



Slow



Visit
Valdarno



Welcome to Valdarno Right in the heart of the truest Tuscany!

Welcome to the authentic heart of Tuscany, where its essence is guarded. A territory rich of **unmissable experiences** will welcome its guests.

The Tuscan countryside, the gentle flow of the Arno river, the hills and the mountains, Pratomagno, fields and farms, good Tuscan food, the many outdoor experiences, family relaxation, art and culture, all the charm of its relais.

Feeling good.

Traveling among the countless beauties of this territory, you can savor the warm scents of the vineyards, venture among enchanting landscapes and get lost in a journey in time and history through the discovery of its **artistic and cultural heritage**.

Here, you can alternate moments of silence, at the edge of a swimming pool, surrounded by nature, with **active days**, joining guided tours on the trails that run along Valdarno. How? It is up to you! On foot, horseback, or by bicycle. There are so many outdoor activities you can choose from. And then, wine tastings in the cellar or **culinary tours** to discover the typical Tuscan dishes and wines. Valdarno is a territory that hosts food and wine excellences handed down by farmers and producers, from generation to generation: Flavors, aromas, customs and traditions will accompany you in your holiday diary along with memories that will fill all five senses.

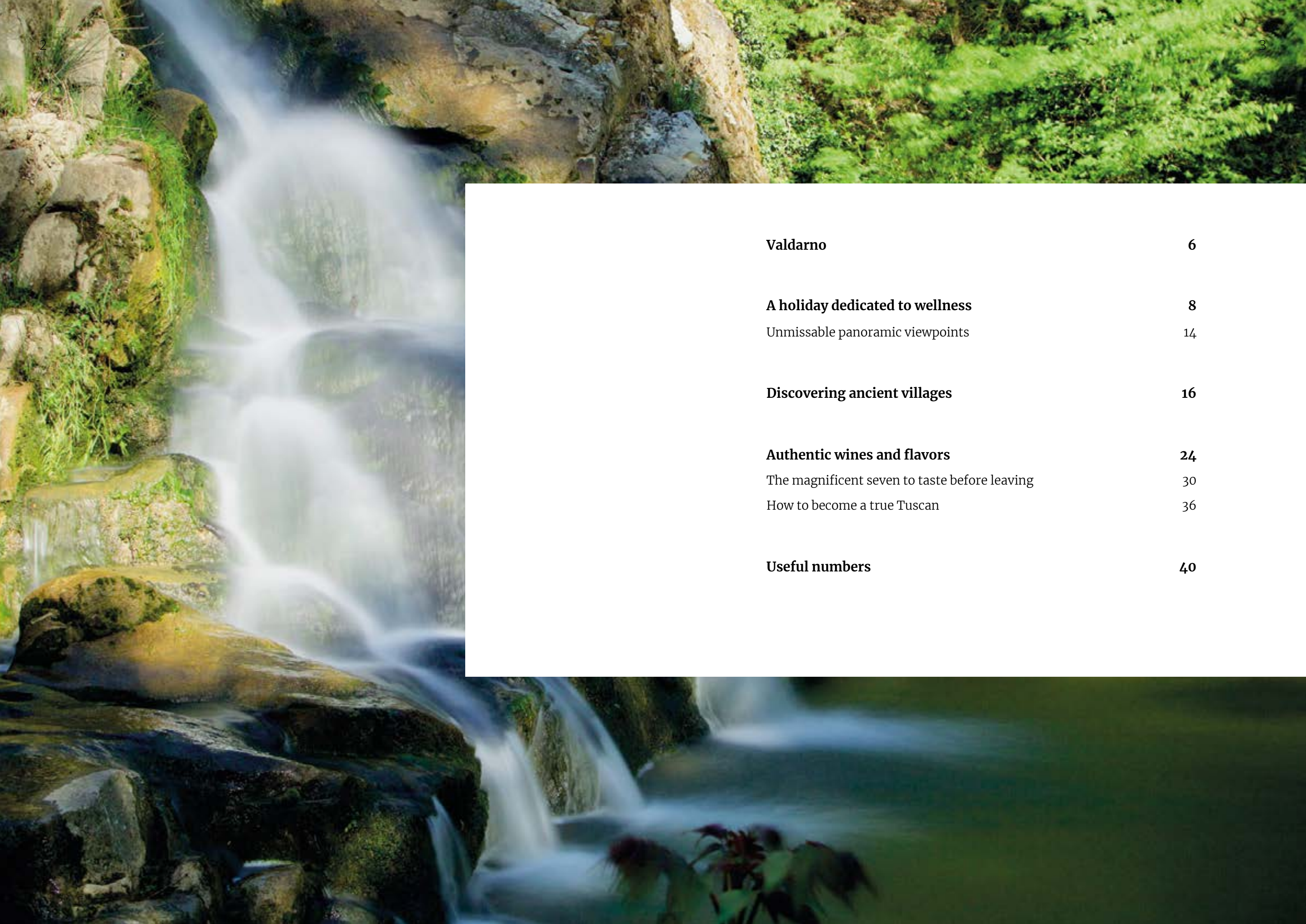
Thanks to the succession of breathtaking landscapes and colors, typical of the Tuscan countryside, and untouched nature, emotions will become the real protagonists of this trip and, as if this was not enough, all the wonders of **Florence, Arezzo and Siena** are less than one hour away.

