



*Fontelunga*

## Touring to the West of Villa Fontelunga

### **Siena, Lucignano, Monte san Savino, San Gimignano and Chianti Country**

Typical Tuscan countryside, picturesque villages, a beautiful medieval city and the Manhattan of Italy, make for another full days touring in the Italian countryside!

#### **Siena**

A beautiful medieval city with a stunning duomo and unique main square "Il Campo", which is the setting, twice a year, for "Il Palio" the famous horse race in July and August. Visit the weeks prior and after to savour the atmosphere and the rivalry of the various quarters of the city. After the battle of Scannagallo in 1530 when Siena finally succumbed to the power of the Medicis in Florence, the city was deprived of its main source of income during those times, banking! Since then, up until the recent boom in tourism, Siena remained a back water which preserved its character as a medieval city! The duomo is one of the most individual in Italy, with its white and black striped facade and the museum next to the Duomo is worth visiting if only for its breathtaking views over the rooftops of Siena and the surrounding countryside! The piazza to the side of the Duomo was actually planned as the nave of an enlarged Duomo until the population was decimated by the plague in the 1300's. However if you are all churched out, just pull up a chair in the Campo, order a Campari and watch all the other tourists do the work!!

#### **San Gimignano**

Approximately half an hour the other side of Siena, San Gimignano is worth a visit just for the medieval towers which have been described as Italy's medieval answer to Manhattan. For those who don't like crowds San Gimignano may be best viewed from afar to take best advantage of its skyline or early in the morning.

#### **Lucignano**

One of the most beautiful villages we know in Tuscany! Situated 15mins east of Villa Fontelunga on the way to Siena, this beautifully kept village is an almost perfect oval, a gate on either side, with the streets running in concentric circles parallel to its outer wall, topped off with an enormous church! There are several great restaurants but its worth getting there early to take in the charm of this special village.

#### **Chianti**

Either on the way to or back from Siena take a drive through the Chianti countryside and stop off at any number of idyllic small towns. Radda in Chianti, Greve, Castellina in Chianti, to name but a few. Alternatively set aside a whole day to explore this delightful area at a more leisurely pace. You can always visit again if you don't have time on this occasion!

#### **Creta Senese**

Two Cyprus's, a ruined farm house and rolling fields of corn, yes, the idyllic picture of Tuscany, well this can be found in "the Creta"! The road between Asciano and Siena has some of the most unique countryside in the world, a **must** scenic drive!!! In the same area, and a good place to stop for a light supper on the way home from Siena is a pretty town called Castelnuovo Berardenga where there is a simple but nice restaurant in its fab refurbished town square, Osteria Al Prato 05771355411.

#### **Pozzo della Chiana**

Our local village, although "blink and you miss it" it is on the site of one of the old known settlements in the Italian peninsula. Pozzo means well in Italian and the town supplied the fresh water for all the surrounding area. Now it has two mini markets, a bank, butchers, bakers and the best pizzeria / bar in the area!