



**Comune
di Vaglia**



SILENTLY VAGLIA

*Not yet surpassed had Montemalo been
By your Uccellatojo...*

Dante Alighieri
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WELCOME

Dear Visitors,

This pamphlet is something like a calling card. It is written for all of those people who have visited and intend to stay in our enchanting territory.

In this corner of Tuscany, just north of Florence, a middle-land between one of the most beautiful cities in the world and a green haven, we find the welcoming **Mugello** territory, the birthplace of great artists like **Giotto** and **Cimabue**, and the land of the **Medici** family.

This unexplored territory, whose forests and trails, breath-taking views and art treasures bear witness to a glorious past, is just waiting to be uncovered.

Here you will find trails - recognized by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Tourism as part of the slow mobility network for tourism on foot - such as the **Via degli Dei (Path of the Gods)**, which goes from the centre of Bologna directly to Piazza Signoria in Florence. You will find traces of the Medici family in the "**parco delle Meraviglie**" (the garden of wonders) - a **UNESCO** World Heritage Site since 2013 - where myths, symbols, and art intertwine in an atmosphere that is not only enchanting, but almost magical. You will find spiritual relief at **Monte Senario** Monastery, situated on top of the hill that bears the same name: it was there that seven founding fathers fled Florence on foot to find solace in 1241. They took refuge on this secluded hilltop, and built their home there. You will find numerous trails and paths for those who love taking leisurely walks, communing with nature, and being one with Mother Earth. Here you will find an array of architecture, paintings and sculptures within the numerous parish churches, big and small, distributed throughout the territory.

A universe of beauty awaits you.

This pamphlet will provide you with all the information you need to start on your quest.

WELCOME TO VAGLIA

Laura Nencini

Alderman for Tourism

The **Tourist Information Office** is finally open again after many years, and it is now being run by the Pro Loco Vaglia - Mugello. We have put a lot of heart, passion and thought into this project and we aim to restore enthusiasm to a territory that is full of breath-taking beauty, and which is perfectly suited to all people from different walks of life and with different interests, hobbies and passions. Vaglia, our home and territory, stands proudly among the numerous other gems found nationwide.

We are certain that you will share our enthusiasm in the territory and wish you **HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!**

Sandro Corona

President Pro Loco Vaglia - Mugello



LEGENDA



castle



church, monastery



historical building



icehouse



scenic view



UNESCO World Heritage Site



information office

HOW TO REACH US

From the **A1 motorway**, exit at Barberino di Mugello, follow directions for Florence or Strada Regionale (regional road) 65 from Futa Pass.

By train: Florence – Faenza line, stop at Vaglia station.

By bus: city bus ATAF n°25/A stop at Pratolino.

More information on buses and trains at [Services](#).

Closest Airport: Amerigo Vespucci in Florence – Peretola.

Vaglia is situated just a few kilometres north of Florence and is an excellent access point to Mugello. Situated at 290 above sea level, the town of Vaglia stretches over an area of 56.94 km and has a population of almost 5,200 inhabitants. The area includes the characteristic Carza River valley and a hilly, forest covered landscape that reaches 816 m.a.s.l. at Monte Senario Monastery, and 934 m.a.s.l. at Poggio all'Aia on Monte Morello. From Florence, Vaglia can be reached by car along Via Bolognese (ex S.S. road n. 65 Futa) which, once past Montorsoli and Pratolino where a fork in the road leads right to Bivigliano, enters the Mugello territory descending rapidly towards Fontebuona along the Carza River to Vaglia and beyond. The territory is divided into different localities: Vaglia, the main town, Pratolino and Bivigliano. Trains and buses make Vaglia accessible to travellers on a daily basis.

