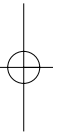
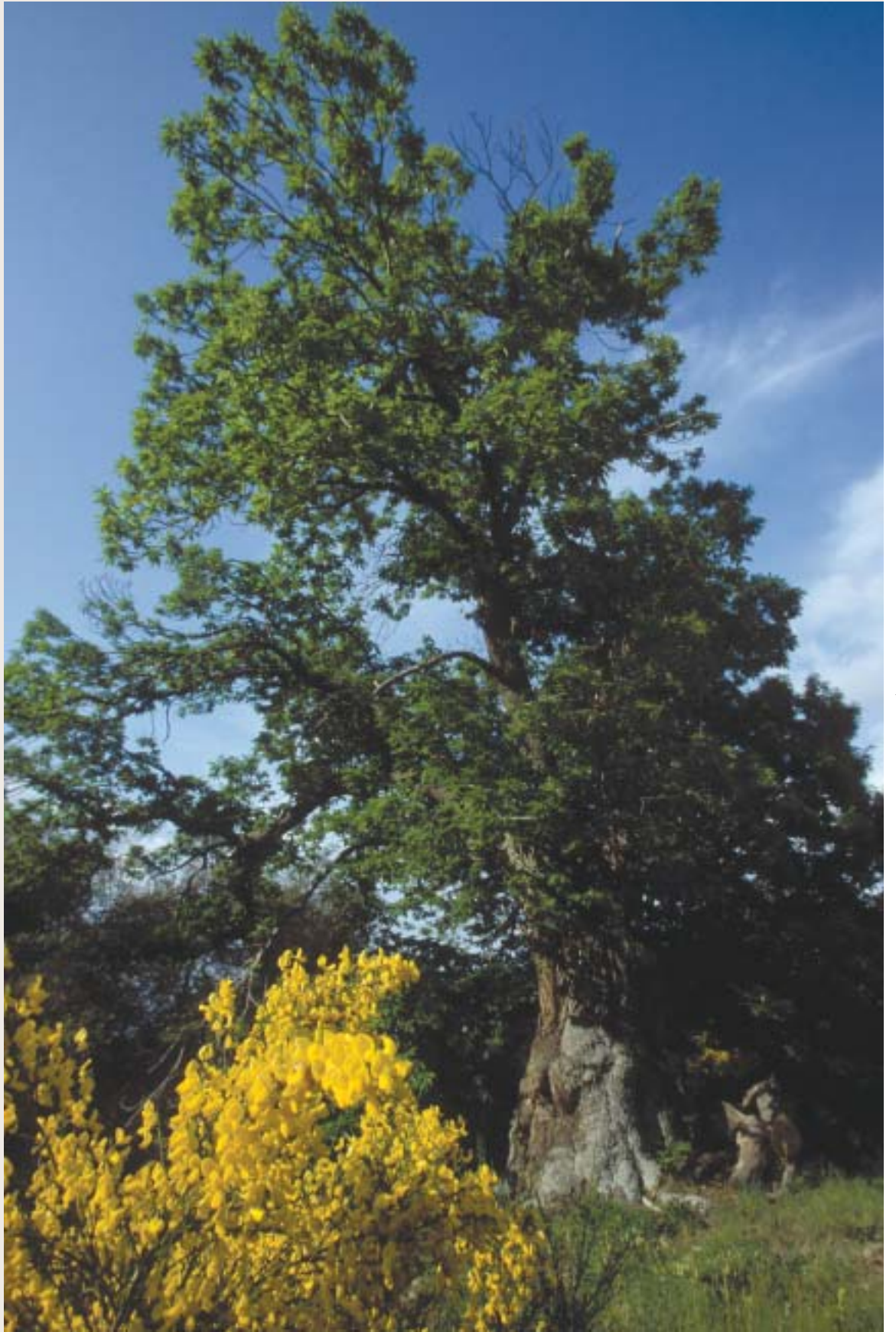


  
**INLAND HILLS**



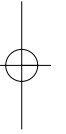


# I N T R O D U C T I O N

This swathe of land between the wide Maremma plain and the slopes of Monte Amiata is striking in its diversity and the way the sunny plains, rolling hills and luxuriant forests interweave with each other. Unspoiled nature climbs to the hills in a display of Mother Nature's generosity and man's ability to preserve it. Historical landmarks are embraced by the ever varied colours of nature: the tender green of the vineyards, the intense green of the wild Mediterranean scrub, the silver of the olive trees and the gold of the sunflowers. In turn, nature's heritage is embellished by the ancient villages, castles, fortresses and protective walls enclosing each tiny town and the colours and perfumes of the land join the history of this rural civilization in reciprocal balance and harmony. Cinigiano still maintains an old-fashioned, rural way of life and pace we think of with nostalgia. A lone sea of grass precedes Campagnatico, the ancient castle of the powerful Aldobrandeschi family, overlooking the wide river valleys of the Ombrone and the Bruna. Slender, crenellated towers, ruins and fortified constructions stand out against the festive Maremma landscape as far as the towns around Civitella Paganico, at the province's border. Each centre in this part of the Maremma takes pride in its own legends and traditions and continues to celebrate them in a fairy tale atmosphere that has remained intact through the years.



