

Client: Lungarno Collection

Source: Decanter

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# TUSCANY

## The insiders' guide

From grabbing a lampredotto panino to enjoying a drink at the winemakers' favourite hangout, let our experts help you get around Tuscany like a local, avoid the tourist traps and enjoy the best the region has to offer

CURATED BY JAMES BUTTON, DECANTER REGIONAL EDITOR  
(TURN TO p61 FOR AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR CONTRIBUTING EXPERTS)

### Top tips: Getting around the region

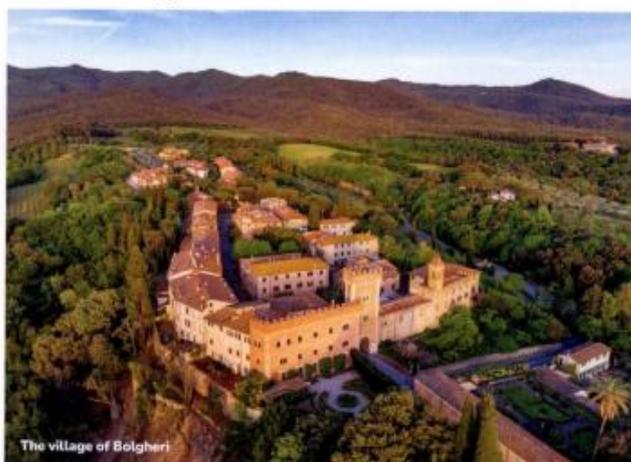
**Filippo Magnani says...** 'Landing at Pisa or Florence airports, you can rent a car and head towards the province of Livorno on the Tuscan coast, where you'll reach the renowned wine districts of Bolgheri and Suvereto. Right across from the coast lies Elba island – just a one-hour ferry ride away. Alternatively, if you land at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci airport, you can transfer to Termini central station and take a high-speed train to Florence. From there, you're perfectly positioned to discover the inland of Tuscany, Chianti Classico, Brunello di Montalcino and San Gimignano.'

**Åsa Johansson says...** 'Set your alarm and hit the famous towns early in the morning. Experiencing places such as Siena, Florence or San Gimignano before the crowds descend is pure magic.'

**Raffaele Mosca says...** 'Venture beyond the renowned areas. The less well-travelled parts of the region have plenty to offer!'

**Richard Baudains says...** 'The Autolinee Toscane public bus network covers every corner of the region. It's slow but economical – and you get to see the real provincial Tuscany on the winding routes through the villages.' [at-bus.it](http://at-bus.it)

**Sarah Lane says...** 'Walk! The slow way is the best way to really experience the lovely Tuscan countryside. To cover longer distances, make use of the sometimes sparse but usually reliable public transport.'



The village of Bolgheri

**Michelle Cherutti-Kowal MW says...** 'If travelling by car, be aware that you frequently need to park on the edge of town to avoid congestion charges. For reaching the main towns, trains are a good option.'



The Eroica

**Gabriele Gorelli MW says...** 'The Eroica, a non-competitive cycling event using vintage bikes and costumes, now exists in various iterations all over Italy and in other countries – but it all started in Gaiole in Chianti in 1997. It's possible to

follow some or all of the 209km permanent route at any time of year, by bike, e-bike or motorbike. It's a fantastic way to experience Tuscany at its most beautiful.' [eroica.cc](http://eroica.cc)

**Michaela Morris says...** 'Renting a car is key to getting off the beaten track. Take the smaller roads and give yourself plenty of time to get to where you want to end up. Above all, don't be afraid to get lost – unmapped adventures have been some of my most memorable.'

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## For a fine time in Florence

**Antonella Lotti says...** 'A real treat, Michelin one-star Borgo San Jacopo offers stunning views across the Arno river in Florence. Helmed by executive chef Claudio Mengoni and head sommelier Salvatore Biscotti.' [lungarnocollection.com/borgo-san-jacopo](http://lungarnocollection.com/borgo-san-jacopo)

**Richard Baudains says...** 'In the very lively Borgo Ognissanti in Florence, Vino al Vino offers a highly personal selection of wines by the glass and to take away, from producers hard or impossible to find elsewhere. And just down the street is one of the very few churches in Firenze where you can find Renaissance masterpieces with no entry fee.' [vinoalvinofirenze.com](http://vinoalvinofirenze.com)

**Arianna Nieri says...** 'My insider's tip for fish and seafood lovers is L'Angolo del Mare, on the corner of Viale Edmondo de Amicis, a little to the east of the city centre.' [langolodelmare.com](http://langolodelmare.com)

**Raffaele Mosca says...** 'Located in the laid-back Oltrarno neighbourhood, just south of the river but within walking



distance of the city's most renowned attractions, Il Santo Bevitore is my favorite spot in Florence for dinner. Slightly more sophisticated than the usual Florentine trattoria but still welcoming and unpretentious, the menu is all about Tuscan classics with a contemporary twist, including outstanding fegatini (toasted bread with liver paté) and carabaccia (traditional onion soup). The wine list is extensive and well thought-out.' [ilsantobevitore.com](http://ilsantobevitore.com)



**Åsa Johansson says...** 'Head to the Tripperia Pollini food truck on Piazza Sant'Ambrogio, Florence, for the ultimate panino with tripe (lampredotto). Add a plastic cup of rustic red wine and you've got street food perfection, Tuscan style!' [trippiapollini.com](http://trippiapollini.com)

**Antonella Lotti says...** 'Discover the original cantucci (almond biscotti) at Antonio Mattei in Florence and Prato out a little to its northwest.' [antoniomattei.it](http://antoniomattei.it)