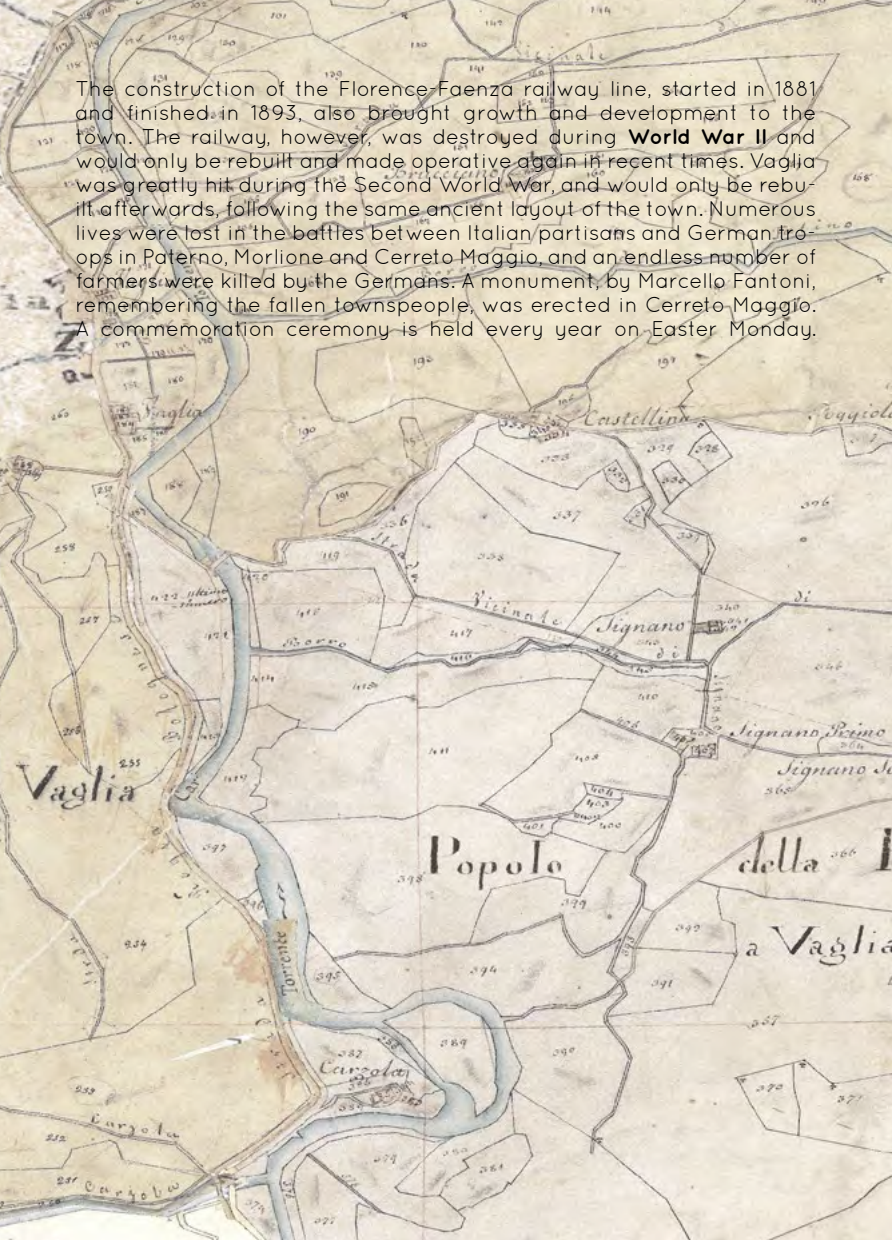


HISTORY



The Vaglia territory is thought to have been inhabited as far back as Pre-Roman times. The first inhabitants, in fact, were the **Ligures Magelli** who replaced an even more ancient people. **Etruscan tribes** later occupied the area, living under the rule of Lucumone di Fiesole. With the fall of the Etruscans, the territory fell under the control of the **Romans**. But the first urban developments were founded later, at the onset of the **Christian era**, when the first parish churches were built. Records of San Pietro a Vaglia Parish Church, for example, can be found in a document dated 983, and signed by Otto II. In the **High Middle Ages** the territory was inhabited by the rich *Nepotes Rainerii* (later Ricasoli) and *Suavizi* (later Guicciardini) families who were of **Lombard** descent. In the first centuries of the year One Thousand, numerous settlements arose, settlements which, notwithstanding changes, still exist today. After the 12th century, the territory became part of the City State of Florence in the quarter called Santa Maria Novella, and was a part of the **Lega di Tagliaferro** (Federation of Tagliaferro) along with the town of San Piero a Sieve. From the 16th century the territory's fate lay in the hands of important noble families that ruled Florence, and was divided into the **Corsini** and the **Saltini** estates. In the second half of the 18th century, thanks to Peter Leopoldo and the rebirth of the **Grand Duchy of Tuscany**, and the construction of the state road, **Strada Regia Postale Bolognese**, buildings and infrastructures began to arise. In the first decade of the 19th century, under Napoleonic rule, construction of the Town Hall was begun, and, in honour of Saint Peter - to whom the most ancient parish church was dedicated - the town was allowed to have a crest: a pair of gold keys, crossed and set against a blue background. We can still admire it today as it flutters on the town pennant.

The construction of the Florence-Faenza railway line, started in 1881 and finished in 1893, also brought growth and development to the town. The railway, however, was destroyed during **World War II** and would only be rebuilt and made operative again in recent times. Vaglia was greatly hit during the Second World War, and would only be rebuilt afterwards, following the same ancient layout of the town. Numerous lives were lost in the battles between Italian partisans and German troops in Paterno, Morlione and Cerreto Maggiore, and an endless number of farmers were killed by the Germans. A monument, by Marcello Fantoni, remembering the fallen townspeople, was erected in Cerreto Maggiore. A commemoration ceremony is held every year on Easter Monday.



A WALK THROUGH TIME IN SEARCH OF A LOST PAST

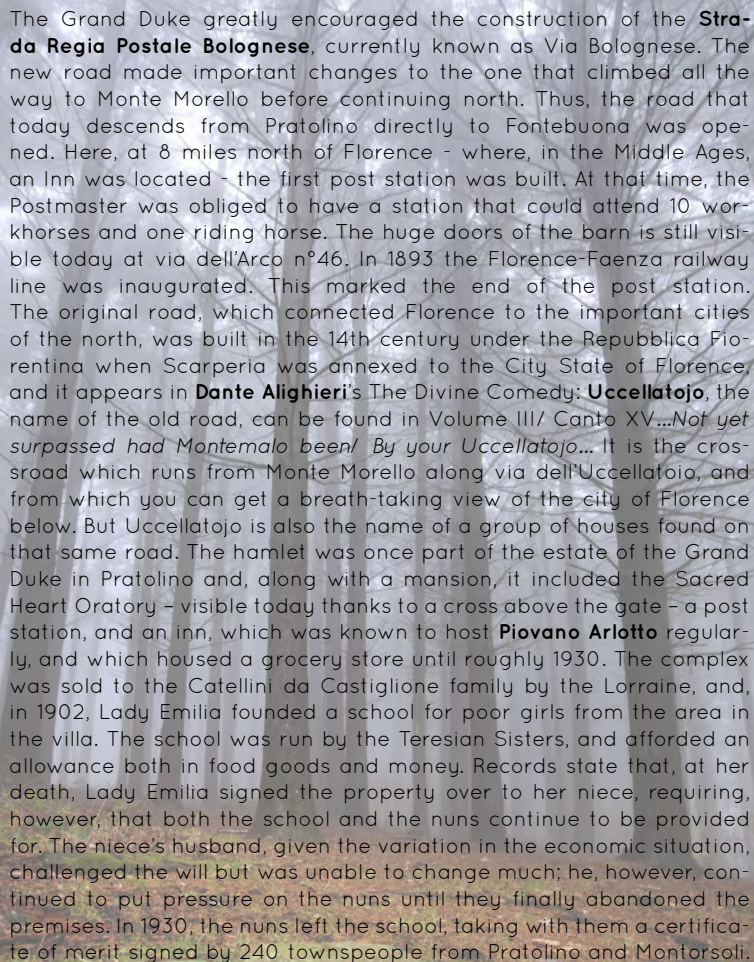


Churches that are abandoned or in ruins, ancient towers of the castles disseminated throughout the territory, ancient houses whose date of construction has been lost to the memory of man, and what were once noble estates recount a history that stretches back centuries. It is the history of the land and its inhabitants, a farming community that was highly active until roughly 50 years ago. Like travellers in time, let's start out on this journey in search of these lost treasures.

Near **Coiano**, we find the remains of a Roman farmhouse that was most likely destroyed during the siege on Florence by the Ostrogoths, under King Radagaisus, in the year 405 - unfortunately, today it is almost completely covered in grass and weeds; or a magnificent tower, still inhabited today, in **Pietramensola**, the only remains of a High Middle Age castle whose religious centre lay in the now missing **Sant'Andrea Church**. In the year One Thousand, this castle was the property of a Lombard Lady of the Suavizi family called Gisla. She had received it as a gift on the morning of her wedding, a morgincap bestowed on her by her loving spouse Azzo of the Nepotes Rainerii family. At his death in 1066, Gisla donated the castle to the San Pier Maggiore Monastery and retired there with her daughters. Of that same period we find **San-to Stefano Church in Pescina**, which is found just above Paterno and is now private property. The church, along with a number of surrounding houses, made up a small hamlet. These properties are all listed in the document which records the bequest dated 1025 and, like the castle, are also found in a chronicle dated 1364. Towards the end of the 14th century, a landslide destroyed all the houses but, miraculously, stopped at the door of the church. It was easier to change the entrance to the building than to remove the debris, and that is what they did. In fact, still today the entrance stands at the back of the structure.