Each road will tell you a different story, each experience will have the face of a person you will meet on your journey and will remind you of that place. You will learn to observe Valdarno with the eyes of those who live this land every day with passion and dedication, and you will become a part of it.

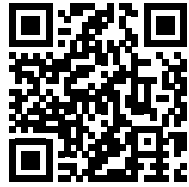
Share your emotions during your holidays in Valdarno

USE THE HASHTAG **#VISITVALDARNO**

TELL YOUR STORY ON **PLAYYOURTUSCANY.IT**



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Bucine

www.visitvaldambra.com



Castelfranco Pian di Scò
castelfrancopiandisco.it



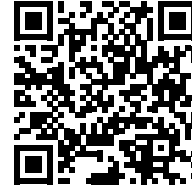
Caviglia

www.comune.caviglia.ar.it



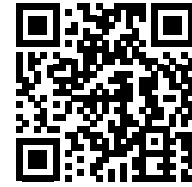
Laterina Pergine

www.halleyweb.com



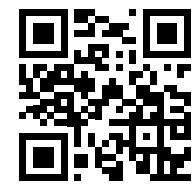
Loro Ciuffenna

www.comune.loro-ciuffenna.ar.it



Montevarchi

www.montevarchi.tuscany.it



San Giovanni Valdarno

www.comunesgv.it



Terranuova Bracciolini

www.comune.terranuova-bracciolini.ar.it

LEGENDA

Highway A1

SR 69



Railway station



Valdarno



Valdarno Aretino is the part of the valley that extends over the upper course of the **Arno** river, a stretch of land which – due to its position – is often called the **heart of Tuscany**. Enclosed to the north by the imposing **Pratomagno** Massif and to the south by the ridge of the hills and mountains of **Chianti**, it offers an extremely varied landscape. From the **woods** that line the ridges of the mountain peaks, we pass to the **olive groves** of the mildest hills and the countryside colored in infinite shades of **fruit trees** and **vineyards**, up to the **natural reserves** born around lakes Bandella and San Cipriano.

All this adds to the unique landscape offered by **Balze**, high vertical walls with a mix of colors, interspersed with deep gorges, the splendid result of the erosion of the land once occupied by the ancient lake of Valdarno.

Land of **ancient trade routes**, it was strongly influenced by the bitter disputes for the territory between Florence and Arezzo in **medieval times**. As evidence of its historical past, today it preserves, scattered in its territory, **medieval villages, fortified towns, eighteenth-century villas and Romanesque parish churches** surrounded by greenery that preserve **valuable masterpieces**. In Valdarno, the phenomenon of “**Terre Nuove**”, newly built urban centers that arose on the thrust of the Florentine lordship in the fourteenth century to increase the control of Florence over the surrounding territories of the earldom, always disputed with the historical enemy Arezzo, was particularly important.

A holiday dedicated to wellness and discovery at the slow pace of nature and traditions

A journey through the unique landscape of Valdarno

If you have chosen to stay in a holiday farmhouse or in a relais surrounded by nature, you are looking for the right pace to enjoy the many opportunities that Valdarno can offer. A **regenerative holiday** for your psychological and physical well-being.