INLAND HILLS





## C A M P A G N A T I C O



Campagnatico is a typical Medieval town, both in its urban structure and in its strategic position. It stands on a rise, planted with olive trees, that drops off sharply to the east over the Ombrone Valley. The ancient castle belonging to the Aldobrandeschi family from Sovana was mentioned in Canto XI of Dante's Purgatory. It subsequently passed into the hands of the Tolomei who were particularly keen on controlling this extremely fertile land. Campagnatico, along with the rest of the Maremma, suffered greatly as the result of various wars and calamities. However, it returned to prosperity under the rule of the Grand duke Leopold II when he reclaimed the marshes. The entire area is abundant in Mediterranean scrub and the rolling hills are planted with vineyards and olive groves that yield excellent wine and oil. Today Campagnatico is the principal town of a wide area that includes not only the charming Medieval town of Montorsaio, but numerous villages that keep local traditions alive by staging fairs, pageants and celebrations for their patron saints that offer the tourist a chance to partake in the spirit of these hospitable and friendly people.



  
INLAND HILLS 



THE THOUSAND FACETS OF THE  
**MAREMMA****E V E N T S**

The traditional civil and religious celebrations in honour of Maria Santissima delle Grazie are held in Campagnatico during the first half of September. During these festivities, the four town districts (Santa Maria, Castello, Centro and Pieve) challenge one another in the "*Palio dei Ciuchi*" (Donkey race), initiated in 1957. This remarkable donkey race is preceded by a parade in medieval costumes through the town streets and is followed by the presentation of an artistic trophy to the winning district.





## C I N I G I A N O



All you have to do to enjoy one of the most beautiful landscapes in the hilly Maremma hinterland is climb one of the foothills sloping down from Monte Amiata and stop off at Cinigiano. Originally a fief of the Aldobrandeschi family, Cinigiano was dominated by Siena in 1381 and subsequently by the Battifolle Counts. The Clock Tower, restored in the middle of the 19th century, and the remains of a medieval fortress are all that are left of the old town. This area combines forests, natural pastures, vast areas suited for agriculture, the chestnut groves in Monticello and Mediterranean scrub, vineyards, olive groves and fruit trees stretching from the mountains to the bed of the Ombrone. The result is a wide sampling of products to be enjoyed during the numerous fairs and local events. The produce ranges from grain to grapes, from olives to chestnuts. A visit should certainly include the outskirts of Cinigiano: Porrone's castle, parish church and two noble villas still intact, as well as Monticello Amiata's Medieval structures and ethnographic museum. The villages of Sasso d'Ombrone and Colle Massari are interesting both for their architecture and landscapes. The Aldobrandeschi citadels in Castiglioncello Bandini and Vicarello and the small rural centres of Poggio del Sasso and Santa Rita are also worth seeing.



THE THOUSAND FACETS OF THE  
**MAREMMA**

**E V E N T S**

On the first weekend of October the traditional "Festa dell'uva" (Feast for the grape harvest) takes place in Cinigiano. Splendid allegorical floats representing the town's three districts are preceded by a parade of villagers dressed in medieval costumes passing through the town streets. The cellars of the old town are flung open for tasting the local products washed down by Montecucco red wine. In mid-August every year, Monticello Amiata offers "Artificia Necessaria": three days of festivities in which the small village brings back past trades and crafts and cooks only dishes typical of the 19th century. In the fall, on the second Sunday of October and the last Sunday of November, festivities are held in honour of the two most important agriculture products of the area, chestnuts and olive oil.







## CIVITELLA PAGANICO



Civitella Marittima, the principal centre in the township of Civitella Paganico, is a charming town standing on a hill covered in cypress and olive trees and commanding a view of the Maremma plain and the Tyrrhenian coastline. It was the seat of the Aldobrandeschi family who left an important heritage of Romanesque architecture including the splendid Badia (abbey) di San Lorenzo sul Lanzo, or Badia Ardenghesca. The town fell under the dominion of the Sieneze at the beginning of the 14th century along with Paganico, the other settlement belonging to the township. Paganico, situated where the Ombrone River bends in its descent from the Sieneze hills toward the Maremma plain, is known for its kaolinite quarries, but is more interesting for its artistic and monumental heritage. The 14th and 15th century brick houses with their porticos, the remains of the city wall and the carefully planned urban structure all contribute to the town's charm. The main gates in the city wall, the Senese and Grossetana, with their typically Sieneze style, are still intact and recall the old custom's houses.