We have a written report dated 1013 which bears witness to the existence of the castle in **Paterno**; what remains today is only the beautiful abandoned 13th century **Santa Maria Church**, which stands not far from the actual town and is immersed in a countryside that bears witness to the tastes of a time now long gone. However, the most interesting and enchanting legend dates back to the dark High Middle Ages. According to a historical account found in the *Descrizione della Provincia del Mugello* [Description of the province of Mugello] by Giuseppe Maria Brocchi, published in 1748, among the privileges of the Florentine authorities we find **La Corte del Lago**, previously called **Bagno**, donated by Sichelmus, bishop from 966 to 989, to the parish of *San Petri in Valea* (San Pietro in Vaglia). It is hard to identify the location of this court: Brocchi states that it was situated on an estate just below Monte Morello, a place called Palagio, somewhere between Pinati and Scarabone where, in ancient times, a natural spring known to be beneficial for curing skin diseases was found. According to legend, the salubrious properties of the waters were particularly beneficial if the water was drunk on the night of June 24, on the day of the patron saint of Florence, Saint John. From the period that stretched from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance, we find buildings such as **Corte**, situated at the edge of the town of **Bivigliano** and near a tabernacle, which was once a Medieval Court and later the residence of **Bianca Cappello** during her stay in Vaglia while the splendid Medici Villa in Pratolino was being constructed. Along with the numerous remains and ruins, we must not forget to mention the presence of a ghost, a beautiful Lady who is said to be hidden in the grotto created by Buontalenti in the **Villa di Bivigliano**. With the passing of the centuries, the reform instated by **Grand Duke Peter Leopold** of Lorraine eliminated the religious entities that were thought to be socially useless, but it also increased funding for those which promoted integration and cultural and social development. Two churches in particular benefitted from the reform: **San Michele alle Macchie Church** – which owes its name to the oak woodland surrounding it (macchie, in fact, means copse), and **San Niccolò a Ferraglia** – an ancient Medici estate which first belonged to the Corsini family. Both structures date back to the 12th century, are situated in the vicinity of Fontebuona and were almost totally reconstructed thanks to these funds. Again in the 18th century, one of the most ancient roads connecting Florence to Northern Italy was built.



A large, mossy stone sits on a forest floor covered in fallen leaves. In the background, a dense forest of tall, thin trees with bare branches reaches towards a bright, overcast sky. The scene is quiet and somewhat somber, with soft light filtering through the canopy.

The Grand Duke greatly encouraged the construction of the **Strada Regia Postale Bolognese**, currently known as Via Bolognese. The new road made important changes to the one that climbed all the way to Monte Morello before continuing north. Thus, the road that today descends from Pratolino directly to Fontebuona was opened. Here, at 8 miles north of Florence - where, in the Middle Ages, an Inn was located - the first post station was built. At that time, the Postmaster was obliged to have a station that could attend 10 workhorses and one riding horse. The huge doors of the barn is still visible today at via dell'Arco n°46. In 1893 the Florence-Faenza railway line was inaugurated. This marked the end of the post station. The original road, which connected Florence to the important cities of the north, was built in the 14th century under the Repubblica Fiorentina when Scarperia was annexed to the City State of Florence, and it appears in **Dante Alighieri's** The Divine Comedy: **Uccellatojo**, the name of the old road, can be found in Volume III/ Canto XV...*Not yet surpassed had Montemalo been/ By your Uccellatojo...* It is the crossroad which runs from Monte Morello along via dell'Uccellatojo, and from which you can get a breath-taking view of the city of Florence below. But Uccellatojo is also the name of a group of houses found on that same road. The hamlet was once part of the estate of the Grand Duke in Pratolino and, along with a mansion, it included the Sacred Heart Oratory - visible today thanks to a cross above the gate - a post station, and an inn, which was known to host **Piovano Arlotto** regularly, and which housed a grocery store until roughly 1930. The complex was sold to the Catellini da Castiglione family by the Lorraine, and, in 1902, Lady Emilia founded a school for poor girls from the area in the villa. The school was run by the Teresian Sisters, and afforded an allowance both in food goods and money. Records state that, at her death, Lady Emilia signed the property over to her niece, requiring, however, that both the school and the nuns continue to be provided for. The niece's husband, given the variation in the economic situation, challenged the will but was unable to change much; he, however, continued to put pressure on the nuns until they finally abandoned the premises. In 1930, the nuns left the school, taking with them a certificate of merit signed by 240 townspeople from Pratolino and Montorsoli.

RENAISSANCE



PARCO MEDICEO DI PRATOLINO

Visitors to the Medici residence in Pratolino were known to be enchanted by the numerous fountains, grottos, statues, and extraordinary water works that animated the grandiose villa and surrounding park. It came, in fact, to be known as the **giardino delle meraviglie** (the garden of wonders) and to be a model garden for parks around the world. The Medici park and villa were the fruit of **Francesco I de' Medici's** passion for alchemy and esoteric wisdom, and, of course, his great love for **Bianca Cappello**, to whom he dedicated the park. Between 1568 and 1581, the Grand Duke commissioned some of the greatest artists and architects of his day - **Buontalenti**, **Giambologna** and **Ammannati** - to create a wonderland where nature and technology could come together with water, a symbolic element and an allegorical and magical protagonist that unites divinities and mythological figures. The central feature of Buontalenti's iconography is the **Fontana dell'Appennino**, a massive sculpture created by Giambologna which constructed on three floors and includes grottos and water works, and is covered in sponges. In the following centuries, the park underwent a cultural and stylistic change. Following the death of Francesco I, when the property passed into the hands of the Lorraine family, the villa and magnificent park were totally abandoned and fell in ruins. Later, in the 18th century, **Ferdinando III** would demolished the villa and make the once very Italian garden into an English one. In 1872 the estate was bought by the Russian prince Paolo **Demidoff** who made the ancient **Paggeria** (page's quarters) his residence.

Today the complex is the property of the city of Florence, and in 2013 it became a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** listed among the **Medici Villas and Gardens in Tuscany**. Today too, a visit to the Medici Park in Pratolino represents a journey into the symbolic and mythological world of creatures that are linked to nature, as is the case with the Appennino and the Mugnone and the other mythological figures like Jove and Cupid.

Open

1 April - 30 September:

Friday, Saturday and Sunday h 10.00-20.00

October: Friday, Saturday and Sunday h 10.00-18.00

Information service hours

Monday-Friday: +39 055 4080721 from 9.00-17:00

Friday-Sunday: +39 055 4080741 from 10:00-20.00

A mass is celebrated every year in the Buontalenti Chapel on the 15th August at 17:00



VILLA DI BIVIGLIANO



Built on the ruins of an ancient 11th century castle belonging to the **Cattani di Cercina** family, Villa di Bivigliano was sold by Filippo del Migliore to the **Della Stufa** family in 1539. Built in the same period as the Medici villa in Pratolino, it was most probably designed by **Buontalenti**, and it is a typical example of 16th century architecture. The property then passed to the **Ginori** family, and later, in the 19th century, to the **Pozzolini** family, who are still today the proprietors.

