road.

8. Gargonza and San Pancrazio (about 40 km)

Another longer trip:

- Go beyond **PALAZZUOLO**
- Turn towards the **GARGONZA** castle and proceed down.
- At the bottom of the road take left uphill up to **SAN PANCRAZIO** and then down to the 540 main road.

VII. Miscellaneous

1. Wine tasting

To taste Chianti Classic (Gallo Nero) we suggest two places:

- **BROLIO winery** which belongs to the family of the Conte Bettino Ricasoli who developed the Chianti 150 years ago. (See “Chianti Classic Tour”). Booking is required at <http://www.baronericasoli.com/tours/guided-tour/classic-tour>. Note that visits are available only in the morning, so to find availability you should book a few days in advance. The price for the visit of the castle and of the winery (in English, Italian and German) and the final tasting of 3 wines is € 25 per adult
- **FELSINA winery** having a magic old cellar with wood barrel. You can have guided tours in English every day from 10 am to 19 pm. Booking is needed calling +39 0577 355117 or at <http://www.felsina.it/en/contact/> Tour price €15 per person. If you would like to have wine tasting the extra price is € 10 per person. (See “Chianti Classic Tour”)
- **CANTALICI winery** offering guided tours of the wine cellar and the ancient kiln with tasting of wine and olive oil. Open every day from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tel. +39 0577 731038 www.cantalici.it Ask Gisella for a free wine tasting voucher.

To taste Brunello wine go to **MONTALCINO** (See “Crete Senesi and Val d’Orcia”).

An interesting mix of wine and culture is the “Bacco & Pigmalione” at “Il Cassero”. This event occurs on Wednesday at 21.30 in an old museum located in the center of **Montevarchi**. You taste wine in a magical atmosphere among the sculptures. The presentation of the wine is made by qualified sommelier. Booking is required calling + 39 055 9108274 during working days from 3 pm to 18 pm.

2. Thermal bath

At 14 km from Rapale, there is the renowned thermal baths of **RAPOLANO TERME** having swimming pool with natural hot water, beauty treatments and mud massage.

Ask Gisella **for discount coupons** for the San Giovanni hydro. To reach this hydro:

- Go through the whole town of **RAPOLANO TERME**
- Follow the indication **ASCIANO** until on your right you find the sign for TERME SAN GIOVANNI.

3. Horse riding

Within 5 km from Rapale there are two centers.

The first one is **CHIANTI RIDING** (check the web site www.chiantiriding.it for detailed information and prices).

To reach Chianti riding:

- Go down to 540 and turn right
- Proceed 1 km
- Pass the Ambra River and immediately take left.
- Then follow the first road on your right.

You need advanced booking at 0039 339 8318519.

The second one is **I POGGIOLI RANCH** check the web site www.ipoggioliranch.com for detailed information and prices). In order to reach I Poggioli Ranch:

- Go towards **SOGNA**
- Pass Sogna and go all-way down up to the asphalt road
- Turn right and then you will see the indication I POGGIOLI RANCH

4. Adventure park

Saltalbero is an adventure park near Rapolano Terme, immersed in nature, and full of games and attractions for children of all ages and for adults too. The Adventure Park consists of a set of acrobatic courses suspended at different heights from the ground, generally installed on tall trees or, in some cases, also on wooden poles or rock walls.

The courses are created by installing steel cables, wooden platforms, and ropes, with absolute respect for the plants and their habitat.

They provide a recreational sport activity that the users, previously instructed and equipped with a safety device, run through in complete autonomy, testing their own balance, speed, ability to overcome obstacles, and desire for adventure.

The park is equipped with 7 acrobatic courses differentiated by age and level of difficulty. There is also an area for the youngest, equipped for them to have fun in freedom and enjoy a full day immersed in nature.

In order to get in this park, please follow the sign “Saltalbero” once arrived at **RAPOLANO TERME** from Rapale.

To get further information, click <http://www.saltalbero.it/en/index.php>

5. Hikes in marked trails

The map of the marked trails around RAPALE is shown in the **Attachment F**. Ask Gisella or Fortunato for other maps.

From Rapale you can take the trail 117 up to **SOGNA**

- Then take the trail number 125 which goes to **BADIA A RUOTI**.
- From **BADIA A RUOTI** you can come back following the narrow road leading to top of the hill where RAPALE is located.

You may also take the same 117 trail in the opposite direction (towards Rapale’s cemetery) and then proceed as much as you wish.

As further alternative:

- From **RAPALE** you may take the trail 117a, which is asphalted for the first km and then it keeps right.
- Go down to the Ambra River.
- At the bottom you can find the restaurant La Leccarda and the Polo club La Martina.