A valley nestled – as in a natural womb – between the rolling hills of Chianti and the Pratomagno Massif. A valley created and carved by the slow millennial flow of the upper course of the Arno river; lulled, in winter, by a sweet lullaby sung by the wind. Traveling among the countless splendors of this territory, you can savor the **warm scents of vineyards and olive groves**, venture among enchanting landscapes and get lost in a journey in time and history thanks to its **artistic and monumental beauties**.

In the landscape that surrounds you, you will often see the typical dry-stone walls, recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and testimony to the harmonious coexistence between man and nature that has created **a unique cultural landscape in the world**.

Valdarno is a land full of towers, but not all of them were built by man. Indeed, the most spectacular and evocative were shaped by mother nature millions of years ago: They are the pillars of **Poggitazzi** and **Piantravigne**, rock formations located in the **Protected Natural Area of Balze**. This latter location is particularly suggestive as it is a small village surrounded by erosional walls and connected to the surrounding areas by bridges that cross the gorges – A truly ideal place to take unforgettable pictures.



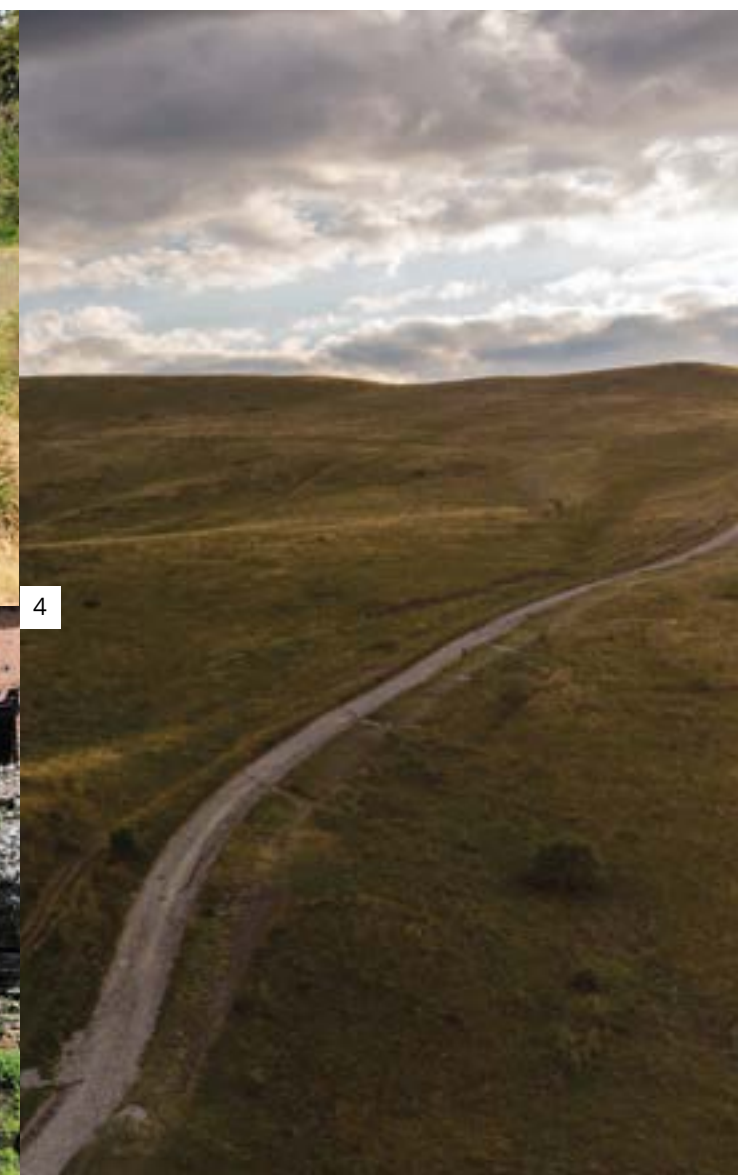
Balze
of Valdarno
area

1. Trekking in Valdambra
district of Rapale, Bucine

2. Valle dell'Inferno
natural reserve
and Bandella
Laterina

3. Mill
Loro Ciuffenna

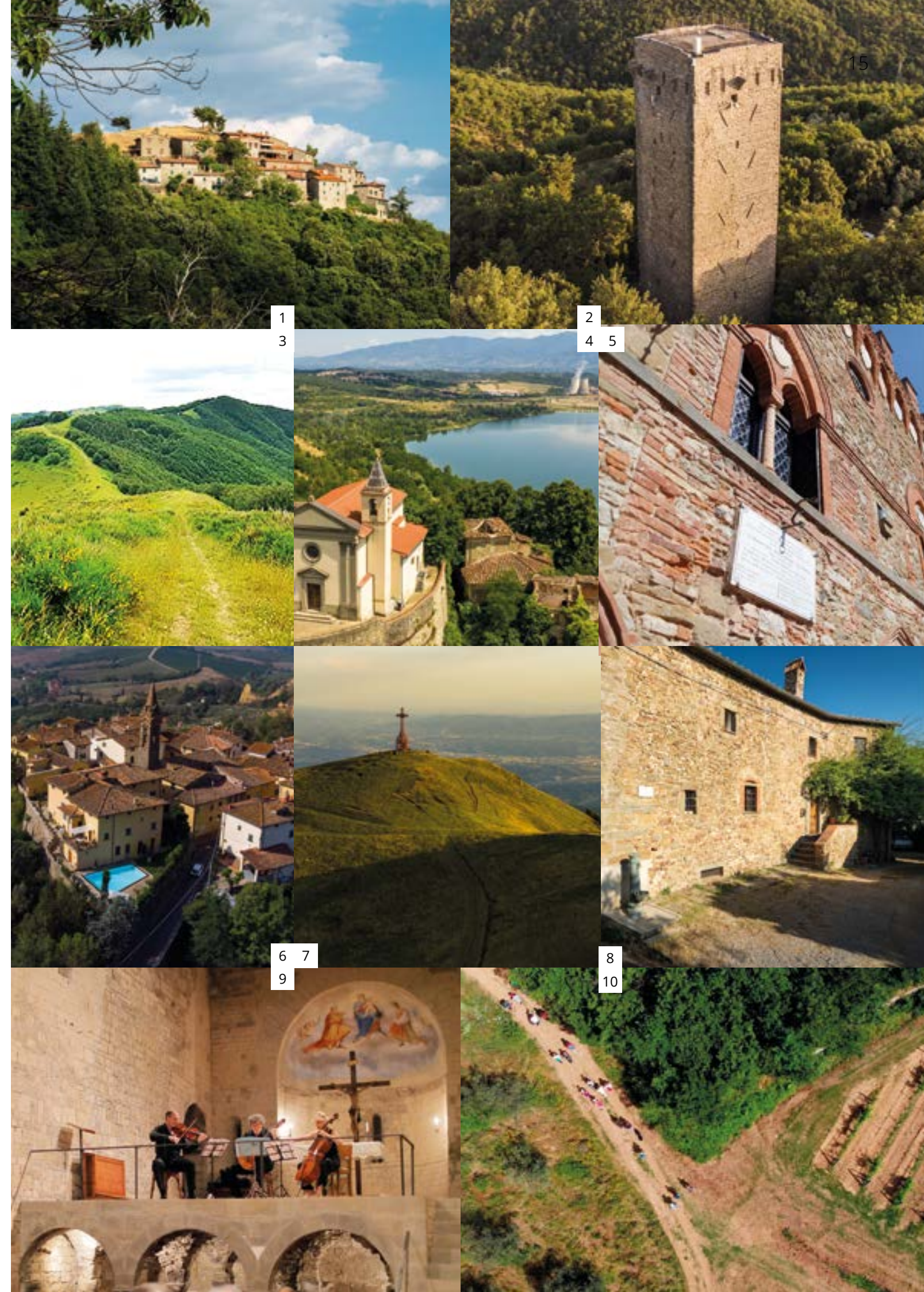
4. Massif
of Pratomagno



Do not miss a **trek in Valdambra** or an excursion to the **Valle dell'Inferno natural reserve and Bandella**, a visit to the **mill of Loro Ciuffenna**, the oldest in Valdarno, but still active. In the past, it transformed chestnuts, maize and wheat, the basis for local sustenance, into flour. Continuing your journey, you can reach the top of **Pratomagno**, the highest mountain in **Valdarno**, from which to enjoy a magnificent panorama and coolness on hot summer days.