The villa overlooks a vast English garden lined with two rows of cypress trees. To the left of the structure stands an elegant **chapel** dedicated to **Our Lady of the Snows**. The estate stretches over a plain that looks onto the extremely suggestive surrounding hills. The main facade holds a large portal with balcony of certain 17th century influence. On the opposite side, a large window, which is decorated with a shell, opens onto a splendid **Italian garden** containing an octagonal fountain in the centre.

The main portal opens onto a vast central hall that is two floors high and surrounded by a gallery. From the hall spring other rooms both on the main floor and, above them, on the second floor. The large frontal windows with balustrades which stand at the sides light the entire internal stair.

The park with its sequoias, silver fir trees, and its monumental cypress lined lane, various evergreens, oak and cedar trees, and the remains of a fountain and a great grotto was enlarged and enriched with an interesting collection of exotic plants by the Pozzolini family in the middle of the 19th century.

GESUALDA MALENCHINI POZZOLINI

Gesualda Pozzolini, nee Malenchini was born in Leghorn in 1809. A Dame of the Italian Risorgimento, this very important figure was known for her social commitment to the poor who lived in Vaglia. She set up, at her own expense, a school - which had been so far lacking in the territory - for both boys and girls, and for adults who could take evening classes. The lessons were free of charge and were held in one of the numerous halls of Villa di Bivigliano. She both ran and taught in the school. Her work was carried on by her daughters Cesira and Antonietta.



The villa is open for weddings, conferences and ceremonies.

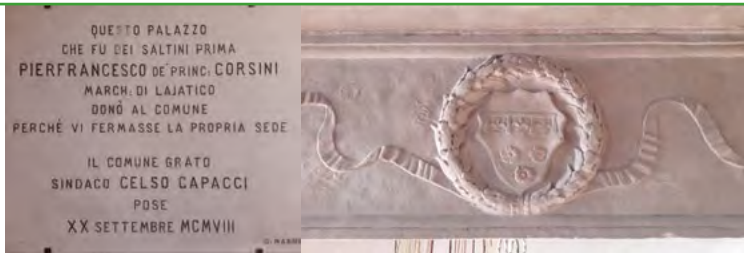
Info +39 335 1368989 info@villadibivigliano.it

Visits are possible if booked beforehand Info: +39 393 8685826

v. del Viliani n°84, Bivigliano - Vaglia



PALAZZO CORSINI



This **16th century structure** was originally the property of the **Saltini** family. This very noble family dates back to High Middle Ages, and although records about the family can only be traced as far back as 1505, their presence in Vaglia most likely goes much farther back in time. The current building has been restored and changed. It once included, on one side of the estate, an imposing structure – still recognisable on the north side for the family coat of arms, which stands above the monumental first floor fireplace – and, on the other, a farmhouse with basement blacksmith shop. In the middle of the 19th century, the building was bought by the **Corsini family** – another noble family who owned property in the area – and remained their property until 1908 when it was donated to the Town of Vaglia to house the **Town Hall**. Along with holding public offices, the building held the offices of the *Protocollo*, the registrar, and housed a number of classrooms until 1978.





MONTE SENARIO MONASTERY

"There is a hill roughly eight miles from Florence. When it is hit by the wind, un suono, a sound, echoes from its grottos. It is for this reason that in ancient times the hill was known as Sonario or Sonaio. This hill, therefore, was shown to our founding fathers by God; he inspired them to take the road that would finally lead them to fulfil their thirst for him and to make their home here." That was in 1245 when seven men - the **Seven Founding Fathers** - mostly merchants, members of a company dedicated to Saint Mary, who had already come together in a commune just beyond the gates of Florence, climbed the 817 meters that separated them from Monte Senario. On the top of that hill, they found a breath-taking clearing: on one side lay a spring with excellent water, and all around rose a magnificent, orderly forest which seemed planted by one hand alone. It was most certainly the hill prepared for them by their God. It was exactly what they desired and needed to carry out their intent, especially because it was far from other residences and the crest was perfectly suited to all those who were looking to find atonement. With the material they found in the area, stones and wood, they built an oratory and a small house to live in. It was here that they made their home after leaving Florence. The original church still exists today, and it is incorporated in the construction behind the **Cappella dell'Apparizione**. The building was enlarged in the 15th century and modified in the 18th and again in the 19th centuries to create the magnificent structure we can observe today. Along with the notable artistic patrimony which reflects centuries of the convent's history, and the splendid fresco by **Pietro Annigoni**, the enormous panoramic terrace that surrounds the monastery offers a marvellous view of the Mugello Valley and the Apennines. Surrounding the structure, we find numerous trails through the woods which allow us to visit the grottos and cells occupied by the Seven Saints, and which lie in a spectacular natural environment where we can still breathe the distant and yet mystic past that inspired the Founding Fathers. A visit to the café inside the convent is a must. There, we can enjoy a taste of the homemade **Gemma d'Abeto**, a pine liquor made from an ancient and secret recipe that dates back to 1865 and is still produced in the ancient distillery in the convent.

LA GHIACCIAIA DI MONTE SENARIO

At the base of the ancient road that leads to the Convent we find the biggest icehouse in Europe. It was commissioned by the monks in roughly 1840. It stretches 14 metres in diameter and was, in origin, 15 m in height, descending about 12 metres underground. With the invention of refrigerators, the structure was abandoned, and in roughly 1950, the prior of Monte Senario arranged for the icehouse to be used as a quarry. Thus the lantern on the cupola and the exterior façade were removed and the stones and roof tiles were collected to restore the surrounding farm houses. Parts of a tabernacle, which once stood on the façade, was placed not far away. The structure, although abandoned, is fortunately still standing and not in the least unstable.