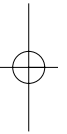


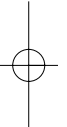


THE THOUSAND FACETS OF THE  
**MAREMMA**

### **T H E R M A L B A T H S**

The original Baths of Petriolo have always been extremely popular. The Farma stream's ancient spring spouts the sulphurous water used in so many therapeutic treatments and the devotion to hot spring cures is a rite that has been repeated for centuries in Petriolo. The first report of the spa dates from 1230 and it is still possible to see the medieval sections of the baths and the major restoration and reinforcement of the whole complex that was carried out in the 15th century.





INLAND HILLS 



THE THOUSAND FACETS OF THE  
**MAREMMA****NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Anyone who comes here knows that extraordinary encounters with the animal and plant world are everyday occurrences in this environment. A visit to an animal reserve makes such an encounter almost inevitable. There are two major protected areas within the territory with a combination of Mediterranean scrub and forests of tall trees offering protection for important animal species. The *Riserva Naturale del Basso Merse* extends along the border between the provinces of Grosseto and Siena. The hilly landscape is covered by forests of Turkey oaks, Holm oaks and White oaks and by low scrub sprinkled with Heather and Strawberry trees. Colonies of Hawks, Sparrow hawks and Short-toed eagles nest here and it's easy to spot Roe-deer and deer. The Otter, a species that



risks extinction and is rarely found in Italy, still lives in this protected habitat. The 434 hectares of the *Riserva Naturale di Poggio all'Olmo* extend around the town of Cinigiano. It is a valuable forest, typical of these high hills, with a large variety of animal life and secular plants like the majestic pear tree-monument that has an old legend associated with it. Wild boar are sure to accompany any walk through this area.

**N A T U R E  
R E S E R V E S**

**PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE  
POGGIO ALL'OLMO**

**PROVINCIAL NATURE RESERVE  
OF THE BASSO MERSE**

Info: Tel 0564.484580/81/82



THE THOUSAND FACETS OF THE  
**MAREMMA****F O O D A N D W I N E**

The wholesome and extraordinary flavours of the Maremma cuisine seem to reproduce all of the flavours and aromas of the land. *L'acquacotta*, la *zuppa di pane* (soups), il *buglione* (marinated lamb), la *scottiglia* of lamb and chicken, wild boar in sauce are a few of most typical recipes that still keep their old time flavours. The dining table tells the story of a land whose secular olive trees produce fine oil and whose vineyards produce esteemed wines. Grapes were grown here thousands of years ago and the winemaking tradition has lasted through our time. It has become an art that has produced Morellino, one of the best-known wines in Italy. The same art has now produced Montecucco with its

**A S S O C I A Z I O N E  
S T R A D E D E L V I N O****"Montecucco" - Cinigiano**

Piazzale Capitano Bruchi, 5

Telephone 0564-994630 Fax 0564-994898

**info@stradadelvinomontecucco.com****www.stradadelvinomontecucco.com**

distinctive flavour, the latest wine born on these mountain slopes. Fairs, pageants and festivities throughout the year offer the perfect chance for sampling meats prepared with simplicity and refinement, genuine cheeses, garlic breads, vegetables and mushrooms so prominent in local dishes and last, but not least, delicious chestnuts.

## W I N E S M O N T E C U C C O D O C

The denomination is very recent and includes several classifications of wines: Bianco, Vermentino, Rosso and Sangiovese. The last two are also in the Reserve classification. **Montecucco rosso, Montecucco Sangiovese, Montecucco rosso Riserva** and **Montecucco Sangiovese Riserva**, have a full, wholesome bouquet and a harmonious and dry flavour to accompany cheese, salami and cold meats, meat and game. **Montecucco Bianco** and **Vermentino** have a delicate and fresh perfume and a dry flavour perfect for appetizers, soups and fish.



THE THOUSAND FACETS OF THE  
**MAREMMA****A C T I V I T I E S**

Relaxing amid the greenery of the sunny hills or discovering the fascination of the nature reserves are only two of the pleasurable possibilities awaiting the tourist. Horseback rides and excursions, outings on foot or mountain bike offer the chance to enjoy nature and slip effortlessly into its rhythms, thanks to a network of paths linking the most varied landscapes.