Unmissable panoramic viewpoints

1. The village of Anciolina
2. The tower of Galatrona
3. The gate of Gastra
4. MINE (Museum of Mines and Territory in the Ghost Town of Castelnuovo dei Sabbioni)
5. Montebenichi
6. The town of Piantravigne;
7. The Cross of Pratomagno
8. The town of Rapale, overlooking Valdambra
9. San Pancrazio
10. Panoramic Sentiero dei Setteponti trail



Discovering ancient villages

Tuscany and Valdarno are full of **splendid villages** where you can immerse yourself in the local culture and enjoy all its scenic and historical beauties.

You can choose to stay in a holiday farmhouse or in a charming relais and explore the small villages that make up the lands of Valdarno. They are mainly characterized by medieval facilities and monuments such as towers, parish churches and castles. Even if, there are locations rich in archaeological finds dating back to the Classical Era: Roman buildings, such as the **bridge of the ancient Via Cassia in Pogi**; but also Etruscan heritage, such as the particular trails that run along the hilly ridges.

The castles, parish churches, villages, and towns of Valdarno are all worth a visit: **Laterina**, with its towers and the historic center; the romantic and beautiful **Pergine**; Rapale and Montebenichi; San Pancrazio; the castle of Cennina; Ruoti and its Abbey; five places of great charm located in **Valle dell'Ambra** (Amber Valley); the abandoned town of Castelnuovo dei Sabioni, with its MINE - Museum of Mines and Territory - that dominates the former mining area of Lago Grande, in the municipality of **Cavriglia**; the parish churches of Gropina - on the Setteponti trail, San Giovanni Battista in Petrolo, just below the Tower of Galatrona, or the one located in **Pian di Scò**; Il Borro; Piantravigne, the most beautiful panoramic terrace on Balze, hamlet of **Terranuova Bracciolini**. Do not miss the visit of **Loro Ciuffenna**, with its mountain hamlets such as Anciolina and Trapola; and **Castelfranco di Sopra**, two of the *Borghi più belli d'Italia* (Most Beautiful Villages in Italy). And then, the historical centers of the valley floor, those of **Montevarchi** and **San Giovanni Valdarno**. Villages still inhabited and alive, also thanks to the arrival of people and families who have chosen one of these enchanted places to live all year round.