SAN PIETRO A VAGLIA PARISH CHURCH



Records stating the existence of San Pietro a Vaglia Parish Church - most likely a structure that dates back to the Carolingian era - can be found in an act dated **983** in which **Emperor Otto II** confirms the existence of these Florentine possessions. The venue was, even in that distant time, a point of reference both for religious functions and other meetings, and, more importantly, a place in which pilgrims and wanderers could find accommodation. Thus the church, through the ages, became a centre around which an urban development rose, one that would later lead to the foundation of the town itself. In origin the Parish Church was supposed to be simpler in style but also bigger. What stands today is the result of a profound restoration that was concluded in **1789**. Among the works of art found here we have a Madonna of the Rosary by **Pietro Confortini**, dated 1609, works by **Domenico Pugliani**, a native of Vaglia, a beautiful processional cross with the Mysteries of the Rosary, and canvas paintings of St. Peter and St. Paul, and the Blessing Christ with the Saints Mathew and John the Evangelist painted by **Lorenzo Lippi**, which was made for the Company of Our Lady of the Snows, whose Oratory was found here. Another interesting work of art, and the protagonist of a rather singular affair, is the biggest known alter-piece in enamelled terracotta ever created by **Giovanni della Robbia**, dated 1513. This masterpiece, on which a manger scene is portrayed, was stolen and dismembered. Originally found in Santi Stefano e Lorenzo Church in Pescina, this great work was, thanks to the collaboration of numerous different organisations, finally recomposed and restored, and has found, for the moment, a new home in the church. The painter **Angelo Nardi**, also known as **da Razzo** (1584- 1660), was also closely linked to the church. He was born in Vaglia, but moved to Spain where he worked in the court of Phillip IV (see box). The church is open to tourists on Saturday and Sunday upon reservation +39 055 407836 - +39 339 8084106

ANGELO NARDI DA RAZZO

(Vaglia, 1584–Madrid, 1664) was an Italian painter and the son of Giovanni Nardi. He was also known as “da Razzo” because of the hill that overlooks his place of birth, a house that is visible from the main road.

Schooled in Tuscany, and then Venice (1600), he moved to Spain in 1607, where he was commissioned numerous works by the clergy and religious orders. Starting in 1625, he became the court painter at the court of Phillip IV, and later appointed “pictor regis” or “regis Philippi IIII pictor”.

His works were particularly besought, as we can see from the elevated number of paintings he produced and by the presence of numerous ancient copies of his originals in inventories. History recounts that he sent the parish church an enormous wooden chest filled with artefacts and paintings, for example Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Still conserved in the rectory today is the chest, and a precious 17th century Spanish relic which bears the signature of St. Teresa of Avila.



SAN CRESCI A MACIOLI PARISH CHURCH



In Pratolino, on the site that once marked the border between the exarchate of Ravenna and the Western Roman Empire, we find San Cresci a Macioli Parish Church dated, as records show, 926. The belfry is in pure **Romanesque style** (1279), while the church itself reflects elegant 15th century architecture. The building, in fact, was completely restored from 1448 to 1466 thanks to the Neroni family, when the parish priest was Arlotto Mainardi (from 1426-1468). **Pievano Arlotto Mainardi**, more commonly known as Piovano Arlotto, was famous for his facetious stories, which were published after his death and still today represent an example of popular theatre and burlesque (see box). The three naves of the church are separated by columns bearing harmonious capitals in three styles: **Doric, Corinthian and Ionic**. A 14th century balustrade created by **Battista de' Franci**, an ancient organ, and a 15th century baptismal enrich the church.

The church is open to visitors upon reservation Info: +39 055 409291

PIOVANO ARLOTTO

Piovano Arlotto was the parish priest of San Cresci a Macioli in Pratolino, and a great fan of the local inns, especially the one found at Uccellatojo. He was famous for the facetious stories he told, for his brazen, mischievous nature, and his Boccaccio-like wit. The townspeople loved him for his agreeable nature and his candour; the Bishop, Antonino Pierozzi, was a little less enthusiastic, and often tried to redeem him, but without success. Numerous portraits of the man, even from later centuries, bear witness to his long lasting fame.

After his death, an anonymous friend published a volume called *I Motti e facezie del Piovano Arlotto* (Sayings and facetious stories by Piovano Arlotto), which give a vivid idea of what the Florentine country folk was like at the time of Laurence the Magnificent. The ironic and, for today's reader, somewhat vulgar tone of his stories does not however hide the authenticity and humanity of the priest and his jests. Piovano Arlotto was a jester, and even his death in 1484 is proof of this. In fact, he had the following words written on his tombstone, now found in the Oratory of Gesù pellegrino in the centre of Florence:

«Piovano Arlotto had this sepulchre made for himself and all the people who felt inclined to join him.»



SAN ROMOLO A BIVIGLIANO CHURCH



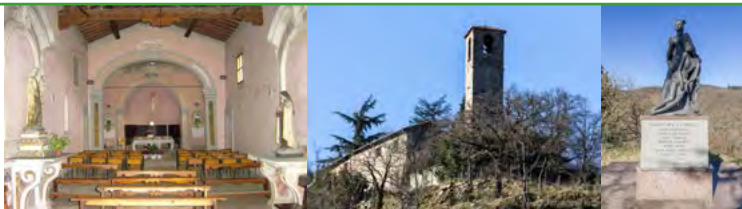
Bivigliano, situated at 585 m.a.s.l., has always been renowned as a place of leisure and rest, especially in the summer months. Here we find the perfectly conserved San Romolo Church, a perfect example of typical **Romanesque architecture**. Build prior to the year One thousand, it presents a façade with a columned loggia from which we can view one of the most spectacular panoramas in the territory.

The church has a single nave under a trussed roof and a semi-circular apse. It is in itself a small work of art. The high altar bears a splendid Renaissance dossal in enamelled terracotta from the workshop of **Andrea della Robbia**, dated roughly 1490, which portrays the Madonna with child among the Saints Romulus, Jacopo, Francis and John the Baptist and, above the side altars, two paintings by **Pietro Annigoni**, dated 1978, which portray St. Anthony of Padua, and the Madonna of the Rosary. Near the baptismal font we find a polychrome wooden sculpture, recently restored, of St. John the Baptist which is attributed to **Michelozzo**.

The church is generally open to tourists before the mass: for information about opening hours, leave a message at +39 055 406640 or send an email to postmaster@sanromolobivigliano.it



SANT'ANDREA A CERRETO MAGGIO CHURCH



On the slopes of Monte Morello, on the road that rises from Paterno, we find S. Andrea a Cerreto Maggio Church, built on the remains of an ancient castle that once belonged to the **Cerretani** family, and of which the beautiful square-based tower remains and is today the belfry. It is an ancient site, rich in history – as the discovery of coins from the **Roman era** justly verifies – and, above all, a strategic one found along and the **ancient road** that led to Trebbio Castle. The church was founded by the Cerretani family in **1270**, as we can see from the 18th century plaque set under the altar dedicated to Madonna of Carmine, and the presence of the family coat of arms. The church, which was restored in the 18th century, has a single nave with a circular apse. Unfortunately, on the left, a fresco portraying Jesus Crucified, Our Lady of Sorrows and St. John is in terrible conditions today, while other works that the church once held were moved to S. Pietro Church in Vaglia. Here, every year, on Easter morning, a mass is held in memory of the men who were killed in the **Morlione massacre** during the Second World War.