**FROM PAGANICO TO CAMPAGNATICO - 8 KM ITINERARY**

This itinerary takes dirt roads along the right side of the Ombrone and goes from the Medieval walls of Paganico to the village of Campagnatico.

**FROM CASAL DI PARI TO CASTELLO DEL BELAGIAIO - 9 KM ITINERARY**

This pleasant itinerary follows a paved road for the first 2 km and then continues along dirt roads for the remaining distance. It heads west from Casal di Pari, skirting Poggio dei Leccioni and Poggio al Perello, passing through the Riserva Naturale del Farma until it reaches Castello del Belagaio.





**FROM CASAL DI PARI TO PARI AND THE BATHS OF PETRIOLO - 9 KM ITINERARY**

This itinerary forms a semicircle in the direction of the Merse valley. It begins at Casal di Pari, goes through the historical centre of Pari and finishes at the Baths of Petriolo. It is possible to continue along the paths in the Province of Siena toward Monticiano, Montalcino or Buonconvento.

**FROM PARI TO MONTE ANTICO - 11 KM ITINERARY**

This enjoyable itinerary follows an uphill-downhill route as far as Poggio di Nanni where it goes downhill to the countryside on the right side of the Ombrone and continues as far as the church and castle at Monte Antico. It is also possible to circle around the hill of Monte Antico, a distance of the 3.5 km.

**FROM PAGANICO TO MONTORSAIO - 9 KM ITINERARY**

This itinerary follows an easy road through woods and fields and goes up from the banks of the Ombrone to the panoramic village of Montosaio. The road is paved as far as a large quarry and then dirt for the remaining distance.

**FROM SASSO D'OMBRONE TO MONTECUCCO - 12 KM ITINERARY**

This pleasant itinerary along the hills to the left of the Ombrone, goes by Poggi and continues across the hills to the village of Monte Cucco. It's possible to complete the excursion by making a circle of 3.5 km to the south of Monte Cucco.

**THE RING OF CINIGIANO AND CASTIGLIONCELLO BANDINI - 21 KM ITINERARY**

This itinerary is a long ring, largely along dirt roads, that starts in the hills at the foot of the western side of Monte Amiata. It heads north toward Porrone and Poggio Campi Bui, then continues south along a wide ridge that crosses the road running between Cinigiano and Monticello Amiata. The return route crosses the Melacce river valley.

**THE PATHS AROUND MONTICELLO AMIATA - 14 KM ITINERARY**

There are a number of itineraries that make it possible to explore the foothills on the



THE THOUSAND FACETS OF THE  
**MAREMMA**

western side of Monte Amiata. It's possible to choose between a circle to the north of the town (3.5 km), a route that crosses the Torrente Zancono valley to Montelaterone (3.5) and one that goes around Poggio Matariao to Salaiola (7 km in all).

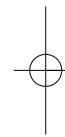




## C U L T U R E



A tourist can't help being enthralled by the history he sees embodied all around him in the old town centres, single monuments and works of art. A sense of the past rises from the paving stones, waves from the bell towers and emanates from the walls of buildings and churches. Many of these churches date from the 13th century and were later re-elaborated in the Neo Gothic style and decorated with frescos of the famous Sienese school during the 14th and 15th centuries. Castles and farmhouses belong to a medieval architectural tradition that figures among the most important in the Maremma. Traces of old military structures are still visible in the remains of citadels and protective walls, demonstrating the importance of these villages as defensive bastions. This was true, not only for the feudal lords, the Aldobrandeschi, but also of their successors, from the Sienese to the Medici and the Lorraine, all of whom continued to increase the cultural heritage with restorations and enlargements that can still be seen today. Numbers of fortified settlements punctuate the landscape: the 16th century castle in Porrone, the massive stone fortress, the Cassero di Cinigiano, the castle in Pari with sections of the Medieval enclosing wall and the two small fortresses in Montorsaio, documented as far back as the 12th century, and the one in Stertignano with prominent walls enclosing a rustic structure, near the locality of Marrucheti.



THE THOUSAND FACETS OF THE  
**MAREMMA****CASA MUSEO DI MONTICELLO AMIATA**

Via Grande - Telephone 0564-992954 - 993407

This small permanent exhibition presents daily life and work as it existed at the end of the 19th century in a small hill town. These customs and way of life have been reconstructed in the two sections of the museum. The first recreates the interior of a dwelling with a kitchen and one other room completely fitted-out with authentic furnishings and utensils found on the site. The second section is located in the former olive press and contains the tools used for working in the fields, in the chestnut groves and for threshing, as well as those objects utilized in the typical crafts of the area.