6. Go-karts

At about 14 km from **RAPALE** there is a go-kart circuit used for international races (check the web site www.pistainternazionalesiena.com for detailed information and prices). Karts for all different age - from 6 years old and so on – may be rented in this circuit. The track for renting is open all working days from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday and holiday from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

To reach the circuit:

- Go to **COLONNA DEL GRILLO**
- Proceed towards **SIENA**
- Do not take the motorway Perugia-Siena but proceed on the side road
- Follow the indication “GOCARTS”.

7. Open air markets

You may find, on weekly basis, the following open air markets where you can buy fresh vegetables and any other kinds of merchandise.

- Tuesday: **AMBRA**
- Wednesday: **SIENA, MONTE SAN SAVINO, BUCINE**
- Thursday: **MONTEVARCHI, CASTELNUOVO BERARDENGA, RAPOLANO TERME**
- Saturday: **AREZZO, SAN GIOVANNI VALDARNO**

8. Naturalistic boat tour

At 25 km, 35 minutes from Rapale, there is the "Natural Reserve of the Arno River". You will discover birds that rest and nest in the area, wild animals' footprints and signs from the ancient and recent past of the relationship between men and water such as the dam on Arno River or medieval bridge Romito, which was portrayed by Leonardo da Vinci in his most famous canvas "La Gioconda". Check the site www.alcedoambiente.com.

On Wednesday from 17:00 and on Saturday from 10:30, with environmental guide, you may navigate in the river that flows through the narrow rocky gores of the so called Valley of Hell. Prices 7 Euros per adult and 3 Euros per child up to 13 years old. Telephone booking required 0039 393 8353089. The meeting point is at the Pier of "Bandella", where you can park your car. GPS 43°30' 40" N - 11° 39' 28.5" E. **Unfortunately for maintenance works in the dam, guided tours are suspended for 2015.**

9. Hot air balloon

At 45 km, 45 minutes, from Rapale you may have a fantastic trip by hot air balloon (check the site www.chiantiballoon.com for detailed information and prices). The "ballooning season" is approximately late spring to early autumn with annual variation. From the vantage point of a hot air balloon, you can admire luxuriant woodlands, ancient cities, hills and vineyards. You really get a fabulous perspective from a hot air balloon.

There are two hot air balloon centers reachable from Rapale. The one near Siena is located at **43°33' 52.05" N 11°11' 56.32"E and here you can find prices and booking form**

http://www.chiantiballoon.com/booking_siena.html

From Rapale:

- Go to motorway Siena-Perugia direction Rome and exit at **SIENA SUD**
- After the exit lane, keep left until you arrive at roundabout where you turn right at first road signed "Buonconvento-Roma Via Cassia-Porta Tufi. "
- After 200 meters, turn left direction "Porta Tufi."
- After 150 meters, you will see the balloon port on your right just before the B&B "Fonte dei Tufi."

As an alternative you can choose the hot air ballooning centre of Montisi. Here **you can find prices and booking form** <http://www.ballooningintuscany.com/booking/>

From Rapale:

- Go to motorway Siena-Perugia direction Rome and exit at **SINALUNGA**
- Proceed towards **MONTISI**
- Follow the indications CHIANTI BALLOONING.

10. Cooking lessons

Would you like to make your Tuscan staying an occasion to learn cooking skills that will make your homemade meals a masterpiece of *haute cuisine*? Antico Portale Restaurant (see Nearest Suggested Restaurants) is glad to offer you one or more cooking lessons, establishing day, hour and price by calling +39 055 9955514.

11. Catholic Church

Usually every Sunday in the Church of Rapale there is the Catholic Mass. Since sometimes the priest cannot come, please check with Gisella about the hour of the Mass.

Five minutes before the beginning of the Mass, the bells of the church tower ring.

Attachment D. Train schedule for Florence

The parking of the **BUCINE**'s station is located in via della Stazione(GPS 43.480°, 11.617°)

- Go down to 540 main road and turn right
- Once you arrive in Bucine, take the second street turning left
- After the turn, take the second street on the right
- Proceed to the end of the road and you'll find parking and station

The parking of the **MONTEVARCHI**'s station is located in Via della Sugherella (GPS 43.525°, 11.564°)

- Go down to 540 main road and turn right
- Head towards **MONTEVARCHI**
- At **MONTEVARCHI**, turn left at the second street light
- Proceed up to the bottom and take left
- Continue straight head, pass a traffic light and go through the underpass of the rail road.
- Pay attention to turn right as soon as you have passed under the rail road.
- Go along the rail road until you find parking lots on the back of the station. If you do not find the parking, straight head and you should find a place where you can park.

In both station some ticket machines with language options are available.

Ticket prices:

From Bucine: Adult € 6,60; Children (age 4 – 12 years) € 3,30

From Montevarchi: Adult € 5,90; Children € 3,00

Here below, the train schedule in the different days of the week.