TRAILS & SPORT



The vicinity to the city of Florence, the location – set astride the mountain range that separates Mugello from the Florentine plain – and the **uncontaminated nature**, are all factors that make the territory we all know as Vaglia an excellent destination for excursionists.

In recent years an important trail was explored and has been travelled often: it is the **Via degli Dei** (The path of the Gods). It is a trail that links Bologna and Florence, and which in the area near San Piero a Sieve – Fiesole crosses the eastern border of the town of Vaglia, passing through Buonsollazzo, Monte Senario and Vetta le Croci. There are, however, other trails in Vaglia that stretch over 100 km.

The network of trails that coast and reach **Monte Morello** (left of the Carza River) is managed by CAI – Sesto Fiorentino, while the area around **Monte Senario** (right of the Carza River) is managed by CAI – Florence.

Between 2002 and 2004 the Town of Vaglia, with the help of volunteer associations, created **Percorsi Vagliesi** (numbered from 60 to 68), a network of trails that complete the CAI trails.

They are a series of themed trails that include the *Piovano Arlotto Path*, which was the road the priest used to travel on his way back from visits to his friend, for example, the parish priest of Cercina; the *Carzola Ring*, in whose valley important Medieval roads intersected; the *Castles Path*, which is what remains of a mountain road that dates back to the High Middle Ages, or maybe further back still; the *Via di Monte Senario*, which was the road once travelled by pilgrims; the *Stations Path* which crosses the entire length of the territory from south to north; the *Testimonianze Path*, the richest in artistic and historical-architectural finds; and the *Cime Path*, which unites the two main hills in Vaglia – Monte Morello and Monte Senario – and where we can find the rare **lillium martagon**.

A new **themed trail** is soon to be opened (in 2018) thanks to the work of the Pro Loco, and it will lead to the burraie (small stone cellars where dairy products were made) at the foot of Monte Senario.

And finally, Vaglia is also crossed by the *Vie Romee*, paths that move along ancient medieval roads that were travelled by pilgrims; and by the **Anello del Rinascimento** (Rinassance Ring), which runs along the hills surrounding Florence.

Guide books and maps can be found in the tourist offices, bought in newspaper stands in Vaglia and on-line or in specialised book shops.

Swinging through the canopies of the trees, or standing in equilibrium on a log, sliding silently while hanging from a pulley, or living the excitement of a jump into the void in complete safety and while respecting nature... all of this and so much more can delight you in our Adventure Park. The **Parco Avventura Il Gigante** in Pratolino, offers its guests (private and public) educational-sport activities while being immersed in nature. The park is for everyone: sports enthusiasts, nature enthusiasts, thrill-seeking tourists who would like a pleasant change from the usual tour of museums, school groups who would like to experiment environmental-educational programmes in an open-air laboratory, and all those people who are looking for a place to learn about Dispositivi di Protezione Individuale (D.P.I.) (Individual protection devices), and how they are used (when working with heights).



Tarzaning A NEW SPORT Thousands of people love Tarzaning; climbing up trees in total safety, winning your fears, throwing yourself into nature and living it in a totally new way, like squirrels, monkeys, or birds, in search of new sensations. These activities stimulate our fantasies, our drive to uncover our limits and win them. Tarzaning is a breath-taking experience that is done in total serenity. Thanks to special double joined harnesses and a safety rope, there is no risk of falling. A helmet, a pair of gloves and some sturdy running shoes are all you need to have fun in all safety.

Info +39 320 3261243

parcoavventurailgigante@gmail.com

At the La Locanda di Bivigliano you can rent **mountain bikes**

Info +39 055 406893

locandadibivigliano@libero.it



At the Camping Poggio agli Uccellini you can use the **swimming pool**

Info +39 055 406725

info@poggiouccellini.com





TRADITION

GEMMA D'ABETO

Seventeen ingredients, including spices and medicinal herbs, make up this liquor, which was invented in the ancient pharmacy of the convent in 1865 by Brother Agostino M. Martini. The recipe has since then been hidden away within the walls of Monte Senario Convent and the liquor sold in its café.

The liquor is a product of the three thousand silver fir trees planted around the convent from 1597 to 1602, and from whose pine cones the main essence, the fundamental ingredient, is extracted. Still today the monks produce this liquor - much decorated in the London, Paris and Milan expositions - themselves.

NARDONE

Nardone is a sweet that is dedicated to the Madonna of the Rosary, which is celebrated on October 7.

It is the product of a basic recipe prepared with the few things found in any home. In times of abundance, it was enriched with other delicacies, and that is how it was passed down and has reached us today. Legend has it that the painter Nardi da Razzo, born in Vaglia in 1584, in his letters from Spain, often complained about missing this delicious sweet. In his honour, the sweet is called Nardone.

During the winter holidays the sweet can be bought in shops in Vaglia.

FINOCCHIONA

Prepared for the first time in 1841 by the Messeri family (butchers from the area), by the end of the 19th century, the cold meat had become so famous that it became an official part of traditional Florentine cuisine.

PRODUCTS OF THE LAND

TORTELLI MUGELLANI

The *tortello di patate* is famous for the particular combination of ingredients and the way they are handled, a method that has remained unchanged through time.

The tortello is a pastry shell with filling, and it was already well known in Tuscan cuisine: In fact, it can be found in the writings of Pulci, a 15th century poet of the court of Laurence the Magnificent. But only in the 19th century did they start to use potatoes for the filling instead of the usual chestnut paste.

It is eaten as a first dish and is generally eaten with different types of sauce: minced beef, wild boar, mushroom, duck or rabbit, and accompanied by a robust, structured red wine.

Today still, in Mugello, the tortello is prepared using a hundred-year-old recipe that was passed down from mother to daughter.

It can be eaten in restaurants throughout the territory.



WINE

Azienda Camposilio operates on roughly 18 hectares of land, 4 of which are presently dedicated to vineyards. It is located on the green rolling Tuscan hills just 8 km from the historical centre of the city. The limited size of the farm estate allows the staff's expert hands to carry out the cure and selection of the vines and the grapes with great care, making it possible for the grapes to ripen and reach the wine cellars at their best in order to produce the finest quality products, a must when making of Camposilio wine. All the wine-making operations are carried out on the estate, which houses small separate constructions furnished with all the equipment necessary to make a fine quality product. In particular the estate employs: machines for temperature control and oxygenation; cellars in which the wine can age in French oak barriques; and a bottling room which holds the most modern equipment needed to provide an excellent finished product.

It is possible to buy retail by appointment:

+39 055 4026316 +39 339 6419173

v. di Basciano 805, Montorsoli info@camposilio.com



FARMS AND PRODUCE

Azienda Agricola **Poderi di Coiano**, at 500 m.a.s.l., just above a small but sunny plateau on the cool and woody slopes of Monte Morello, is, notwithstanding the nearness to the city of Florence, as hidden, silent, and protected as it was 2000 years ago when a Roman farm rose there. The ancient farmhouse which was most probably destroyed by the Ostrogoths during the siege on Florence in 405 A.D...