1. Old town
Pergine



2. Cloister of the Abbey of San Pietro
Badia a Ruoti

3. Borgo Cennina
Bucine



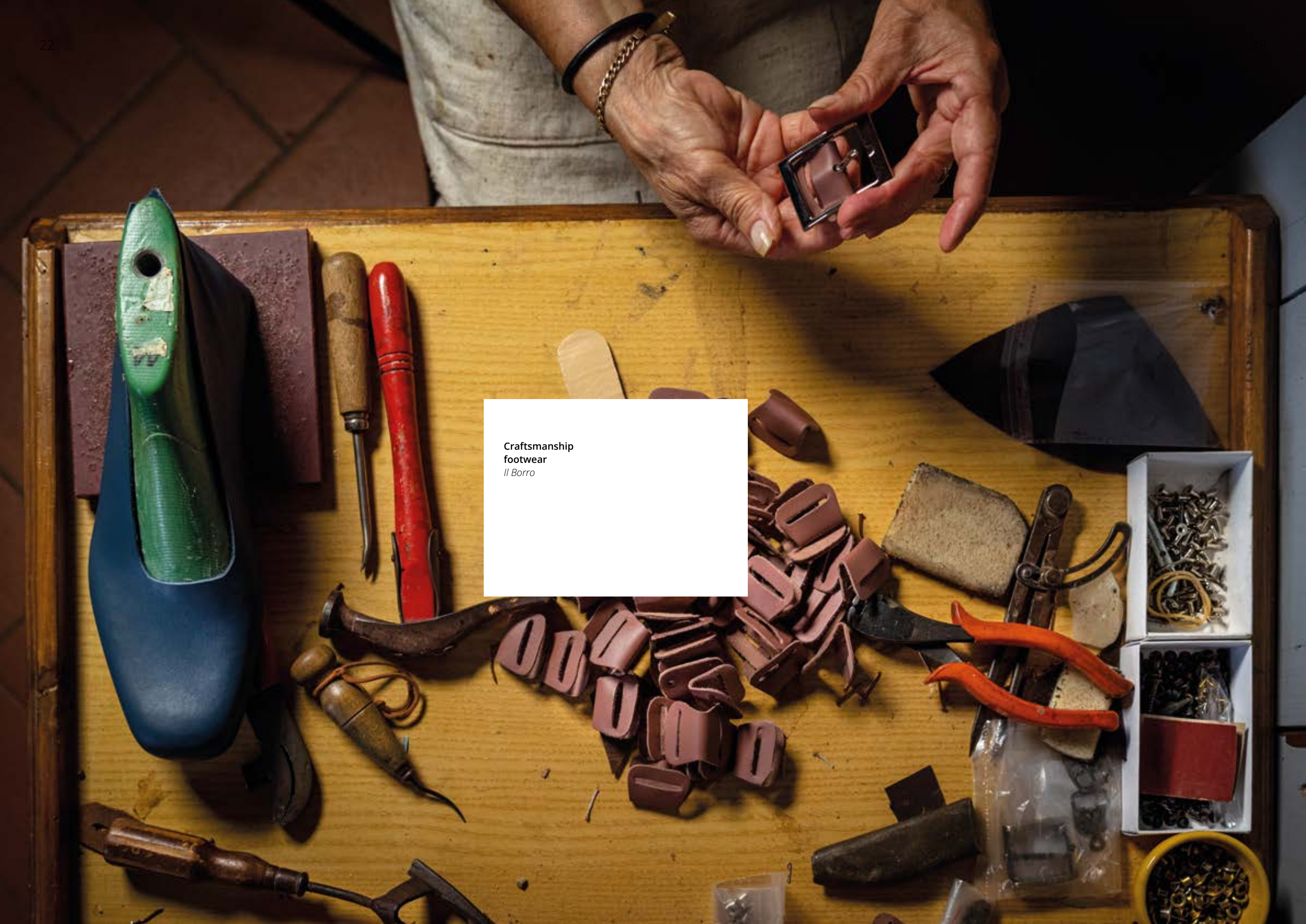
- 1. Il Borro
Loro Ciuffenna
- 2. Montebenichi
Bucine



- 3. Tower of Porta fiorentina
Laterina
- 4. Old town
Castelfranco Piandiscò
- 5. Old town
Laterina