For further information, please check www.trenitalia.it

Mon-Tue-Wed-Thr-Fri-Sat				
Depart ure Bucine	Departu re Monteva rchi	Arrival Floren ce	Duration from Montevar chi	Notes
	06:57	07:38	00:41	
07:10	07:18	08:22	01:04	
07:40	07:48	08:47	00:59	
	07:56	08:35	00:39	
	08:13	08:52	00:39	
	08:30	09:27	00:57	
	09:07	09:48	00:41	
	09:39	10:52	01:13	
11:30	11:38	12:38	01:00	
	12:07	12:48	00:41	
12:30	12:38	13:38	01:00	
	13:07	13:48	00:41	
13:30	13:38	14:38	01:00	
13:52	14:00	14:54	00:54	
	14:07	14:48	00:41	
14:30	14:38	15:38	01:00	
	15:07	15:48	00:41	
15:30	15:38	16:38	01:00	
	16:07	16:48	00:41	
16:35	16:43	17:45	01:02	No Sat
	17:07	17:53	00:46	

Sunday			
Depart ure Bucine	Depart ure Montev archi	Arrival Floren ce	Duratio n from Montev archi
	06:45	07:35	00:50
07:40	07:48	08:47	00:59
08:30	08:38	09:38	01:00
	09:07	09:48	00:41
09:43	09:51	10:52	01:01
11:30	11:38	12:38	01:00
	12:07	12:48	00:41
	13:07	13:48	00:41
13:30	13:38	14:38	01:00
	14:07	14:48	00:41
14:30	14:38	15:38	01:00
	15:07	15:48	00:41
15:30	15:38	16:38	01:00
	16:07	16:48	00:41
16:30	16:38	17:38	01:00
	17:07	17:53	00:46

Mon-Tue-Wed-Thr-Fri-Sat				
Depart ure Floren ce	Arrival Monteva rchi	Arrival Bucine	Duration to Montevar chi	Notes
13:09	13:47		00:38	
13:22	14:21	14:28	00:59	
14:09	14:47		00:38	
14:30	15:23	15:30	00:53	
15:09	15:47		00:38	
15:22	16:21	16:28	00:59	
16:09	16:47		00:38	
16:22	17:28	17:36	01:06	
17:09	17:47		00:38	
17:35	18:33	18:41	00:58	
18:09	18:47		00:38	
18:22	19:21	19:28	00:59	Sat only
18:35	19:28	19:37	00:53	No Sat
19:09	19:49		00:40	
19:22	20:24	20:31	01:02	
20:09	20:47		00:38	
20:22	21:21	21:28	00:59	
21:09	21:47		00:38	
21:22	22:21	22:28	00:59	
22:08	23:07	23:15	00:59	No Sat
23:18	00:16	00:24	00:58	

Sunday			
Depart ure Floren ce	Arrival Montev archi	Arrival Bucine	Duratio n to Montev archi
13:09	13:47		00:38
13:22	14:21	14:28	00:59
14:09	14:47		00:38
14:22	15:21	15:28	00:59
15:09	15:47		00:38
15:22	16:21	16:28	00:59
16:09	16:47		00:38
16:22	17:28	17:36	01:06
17:09	17:47		00:38
18:09	18:47		00:38
18:22	19:21	19:28	00:59
19:09	19:49		00:40
19:22	20:21	20:28	00:59
20:09	20:47		00:38
20:22	21:21	21:28	00:59
21:09	21:47		00:38
21:25	22:16		00:51
21:30	22:26	22:34	00:56
21:52	22:39		00:47
22:08	23:07	23:15	00:59
23:18	00:16	00:24	00:58

Attachment E. Train schedule for Rome

To reach the rail station of **CHIUSI**:

- Take the motorway PERUGIA - SIENA direction **PERUGIA** and exit at junction with the A 1 toll motor way MILANO - ROMA
- Enter the A 1 direction **ROMA** and exit at **CHIUSI – CHIANCIANO**.
- Follow the sign **CHIUSI** and then **CHIUSI – SCALO**.

The ticket from **CHIUSI** to **ROME** may be bought by internet depending upon the chosen train. For the trains whose price is € 19,00, we suggest to buy the ticket by internet in advance, in order to take special price reduction.

For further information, please check www.trenitalia.it

TRAIN SCHEDULE CHIUSI - ROMA										
Departure Chiusi	Arrival Rome	Duration	Station of destination	Notes		Departure Rome	Arrival Chiusi	Duration	Station of Departure	Notes
5:25	7:17	1:52	Termini	No Sunday		14:58	16:44	01:46	Termini	
6:29	8:21	1:52	Termini	No Sunday		17:12	18:56	01:44	Termini	
7:10	8:26	1:16	Termini	No Sunday		18:16	19:44	01:28	Termini	No Saturday
10:57	12:46	1:49	Termini			19:58	21:42	01:44	Termini	
11:45	13:17	1:32	Termini			21:50	23:40	01:50	Termini	No Saturday
						22:35	00:05	01:30	Termini	