Using organic methods since 1986, the year in which farming was reinstated after 30 years of abandon, this farm grows ancient fruit varieties and vegetables, and produces honey, jams, and typical cold cuts made from Cinta Senese pigs – an ancient Tuscan breed which is at risk of extinction, and which grazes freely on this farm inside vast fenced areas and oak woods.

You can buy retail: Via di Coiano 1479, Vaglia
www.poderidicoiano.it tel. +39 055 407680
Stefano Baldi: +39 328 9426991



Azienda Agricola **Orto Verde**, on the hills surrounding Vaglia – near the parish church – is a small farm that produces oil and vegetables using natural growing methods.

It is possible to buy retail by appointment: +39 334 1541390

Tenuta **Le Colline del Paradiso**, on via del Viliani 957, is an organic farm estate that produces ancient grain flour and purple, red and yellow potatoes.

It is possible to buy retail by appointment:
+39 348 2872064
+39 348 2872064

PLACES TO STAY



DEMIDOFF COUNTRY RESORT

Hotel****

Via della Lupaia, 1556 - Pratolino - Vaglia

T. +39 055 505641 - Fax +39 055 409780

info@hotel-demidoff.it

www.demidoffcountryresort.it



GIOTTO PARK HOTEL

Hotel***

Via Roma, 69 - Bivigliano - Vaglia

Tel +39 055 406608 Fax +39 055 406730

informazioni@villagiotto.com www.villagiotto.com



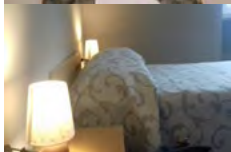
GLI SCOIATTOLI

Hotel***

Via della Fittaccia 1388 Bivigliano - Vaglia

Tel and Fax +39 055 406987

gliscoiattoli@libero.it www.gliscoiattolihotel.it



LOCANDA DI BIVIGLIANO

Hotel**

Via della Fittaccia 5, Bivigliano Vaglia

Tel +39 055406893 Mob +39 377 9083801

locandibivigliano@libero.it



PADELLINO

Hotel**

Via della Stazione 222, Vaglia

Tel and Fax +39 055 407902

giulio.padellini@libero.it



LOCANDA PATERNO

Hotel**

Via di Paterno 3, Paterno - Vaglia

Tel +39 055 407930

locandapaterno@gmail.com



LE TERRAZZE

Hotel*

Via Montorsoli 263, Montorsoli – Vaglia
Tel and Fax +39 055 401782 +39 055 401434
albergo.leterrazze@yahoo.it



CORTEVECCHIA

B&B

Via Corte Vecchia 124, Bivigliano - Vaglia
Tel +39 055 406714 Mob +39 335 361193
Fax +39 055 406743
info@bbcortevecthia.it www.bbcortevecthia.it



LA PAGGERIA

B&B

Via di Basciano 130, Montorsoli – Vaglia
Tel and Fax +39 055 401362
Mob +39 335 6266787 Mob +39 347 6730449
info@lapaggeria.com www.lapaggeria.com



PODERI DI COIANO

Agriturismo****

Via di Coiano 1479 – Vaglia
Tel +39 055 407680 Fax +39 055 407772
Mob +39 328 9426991
info@poderidicoiano.it www.poderidicoiano.it



LE CORTI

Agriturismo****

Via del Vico n. 925 – 50036 Pratolino – Vaglia
Tel and Fax +39 055 409222 Mob +39 348 5424500
le.corti@tiscalinet.it www.lecorti.com



RESIDENZA D'EPOCA CASABELLA

Period home

Via di Caselline 1036 – Vaglia
Mob +39 348 2872064
florencecountryresidence@gmail.com
www.florencecountryresidence.com



LA COLONICA DI CASABELLA

Period home

Via del Viliani 957/1036D – Vaglia
Mob +39 348 2872064
florencecountryresidence@gmail.com
www.florencecountryresidence.com



I CIPRESSI DI RISECCIONI

Holiday homes and apartments
Via di Riseccioni 1545, Vaglia
tel +39 055 406814 Fax +39 055 282794
Mob +39 331 3031330
casinigiancarlo@libero.it



CASA IL PRATO

Holiday homes and apartments
Via del Massonero 212, Vaglia
Mob +39 348 2872064
florencecountryresidence@gmail.com
<http://florencecountryresidence.com>



TORRE SAN PIETRO

Holiday homes and apartments
Via della Lupaia 1767/d - Vaglia
Mob +39 339 2600257
alessandracaporossi@gmail.com



VILLA DI GRACE - PODERE SAN PIERO

Holiday homes and apartments
Via della Lupaia 1507, Pratolino
Tel and Fax +39 055409117 Mob +39 333 2265675
info@villadigrace.com www.villadigrace.com



VILLA ORTAGLIA

Holiday homes and apartments
Via S. Iacopo 331, Pratolino - Vaglia
Mob +39 337 1500547
info@villaortagliaflorence.com
www.villaortagliaflorence.com



POGGIO DEGLI UCCELLINI

Campsite -Tourist village 2°cat
Via del Poggio agli Uccellini 1050,
Bivigliano - Vaglia
Tel and Fax +39 055 406725
info@poggiouccellini.com
www.poggiouccellini.com

PLACES TO EAT



TRATTORIA BALLINI

Restaurant Pizzeria
Via Bolognese 1227, Vaglia
Tel +39 055 407910
trattoriaballini@gmail.com



TAVERNA ZOCCHI

Restaurant Pizzeria
Via Fiorentina 460 Pratolino - Vaglia
Tel +39 055409511
mara.melani76@gmail.com



BISTROT DEMIDOFF

Bar bistrot
Via Fiorentina 440 Pratolino - Vaglia
Tel +39 055 409225
cafebistrodemidoff@gmail.com



RISTORANTE 1556

Restaurant
Via della Lupaia 1556 Pratolino - Vaglia
Tel +39 055 505641
info@hotel-demidoff.it



CHALET N°5

Restaurant Pizzeria bar
Via dei Condotti 618, Bivigliano - Vaglia
Tel +39 055 406862
n5chalet@virgilio.it



LOCANDA DI BIVIGLIANO

Restaurant bar
Via della Fittaccia 5, Bivigliano Vaglia
Tel +39 055406893 Mob +39 377 9083801
locandibivigliano@libero.it



