



*Fontelunga*

## Touring to the South – West of Villa Fontelunga

### **Pienza, Montalcino, Bagno Vignoni, Montepulciano and surrounding towns.**

This is a full days itinerary visiting some of the prettiest walled towns in Tuscany all no more than an hours drive from the Villa.

#### **Montepulciano**

An incredibly elegant walled town, spectacular views, a wonderful renaissance medieval main square and well know for its "Vino Nobile" wine. It has an old school Italian café called "Caffe Poliziano" which holds many memories for us of past visits with friends. Take a coffee, light lunch or tea, Enotecas just inside the gates are great for purchasing local wines if you don't have time to visit the winery itself. Avignonesi our favourite is just 100 metres on the right hand side, alternatively we can book a tour of the winery with lunch near Cortona, a treat not to be missed! At the top of town is a beautiful square and the S. Biagio church outside the city walls are both worth a visit. Near to Montepulciano, producing one the better Vino Nobile's, is the winery of Avignonese where you can tour the vineyard and take lunch, however you will need a reservation.

#### **Area around Montepulciano**

The rolling hills around Montepulciano are home to many stunning hill top towns such as Trequanda, Montisi, Castelmuizio and Monte Follonico, to name but a few, which, if you are passing, all have great watering hole for either Lunch, dinner, an aperitivo or even just a coffee. Another, Montecchiello is where you'll find the famous winding avenue of the Cyprus trees that you see on all the post cards of Tuscany.

#### **Pienza**

Sitting on the edge of the World heritage Val d' Orcia, Pienza, a gorgeous little walled town, owes its appearance to Pope Pius II who patronized his small home town in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, bestowing it with the most fabulous collection of early renaissance palazzi and one of the only renaissance wells in its town sq. Due to its position on the edge of the Val D'orca it offers spectacular views across the valley to the extinct volcano of Mont Amiata, Tuscany's highest mountain. It is well known for the local pecorino cheeses and there is an unpretentious little trattoria in Piazza di Spagna called "Sette di Vino" ( they will not serve food after 1.45 pm) for lunch. However if you fancy a lighter more casual lunch walk to the side of the town with the view where there is a wine bar offering a great selection of local wines, sandwiches and some benches where you can take in the dramatic view!

#### **Bagno Vignoni**

If you have the time, visit this unique little town south of Montepulciano. Situated by the "Via Cassia" the old north - south Roman road, the town functioned as a place to wash and freshen up in roman times with the main square of the town being one large hot spring. There are many small restaurants and bars where you can lunch very comfortably and also a spa where you can take the waters if you are not already hot enough!

#### **Montalcino**

Another very elegant stone walled town with spectacular views of its surrounding vineyards and well know for its Brunello Wine. The environs of Montalcino contain many well know wineries, tours must be booked in advance. (let us know and we can make a reservation)1 Km outside the town there is a lovely restaurant called "Boccon Divino".