Craftsmanship
footwear
Il Borro



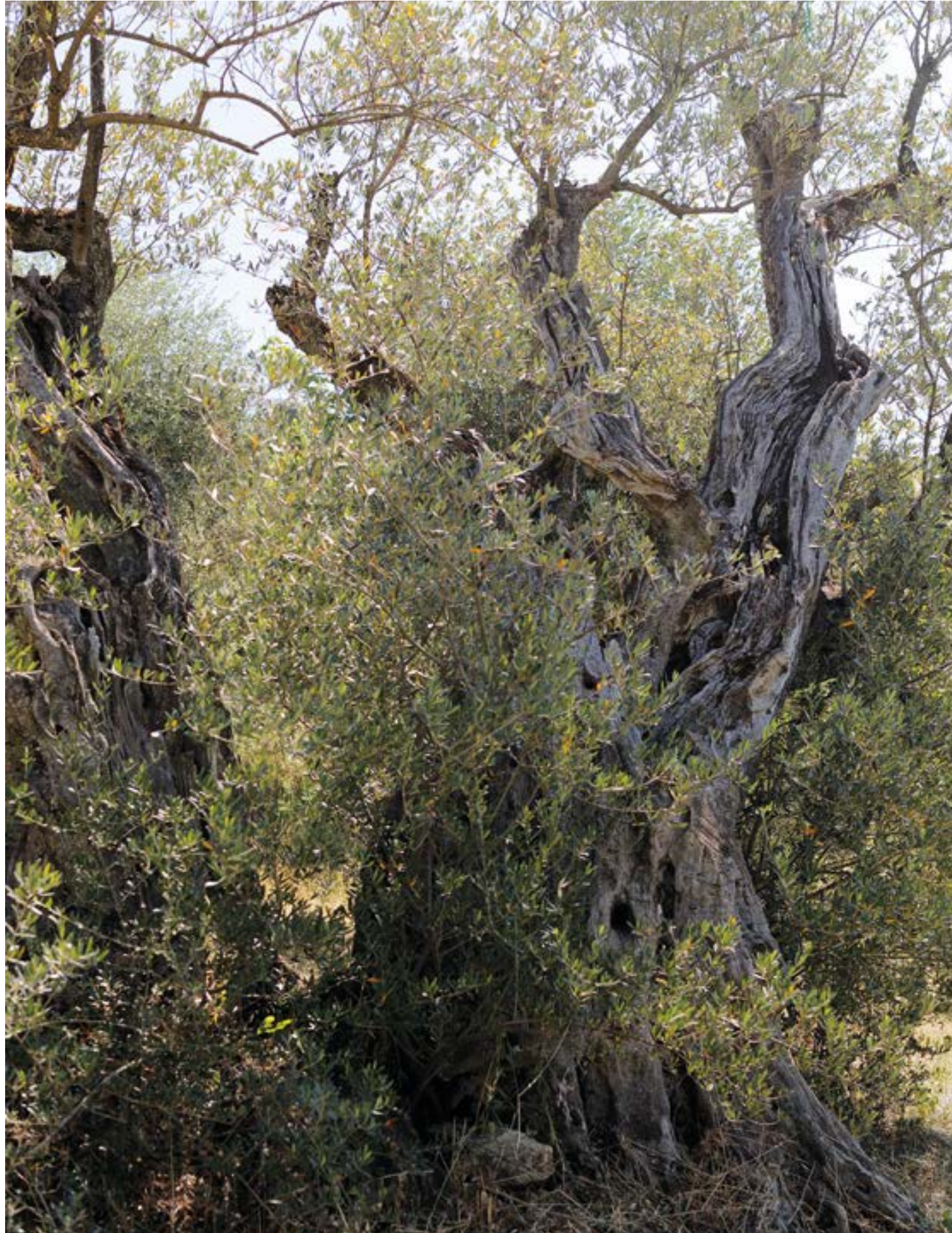
Authentic wines and flavors

You are in Tuscany, therefore you cannot miss the opportunity to taste the most famous wines in the world directly in the cellars of the wine-makers. We are talking about labels have been awarded in all the most prestigious international events and that have chosen Valdarno as their terroir. Here we find two great quality wines: the **Valdarno di Sopra DOC** and the **Chianti Colli Aretini DOCG**.

Since the Middle Ages, the Valdarno side of the Chianti Mountains and the mid-height land of Pratomagno have been cultivated with **vineyards and olive trees**. The particular characteristics of the territory have favored the presence of quality agriculture, rich in variety. Together with **extra-virgin olive oil**, wine remains one of the Valdarno products of excellence.

Tuscan cold cuts and steak are famous all over the world. The great Tuscan cuisine in Valdarno is closely linked to the countryside, to the quality and authenticity of its agricultural products, and to the ability to maintain traditions.





The magnificent seven to taste before leaving

Tarese del Valdarno, a typical cold cut similar to pancetta; zolfini beans; Sangiovese stew, Valdarno chicken; chestnuts of Pratomagno; black cabbage, and honey.

And again, a good glass of wine can perfectly accompany a platter of cold cuts and pecorino cheeses or enrich an evening in front of the fireplace by enjoying ribollita, pappa al pomodoro, celery rocchini rolls, and bread without salt.





The
"Tarese
Valdarno"



How to become a true Tuscan

Valdarno, from spring to autumn, with greater intensity in summer, is full of village festivals and fairs, where local women and men cook typical dishes: duck in porchetta (Badia a Ruoti), zolfini beans (La Penna), Sangiovese stew (San Giovanni), grilled trout (Loro Ciuffenna), ribollita (San Clemente), snails with sauce (Ambra and Caviglia), pannello con uva (flatbread with grapes) (Vacchereccia).

Absolutely to discover, taste and, perhaps, take home, the extra-virgin olive oil along the oil road (Pergine) or the medieval Tuscan specialties (Laterina). If you stop in Valdarno during the festival period you cannot miss them.





Useful numbers

All the information
you need can be found
on **visitvaldarno.com**

The tourist offices of the Area

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TOSCANA

RINASCIMENTO SENZA FINE

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