TRATTORIA DI FONTEBUONA

Restaurant

Via Fontebuona n. 446, Fontebuona - Vaglia

Tel +39 055 4080083

trattoria.fontebuona@gmail.com



BAR 2000

Bar tobacconist grocery pizzeria

Via dell'Arco 21, Fontebuona - Vaglia

Tel +39 055 409886



TRATTORIA BONINI

Restaurant grocery bar

Via di Caselline 771, Caselline - Vaglia

Tel +39 055 409014



LA BOTTEGHINA

Restaurant pizzeria

Via di Montorsoli 416, Montorsoli - Vaglia

Tel +39 055 401644

ristorante.labotteghina@gmail.com



LE TERRAZZE

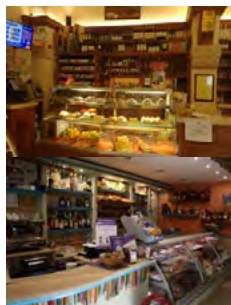
Restaurant Pizzeria

Via Montorsoli 263, Montorsoli - Vaglia

Tel and Fax +39 055 401782 +39 055 401434

albergo.leterrazze@yahoo.it





CAFFÈ IL CANTUCCIO

Bar tobacconist grocer
Via Bolognese 1152, Vaglia
Tel +39 055 407060
caffeilcantuccio@gmail.com

ART CAFÈ

Bar ice-cream grocer
Via Bolognese 972, Vaglia
Tel +39 055 407442
djsec@hotmail.it



GELATERIA DI PRATOLINO

Ice-cream and sweets
Via Fiorentina 590, Pratolino - Vaglia



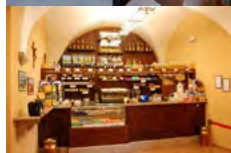
BAR ZOCCHI

Bar tobacconist grocer
Via Fiorentina 564, Pratolino - Vaglia
Tel +39 055 409041



BAR FRANCA

Bar tobacconist grocer
Via Faentina 2261, Mulinaccio - Vaglia
Tel +39 055 405000
barfranca2261@virgilio.it



BAR DEL CONVENTO

Via di Monte Senario 3474/A,
Monte Senario - Vaglia
Tel +39 055 406441
montesenario@libero.it

SERVICES

HEALTH

Vaglia Pharmacy

Via Tabaccaia, 16 - 50036 Vaglia - Tel. + 39 055 407938

Open to the public: from Monday to Saturday from 8:00 to 13:30

Pratolino Pharmacy

Via Fiorentina, 460 - 50036 Pratolino - Tel. + 39 055 409555

Open to the public: from Monday to Saturday from 14:00 to 19:30

Bivigliano Pharmacy

Via Roma, 202 - 50036 Bivigliano - Tel. +39 055 406985

Open to the public:

from 1/3 to 30/10 Monday and Thursday from 10:00 to 13:00.

The pharmacy is closed in the remaining months

Guardia Medica (urgent care clinic)

c/o Misericordia di Vaglia

Via delle Scuole, 113 - 50036 Vaglia - tel. + 39 055 407575

Mon.-Frid.: 20.00-08:00

Holidays and pre-holidays: all day

c/o Misericordia di Bivigliano

Via Roma n. 202 - 50036 Bivigliano - Tel. +39 055 406406

July- August: Guardia Medica for Tourists Monday - Friday 8:00-14:00 o'clock

Misericordia di Vaglia (paramedics)

Via delle Scuole n. 113 - 50036 Vaglia - Tel. +39 055 407777

Misericordia di Bivigliano (paramedics)

Via Roma n. 202 - 50036 Bivigliano - Tel. +39 055 406406

www.misericordiabivigliano.it

Veterinary Clinic

Via Fiorentina, 543 - 50036 Pratolino - tel. +39 055 409282

Opening hours: from Monday to Friday from 16:00 to 19:30

Saturday from 10:00 to 12:30

BANKS

Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze

Pratolino Branch

p.zza Demidoff, 44 - 50036 Pratolino

tel. +39 055 409040 +39 055 409545

fax +39 055 409791

Open to the public:

from Monday to Friday: 8.30-13.00 e 14.35-16.55

Banco Fiorentino - Credito Cooperativo

Vaglia Branch

via Bolognese, 1378 - 50036 Vaglia

tel. + 39 055 407552/3

Open to the public:

from Monday to Friday 8.20-13:20 and 14:30-15:30

POST OFFICES

Post Office in Vaglia

Via Bolognese, 950 - 50036 Vaglia - Tel. + 39 055 407711

Open to the public:

8:15-13:30 from Monday to Friday

8:15-12:30 Saturday

Post Office in Pratolino

Piazza Demidoff - 50036 Pratolino - Tel. +39 055 409770

Open to the public:

8:15-13:30 from Monday to Friday

8:15-12:30 Saturday

Post Office in Bivigliano

Via Condotti, 122 - 50036 Bivigliano - Tel. +39 055 406925

Open to the public:

closed Monday

8:15-13:30 from Tuesday to Friday

8:15-12:30 Saturday

POLICE FORCES

Carabinieri di Vaglia (state police)

Via della Stazione, 8

50036 - Vaglia

tel and fax +39 055 407915

Polizia Municipale (local police)

c/o Municipio

p.zza Corsini, 3 - 50036 Vaglia

Mob +39 347 6891933

TRANSPORTS

ATAF www.ataf.net

CAP www.capautoline.it

Colbus www.colbus.it

Sita www.fsbusitalia.it

FFSS Treni <https://oraritreniitalia.com>

INFORMATION OFFICE

Open on Saturday and Sunday from Easter to September 30

at Parco Mediceo di Pratolino

v. Fiorentina 276, Pratolino - Vaglia

proloco.vaglia.mugello@gmail.com

MASS TIMES

San Pietro a Vaglia Parish Church

via A. Nardi da Razzo, 648

50036 Vaglia

tel. +39 055 407836

Sunday 11:00 o'clock

Chapel (San Mattia Oratory)

via Bolognese, 1288 - 50036 Vaglia

every Sunday 9:00 o'clock

San Cresci a Macioli Parish Church

via di Macioli - 50036 Vaglia - tel. +39 055 409291

Saturday 16:00 (winter season), 17:00 (summer season)

Sunday: 11:00 o'clock

San Romolo Church

via della Chiesa - 50036 Bivigliano

tel. +39 055 406640

Winter:

Saturday 17:00 o'clock

Sunday 11:00 o'clock

Summer:

Saturday 18:00 o'clock

Sunday 11:00 o'clock

Santa Maria Ausiliatrice Church

via di Villa Maggio, 47 - 50036 Montorsoli

Monday - Friday 11:30 o'clock

Saturday 18:00 o'clock

Sunday 10:00 o'clock

Monte Senario Convent

via di Montesenario 3474

Tel: +39 055 406441/2 - 406554

pre-holiday 17:00 (winter season)

17:30 (summer opening hours)

Sunday: 8:00 - 10:00 - 11:30 - 17:00 (winter season)

17:30 (summer season)

We would like to thank

Matilda Colarossi for translation

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